

BEE SAMPLES FOR DISEASE AND PEST DIAGNOSIS

HONEYBEE SAMPLES ARE SUBMITTED TO:

Bee Research Laboratory
Bldg. 306, Room 318, BARC-East
10300 Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, MD 20705-2350

How to collect and prepare samples:

Nosema Disease

1. Collect 30 field bees from hive entrance when bees are flying to the fields.
2. Place bees in plastic bag with enough rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol) to cover the sample. Seal the zip lock bag. Place the bag in another zip lock bag so it will not leak in the mail. Limit the amount of rubbing alcohol shipped in the mail. Use a pencil for any information provided, since the rubbing alcohol that leaks will destroy information written in ink.
3. Mail in a box and not an envelope. The post office runs envelopes through a machine that crushes samples.
4. Include your name and address and what disease or pest you want diagnosed.
5. The lab will also check these samples for varroa mites, tracheal mites as well as Nosema disease and provide a spore count from positive Nosema samples. There is no cost for these tests.

American Foulbrood (AFB) – can submit larva smear or piece of comb

Larva Smear Sample:

1. Collect dead larva smear out of cell using a toothpick.
2. Wrap the toothpick with the sample smear in paper. Each sample should be kept separate and number each sample, if more than one hive is sampled. An example is hive number one is sample number one and hive numbertwo is sample number two.
3. Place sample in an envelope. Do not use a plastic bag because it will mold the sample.
4. Include your name and address and what disease you want diagnosed.

Comb Sample:

1. Cut out 4" x 4" square sample of comb.
2. Place comb in a box.
3. Mail sample in a box as post office machinery will crush envelopes including the comb sample.
4. Include your name and address and what disease you want diagnosed.

The lab will report if the sample is positive or negative for American Foulbrood. If the sample is positive for AFB disease the lab will report the resistance level to the antibiotic drug Terramycin.