



Bee Disease & Pest Sample Submission Guidelines



Did you know that beekeepers, bee businesses, and regulatory officials may submit samples of bees or comb from hives that are suspected to have diseases or parasites?

The Bee Research Laboratory at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center will test bees and comb from hives that are believed to have disease or pest problems. The lab accepts samples from U.S. states and territories, and from Canada. There is no charge for this service.

Contact Bart Smith for more information—(301) 504-8821 bart.smith@ars.usda.gov

Here are some tips for submission:

Include the following information

- Name
- Street Address
- Telephone Number
- Email
- A Brief Description of the Problem

Bee Submission Guidelines:

- Send at least 100 bees and if possible, select bees that are dying or that recently died. No decaying bees.
- Bees should be put in 70% alcohol as soon as possible after collection and packed in leak-proof containers.
- USPS, UPS, and FedEx do not accept shipments containing alcohol. Just prior to mailing samples, pour off all excess alcohol to meet shipping requirements.

Comb Submission Guidelines:

- Cut out a piece of comb that is at least 2x2 inches, include as much dead or discolored brood as possible.
- NO HONEY SHOULD BE PRESENT IN SAMPLE.
- Comb should be placed inside a paper bag, loosely wrapped in paper towels, or covered in newspaper. AVOID wrappings that promote decomposition.

Send to:

**Bee Disease Diagnosis
Bee Research Laboratory
Bldg. 306 Room 316
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center – East
Beltsville, MD 20705**

