



Markets Annual Report Jan 2012

1. I have completed the **Annual Honey Survey** of SBA members. There were 59 replies, up a little on previous years. There has been a clear divide between the east and west of the country with the best of the season's honey harvest in the central-west and the south-west. Dr Connolly has also noticed this clear divide in the data he is processing on colony performance. Few beekeepers reported migrating to the heather. The heather honey harvest was very poor. The reasons for this east-west difference are not clear; I had initially blamed this on more unsettled weather in the east of the country but I think we have to consider other factors. I remember that I had the impression that coming out of last winter that the colony losses on the east were higher. Perhaps beekeepers had more losses to make up. Are there differences in the control and management of Varroa? Does Nosema have a part to play? Our data relates mainly, if not wholly to the hobbyist sector so it is difficult to blame this on the EFB outbreak affecting the eastern areas and mainly a problem in the commercial sector. The full report has been sent to the magazine.
2. I attended the **Veterinary Residues Committee Annual Meeting** in London (12th October 2011). I have completed this report and Phil Moss has had a look and made some comments as it does overlap with his work. This report is to go to the magazine shortly. The VRC are well aware of the recent disease problems in Scotland and are checking for antibiotic residues following the EFB outbreak but no major problems were reported. One difficulty is that data is often a year old when presented at such meetings or on their website. My magazine article gives information on the scope of their work, how the surveys are arranged and methods used in laboratory testing.
3. **Dundee Research:** Dr Connolly has continued his laboratory work and I provided a surviving mininuc to allow him to prolong live specimen collection. He has also been using bumblebees in some of the laboratory based work. The Annual Report on the Dundee work went out to participants in October 2011; I think it may be of value now placing this on the new website. The hive monitors have functioned but do need battery changes in good time to keep going. Where they have been kept in hives in very wet conditions moisture has affected some. There is an improvement in the website so that it will now be possible to set up individual accounts for beekeepers who should be able to access their own data. This may stimulate further interest and get some small local projects going as well. I have a meeting with Chris Connolly in a week to discuss future deployment of the monitors.
4. **ECJ ruling on GM pollen in honey:** I am preparing a full report for the magazine which is not yet complete as I am waiting for further post-conference data to be released. I will bring a brief summary for the Executive Meeting.

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