

Further information is available at:

[Canadian Honey Council](#)

www.honeycouncil.ca

[Ontario Beekeeper's Association](#)

www.ontariobee.com

For more information, please contact the Natural Resources Development Officer or the Animal Health Division.

Other information pamphlets are available online from the Department of Natural Resources at:

<http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/agrifoods>

Publication: DS 05-004
Last Revised: February 2013



Import Regulations For Honeybees

Department of Natural Resources
Animal Health Division
P.O. Box 7400
St. John's, NL
A1E 3Y5

t 709.729.6879
f 709.729.0055

animalhealthdivision@gov.nl.ca



Introduction

The honeybee business is expanding in this province. To assure that it has a healthy future, hive owners are asked to help prevent the entry of a number of pests that can reduce the profitability of this business, both for the individual farm as well as for the provincial industry. This pamphlet describes some of the most important pests and how the provincial government has provided regulations to minimize the chances that they enter this province. All of these pests exist in Canada but so far not in this province.

Honeybee Tracheal Mite (*Acarapis woodi*)

This microscopic mite lives inside the tracheal tube of adult bees causing the weakening of the colony and increased winter mortality.



Microscopic view of HTM in tracheal tube

Varroa Mite (*Varroa destructor*)

The varroa mite is a parasite that affects only honeybees. Its specialized mouthparts enable it to feed on bee larvae (brood) and adult honeybees. Its own brood development and life cycle are closely synchronized with that of the bee. Without mite controls, the colony will die.

Greater Wax Moth (*Galleria mellonella*)

Larvae of the greater wax moth attack the honey combs during storage and may damage the wooden frames in which they hang. In weak hives, they may attack the combs inside the hive.

Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*)

The small hive beetle can cause damage to the comb, stored honey and pollen. If the infestation is heavy enough, bees may abandon their hive.

The honeybee tracheal mite and the varroa mite are usually spread through the movement of contaminated bees and hives, the greater wax moth and the small hive beetle usually spread through the movement of contaminated hives and beekeeping equipment.

Regulated Entry of Honeybees and Hives into Newfoundland and Labrador

To support the growth of the honeybee industry, the provincial government has passed regulations under its *Animal Health and Protection Act (Animal Health Regulations)* which control the entry of honeybees and hives into this province. The complete regulations are available on the web at:

www.gov.nl.ca/hoa/sr

The key regulations are as follow (section 7.1, *Animal Health Regulations*):

1. A person shall not bring honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) or honeybee hives into the province unless accompanied by a certificate signed by an official veterinarian or licensed veterinarian in the place of origin of the honeybees or hives or by an accredited veterinarian or other person approved by the Chief Veterinary Officer certifying that:

(a) the honeybees and hives are free from the following pests:

- (i) honeybee tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*),
- (ii) varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*),
- (iii) greater wax moth (*Galleria mellonella*), and
- (iv) small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*);

(b) the apiary from which the honeybees or hives originated was completely free from the pests described in paragraph (a) when the honeybees or hives were taken from the apiary and in the 12 months immediately preceding their departure; and

(c) the honeybees or hives were tested for the pests described in paragraph (a) with negative test results within the 30 days, or such other time as the Chief Veterinary Officer may in his or her discretion prescribe in a particular case, preceding entry to the province.

(2) A person who imports honeybees or honeybee hives shall ensure that honeybees and hives are not exposed to other honeybees or hives during shipment.

(3) Upon entry into the province all honeybees and honeybee hives, regardless of compliance with subsection (1), shall be quarantined on the premises of the importer for a period of 12 months from the date of entry.

(4) Honeybees and honeybee hives shall not be moved from the premises of the importer during the period of quarantine set out in subsection (3).

(5) All cases of illness or death of imported honeybees that occur within 12 months of importation shall be reported to an inspector.

(6) Where there is a contravention of this section or section 6, the Chief Veterinary Officer may order, at the expense of the importer, the owner of the honeybees, a person owning or having possession, custody or control of the hives, or another person, that

- (a) the honeybees and hives be quarantined; or
- (b) the honeybees and hives be seized and returned to their place of origin.

(7) A person to whom an order is issued under subsection (6) shall comply with that order.

For the complete wording of these regulations, please contact the Chief Veterinary Officer/Director, Animal Health Division, the Natural Resources Development Officer, or consult the provincial government website.