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2012-2013 Summary June 2010

The National Bee Unit - Bee Husbandry Survey 2010

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**Healthy Bees – 10 Year Plan
England and Wales**



- Formulated for Defra and W.A.G.
- In conjunction with
 - BBKA (Now returned!)
 - WBKA
 - BFA
 - BDI
 - BIBBA
 - CONBA
- Scotland and NI in process



**Healthy Bees – 10 Year Plan
England and Wales**



- **5 Key areas**
 1. Effective communication
 2. Effective bio security
 3. Good standards of beekeeping
 4. Impacts from pests and disease and other hazards at lowest levels
 5. Sound science and evidence underpins policy and its implementation



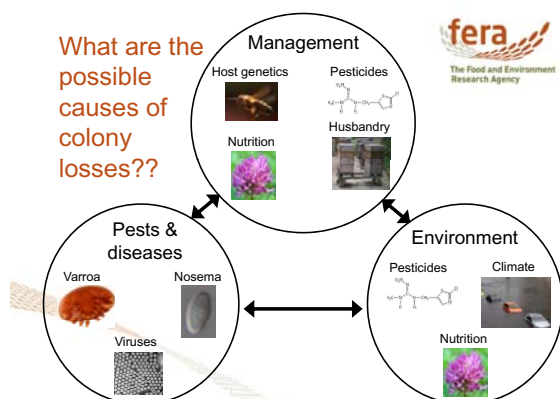
**First two years – of new
strategy/programme**



- Additional £2M Direct to NBU kick-start programme
- Baseline information
 - Based on the evidence
 - Future programme together based on a robust analysis of the risks



What are the possible causes of colony losses??



Bee Husbandry survey



- Anonymous husbandry survey
 - Queen provenance
 - Supplemental feeds
 - Management
 - Host genetics
 - Nutrition
 - Pesticides
 - Husbandry
 - Treatment Interventions
 - Migratory beekeeping
- Target training and education
- Includes CoLoss Basic Questionnaire

Beekeeping in the UK



- 275,000 colonies
- Approx. 40,000 hobbyists
- 300 professionals: 40-50,000+ colonies



Extensive Bee Husbandry Survey



- Launched BHS 2009 – 1650 responses
- 2nd Year 2010
- Online – Survey-o-Matic on BeeBase (nationalbeeunit.com)
- Hard Copies circulated to BKs BKAs
- Attempting to co-ordinate with BKAs BFA, Scotland, Wales and NI – Not Easy!

National Bee Unit Honey bee husbandry survey 2009

We are conducting a national survey to obtain information on current honey bee husbandry practices. We intend to gather this data regularly and use it to monitor trends in UK beekeeping and help with beekeeper training. The survey takes approximately 5 minutes to complete and will be of great value to beekeeping in the UK. All your answers are strictly confidential and will only be used for the purposes of this study. **There is no need to write your name anywhere on this questionnaire.** Please mark your response with an 'X' where indicated and enter value or comment where appropriate.

We hope to get the best possible results out of this survey and to make this the most comprehensive survey of beekeeping practices ever completed in the UK. Many thanks for completing this form.

COLOSS survey 2008-2009

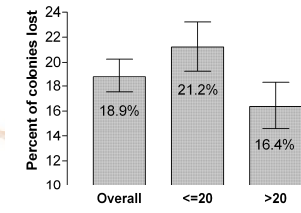


Sept'08

7016 cols.

Apr'09

5690 cols.



Husbandry survey 2008-2009

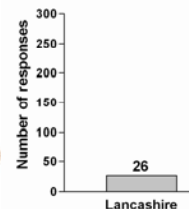


- 1650 responses from 57 counties

Husbandry survey 2008-2009



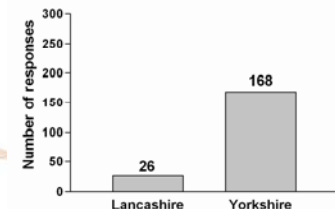
- 1650 responses from 57 counties
- Some counties under represented



Husbandry survey 2008-2009



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- Some counties under represented



Husbandry survey 2009-2010

- Responses coming in slowly ~500 online ~8%
- 300+ awaiting entry onto Survey-o-matic
- ~85 from BFA membership (100+ members some of key players yet to respond) ~13%
- BBKA 1042 returns (membership ~17000)
 - Losses 17.8%
 - Adjusted ~20%
- Big push to encourage returns.

Additional Work - Random Apiary Survey

- Two Year Project to gather baseline information
- 5000 apiaries 25000 colonies
- *Second Year of Sampling Real Time Analysis*
- Future programme will be based on the evidence together and on a robust analysis of the risks



Thankyou

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