

APIMONDIA 2025

Aarhus University, Department of Agroecology is in close cooperation with the Danish Beekeepers Association striving to support their activities in education and training with the aim of securing the sustainability of apiculture in Denmark.

In 2007, the Danish Reference Lab for Honey Bee Health was integrated into Aarhus University, Department of Agroecology. The funding for the activities regarding field inspection, lab diagnosis and treatment of bee diseases is provided by the Ministry of Environment and Food. As early as 1909, cooperation was initiated between the Danish Beekeepers Association and the Danish State to exterminate American Foulbrood.

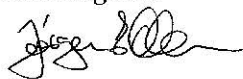
Nearly 900 beekeepers in Denmark have obtained training at Aarhus University, Department of Agroecology in field diagnosis of honey bee diseases, earning them the formal title of 'skilled beekeeper'. Attendance at a new course every 5 years is needed to retain this title, which allows the skilled beekeepers to trade and move bee colonies if these are determined to be healthy.

Distributed across Denmark, more than 40 Danish bee health inspectors are appointed by and continuously educated at Aarhus University. The bee health inspectors control hundreds of apiaries surrounding recent outbreaks of bee diseases and cull any diseased colonies to prevent further spread. Their expertise helped secure the success of the Danish participation in the Epilobee surveillance project. Each year Aarhus University, Department of Agroecology handles 100 to 500 samples for the diagnosis of honey bee diseases free of charge to the concerned beekeepers.

In relation to Aarhus University, Department of Agroecology's main task of supporting the health status of the Danish honey bees, our main research activities are focused on aspects of Varroa mites, honey bee viruses and honey bee nutrition. Population genetics necessary for the conservation of the local subspecies of honey bees (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) on the island of Læsø. Important knowledge related to the resistance to bee diseases has been gained via the Nosema tolerant honey bees in Denmark.

Aarhus University, Department of Agroecology is pleased to endorse the application of the Danish Beekeepers Association to host the 2025 Apimondia Congress. We look forward to actively participating in the organisation of the scientific conference, and we are ready to welcome visitors at our facilities at Flakkebjerg approximately 100 km from the main venue of Apimondia.

Kind regards



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