

Bee Disease Confirmed

American Foulbrood found in West Lothian

An outbreak of American Foulbrood (AFB), a disease affecting honeybees, has been found in an apiary in West Lothian.

The disease was discovered today (July 16) by a Scottish Government Bee Inspector.

A 5km Infected Area has been declared around the apiary, located between Linlithgow and Kirkliston. The movement of bees and related equipment is prohibited, except under licence from the Scottish Government.

The infected area extends from the Forth in the north to Uphall and Broxburn in the south, and from Linlithgow in the west to between Winchburgh and Kirkliston in the east. Bee inspectors will be carrying out inspections on apiaries in the area in coming days.

Hives with AFB must be destroyed as there is no known treatment. There are no risks to public health from AFB and no implications for the quality and safety of honey.

Beekeepers are urged to check their hives and notify any suspicion of disease to BeesMailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

In order to assist Scottish Government Bee Inspectors to control the disease beekeepers are urged to register on BeeBase, the national bee database. This will give them access to up-to-date information on control of American Foulbrood and bee related issues.

Beekeepers in the area of this outbreak who are not on Beebase are requested to send their contact details to BeesMailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Background

AFB is a notifiable disease under The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007. It kills off bee larva, is highly contagious and difficult to eradicate.

There were outbreaks of AFB and European Foulbrood (EFB) in Scotland during 2009. The Scottish Government and bee stakeholders have created an EFB control strategy for 2010. This involves a heightened level of inspections, biosecurity, quarantine measures and movement reporting.

Last month the Scottish Government launched the first Honey Bee Health Strategy to tackle the causes of declining bee health. The Strategy focuses on four areas, i) education, training and Knowledge transfer, ii) communication, ii) surveillance, diagnosis and biosecurity, iv) Research and Development

Up to the minute information, and details on how to register on BeeBase, can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/beehealth.

Contact

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