



BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Medicines to treat bees against varroa mites

The National Bee Unit

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) would like to remind beekeepers of their responsibilities and duty to comply with guidance.

Amitraz-based products

There are two authorised amitraz-based products in the UK called **Apitraz** and **Apivar**. Neither of these should be used during a honey flow or when honey supers are on the hive.

Use of authorised medicines

You should only use UK-authorised veterinary medicinal products to treat varroosis in honey bees.

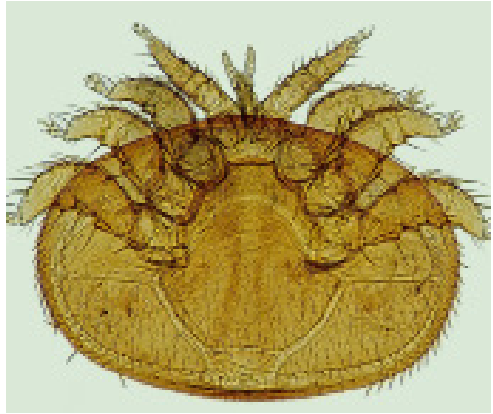
All authorised products for bees have undergone a rigorous and thorough scientific assessment to assure their quality, efficacy and safety for bees, the user, consumers of bee products and the environment. A list of all UK-authorised products is available on the VMD's product information database (see BeeBase).

Use medicines correctly

Misuse of veterinary medicines can harm bees, make varroa mites resistant to the medicine, contaminate the environment and harm public health.

Keep records of when you have administered medicines

You must keep a record of any medicines that have been



A varroa mite

administered to your bees for a minimum period of 5 years to comply with the legal requirements for food-producing animals. A suitable form is available on BeeBase <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=110>

Dispose of medicines correctly

You must dispose of medicines and any associated waste such as packaging or unused product in the correct way.

Residues surveillance and inspections

The National Bee Unit carries out a statutory programme of honey sampling to check for residues of medicines in honey. It also has a duty to report any non-compliant use of medicines it finds to the VMD during inspections.

For any questions or further guidance please contact the Veterinary Medicines Directorate – postmaster@vmd.gov.uk

The Shop

Dave Coates writes:

Hi everybody.

The shop has now moved complete down to the container in our teaching apiary.

The address of our apiary is as follows:

Hillfield Animal Shelter,
Hillfield Lane,
Stretton,
Staffordshire,
DE13 0BN

The opening times of the shop at present are Wednesday evening 6-00 till 7-00 pm and Saturday mornings from 10-00 till 12-00 noon.

Once the hour alters we will not open on a Wednesday evening as we do not have power on site yet. I have moved

the sugar tubs down to the apiary as well although we do not have any sugar at present. Hoping to have some in a week or two. The shop is now manned by the shop group who will be present at opening times.

You will no longer be able to ring me up and collect stock or sugar from Walton, although if any of you wish to ring with questions or queries on beekeeping please continue to do so.

The first opening will be this Wednesday 9th September 6-00 pm till 7-00 pm. If you have not been down to the apiary yet why not take this opportunity to come and have a look .

Please wear face coverings to follow anti-Covid-19 guidelines. See the price list on page 4.



Hamish Low sent in this photo of the heather crop he has obtained from just two hives this August!

Questions and Answers

Questions send in by Chris Ring

Answers provided by Dave Coates

Q1 The honey I have extracted has a water content of about 20%. Regulations stipulate that it should be not more than 20%. This occurred despite using the shake test.

How can I reduce the water content of my honey to be sure of complying with the regulations and avoiding fermentation?

A1 Firstly, the shake test should only be used as a rough guide. As you have proved it is not reliable; a refractometer is much more accurate.

To reduce the water content, you will need a honey warming cabinet, preferably with a thermostat built in but you could use a food grade thermometer.

Place your bucket of honey with the lid off in the warming cabinet and turn the thermostat to 40 degrees centigrade. Leave for 24/48 hours stirring several times during this period. Check the water content again. Should it still be too high, leave another 24 hours and test again until you have the required water content; I consider 18% about right.

Q2 What is the recommended mesh size for fine filtering of honey and does this need to be done more than once?

A2 I use a straining cloth of 200 microns and I find this quite adequate for most purposes once through. However, if I am looking for show quality honey I will put it through again. You

may have to warm the honey up to get it through more quickly.

If any of you have any questions you would like us to answer, please send them in and we will do our best. Perhaps you have alternative answers? Send them to me at newsletter@honeybee.org.uk

Asian Hornet Update

There have been no reported sightings of Asian Hornets at all this year in the UK so far. I think it would be naive to assume that we have wiped them all out so we must continue to remain vigilant.

This time of year they are looking for protein foods so traps should be primed with raw meat or fish in water.

Hamish Low

To Do List for September

- Continue to monitor varroa mites and treat promptly.
- Unite small colonies together if you feel they might not survive the winter.
- Judge whether you will need to feed the bees to bring up their winter stores to about 20 kilos.
- Feed as necessary after treating for varroa mites.
- Keep an eye out for Asian hornets.

Items available to buy from the association shop:

HIVE PARTS:		BEE BRUSH	£4.00
NATIONAL SUPER FLAT PACK	£19.50	FEEDERS & FEEDING:	
NATIONAL BROOD FLAT PACK	£24		
14 X 12 BROOD FLAT PACK	£35	ENGLISH FEEDER	£9.50
4" ROOF FLAT PACK	£36	RAPID FEEDER	£4.50
CROWN BOARD	£13.50	NUC FEEDER	£6
FRAMED WIRE QUEEN EXCLUDER	£18	SMALL MILLER TYPE FEEDER	£1.00
MESH FLOOR	£32	FEEDER EKE	£7.00
SLOPING HIVE STAND	£27		
PLASTIC NARROW ENDS	£6.50	HONEY & WAX EXTRACTING:	
NUCLEUS HIVE	£82.85		
FLAT PACK HIVE, STAND & ONE SUPER	£235	STAINLESS STEEL DOUBLE STRAINER	£21.00
10 SPACE CASTELLATIONS (PAIR)	£3.44	STRAINING CLOTH	£3.50
11 SPACE CASTELLATIONS (PAIR)	£3.44	30 LB PLASTIC BUCKET	£3.50
STEEL FRAME RUNNERS – PAIR	£1.60	BAIN MARIE	£14
		NYLON HONEY BUCKET VALVE	£8.50
FRAMES & WAX:		30LB PLASTIC TAP BUCKET	£15.00
		GENERAL BEEKEEPING:	
SN4 SUPER FRAMES 10 PACK	£10		
SN4 SUPER FRAMES 50 PACK	£33.00	SMOKER	£35.80
DN4 BROOD FRAMES 10 PACK	£10.00	HIVE STRAPS	£6.50
DN4 BROOD FRAMES 50 PACK	£33.00	HIVE TOOL	£7.00
14 X 12 BROOD FRAMES 10 PACK	£16.24	PIN HAMMER	£3.50
SUPER WAX FOUNDATION 10 PACK	£8.00	BEE DISEASE ID CHARTS	£6.00
BROOD WAX FOUNDATION 10 PACK	£11.50	FRAME NAILS 500G	£2.88
14 X 12 BROOD WAX 10 PACK	£18.00	POLLEN ID CHARTS	£6.00
NATIONAL DUMMY BOARD (PLASTIC)	£7.50		
NATIONAL DUMMY BOARD (WOOD)	£7.00		
QUEEN MARKING:			
CROWN OF THORNS	£6.00		
QUEEN CLIP	£4.50		
MARKER PENS - ASSORTED COLOURS	£5.00		