

Bee disease reported in West Lothian

It has been reported by the Scottish Government today that an outbreak of European Foulbrood has been found in West Lothian. This is a disease which affects bees and is a notifiable disease under the legislation. It can spread between hives but can be prevented by good hygiene and beekeeping.

This instance has been discovered in a colony of honey bees in an apiary in an area adjacent to Edinburgh. The disease was confirmed by Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture.

Sheila Voas, Chief Veterinary Officer Scotland said: "This confirmation of EFB in Scottish bees is a timely reminder that bee farmers and beekeepers should be vigilant for signs of diseases as they go through their hives, they should maintain good husbandry practices at all times and notify any suspicion of disease to Scottish Government bee inspectors."

In order to assist Scottish Government bee inspectors to control this and other diseases, beekeepers are urged to register on BeeBase, the national bee database. This service provides access to up-to-date information and advice on the control of EFB and bee related issues. Beekeepers should notify any suspicion of disease to the Scottish Government via the Bees Mailbox.

