

BIOSECURITY MEASURES IN BEEKEEPING | AMERICAN FOULBROOD

Prevention of AFB Outbreaks

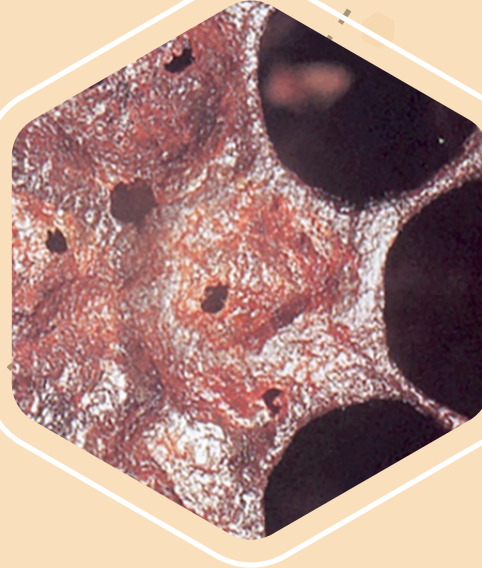
Visual inspection of brood combs during work in the colony

Visual inspection of brood during colony work is an essential practice for detecting signs of diseases like American Foulbrood. During these inspections, beekeepers should carefully examine brood cells for typical signs of the disease, such as pupal remains attached to cells, irregular patterns of capped brood, or the presence of darkened comb. Identifying these signs allows for quick action to prevent the spread of the disease and protect bee health in the colony.



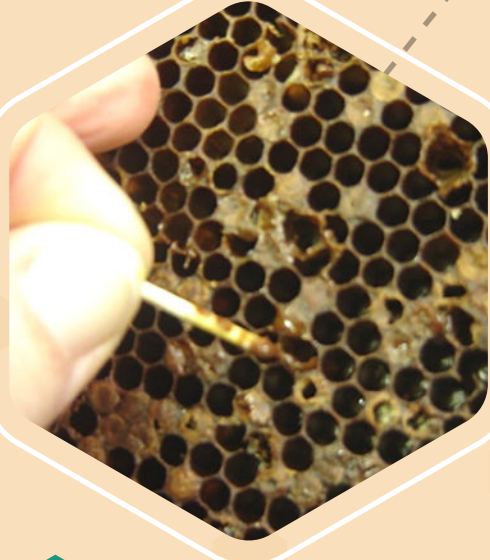
step 1

To be able to spot the signs of a diseased colony, you need to know how the health brood looks like.



step 2

When inspecting a colony for AFB, you look for different signs, like the perforated cups of the cells.



step 3

For confirmation you also need to use 'ropinnes test' method where in case of AFB the dead pupa reveals a brown, sticky and stretching mucus.



step 4

If AFB confirmed, you'd better burn all combs with brood, bees, honey, and maybe gloves in a ditch and cover the ashes.



step 5

Finally, you need to torch the hive well to kill all remaining AFB spores and disinfect everything.



step 6

For prevention, take hygiene measures, e.g., torching the hive body and bottom at least once a year, torching the hive tool between hives, using disposable gloves, and avoiding sharing frames.



step 7

As a general rule, perform the hygienic behaviour test for selecting the queen donors for the next generation.



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