

Surrey Beekeepers' Association AGM 2022

Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) report

This is the insurance company for beekeepers in England and Wales run by beekeepers and established in 1936. Current BDI-funded research projects are as follows:

Trends in AFB and EFB reported by National Bee Unit (NBU)

Over the last 6 years the national trend (England, Scotland and Wales) for both diseases has shown an increase in the number of colonies infected from just over 30,000 in 2017 to just under 40,000 this year with a peak in 2021 of just under 50,000.

In 2022 in Surrey, there were no incidences reported of EFB and 6 incidences of EFB from NBU inspection reports

Exotic bee diseases (small hive beetle & *Tripilaelaps*) reports

None found in Surrey in 2022

Varroa resistance is increasing

A four-year research project funded by BDI into Varroa resistance, carried out by Professor Stephen Martin and PhD student Isobel Grindrod at the University of Salford, describes how bees are evolving to remove the mite. The paper, published in August 2021, is in the Royal Society Journal Proceedings B.

<https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.1375>

This was found in Surrey in honey bee colonies in Godalming, Cranleigh, SE Guildford, Leatherhead, Richmond and SW London

Whole apiary shook swarm trial (2-year trial)

The National Bee Unit states: *“Trials have shown that shaking bees onto new foundation and then destroying the old combs can be beneficial when controlling European foulbrood. This procedure is known as Shook Swarming and it may also be beneficial in controlling Nosema spp., chalk brood and Varroa mite populations. Colonies treated in this way often become the strongest and most productive in an apiary. Some beekeepers are now using this system to replace all the old brood combs in a beehive within a single procedure.*