

How to Submit Bee Samples

Bee Disease Diagnosis Service, USDA

Did you know?

The United States Department of Agriculture operates a "Bee Diagnosis Service" for beekeepers across the U.S. at no charge.

Who can submit a sample?



Beekeepers



Regulatory
Officials



Bee Businesses

What happens to the sample?

Samples received of adult bees are examined for the presence of **Varroa Mites** and **Nosema**, and other pests or symptoms of disease associated with honey bees. Beeswax comb (with & without bee brood) are examined for bacterial (AFB and EFB), fungal (chalkbrood) or symptoms of sacbrood when brood are present in a comb sample.

American foulbrood samples are cultured and isolates are screened for their sensitivity to **Terramycin** and **Tylan**.



Who can see my report?

Diagnostic reports are transmitted to both the beekeeper, submitter of samples, and the Delaware Department of Agriculture apiary inspector.



How do I send my samples?

* Please include a short description of the problem along with your name, address, phone number or email address.

Honey Bees

Send at least 100 bees
(dying or recently deceased).

Bees should be placed in and soaked with
70% ethyl, methyl or isopropyl alcohol as
soon as possible after collection.

Pack bees in a leak-proof container.
DO NOT send dry bees (without alcohol).

Note that USPS, UPS, and FEDEX will not accept
shipments containing alcohol. Just prior to
mailing samples, pour off excess alcohol to
meet shipping requirements.

Brood Comb

A comb sample should be at least 2x2 inches
and contain as much of the dead or discolored
brood as possible. **No honey should be present.**

The comb can be sent in a paper bag or loosely
wrapped in a paper towel, newspaper, etc
and sent in a heavy cardboard box.

Avoid wrappings such as plastic, aluminum foil,
waxed paper, tin, and glass because they
promote decomposition and mold growth.

If a comb can't be sent, the probe used to
examine a diseased larva in the cell may contain
enough material for testing. The probe can be
wrapped in paper and sent in an envelope.

Bee Disease Diagnosis, Bee Research Laboratory
10300 Baltimore Ave. BARC-East Bldg. 306 Room 316
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center - East Beltsville, MD 20705

In need of additional information?

USDA, Sam Abban
Samuel.Abban@ars.usda.gov
(301)504-8821

DDA, Meghan McConnell, State Apiarist
Meghan.McConnell@delaware.gov
(302)698-4585