Record Keeping
– March 2017 –

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Record Keeping
- Overview -

• Why
• What
• How

  • Caught My Interest
    • “Cloud Based” Software
    • Hive Weight Tracking
Why Keep Records

- Often Stated As “Meant To”, “Should Have”, “Glad I Started”. Etc.

- So Why?
  - In Case of ….
  - Apiary Management
  - Hive Management
  - Queen Manipulation / Rearing
  - Business / Tax Records
  - State Registration Requirements / Property Tax Exemption
  - Support Research (Bee Informed Partnership, TBA Surveys, etc.)

- Record Keeping Is Tedious & Can Be Awkward On-Site, but Do It

Record Keeping Makes For Better Bee Keeping
What Records To Keep

• For Each Apiary
  - Location (Address, Lat/Lon, GPS Coordinates)
  - Layout
    - Number of Hives and locations, Windbreaks, Water Source, etc.

• For Each Hive
  - When Established
  - How Established
    - Purchase Nuc/Package – From Who, Split, Swarm Capture, etc.
  - Queen History
    - When Obtained
    - How Obtained
      — Purchased, Split/Swarm Cell, Supersedure, etc.
    - Breed
    - Marked (Color)
    - Clipped
What Records To Keep
- For Each Inspection/Trip To Hive -

• Date
• Weather Conditions
• Weight
• Colony Strength
  - Number of Frames of Brood
    – Estimates of capped, uncapped, etc.
  - Quality of Brood Pattern
  - Pollen/Nectar/Honey Stores
• Temperament of Bees
• Queen/Eggs/Larva Seen
• Drone Brood
• Pests/ Diseases
• Manipulations (Boxes, Frames, Etc.)
• Feeding – When, Amount
• Medication – What, Start, Stop
• Honey Harvested
What Records To Keep
- Other General Records -

- Inventory
  - Wooden Ware
  - Equipment
  - Feed/Medications

- Accounting
  - Expenses
  - Income

- Stings
  - Who
  - When
  - Reaction
How To Keep Records

• On Hive -- In Hive (Plastic under lid, etc.)
  - Grease Pencil, Felt Marker, Etc.
  - Still Need Apiary Level Records

• Paper
  - Notebook, Printed Sheets, etc.

• Audio / Video Log

• Computer
  - Spreadsheets, Data Bases, Word Processors

• Downloadable Software
  - Not Much Available For Hobbyist/Sideliners

• “Cloud” Based Software
  - Growing In Popularity
  - Will Look At Four
    – Hive Tracks, Bee Tight, BeeRM, BeeCloud
Hive Tracks
https://www.hivetracks.com

- Easiest To Set-Up
  - Video Walk-Through Tutorial
  - Set-Up Apiaries – Has Map With Foraging Area
  - Set-Up Hives
  - Track Inspections, Harvests
  - Feeding, Treatments Covered Under Inspections

- Calendar and Tasks
- Has Printable Inspection Form
- Mobile App
- Most Widely Used
- No Inventory
- No Cost Accounting
- US Company

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Features</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$5 / month</td>
<td>- 0-10 Hives&lt;br&gt;- Yard Customization&lt;br&gt;- Hive Customization&lt;br&gt;- Create Inspections&lt;br&gt;- Create a Community&lt;br&gt;- Local Maps&lt;br&gt;- iOS and Android Apps&lt;br&gt;- Basic Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enthusiast</td>
<td>$10 / month</td>
<td>- 11-20 Hives&lt;br&gt;- Yard Customization&lt;br&gt;- Hive Customization&lt;br&gt;- Create Inspections&lt;br&gt;- Create a Community&lt;br&gt;- Local &amp; Global Maps&lt;br&gt;- iOS and Android Apps&lt;br&gt;- Premium Support</td>
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• Set-Up Straight Forward
  - Set-Up Apiaries
  - Set-Up Hives
  - Track Inspections, Harvests
• Has “Button” To Print Inspection Form – Never Worked For Me
• No Feeding, Treatments, Inventory, Costs Tracking
• No Calendar or “Tasks” Feature
• Map Not Available in Free Version – No Foraging Area Display
• Mobile App Only With Paid Version (Did Not Try)
BeeRm
http://www.mybeeline.co/en/about-beerm/

