

## APIARY INSPECTION PROGRAM & THE VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE:

*A veterinary feed directive is required to treat European foulbrood-infected honey bee colonies with antibiotics.*

*The state's Apiary Inspection Program is situated through knowledge, experience, and authority to:*

- *Identify bee health problems including diseases of brood.*
- *Oversee response to regulated bee diseases that threaten bee health.*
- *Identify cultural controls.*
- *Provide guidance on confirming a diagnosis.*
- *Assist in identifying treatments and suppliers of products labeled for use in the state.*



AFB-infected comb with mold on AFB scale. *Photo credit: D. Priebe*

## NH BEEKEEPING STATUTES AND RULES:

Chapter 429: 1-12 Beekeeping :

[gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XL/429/429-mrg.htm](http://gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XL/429/429-mrg.htm)

Agr 1800: Requirements for the keeping of honey bees: [gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state\\_agencies/agr1800.html](http://gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/agr1800.html)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- NH Apiary Inspection Program: [agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/plant-industry/apiary-beekeeping.htm](http://agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/plant-industry/apiary-beekeeping.htm)
- NH Board of Veterinary Medicine: [oplc.nh.gov/veterinary-medicine.htm](http://oplc.nh.gov/veterinary-medicine.htm)
- Honey Bee Vet Consortium: [hbvc.org](http://hbvc.org)
- Honey Bee Health Coalition: [honeybeehealthcoalition.org](http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org)
- Identifying and Mitigating Foulbrood in honey bee colonies: Information for Beekeepers and Veterinarians (Reed, Caron, Rodgers, 2019): [honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/HBHC\\_AFB-EFB-Final-061119.pdf](http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/HBHC_AFB-EFB-Final-061119.pdf)

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## THE VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE AND BEEKEEPING



*Photo: C. Rallis*

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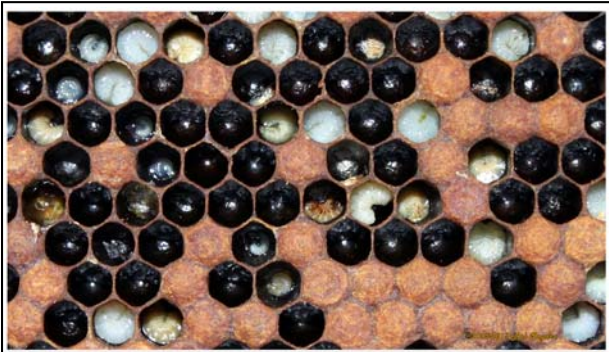
## THE VFD: MEDICATED FEED & HONEY BEE CARE

The federal Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) requires that use of feed medications in honey bee care be done under the oversight and order of a veterinarian. Involving the state apiary inspector brings expertise in properly diagnosing bee diseases to the Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR).

### BEE DISEASES & MEDICATED FEED

American Foulbrood (AFB) and European Foulbrood (EFB) are bacterial diseases that affect brood development in honey bee colonies.

AFB is a regulated bee disease requiring abatement, which currently involves destruction of affected bees and equipment under supervision of the apiary inspector (*Agr 1805.02(e)(1-2)*).



EFB-infected comb. Photo: R. Snyder

EFB is the fastest killing brood disease and affects young brood. In most cases, EFB kills larvae within 4-5 days. There are cultural controls that beekeepers can use to reduce the impact of EFB. Beekeepers may have a preference for use of

medicated feed based on the virulence of the infection, seasonality, and other factors. The apiary inspector can identify likely EFB infections and provide guidance on confirming diagnosis and abatement of the disease.

The apiary inspector provides guidance on cultural controls and maintaining hives to promote honeybee health.

#### A BEEKEEPER EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS SHOULD:

- 1) Contact Plant Industry to request an apiary inspection.
- 2) Submit high-resolution photos of symptoms to the apiary inspector.
- 3) Have a VCPR with a veterinarian.
- 4) Apply medicated feed as directed only for properly diagnosed disease in compliance with state and federal laws.

#### THE APIARY INSPECTOR WILL:

- 1) Contact the beekeeper and review photos or description of apiary problems.
- 2) When warranted, conduct an examination to make an initial diagnosis and recommendations (*see Agr 1804.02 for apiary inspection fee schedule*).



Decontamination of inspection tools. Photo: D. Priebe



Photo: D. Priebe

- 3) Assist in sample collection and recommend disease confirmation with a foulbrood test kit or analysis by an independent lab.
- 4) Oversee abatement of AFB-infected bees and equipment.
- 5) Provide cultural control recommendations to beekeepers with confirmation of EFB or any other honey bee health concern.
- 6) Upon request by the veterinarian, provide diagnosis & confirmation.
- 7) Serve as a reference for veterinarians with questions about care of honeybees.

#### THE VETERINARIAN CAN:

- 1) Ask to be informed or involved with any step of the apiary inspection process from the initial call through inspection and confirmation.
- 2) Contact the apiary inspector with questions or concerns about diagnosis or treatment of bee diseases.
- 3) Issue VFD order and oversee use of feed medications in compliance with state and federal law.