



VERMONT
BEE LAB

Participate in the 2024 National Honey Bee Survey!

Vermont Bee Lab, University of Vermont

What is the NHBS?

The [National Honey Bee Survey](#) (NHBS) is a nationwide colony inspection program that gathers longitudinal data on US honey bee health. NHBS provides baseline data for honey bee pest and disease levels in most US states and is monitoring for the emergence of other invasive organisms such as *Apis cerana* and *Tropilaelaps* mites. Pesticide residues are also assessed in wax, bee bread, and pollen. The Vermont Bee Lab manages Vermont's involvement with these surveys. As part of this work, we visit apiaries throughout the beekeeping season, collecting composite samples of live/dead bees and hive materials to be sent for laboratory analyses.

Funding from the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) helps to support the project in collaboration with the University of Maryland (UMD) and USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS). All NHBS data, summarized by state, is made available to the public via the [BIP Online Research Portal](#).



Eligibility

The NHBS relies on local beekeeper's participation. If you manage at least one apiary with 10 production colonies in Vermont, you are eligible to participate.

**If you are interested in participating,
please let us know here:**

<https://forms.gle/9a4kLobEL5hKU8a18>

For more information, contact Sydney Miller at ybl@uvm.edu



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Frequently Asked Questions

What are the sampling procedures?

Sampling procedures involve inspecting at least 8 colonies per apiary. Each inspection includes a visual inspection through the brood chamber, and the collection of samples of ~300 bees from each colony. For each colony sampled, we will conduct a 'frame bump' sample to look for the *Tropilaelaps* mites. From 5 select apiaries, we will also collect wax, bee bread, or pollen from each hive for pesticide analysis. Please note that we cannot guarantee your yard will be tested for pesticides at this time. Apiaries that are tested for pesticides will be sampled twice, once in June and again in late September. More information is available on the NHBS [website](#). Videos of sample collection are available at: <https://ushoneybeehealthsurvey.info/tutorial-videos/>

Is there a fee for participating?

No, funding from APHIS covers the cost of sample collection and laboratory analyses.

What are the benefits of participating?

Participating beekeepers will receive a summary report on the average levels of *Nosema*, viruses, and *Varroa* load within their sampled apiary. If you are chosen for pesticide sampling, you will receive another report containing results on pesticide residues present in your samples. Beekeepers contribute to longitudinal data collection which will continue to serve beekeepers and researchers alike, as we seek improved pest management techniques and prevention strategies to protect our honey bees.



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When and how do I get my results from the NHBS?

Beekeepers that participate in the survey will typically receive their summary report from the University of Maryland anywhere from 4-6 months after sampling. Results will include information on the average level of *Nosema*, viruses, and *Varroa* loads in each apiary. To view aggregate results for participating states, visit:

https://research.beeinformed.org/state_reports/

Why does it take so long to get results?

Timely turnaround is a priority, however the reports generated from the NHBS are not meant to be immediate or actionable data for beekeepers. Reports are mainly a source of information for the longitudinal study but can inform future beekeeping practices and pest management plans within your apiary.

What if I don't have 10 colonies but would like more information about my apiary's pest and pathogen loads?

As an alternative to the National Honey Bee Survey, the Vermont Bee Lab provides diagnostic services, free of charge, to any Vermont beekeeper looking to evaluate the health of their honey bee colonies and inform pest management plans. Our diagnostic clinic is open from April to October, accepting samples from both live and dead out colonies, and offering tests for *Varroa* mites and *Nosema*. You collect your own samples and submit it to the Bee Lab. Within two weeks, we will send you a report of our findings. Sample instructions and submission forms are available on our [website](#). Data from your bee samples are collected by the Vermont Bee Lab and contribute to our community science project which aims to understand regional pest and disease levels in Vermont.



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