

2016 Summary of Accomplishments

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) coordinates a statewide honey bee registration and inspection program in cooperation with the state’s county bee inspectors. The goal of this program is to protect managed honey bees from abiotic and biotic threats through inspection, education and the promotion of best management practices. Below is a summary of the accomplishments for 2016:



State Inspections

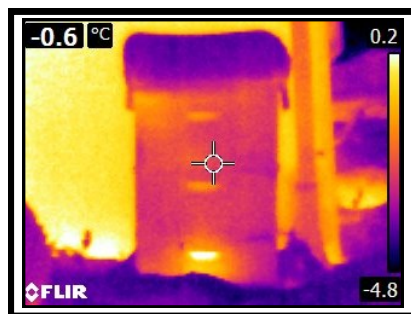
- ◆ Hundreds of hives in approximately 170 apiaries were inspected for various maladies and Africanization.
- ◆ Many diseases were field diagnosed and lab verified: *Two cases of AFB, eight cases of EFB, 13 cases of Nosema spp., 96 cases of Parasitic Mite Syndrome, 15 cases of chalkbrood and two cases of tracheal mite.*
- ◆ Six hives were aggressive with Africanized genes.
- ◆ Inspectors worked with beekeepers to clean up diseased hives and requeen or destroy Africanized bees.



Winter Health Survey

- ◆ The department conducted a first of its kind survey of colonies that perished in the winter.
- ◆ This survey utilized a FLIR infrared camera to determine which hives died during winter months.
- ◆ Dead hives were examined for signs of maladies; excessive Varroa mite was the most common problem.
- ◆ Inspectors worked with beekeepers to clean up diseased colonies so they were not robbed in spring.

Using a FLIR infrared camera, inspectors were able to identify dead hives in winter. Pictured right is a live colony; the cluster can be seen in the bottom deep box.



Stephen Stanko, UDAF



APHIS Health Survey

24 beeyards were sampled statewide for exotic pathogens and pests. No exotic pathogens were found.

However one small hive beetle (SHB; pictured) was detected in Washington County; a delimiting inspection effort was implemented which determined that SHB was not established in the area. No other exotic pests were found.



James D. Ellis, UFL



Pollinator Protection

In 2016 Utah’s Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) included outreach at numerous events attended by growers and applicators to promote best practices in pesticide use and cooperation with beekeepers. The program also worked with NRCS, Extension and garden clubs to promote pollinator habitat. Hundreds of bee-friendly seed packets were distributed by the program statewide.



Outreach & Education

- ◆ Conducted five advanced trainings on honey bee disease and pest diagnostics across the state.
- ◆ Fielded hundreds of phone calls and emails related to beekeeping problems.

For more information about Utah’s Apiary Program visit:

<http://ag.utah.gov/plants-pests/beekeeping.html>

To request an inspection call: (801) 538-4912



Utah's Registered Beekeepers



Utah Beekeepers Per Square Mile 2016

