



MANAGING HONEY BEE COLONY DEAD-OUTS



Close Colony To Prevent Robbing

Secure entrance to prevent bees from entering and robbing resources from the dead-out.



Send Bee Sample To Lab

Send a sample of adult bees and brood using guidelines from USDA Beltsville Bee Lab. Request testing for Nosema, Tracheal mites, Varroa mites, European Foulbrood and American Foulbrood.



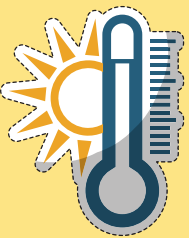
Do An Alcohol Mite Wash

Take a sample from the population of adult bees and perform an alcohol mite wash. Consult the MDAR Apiary Program Varroa mite brochure for more information.



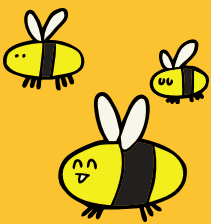
Check For Starvation

Evaluate all frames to determine how many frames of stored and capped honey are in the colony. Check to see if adult bees have died suspended with their bodies in cells.



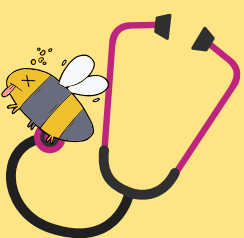
Check For Weather Issues

Examine honey frames for crystallization to determine if honey was frozen and unable to be consumed. Look to see if cluster size was adequate to maintain nest climate.



Check For Development Issues

Analyze brood frames to determine if colony development, cluster size and queen quality was adequate for survival.



Diagnosis Issue(s)

Using the information from criteria above, consult the MDAR Apiary Program website resources to diagnosis the issue(s). Visit <https://www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees> to learn more.



Clean Equipment

Discard old, dark colored brood frames and those with moldy cells. Keep filled honey frames to re-use again unless colony was diseased. Store equipment to prohibit wax moth damage



Report Colony Health And Loss

Visit MDAR Apiary Program Honey Bee Health Survey on website and input data on loss to allow for state-wide data analysis on losses.