



REQUEST FOR COLONY STRENGTH INSPECTION

I, _____, hereby request the Madera County Department
Requester Name

of Agriculture to perform colony strength inspection(s) on apiaries located at the following location(s)

for _____:
Grower/Ranch Name

*Ranch/Field Location (address)

- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| 1) _____ | No. Hives _____ |
| 2) _____ | No. Hives _____ |
| 3) _____ | No. Hives _____ |
| 4) _____ | No. Hives _____ |

***Maps showing the accurate location(s) of the colonies must be submitted prior to the inspection date.**

A 15 colony sample will be taken for each 100 colonies certified. Only the top boxes will be inspected on double stacked colonies. Inspections are conducted by ranch or field only, and not by beekeeper.

I understand that the fee for this service is based upon the Department's current Weighted Average Hourly Rate (\$71.61). I agree to pay for this service, in full, within fourteen (14) days of its completion. I understand that I will receive the inspection results upon payment and that accounts not paid in full will be referred to the Madera County Central Revenue Department for this collection. I also understand that I am liable for these charges unless I cancel this request prior to the commencement of the inspection.

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Additional Contact Persons (Name/Phone) _____

Received by _____ Date _____
Inspector Name





AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
COLONY STRENGTH INSPECTION PROCEDURES

The following system for certifying colony strength for bees used in pollination of agricultural crops is established pursuant to sections 29190-29195 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

The County Agricultural Commissioner, or other person(s) designated by the Commissioner, is authorized to inspect, and certify strength of bee colonies used for pollination.

Such inspection and certification shall be made at the request of the beekeeper or grower involved.

The beekeeper shall be notified, to the greatest extent possible, and allowed to observe and/or assist, solely with regard to making the colonies available for inspection. The person requesting such certification shall pay such fees as may be established by the County Board of Supervisors.

Inspection for colony strength shall be made at a time when the outside temperature at the field site is 60 degrees or above, or when the majority of colonies in the apiary have bee flight.

Certifying Colony Strength:

- 1) Count colonies in apiary.
- 2) Divide apiaries of more than 100 colonies into equal lots of 100 colonies or less.
- 3) Determine counting order to be followed during inspection as provided for in the "Table of Random Numbers".
- 4) Select 15 colony samples using random numbers for each lot of 100 colonies.
 - a) With apiaries of less than 100, a minimum of 15 hives will be inspected.
 - b) With apiaries of 15 or less, all colonies will be inspected.
- 5) Count from previously selected starting point, inspecting sample colonies according to numbers selected.
- 6) A minimum of 15% of the colonies in a beekeeper's apiary shall be inspected.
- 7) All deadout or AFB diseased colonies included in the official random sample shall be recorded as part of the official random inspection.

The strength of a bee colony shall be certified only after inspection on the basis of numbers of active frames of bees per colony ***as determined by the cluster and/or frame count***. No other form of colony strength determination shall be valid. With exception, as referenced to crops such as alfalfa in #2 below, the square inches of brood method shall not be used for certifying colony strength. The following standards shall be used in determining and reporting colony strength.

- 1) Active frame of bees shall mean two sides of standard Hoffman frame of comb (8" x 17") or equivalent comb area at least 75% covered by bees at a density of four bees per square inch or more. Frames with less than 75% coverage shall be combined and counted toward the standard of an active frame of bees. Nonstandard frames shall be converted to the equivalency of the standard frame. Certification will be based on number of colonies with listed frames of bees.
- 2) Square inches of brood shall mean total area of comb of colony containing healthy brood in any stage of development, including eggs or larvae in open cells and capped larvae, pupae or imago stages. Certification will be based on the numbers of colonies with listed square inches of brood. (e.g., Alfalfa)
- 3) Diseased colony shall mean a colony found with symptoms of American foulbrood (colonies found so diseased shall be abated as required by law).
- 4) All colonies shall be available for inspection and not double stacked, banded or presented in such a fashion as to prevent inspection.

Revised December 2, 2009, April 8, 2011, January 7, 2021, January 24, 2022

