

Cornwall Bee Disease Inspections 2009



During the 2009 season the number of apiary inspections has risen dramatically.

Last year (2008) 673 colonies were inspected within 179 apiary visits.

This year (2009) 1326 colonies have been inspected within 396 apiary visits.

Jo Widdicombe (01752 822335) has been taken on as a Bee Inspector for Southern Cornwall.

Su Hoult (01566 774618) is the Seasonal Bee Inspector, responsible for North & West Cornwall

Glyn Berrington has been working as a Bee Inspector in East Cornwall for the last 12 years. Glyn has now retired and we wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.

European Foul Brood was found in Cornwall in the following 10km squares

SX05 ST. AUSTELL- (3 Colonies), SX26 LISKEARD (4 Colonies)

Of the 7 colonies that were infected with EFB, 6 were destroyed, and 1 was shook swarmed

American Foul Brood was found in Cornwall in the 10km square:

: SW NEWQUAY (2colonies), which were both destroyed

These 2 bacteria diseases are considered so serious that they are classified as notifiable diseases under the Bee Disease and Pests Control Order 2006. Beekeepers must inform bee inspectors if they suspect these diseases in their colonies. Bee Inspectors will show you at Apiary Demonstrations or at your own apiary, how to look for these diseases. Remember it is not your fault, if the disease is found in one of your hives but the most common way for these diseases to be spread is by beekeepers moving frames and other equipment from hive to hive. EFB and AFB can also be carried in swarms.

The DEFRA/FERA leaflet "Foul brood disease of honeybees: recognition and other common brood disorders" will help you to recognise any brood disease problems.

During the next 2 seasons, the bee inspectors are taking samples of bees, which is part of a **Random Apiary Survey** to find out the prevalence of bee disease in England & Wales. 5000 apiaries are being randomly chosen, to be sampled. The samples are sent to the NBU where they will be analysed for Bacterial & Viral Diseases as well as Nosema spp. If your colonies are sampled, you will be able to access your own results of this survey by contacting the NBU website www.nationalbeeunit.co.uk and going onto BeeBase which you will find has a wealth of information on beekeeping. If you register on BeeBase you can have secure access to your own (and only your own) inspection history and apiary information via the web.

Varroa remains a major challenge for beekeepers. Beekeepers have been telling me that they cannot find varroa in their hives, so they are not bothering to treat their colonies. All beekeepers are hoping that bees will learn how to deal with this pest, without us having to put chemicals in the hives. However I believe that they need our help- treatment with an effective varroacide to guarantee survival into the next year.

The DEFRA/FERA Leaflet "Managing Varroa" is available to help you.