

Cumbria Bee Times

Editor: Val Sullivan, Brackenwray Farm, Kinniside, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AG

Telephone: 01946 862604, e-mail:brackenwray@aol.com

(Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent those of the CBKA)

New Issue no: 18

Date: March 2012

Nosema and the demise of Fumagillin

After several years the fight to keep Fumidil B for the treatment of Nosema infection has been lost. The European Union Veterinary Medicines Regulations stipulate that because it is used for treatment of disease in a food producing animal it must have undergone research to establish a "maximum residue level" i.e a level below which it has been proved to be harmless in the food produced by the animals treated.

This sort of research is very expensive and therefore has to be justified by the manufacturer. In the case of Fumidil this is made by CEVA Santé Animale, a global veterinary health company focused on the research, development, production and marketing of pharmaceutical products and vaccines for pets, livestock, swine and poultry. Unfortunately although CEVA is a global company their sales of Fumidil generate little income, hence research costing an estimated six figure sum cannot be justified. So we now join the rest of the EU in having the treatment withdrawn. Existing stocks can be sold and Beekeepers may use these up until the expiry date. Thorne suppliers have only a few of the small packs (for 3 hives) left and other suppliers are similarly affected.

Fumidil B has been the only specifically approved treatment for Nosema infection and has been shown to be most effective when used after the Honey crop has been removed, in the autumn feed. We now have evidence of increasing Nosema infection with both the well known N.apis and also the newcomer N.ceranae. In the UK. N.ceranae has the unwelcome reputation of being a much more damaging infection with the colony dwindling and dying with little evidence of infection(such as frame staining)

Nosema is an "obligate parasite" of honey bees (can only live in the host). N.apis which has been known to infect Apis mellifera for decades gets into the gut lining where it breeds and reduces the bees ability to absorb it's food. Unfortunately N.ceranae which is believed to have originally infected Apis ceranae, the Asian honey bee, has crossed the species barrier to our European honey bee and is more virulent being able to move from the gut cells into the rest of the bee tissues and cause rapid decline and death of the bee. Wintering stocks which were apparently healthy and well fed in the autumn suffer from the shortened life span of wintering bees with spring death of the colony. If any colonies are found to be dead at this time of year, assume Nosema, seal up the dead hives, get a diagnosis and treat the hardware with Acetic acid. Remember Acetic acid is corrosive to metal (and humans!)

BANKHEAD BEE SUPPLIES

For all your Beekeeping Requirements

Bankhead Farm, Newby East, Carlisle,
CA4 8RA

Telephone:01228 573289

Your local agent for Thorne and Sherriff

Nosema
spores
400x
magnification

Ring or e-mail
Whitehaven
&District
Branch
for details of
their Nosema
diagnostic
service

Annual General; Meeting Cumbria BKA Saturday March 31st Southey St Methodist Church

After a poor turn-out for the last three years Cumbria BK are returning to an Afternoon AGM with one short talk before the meeting. This year the doors will open at 13.45

Christine Matthews will talk on " Pollen and Bee Health"

Propositions to be put to the members are:

- 1.That capitation fees remain unchanged
- 2.That members of CBKA be encouraged to gain food hygiene qualifications with the cost being partly funded by CBKA.
- 3.That each Branch provides the Secretary with details of at least two contacts
- 4.That the Executive investigate the option of purchasing a Bee Tent for display purposes.
- 5.That refunding of the exam fees for the Basic examination and for Module 3 continues.

It hoped that some members from each Branch will come to the AGM to give their views and ideas for the coming year.

For full details of the meeting contact your Branch Secretary who will send out full Agenda and Minutes from the 2011 AGM

Richard & Anne Kenyon

Burnsmead Farm

Little Urswick, Ulverston

Tel 01229 869363

A hive for all your Apiary equipment

Agents for Thorne

Pennine Bee Supplies

Agents for Thorne.

