DEAD HIVE AUTOPSY
. . . an exercise in problem solving

Hives can die for a variety of reasons or a combination of reasons. Strong healthy hives are better able to deal with these stressors. Possible factors leading to the demise of a hive include, but are not limited to, varroa infestation and disease, cold, starvation, queen failure and condensation.

You can gain insight into the factors that contributed to the death of a hive by examining the hive and its contents.

Outside the hive   Notes

*Are there **dead/dying bees** outside the hive?

*Is there **Dysentery**?

*Is the hive located in a sunny location?

*Is the hive ventilated?

*Is there protection from the wind?

Inside the hive   Notes

*Is there an unusual **odor** when you open the hive?

*Is there **Dysentery** inside the hive?

*Do the frames appear **wet**?

*Are there cells containing capped **honey**?

*Are there cells containing stored **pollen**?

*Are there white **varroa feces** on the frames?

Brood   Notes

*What is the **brood pattern**?
  solid ?/spotty?

* Is there **capped brood**?

*Is there **open brood**?

*Is the brood primarily **drone brood**?

*Are there **queen cups/queen cells**?

*Describe the **appearance** (color/condition)
  of the open brood. Does it look melted?

*Does the brood have an **odor**?

*Are there holes in the **cappings**?

*Does the brood **string out** and snap back
  when lifted with a toothpick?

*Is the brood **close to honey**?

Bees   Notes

  *Are the bees **head-first** in the cells?

  * Are the bee's **tongues sticking out**?

  *Are the bees '**greasy**' looking or black?

  *Is there **deformed wing**?

   *Is there **stunted abdomens**?

  *Are the bees **moldy**?

  *Are the dead bees primarily inside or outside the hive?

Bottom Board   Notes

  *Is there an abundance of **varroa mites**?

  *What is the **condition** of the dead bees?
   Do they look healthy?

  *Do the bees have **deformed wings or
   stunted abdomens**?

  *What else do you see on the bottom board?

WHAT CONCLUSIONS CAN YOU DRAW FROM YOUR DATA?