



Utah Honeybee VFD Writing Resources

Updated: Fall 2024

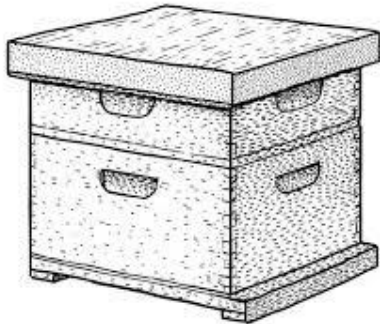
Bacterial Diseases:

American Foulbrood (AFB) Approach

- Triggers a required visit from a state/county bee inspector
- Highly encouraged to destroy infected hives (burning / bagging and burial at a landfill)
 - +/- treat remaining hives in the yard
- Much less preferred option: treat infected and neighboring hives
 - Spores will not be destroyed, can lead to more spread

European Foulbrood (EFB) Approach

- Curable in the infected hive
- Treat all hives in the yard



Requirements to Write a VFD:

- 1) On site visit to the apiary (to establish a VCPR)
 - Frequency and format at veterinary discretion
- 2) Diagnosis of the bacterial disease (EFB v. AFB)
- 3) VFD (or Rx) depending on the antimicrobial
 - NO off-label use allowed
 - Ensure withhold and proper record keeping

Diagnostic Options:

- Diagnostic Laboratories:
 - [UDAF Entomology Lab](#) – free to Utah Registered Beekeepers
 - [USDA Bee Research Laboratory](#) (Beltsville, MD)
 - [National Agricultural Genotyping Center \(NAGC\)](#) (Fargo, ND)
- Beekeepers should be educated and capable of collecting samples
- Most hive issues are multifactorial
 - Feel free to ask about other husbandry practices if you feel comfortable doing so

Antimicrobial Options:

AFB

- Contact the [State/County Bee Inspector](#) or State Veterinarian's Office for guidance

EFB

- Oxytetracycline hydrochloride (Terramycin)
 - Write the VFD for a powdered sugar spread on frames
 - 200mg/hive in a 1:1 sugar dust
 - **42 day honey withhold**
 - Available from Bee Distributors in a pre-mix
 - [Mann Lake](#), [Dadant & Sons](#), [Phibro](#)
- (Not recommended) Tylosin / Lincomycin
 - For more information contact the State Veterinarian's Office

Writing the VFD:

- May use paper or electronic formats
 - Make sure to abide by reporting and recording rules
 - Provide a copy to the antimicrobial dealer and the client
 - All parties must retain these records for at least 2 years
 - Numerous free and paid options:
 - [Global Vet Link](#), [RX Express](#)
 - Honeybee template can be found [here](#) (fillable PDF)
- Write the VFD per hive (in place of the individual)
- Check records are maintained appropriately during a yearly VCPR maintenance examination.
 - Beekeeper [VFD Treatment Log](#)
 - Beekeeper [VFD Pharmaceutical Log](#)



Additional Resources:

- [UDAF: Apiary Program](#)
- [U of Michigan - Bees Need Vets](#)
- [Honey Bee Veterinarian Consortium](#)
- [USDA NVAP Module 30: The Role of Vets in Honey Bee Medicine](#)
- [UC Davis: Honeybees and Beekeeping for Veterinarians \(RACE approved\)](#)
- [The BeeMD](#)
- [Penn State Disease Quick Reference Guide](#)

Questions?

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