

Small hive beetle found in bees shipped from Ontario to New Brunswick for pollination

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The New Brunswick Provincial Apiculturist has reported that small hive beetle was found in bee colonies shipped from Ontario to New Brunswick for blueberry pollination. These Ontario bee colonies are currently under quarantine and the owners are requested to remove the colonies from New Brunswick by June 22, 2017.

Alberta's surveillance program has been active for the past several months inspecting Alberta bees and bees moved from BC into Alberta. At present, there has been no finding of small hive beetle in Alberta. **Therefore, to minimize the risk of small hive beetle being imported into Alberta from a high risk region, any importation or movement of honey bees from Ontario, with the exception of queens, is suspended starting June 12, 2017, and remains in effect until further notice.** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has requested from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture the results of any investigation into the failure of the inspection process for bees sent to New Brunswick. Based on the Ontario report, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will re-evaluate the situation and review the decision to restrict imports from Ontario, if warranted.

Importation of honey bee queens will continue from Ontario as long as the CFIA-Hawaii protocol is applied. This protocol requires the inspection of bees for AFB, Varroa and Small hive beetle. All queens must be shipped in cages with attendant workers inside the queen cages. All queens and workers are to be handpicked and placed in queen cages. No queens are to be shipped in battery boxes with loose workers in the cage. During preparation of the queens for shipping, this process must be conducted in a protected area to avoid any contamination with small hive beetle. For more details, please check CFIA link: http://airs-sari.inspection.gc.ca/airs_external/english/decisions-eng.aspx

Please be vigilant when considering to buy and/or move bees from outside Alberta. You are required to contact the Office of the Alberta Provincial Apiculturist to obtain a permit prior to shipping the bees into Alberta, in order to ensure that the bees being shipped are inspected in accordance with Alberta regulations. Any movement of bees into Alberta without a permit is a violation of the *Bee Act and Regulations* and could result in actions being taken to address the violation (refer to the Alberta Bee Act, sections: 7(1), 10 (1) and 10 (2)).

Province of Alberta – Bee Act:

Bees coming into Alberta

7(1) No person shall bring into Alberta (a) live bees in hives or on combs, package bees or queens, or (b) used beekeeping equipment, without first obtaining written permission from the Provincial Apiculturist or an official of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. (2) If bees or used beekeeping equipment are brought into Alberta (a) without permission, or (b) infected with a bee disease, the Provincial Apiculturist may, by written order, direct that the person who brought the bees or used beekeeping equipment into Alberta return them to the place from which they came.

Order compliance

10(1) If an order under section 7 or 8 is not complied with, within 10 days after service of the order, the Provincial Apiculturist may cause the order to be carried out. (2) The reasonable costs of carrying out an order pursuant to subsection (1) are a debt to the Crown by the person to whom the order was directed.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry strives toward excellence by building our working principles into everything we deliver, and into how we work cooperatively with our beekeepers. Your cooperation and compliance with

the regulations are important to keep our bees healthy and support the development and sustainability of our beekeeping industry.

For any enquiries, please contact the Alberta Provincial Apiculturist: medhat.nasr@gov.ab.ca, 780-554-1566