November To Do List

Hive Protection & Security

Install Mouse Guards: Place entrance reducers or mouse guards on the lower board immediately to keep mice and cold-weather pests from nesting inside the warm cavity.

Set Up Windbreaks: Position wind-screens or hay bales on the north and west sides of the apiary to block harsh winter winds.

Manage Ventilation & Moisture: Check the top entrance or inner cover notch to ensure proper air circulation; condensation—not cold temperatures—is the leading threat to winter survival.

Tilt hives: Slightly tilt forward so rain and condensation can drain away.

Wrap Hives (Optional): If you use hive wraps or top insulation boards, make sure they are secured properly against high winds.

Monitoring Food & Feed

Heft Hives from the Outside: Avoid opening the lid; instead, gently tilt or "heft" the back of the hive to gauge remaining honey stores (or check upper frames visually only if necessary during a rare warm-spell fly day).

Provide Emergency Feed: If a hive feels unusually light, place dry sugar, a sugar board, or fondant directly over the top bars rather than liquid syrup, which the bees cannot cure in cold weather.

Apiary Maintenance & Off-Season Tasks

Minimize Disturbance: Leave the bees alone as much as possible so they can conserve energy and maintain their cluster temperature.

Clean and Repair Equipment: Bring old frames, supers, and tools indoors to scrape, sanitize, repair, and repaint before next spring.

Check Around Hives: Clear leaves, grass, and debris from entrances and hive bases.

Comb: Protect stored comb from wax moths and rodents.

Around The Apiary: Remove or secure anything around the apiary that could blow into the hives. Confirm a safe, dry path for winter visits.

Records & Planning

Record Keeping: Log inspection date, weather, colony strength, and food stores. Note which colonies may need extra monitoring or support.

Shop Now: Review winter equipment and order replacements before seasonal delays.

Create a Schedule: Set a simple winter inspection schedule based on local weather patterns.

