



National Bee Unit Eastern Region. Autumn Update

Autumn 2009

Inspection Work:

The following Inspections have been carried out in Eastern Region for the Beekeeping Season 2008 (1st April to 20th October 2009). Colony & Apiary Inspections are the Highest Recorded for the Region since computerised records began at the NBU in 1994, and the highest for any Region in England & Wales again this year, for the 2nd year running.

Activity	2008	2009
Apiaries Inspected	1036	1860
Colonies Inspected	6583	9040
Beekeepers Visited	507	1086

Current known Beekeepers within Region: 3,483 - (332 New Beekeepers have been identified in Eastern Region since Spring 2009). 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 2008	Colonies 2009
European Foulbrood	187	133
American Foulbrood	4	12

Incidences of European Foulbrood for the 2009 Season were 133 Colonies, which shows a decrease of 29% on 2008, the level of infected apiaries remains stable (down from 60 to 55 this year) Overall the incidence of EFB across England and Wales has decreased from 846 colonies last year to 582 this year (-30.5%)

2009 County Totals for Notifiable Disease:

County	EFB Colonies	EFB Apiaries	AFB Colonies	AFB Apiaries
Norfolk	63	22	0	0
Suffolk	27	11	6	2
Herts	8	3	0	0
Cambs	0	0	5	3
Essex	15	10	0	0
Beds	0	0	0	0
Lincs	18	8	1	1
Leics	0	0	0	0
Rutland	2	1	0	0
TOTAL	133	55	12	6

2009 EFB 'League Table'

Norfolk - 63 Cases

Devon & Kent - 45 Cases

North Yorkshire & Dorset - 41 Cases

Hampshire - 40 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 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009
Eastern Region Apiaries Visited	118	93	110

Import Inspections:

Greater emphasis has this year been placed upon 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 10 Import Inspections of which most have been completed, with some paper checks being completed at the moment.

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.

We have seen some isolated cases of Paralysis Virus this year across the Region, but nothing like that witnessed in the previous two poor summers.

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.

Useful Telephone Contacts for Inspectors:

Seasonal Bee Inspector Mike Willis who has worked in Norfolk and Suffolk since 2002 is retiring at the end of October 2009, following a knee injury. We shall be very sad to see Mike leave the team, of which he has been a very valuable member. His post will be advertised for replacement shortly in readiness for the 2010 Season.

Eastern Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan:
01485 520838 - keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk
Mobile: 07919 004215

Seasonal Inspectors for 2010:

Peter Heath - Essex & East Hertfordshire
01279 843177

Sylvia Pettitt - Suffolk & East Cambridgeshire
01638 500378
Mobile: 07775 119432

Fred Daynes - Peterborough & Cambridge Areas
01733 241767
Mobile: 07775 119435

Peter Folge - Bedfordshire & West Hertfordshire
01438 816211
Mobile: 07775 119433

David Bonner - Leicestershire & Rutland
02476 540431
E Mail: David.bonner@fera.gsi.gov.uk
Mobile: 07775 119434

Bob Mould - Lincolnshire
01673 818711
Mobile: 07775 119431