

BIOSECURITY MEASURES IN BEEKEEPING | AMERICAN FOULBROOD

Prevention of AFB Outbreaks

Management of asymptomatic colonies when AFB cases have been detected in the apiary or in other hives of the same beekeeper



Upon detection of American Foulbrood in the apiary, it is crucial to manage asymptomatic colonies properly.

Tests should be conducted to detect the presence of the disease and increase visual inspections. If the presence of the disease is confirmed, drastic measures should be taken, such as separating the affected hives and moving them to a hospital apiary.

Additionally, provisional measures need to be established to control the spread of the disease and maintain constant vigilance.



step
1

Isolate the affected colonies immediately. Mark and separate colonies showing clinical signs of AFB. Restrict all movements of equipment, bees, or frames between infected and asymptomatic colonies.



step
2

Identify and mark all asymptomatic colonies. Clearly label colonies that appear healthy but are located within or managed by the same beekeeper as the infected hives. These colonies are considered "at risk".



step
3

Prohibit colony movement. Do not move any colonies, frames, or equipment from the affected apiary or from the beekeeper's other sites until official inspection and approval are completed.



step
4

Use dedicated tools and protective gear. Assign separate hive tools, gloves, and smokers to healthy and infected colonies.

Disinfect all tools and gloves after every use using flame or 70% alcohol.



step
5

Inspect asymptomatic colonies thoroughly. Perform detailed brood examinations for early signs of AFB (sunken cappings, irregular brood pattern, sticky larval remains).

Take samples for laboratory confirmation if in doubt.



step
6

Disinfect or renew hive materials. Clean hive components and equipment with approved disinfectants or flame sterilisation.

Replace contaminated combs and avoid using extracted honey or wax for feeding.



step
7

Maintain strict record keeping. Document inspection dates, locations, findings, disinfection procedures, and any colony destruction or isolation measures taken.

Report all actions to the competent authority if required.



step
8

Strengthen colony resilience and monitoring. Ensure strong, well-fed colonies with good hygiene and regular monitoring.

Conduct follow-up inspections after **4–6 weeks** to confirm no further disease spread.