



National Bee Unit Eastern Region Beefarmers Autumn Update

Autumn 2010-

Inspection Work:

The following Inspections have been carried out in Eastern Region for the Beekeeping Season 2010

Activity	2009	2010
Apiaries Inspected	1860	1653
Colonies Inspected	9040	7658
Beekeepers Visited	1086	1059

Current known Beekeepers within Region: 3,846- (493 New Beekeepers have been identified in Eastern Region since Spring 2010 306 self registered]

Further surveys of Beekeepers will take place this autumn to continue the updating of regional records, which was commenced in 2005 and is now on-going.

Foulbrood:

Disease	Colonies 2009	Colonies 2010
European Foulbrood	133	96
American Foulbrood	12	6

Incidences of European Foulbrood for the 2010 season are down again on the 2009 season but have been found in apiaries that have not been inspected recently by bee inspectors and very little has been reported to us, pointing to the need for beekeepers to be more vigilant whilst inspecting their colonies

2010 County Totals for Notifiable Disease:

County	EFB Colonies	EFB Apiaries	AFB Colonies	AFB Apiaries
Norfolk	64	27	6	2
Suffolk	12	6	0	0
Herts	0	0	0	0
Camb	1	1	0	0
Essex	5	5	0	0
Beds	0	0	0	0
Lincs	13	9	0	0
Leics	1	1	0	0
Rutland	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	96	49	6	2

2009 EFB 'League Table'

Norfolk - 64 Cases

Devon 39 cases

West Sussex 32 Cases

North Yorkshire - 28 Cases

Exotic Pest Surveillance:

Eastern Region has a higher risk status than most with its concentration of Ports and Military Bases, linked to other risks such as Imported Wax Refiners and Wholesale Fruit Merchants. No Exotic Pests have been found and further surveillance work and liaison with Risk Premises will continue next season.

Samples of floor debris were also collected from various Apiaries around the Region for analyses at the National Bee Unit for Exotic Pests - all were negative.

Exotic Pest Surveillance	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010
Eastern Region Apiaries Visited	93	110	164

Import Inspections:

We are still doing Import Inspections of full colonies and also Queens from within the EU. These constitute either full colony inspections, or inspection of Import Health Certificates which accompany the bees. Within Eastern Region this constituted 4 Import Inspections of which most have been completed, with some paper checks being completed at the moment.

Random Apiary Survey:

RAS inspections in the region from 1st June 2009 to present time are 636 apiaries and 3958 apiaries country wide. Results will start coming in this Autumn and will be able to be accessed on BeeBase.

Colony Losses:

Regionally greater emphasis has been placed upon recording cases of loss since 2005 – which is one of the reasons why the numbers are seen to rise in some Counties.

During the first three months of the year most reported losses were visited and inspected within this region, with dead colonies being inspected, and samples being taken from some. One overriding theme was losses due to Varroa as a result of incorrect timing of treatments or use of products to which varroa are resistant with the related virus build-ups, and also the incidence of Nosema Ceranae.

The combination of varroa related viruses and Nosema Ceranae is still not fully understood – what is apparent from site visits we have made is that it is certainly a silent killer and again brings home the need for more regular control of varroa rather than the one hit per year approach, and also the need to examine stocks (or a representative sample of them) for Nosema

I would ask all beekeepers and beefarmers to please report any losses of any colony even if the cause is known to me on the telephone number or e-mail address shown below, only by building up this sort of baseline data can we have the information to hand for future questions which may be asked about the losses of our colonies. Please remember that the information you provide is confidential.

Sandra Gray has been taken on as Bee Inspector covering South and East Suffolk. Sandra is working three days per week and has fitted in well with the rest of the Eastern Region team, and is well liked by the beekeepers

Useful Telephone Contacts for Inspectors:

Eastern Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan:
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Seasonal Inspectors for 2010:

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