

How to Submit Sample of Bees or Brood to USDA Bee Lab in Beltsville, MD

Who may send samples

- Beekeepers, bee businesses, and regulatory officials may submit samples.
- Samples are accepted from U.S. states and territories, and from Canada; **samples are NOT accepted from other countries.**

How to Send Adult Honey Bees

- Send at least 100 bees and if possible, select bees that are dying or that died recently. Decayed bees are not satisfactory for examination.
- Bees should be placed in and soaked with 70% ethyl, methyl, or isopropyl 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.

How to Send Brood Samples

- A comb sample should be at least 2 x 2 inches and contain as much of the dead or discolored brood as possible. **No honey should be present in the sample.**
- The comb can be sent in a paper bag or loosely wrapped in a paper towel, newspaper, etc. and sent in a heavy cardboard box. **AVOID** wrappings such as plastic, aluminum foil, waxed paper, tin, glass, etc. because they promote decomposition and the growth of mold.
- If a comb cannot be sent, the probe used to examine a diseased larva in the cell may contain enough material for tests. The probe can be wrapped in paper and sent to the laboratory in an envelope.

How to Address Samples

Send samples to:

**Bee Disease Diagnosis
Bee Research Laboratory
Bldg. 476 Room 204
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-East
Beltsville, MD 20705**

- Include a short description of the problem along with your name, address, phone number, or e-mail address.
- **There is no charge for this service.**
- For additional information, contact **Bart Smith** by phone at (301) 504-8821 or email- bartsmith@ars.usda.gov