

Biosecurity in our Apiaries

What is it?

Why is it important?

How do we implement good
management practices?

Biosecurity in an apiary refers to management practices a beekeeper can use to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of pests, parasites and diseases among honey bee colonies.

It involves maintaining good hygiene, vetting new bees and equipment, and frequently monitoring hive health.

Why should we care?

Healthy honey bees mean
bigger and better yields of
honey

Stronger pollination

Protection of neighboring
apiaries





Pathogens easily survive on leftover wax and propolis, making regular sanitation of your tools and equipment, including PPE, essential for apiary health.

Maintaining clean equipment is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of diseases (like American Foulbrood, European Foulbrood and Nosema)

Good Hygiene Begins with your tools and PPE

1. Scrape and clean hive tools then disinfect with 70% isopropyl alcohol. You can also put your hive tool into the flame of your smoker.
2. Wash jackets and suits several times per season.
3. Use disposable nitrile gloves instead of bulky leather gloves.
4. Clean shoes/boots between apiaries or wear shoe covers.

In the Apiary

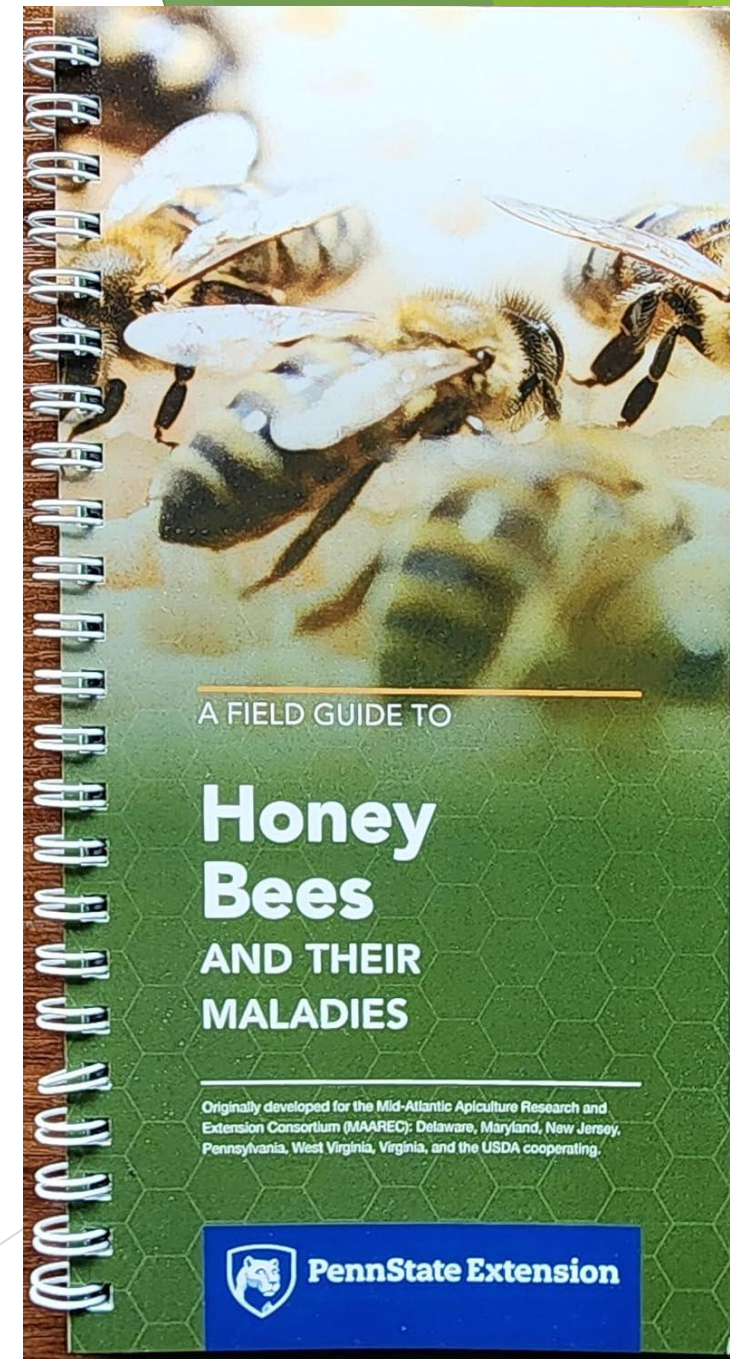
1. Use new equipment. Be very leery of purchasing used equipment, particularly used frames and comb.
2. Prevent robbing - No open feeding. Do not feed commercial honey to your hives.
3. Minimize drifting.
4. Collect hive debris and remove from the apiary.
5. Close all entrances to dead outs immediately.