Honey jars at competitive prices

Reasonable price paid for surplus honey

(in plastic buckets)

Stoney Lane, Galgate, Lancaster, LA2 0OY

Tel: 01524 751347 daytime

Branches and Secretaries

Carlisle

Fiona Roebuck
Old Town House
High Hesket
CA4 0JE
07779329255
froebuck@btinternet.com

Cockermouth

Bill Mackereth
6 Whiteside Avenue
Cockermouth
CA13 9AR
01900 825188

Keswick

Sandra Wallace
Spooney Green
Keswick
CA12 4PJ
017687 72601

Penrith

Joy Rich
Holly House
Newbiggin
Penrith
CA11 0HT
017684 83910

Whitehaven

Val Sullivan
Brackenwray Farm
Kinniside
Cleator
CA23 3AG
01946 862604
brackenwray@aol.com

Other Associations Kendal and South Westmorland

Peter Llewellyn
1 Greenside House,
Hincaster,
Milnthorpe,
LA7 7NA
01539 562369
pdwllewellyn@yahoo.co.uk

Furness

David Walmsley
36 Oxenholme Road
Kendal
djwalmsley@hotmail.co.uk

Events for your Diary

Cumbria Beekeepers AGM:

Sat 31st March. 14.00hrs Southey St. Church Keswick.

This year Christine Matthews, the CBKA Treasurer, will be giving a talk on "Pollen and Bee Health"

Please bring along recipe suggestions for the Autumn Honey Show.

Annual British Beekeepers Convention

April 20th, 21st and 22nd at Harper Adams The programme is now available at: www.bbka.org.uk Penrith Branch will be hiring a bus, leaving Penrith at about 6.30 AM on Sat 22nd April and starting the return journey at about 16.30. If you wish to book a seat, or for more information contact the Secretary Joy Rich

Penrith Branch will be running a two day Beginners course in April. Details at : www.penrithbeekeepers.org

2nd Northern Bee Auction

April 14th Houghton Village Hall. Contact Beehivemaker

Cockermouth Autumn Conference

October 6th. New venue- Embleton Village Hall. More details nearer the date but the speakers are booked: Gerry Collins, MSc NDB and Ian Molyneux our R B Inspector.

Beehivemaker

Beehives made to order at our joinery workshop

90 Ennerdale Avenue, Botcherby,

Carlisle, CA1 2TR

www.beehivemaker.co.uk

Tel 078304 32014

Varroa, Deformed Wing Virus, European Foul Brood

Dr Giles Budge, NBU who is the Principal Investigator for the Insect Pollinator Initiative Bee Diseases Project gave two fascinating talks to the Furness Beekeepers Spring Convention at Bardsea on 3rd March.

He explained the devastating effect of Varroa infestation in colonies where no control is used. The link between Varroa and overwhelming deformed wing virus infection occurs because the sealed brood is not only being weakened by loss of haemolymph as the mites feed, but at each feed the mite is injecting DWV into the "blood" of the larva in large quantities. This results in unhealthy young bees which are likely to have at best shortened lives and at worst deformity and death even if they emerge from the brood cells.

His second talk gave us an insight into the work that the Insect Pollinator Initiative is doing with regard to the epidemiology of European Foulbrood. It is hoped that a better understanding of how the pathogen *Melissococcus plutonius* is moved within and between colonies will lead to better control.

The project team is drawn from Fera, Newcastle, Warwick and Bath. If you wish to learn more about this research the website is www.beedisease.co.uk.

Thermal imaging with Whitehaven Beekeepers

We were spellbound on a visit to several of our Whitehaven Apiaries last month to see thermal images of our colonies when the ambient temperature was within a degree of freezing. Dominic Rhodes set up the Thermal imaging camera at the various locations to demonstrate the heat loss through the various types of hive material (wooden, wooden with insulating cladding, and polystyrene hives.) The heat generated by the few bees flying out on cleansing trips was also demonstrated as little glowing foci. More on this work may be published later in the year in one of the National Bee magazines.

