

# Submission of Diagnostic Specimens to USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory

The following instructions have been excerpted from the *United States Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Bee Disease Diagnosis Service*.

## General Instructions

- Beekeepers, bee businesses, and regulatory officials may submit samples.
- Samples are accepted from the United States and its territories; samples are NOT accepted from other countries.
- A short description of the problem should be included along with your name, address, phone number, or e-mail address.
- There is no charge for this service.
- For additional information, contact Sam Abban by phone at (301) 504-8821 or email at [samuel.abban@ars.usda.gov](mailto:samuel.abban@ars.usda.gov).

## Adult Honey Bee Sample Submission Instructions

- Send at least 100 bees and, if possible, select bees that are dying or that died recently. Decayed bees are not satisfactory for examination.
- Place bees in a leak-proof container as soon as possible after collection and soak with 70% ethyl, methyl, or isopropyl alcohol.
- Just prior to mailing samples, pour off all excess alcohol to meet shipping requirements. USPS, UPS, and FedEx do not accept shipments containing alcohol.
- Do NOT send bees dry (without alcohol).

## Brood Sample Submission Instructions

- A comb sample should be at least 2 x 2 inches and contain as much of the dead or discolored brood as possible. NO HONEY SHOULD BE PRESENT IN THE SAMPLE.
- 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, glass, etc., because these materials promote decomposition and mold growth.
- If comb cannot 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 to the laboratory in an envelope.

## Submit samples to:

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