Queen Evaluation Data Sheet
(make one sheet for each hive)

Instructions:

Prior to picking up your queens, remove the queen from your hive and split it equally to make two new hives. Leave them queenless for 12-48 hours. Install a marked queen into each using the candy cage and write down the queen's color mark. If doing more than one split, mark the hives so that you always compare the two hives that came from the same split. For example, split 1 yields two hives 1-Y (yellow queen) and 1-W (white queen). Please do not treat these hives to control Varroa mites!

Collect the following data. The identity of the Purdue queen will be revealed after the data is complete (next year). Use one data sheet for each hive. We would at least like data on colony strength several months after queen introduction, honey yield and winter survival. It would be useful to also have data on mite levels in fall and spring. Please put a date for each data entry. Copies of this datasheet are available at the Purdue Bee Hive website: http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/bee hive/

Name of beekeeper: Email address:

Colony number:

Queen mark color:

Date introduced:

Date queen is superceded or lost (if you notice an unmarked queen, put the date here):

Honey yield and date harvested (number of combs harvested or pounds):

Mite level, method of testing and date:

Colony strength (frames of bees) and date:

Proportion of chewed mites (optional):

Survived winter (yes/no)? If not, what do you think was the probable cause of death:

Continued on back -->
Observations on disease and colony buildup, brood pattern etc:

Your overall evaluation of colony:

Finally, as a comparison between the 2 colonies:

Based on your experiences over the past year, would you want to get more queens from these sources?

Yes  No  Not Sure

Do you prefer one of the queens/colonies over the other?

Yes  No  Not Sure

If Yes, which one would you prefer and why?

Thank you for completing the data collection. Please return this sheet by June, 2015. If you have any questions you may contact Krispn Given (kgiven@purdue.edu)