

Surrey Beekeepers' Association - Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) report 2017

Every beekeeper should be familiar with the provisions of The Bee Diseases and Pests Control Orders 2006 for England and Wales (as amended). The Order empowers the Defra (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to take measures to control American foulbrood and European foulbrood, which are very serious bacterial infections of brood. The Orders also empower the Defra to take appropriate measures against small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida*, and *Tropilaelaps spp.* mites. Both are currently exotic threats to UK apiculture.

Although Varroosis (a parasitic mite infestation caused by the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*) is no longer notifiable, the National Bee unit (NBU) provides comprehensive advice and training for beekeepers on how to manage this serious hive pest.

A. Notifiable diseases

| County | Colonies inspected | | No of colonies destroyed after diagnosis of AFB | No colonies diagnosed positive for EFB | No colonies destroyed after diagnosis of EFB | No of colonies treated with antibiotic after diagnosis of EFB | No of colonies treated with shook swarm after diagnosis of EFB | No colonies sampled but lab diagnosis negative | Percent colonies inspected which had AFB | Percent colonies inspected which had EFB |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Total | Dead | | | | | | | | |
| E Sussex | 290 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8.97 |
| Greater London | 569 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2.64 |
| Kent | 1171 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 26 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2.48 |
| Surrey | 558 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2.15 |
| W Sussex | 968 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.75 |
| SE England totals | 3556 | 0 | 0 | 128 | 100 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| England totals | 24712 | 0 | 45 | 366 | 260 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 0.18 | 1.48 |

From the above table:

1. European Foul Brood (EFB) – of the 366 colonies in England inspected by NBU, 35% (128) were in the South-East (East Sussex, Greater London, Kent, Surrey, West Sussex). Of those colonies inspected, 260 had EFB confirmed and 38% (100) were destroyed, none were treated with antibiotic and 6% (1 colony) was treated with shook swarm
2. American Foul Brood (AFB) – of the colonies in England inspected by NBU, there were nil colonies found with this disease

B. Other comments:

3. There have been no reports within SE England of any other notifiable diseases (Small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida*, *Tropilaelaps* mites and Asian Hornet) being identified
4. There are a number of adult bee diseases that affect adult bees, for example, Nosemosis, (two species currently known to affect honey bees *Nosema apis*, *Nosema ceranae*), Amoeba

(*Malpighamoeba mellifica*) and Acarapisosis, caused by tracheal mites (also known as Acarine causative organism *Acarapis woodi*).

5. Honey bees are also subject to infection from a range of different viruses which vary in the severity of symptoms and incidence. All viruses have the potential to cause harm, but many viruses associated with Varroa can be controlled if mite populations in a colony are also controlled.
6. Attendant worker bees that have been imported with queens from designated third countries, are also routinely checked for the presence of exotic pests
7. Imports of honey bees are controlled by a limited third country system, to prevent the introduction of exotic bee diseases. Under present policy only queen bees and attendant worker bees may be imported from third countries, except for New Zealand from where package bees (a queen plus 15,000 worker bees) are permitted.

Details from BeeBase

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