

## **Sampling and Shipping Methods Honey Bee Laboratory Diagnoses in British Columbia**

Test results are only as good as the quality of the samples. Please be sure to include your beekeeper identification, contact details and a description of the colony from which the sample was taken. To use this free and confidential service, please follow these standard methods for collecting and shipping samples:

### Brood Cell Samples

- Brood cell samples are used to detect bacterial American foulbrood AFB and European foulbrood EFB (Sacbrood virus can be confused with these.)
- The contents of suspect brood cells can be collected using a toothpick.
- Place the contents of one or more brood cells and the toothpick in a small plastic bag or piece of Saran wrap.
- Place the sample in a clearly marked envelope with your name and contact details.
- Please do NOT mail pieces of comb or brood frame, these must be personally delivered to the Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford.

### Fecal Samples

Scrapings of dry bee feces can be collected in a paper envelope for Nosema detection. Fecal sampling can only determine presence/absence of Nosema. It doesn't allow estimation of the LEVEL of infection per bee that is needed to determine treatment thresholds.

### Whole Bees

- Whole bee samples are used to diagnose Nosema and viruses.
- Collect 50 – 60 adult bees (ideally foragers) dead or alive from the hive entrance area.
- Place specimens in a paper bag and freeze for 3 days.
- After 3 days, remove the sample bag from freezer and allow to thaw. Place sample bag into a cardboard shipment container. Fill empty space with paper towel or absorbent materials.
- Alternatively, after the 3 days of freezing, place 50 bees onto a sheet of paper towel and fold down and close with tape. Place in a bubble envelope for shipment.
- Include your name and contact details inside the envelope along with a brief description of the colony that was sampled.

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### Shipping address

Attn: Paul van Westendorp  
Provincial Apiculturist  
Animal & Plant Health Centre  
BC Ministry of Agriculture  
1767 Angus Campbell Road  
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3

Please mark the envelope/container: "**BEES**"