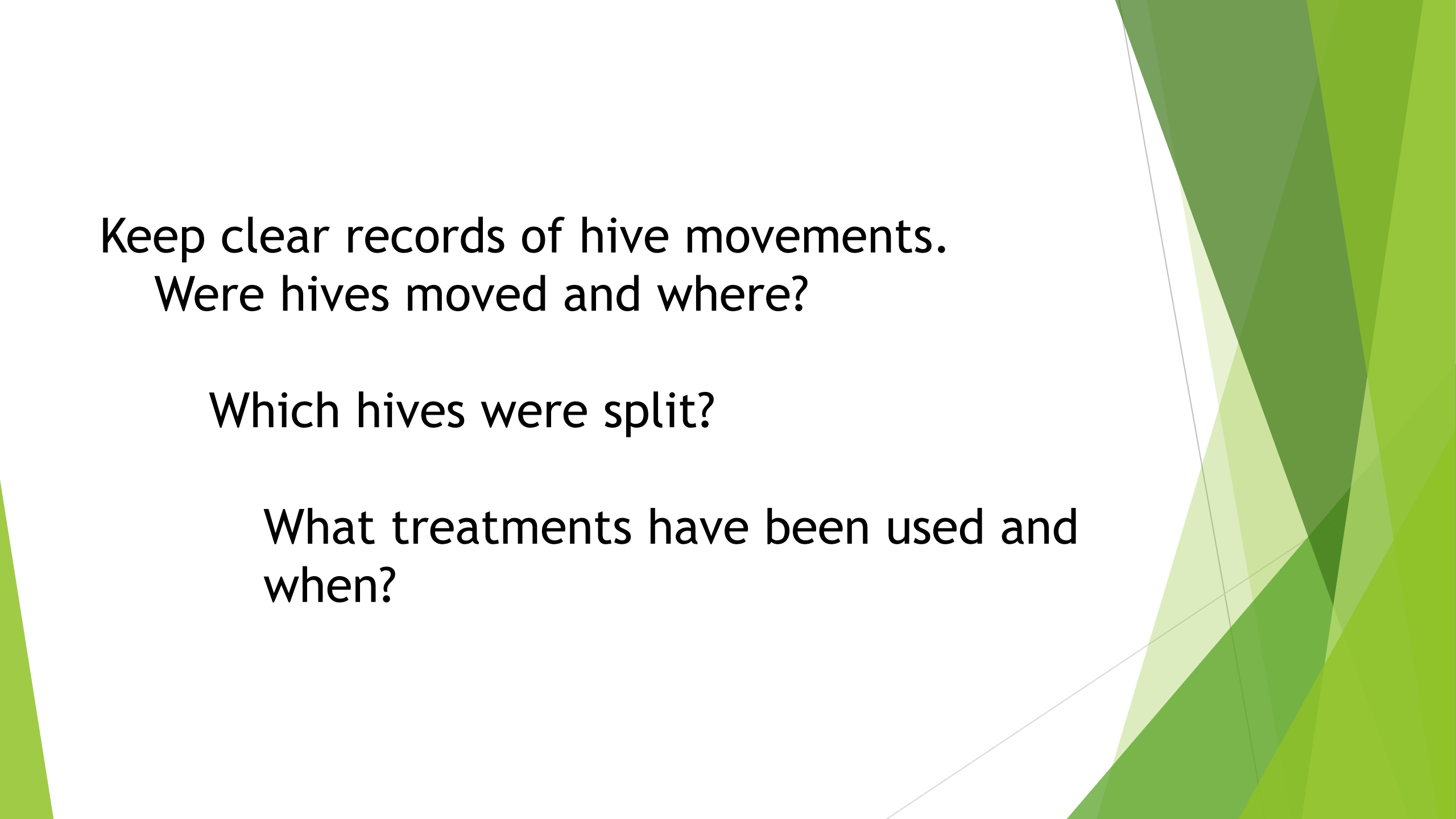
Monitor and Keep Records

Monitor hives regularly.

Always scan brood frames for any signs of anomalies.

Learn what disease symptoms and pests look like.



The background of the slide features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect.

Keep clear records of hive movements.
Were hives moved and where?

Which hives were split?

What treatments have been used and
when?

Biosecurity isn't about eliminating every germ.

It's about assessing your particular apiary and your goals and implementing strategies and habits that will keep your bees healthy and your apiaries and the surrounding areas as disease and pest free as possible.



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