

## **What Beekeepers Can Do to Help Prevent the Spread of American Foulbrood (AFB) When a Suspect Hive is in Their Bee Yard**

- Use entrance reducers, especially on suspect and weak hives.
- Do not move suspect hive.
- Do not move frames or other equipment from suspect hive into other hives.
- Do not use frames of honey, nectar, or pollen from suspect hive to feed other hives.
- Honey from a hive with AFB is fine for humans to eat and use.
- Extractor and equipment used to extract honey from suspect hives must be thoroughly disinfected. (1part bleach to 5 parts water, allow to soak, rinse thoroughly)
- Do not give, sell, or exchange bees or suspect equipment to others.
- Try to prevent swarming of suspect hive.
- Do not work other hives after checking/inspecting suspect hive unless hive tool, smoker and any equipment used is cleaned and disinfected. If clothing is dirty from the hive, change into clean clothing. Wash bee jackets, suits, veils often.
- If you wear gloves to work bees, use disposable nitrile gloves (doubled) when working in bee yard with suspect hive. Change gloves between working in each hive (even those which appear healthy). Dispose of gloves properly by turning them inside out while taking them off and discard in trash after double bagging. If you don't wear gloves, wash and disinfect hands thoroughly between each colony.
- Clean hive tool and smoker thoroughly and disinfect after use in each hive in the suspect bee yard. Remember to repeat after each used, even when checking hives that appear to be healthy.
- Clean hive tool by opening smoker and placing hive tool inside. Fire kills AFB spores. Be careful removing hive tool. When hive tool has cooled off, use a paper towel and wipe hive tool with rubbing/isopropyl alcohol. When smoker is cool, use a paper towel to wipe tip and bellow area with alcohol.  
**Avoid getting alcohol near the lit and/or hot smoker.**
- Continue to watch and inspect other hives in yard carefully. Open a few cells of capped brood to check the health of the larvae.
- Call or email your PDA Apiary Inspector or State Apiarist if you think you have a problem or additional questions. Contact information follows.

## 2024 Pennsylvania Apiary Inspection Team (as of June 2024)

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3,7	Randy Sickler	717-956-8174 work	work email: rasicler@pa.gov	BRADFORD, CARBON, LACKAWANNA, LUZERNE, LEHIGH, MONROE, NORTHAMPTON, PIKE, SCHUYLKILL, SULLIVAN, SUSQUEHANNA, WAYNE, WYOMING
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