

Surrey Beekeepers Association AGM Saturday 1 December 2018

Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)

The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006 is still the current piece of legislation that controls the statutory diseases in honeybees in England which are AFB, EFB, small hive beetle and Tropilaelaps.

The National Bee Unit (NBU) publish useful guidance on Foulbrood diseases of Honey bees (2017), Managing varroa (2017), Small hive beetle (2015) and Tropilaelaps (2015) both online and as free printed publications.

As regards the Asian hornet, the NBU is investigating the finding of a dead Asian hornet in a car grill at a car dealership in Guildford. Further information will become available as and when the situation develops. The NBU strongly advises beekeepers to monitor for this insect using appropriate traps. These are shown on the NBU BeeBase website and are also available from beekeeping suppliers.

Concerning AFB in SE England, the trend has been roughly the same over the last 5 years and at 5 colonies in 2018. With EFB the trend is more of a switchback over the last 5 years with 75 reported incidents in 2018.

Small hive beetle was found in Portugal in 2004 and in Italy in 2014, 2016 and 2017 but, so far, no known sightings have been found in UK.

Tropilaelaps will only survive where there is a constant supply of honey bee brood and this may occur in the future as the effects of climate change cause warmer UK winters.

Varroa, present in all continents of the world except Australia, is now no longer notifiable in UK.

Andrew Gibb 1 December 2018