

Honey Bee Health in England: what role for regulation?



Opi Outhwaite
University of Greenwich
o.m.outhwaite@gre.ac.uk

Funding for this project was awarded under the
Greenwich Research and Enterprise Promising
Researcher Fellowship Scheme

Controlling pests and diseases

- Pests and diseases as a risk factor
e.g.
 - American foulbrood, (AFB) European foulbrood (EFB), Varroa (already present in the country),
 - Tropilaelaps mites, Small Hive Beetle (SHB) (not yet detected)



A grayscale photograph of a bee in flight, positioned above a large, detailed flower head. The bee is facing left, with its wings spread. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray. The text "What role for regulation?" is overlaid in the center in a bright yellow font.


What role for regulation?

Existing regulation and policy: highlights

- Import restrictions
- Bees Act 1980
- Bee Diseases and Pests Control Order (England) 2006
- *Healthy Bees* (DEFRA: 2009)



An argument for mandatory registration?

- Beekeeper involvement and compliance is essential element of post-entry control of pests and diseases
 - Legal and policy responses recognise the need for increased intervention and involvement with beekeepers
 - Training and enforcement focuses on registered beekeepers
 - Registration is currently **voluntary**
 - Around 17,000 beekeepers currently registered - approximately 20,000 not registered
- 

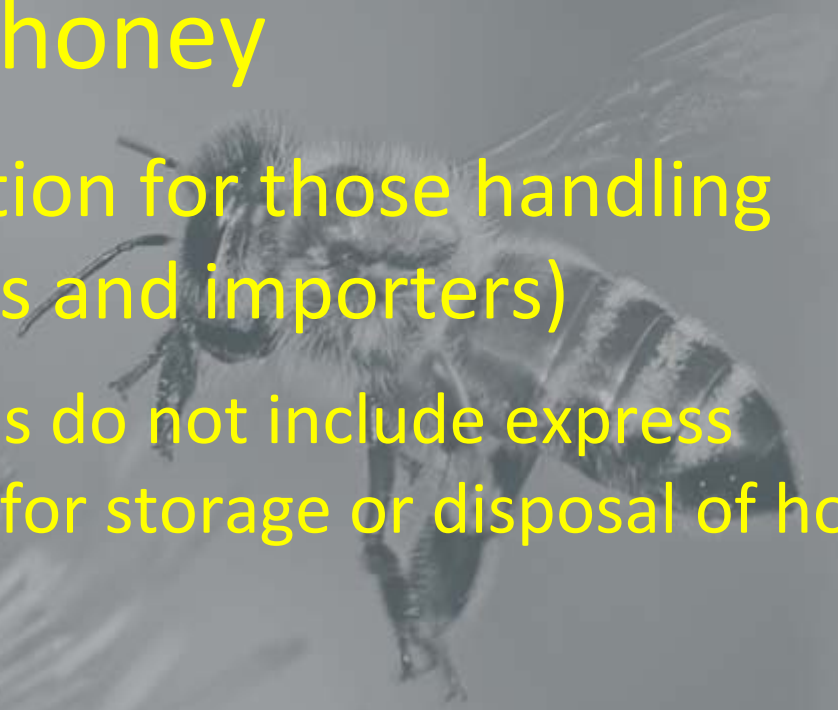
Controlling the threats posed by honey

Honey and hive products are regulated in two ways

- Apiculture products for use in apiculture: must meet conditions in Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 - must come from an area not subject to any restriction associated with AFB, SHB, Acariosis or Tropilaelaps mites and in which these are notifiable
- Honey (England) Regulations 2003 - honey for human consumption not regulated from animal health perspective

Controlling the threats posed by honey

- Biosecurity regulation for those handling honey (e.g. packers and importers)
 - Current regulations do not include express requirements e.g. for storage or disposal of honey



A grayscale photograph of a bee in flight, positioned above a large, spiky flower head. The bee is facing left, with its wings spread. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray. The text "What role for regulation?" is overlaid in the center in a bright yellow font.

What role for regulation?

Honey Bee Health in England: what role for regulation?



Opi Outhwaite
University of Greenwich
o.m.outhwaite@gre.ac.uk

Funding for this project was awarded under the Greenwich Research and Enterprise Promising Researcher Fellowship Scheme