• Set-Up Straight Forward – All The Basics
  - Set-Up “Bee Yards”
  - Set-Up Hives
  - Track “Examinations”, Feeding, Treatments, Inventory (“Storage”), Costs
  - Add “Tasks” To Calendar

• European Centric
  - Could Not Find Way To Change to Fahrenheit

• “Bee Yard” Maps Do Not Show Foraging Area

• No Mobile App
**Set-Up Was Most Confusing**
- Walks Through “Big Settings Screen” First
- Turns Out This Is Where You Add and Delete all the Items You Want Available In Other Screens
  - Choices Very Unclear At First
  - Does Add A Lot Of Flexibility

**The Basics**
- Set-Up Apiaries
  - There Was A Default Apiary Already Entered
  - Should Have Renamed Versus Added
  - Ended Up With Two (No way to delete)
- Set-Up Hives
- Track Inspections, Feeding, “Economies”
  - No Specific Section For Tracking Medications or Inventory
- Add “Events” To Calendar

**No Mobile App**

“Currently BeeCloud application is free, but we have intention in next couple of months to introduce premium model”
Tracking Software
– Summary –

Hive Tracks - [https://www.hivetracks.com](https://www.hivetracks.com)
- No Free Version
  - 0-10 hives: $5/month or $50/year
  - 11 - 20 hives: $10/month or $100/year
  - 21 – 100 hives: $20/month or $200/year
- Easiest Set-Up -- Included a Video Walk Through Tutorial
- Most “US” Centric
- Mobile App
- No Inventory or Income/Expense Tracking

BeeTight - [http://www.beetight.com](http://www.beetight.com)
- Free Version With Limited Functionality
  - 1 – 6 Hives: free (No mobile App)
  - 7 – 1000 hives: $15/year
- Has The Least Number Of Tracking Functions
- Some Bugs
- Good For Basic Inspection Tracking History
Tracking Software
– Summary –

• Free Version With Limited Functionality
  - 1 – 10 hives: free
  - 11 - 100 hives: $15/month
• Fairly Easy To Set Up – Basics All There
• European Centric
• No Mobile App

BeeCloud - [http://beecloud.co/en/](http://beecloud.co/en/)
• Free – For Now
• Hardest To Set-Up
• Lots Of Flexibility
• Some Bugs And Limitations
• No Mobile App
Weighing Your Hives

• Exact Weight Versus Relative Weight
  - Exact Can Give Experienced Beekeepers Very Good Indication of What’s Inside
  - Relative Useful For Detecting Changes Both Positive and Negative Without Disturbing the Hive

• Many, Many Methods
  - Extremely Expensive and High Tech
  - Pick-it Up and Estimate
  - Lower Cost Normally Only Relative Changes

• Several Clever/Interesting Methods
  - Direct Lift
  - Leveraged Lift

I’m Going to Start Weighing Regularly This Year
Hive Scale Videos
Record Keeping
- Final Note -

• USE THE RECORDS YOU CREATE!

- Review Regularly – Check Your Schedule
- Review Before Inspections
- Have a Plan/Purpose For Your Inspections
Record Keeping
- SUMMARY -

- Why – It Helps Your Be A Better Beekeeper
  - And, If You Share The Data, Helps Other Beekeepers Too

- What
  - Details About Each of Your Apiary Locations
  - Details About Each of Your Hives
  - Records of Inspections/Manipulations/Feeding/Medication, etc.
  - Inventory
  - Expenses and Incomes

- How – Whatever Works For You Such That You Do It
  - On Hive, On Paper, Electronically, etc.

- I’m Going To Regularly Weigh My Hives

- USE YOUR RECORDS
QUESTIONS?