How to do a disease inspection

Why it's important

- To check our bees health
- So we can deal with any problems
- So we can prevent the spread of disease

Preparation

- Prepare a solution of soda crystals, washing up liquid and water
- Have a metal scrubber to clean tools
- Clean and sterilised suits and tools
- Disinfect boots with a solution of Virkon
- Wear two pairs of gloves with a pair of disposable gloves on top
- Always do any bad tempered or suspected hive last

What to do.

- Lightly smoke the front of the hive
- Carefully remove any supers
- Remove the queen excluder (if not in use all boxes will need checked)
- Check for the queen
- Pull out the dummy board or first frame
- Always check for the queen, dark side first
- Shake off the bees with a sudden stop
- Place the frame/ dummy board at the front of the hive
- Always checking for the queen shake all the bees off the frames
- Inspect all frames with brood and all cells of the frame (a frame of food can be put back)
- Open any cells with perforations
- Check for healthy brood or other brood diseases such as chalk brood or sac brood
- If you see the symptoms of EFB or AFB take a picture if you can, and email the bees mailbox Bees_mailbox@gov.scot

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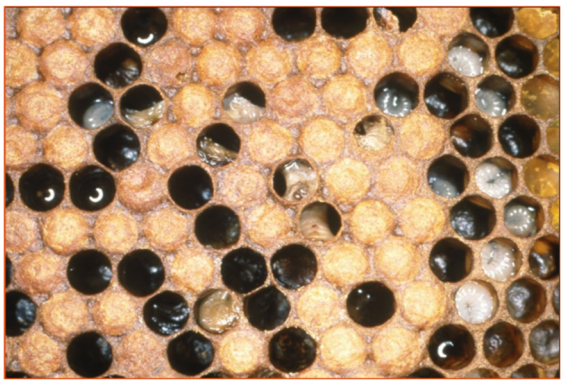
Notifiable disease. Foulbroods

- AFB – sunken, greasy cappings, roping of larvae with stick, sealed brood
- EFB – twisted, unsegmented, discoloured, melted unsealed brood



Other diseases to look for

- Nosema
- Chronic bee paralysis syndrome
- Sac brood
- Chalkbrood

What you can do

- Notify the Bees_mailbox@gov.scot
- You are our best surveillance!
- Learn how to do a full brood inspection
- Learn how to identify brood diseases
- Differentiate between common and notifiable
- Do at least two full brood inspections a year
- Report suspicion of disease

Need further advice. Email Lorraine.Johnston@sruc.ac.uk