

Bee Health Professional Development

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In 2013, when the Disease Accreditation Scheme for Honeybees (DASH) was launched, the National Bee Unit (NBU) ran a series of workshops consisting of presentations and comb

inspection activities. These workshops were intended to promote the scheme and, at the same time, improve the skills of bee farmers to recognise the signs of foul brood infections.

Bee Health Professional Development Workshops

The NBU runs Bee Health Days as a matter of routine around the regions but these are aimed at an audience consisting primarily of small-scale beekeepers. It has been recognised that in recent times there has been a gap in professional development opportunities with regards to bee health for bee farmers and other large-scale beekeepers.

The NBU would like to improve on this situation and there are current plans to run two professional development workshops for bee farmers. These are

on 27 July at East Surrey Bees, owned by Bee Farmers' Association (BFA) members David and Celia Rudland, and 25 August at the National Bee Unit's headquarters at Sand Hutton, near York.

These workshops will be primarily hands-on practical training. Planned activities are focused on bee health needs in the context of a bee farming operation. It is appreciated that bee farmers are usually trying to do several things at once. The aim of the day is to provide bee health improvement strategies which can be incorporated in already busy daily routines.

Four separate activities will be run simultaneously. Attendees will be organised into small groups and rotate through the following sessions:

- inspecting for disease and incorporating this into routine colony inspections
- biosecurity, shook swarms and colony destruction
- comb inspection to aid recognition of foul brood infections and other disorders. This will cover the use of

lateral flow devices (LFDs), sending in of samples to the NBU and all the necessary paperwork

- exotics, covering small hive beetle (SHB), *Tropilaelaps* and Asian hornet. The need for early recognition of these pests and the impact that they would have on the UK beekeeping community.

These workshops will be pitched at a suitable level for bee farmers and will offer a valuable professional updating experience. It is hoped that this will aid participants to run healthy and profitable bee farms.

Booking

Please book your place on these free-to-attend workshops through the BFA Membership and Administration Officer via email: admin@beefarmers.co.uk Places are limited so early booking is advised.

Accreditation

If you would like to become accredited under the Disease Accreditation Scheme for Honey Bees then bookings are also being taken for one of the planned initial accreditation events on 6 October (Cambridgeshire) or 13 October (Sand Hutton). For further information, or to express your interest, please contact the BFA Membership and Administration Officer via email: admin@beefarmers.co.uk □

Links

National Bee Unit

www.nationalbeeunit.com

DASH

www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageId=360

Bee health professional development workshops for bee farmers will be primarily hands-on practical training



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