

Submitting Samples for Disease Identification

Laboratory diagnostic services are free for BC beekeepers. Test results can only be as good as the quality of the submitted sample. Don't submit samples with large amounts of debris and foreign materials. Samples should be submitted as follows:

Brood Cell Samples

- Samples are normally analyzed for AFB and EFB. Additional diagnostic procedures may be applied when needed.
- Use a toothpick and carefully remove the larval contents from abnormal-looking brood cells. Place the cell contents and toothpick into a plastic sleeve or piece of cling wrap. (Please don't use a stick or stem from the ground as it may contaminate the sample).
- Place the plastic sleeve in a normal plain envelope and mail to the animal health centre in Abbotsford (address below).
- Make sure to include your full name and contact details (phone or email) and provide a short description of the problem.
- Don't send frames with comb unless you personally drop it off at the Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford.

Adult Bee Sample

- Bee samples are analyzed for Nosema, Varroa mite damage, and other abnormalities.
- Collect a minimum of 50 adult bees that have recently died or are dying.
- Place the bees in a **paper bag** (~NO plastic) and freeze for 3 days. This allows the bees to dry out on the outside, preventing mold growth.
- After 3 days, remove and allow sample to thaw to room temperature. Place bees onto a paper towel and carefully fold the sides inward. Alternatively, keep the bees in the paper bag.
- Place sample in a padded envelope. Include your name, phone number and email address and a short description about the problem.
- Mail or courier to the Animal Health Center in Abbotsford.

Ship samples to;

**BC Ministry of Agriculture
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3.**

“BEES”