11th February 2010.

Dear beekeeper,

As part of the Healthy Bee Plan initiative, we are holding a free ‘Healthy Bee Day’ at Fera, York on Saturday 6th March 2010. The main focus is ‘Minimising colony losses’. There will be two lectures led by our Educational Officer Mr Ian Homer and six workshops run by my Seasonal Bee Inspectors and myself. In the workshops we will be covering organic acids, approved varroacides, Nosema, looking for exotic pests, hygiene and Varroa management. Registration is at 9.30am and we are hoping to finish around 4.30pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided, but unfortunately there will be no other catering facilities available, so we advise you to bring a packed lunch. For logistical and security reasons it will be necessary to register with either myself or Mr Ian Homer to confirm your course place.

FERA address: - FERA, Sand Hutton, and York. YO41 1LZ. To get directions please go to www.fera.defra.gov.uk and on the home page go to ‘contact us’ and then to ‘How to find us’

Ian Homer’s details are: - e-mail ian.homer@fera.gsi.go.uk and telephone numbers are 01308 482161 or mobile is 07778 846335

My details are: - e-mail ian.Molyneux@fera.gsi.gov.uk and my telephone numbers are 01204 381186 or mobile 07815 872604.

We are trying to encourage non-association members to attend, so if you know any beekeepers that are not members of associations or are not registered on Beebase please encourage them to attend.

Could you please circulate this letter to your friends/ members or anyone you think might want to attend.

Finally, can I apologise for the short notice on this and ask you to car share if at all possible.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Molyneux
Northern Regional Bee Inspector