



AFB Symptoms

This guide is a symptom overview. Always check for a range of symptoms, as one symptom alone may not be able to accurately determine the presence of AFB.

If you suspect an AFB infection, confirm the symptoms on our AFB widget here: app.afb.org.nz and if AFB is confirmed, follow the elimination steps here: afb.org.nz/afb#next-steps

Visual symptoms

Skip to page 2 for symptom photos.

- ◊ Patchy brood/ spotted brood pattern
- ◊ Nurse bees chew open cells
- ◊ Discoloured, coffee-coloured larva
- ◊ Slumped larva in the base of the cell
- ◊ Loss of segmentation of larva
- ◊ Pupal tongue
- ◊ Scale

Smell

AFB hives can have a pungent smell however this is not always present.

Need help?

If you have any concerns around AFB symptoms in your beehive/s, please send a photo to our Operations Managers for advice at operations@afb.org.nz

Ropiness test

- Use a dry stick (matchstick recommended).
- Poke a stick in an uncapped cell with the suspect AFB larva, twist, and pull out slowly. Do not stir vigorously.
- AFB will rope out 10mm or further and will 'snap back'.



Unable to remove scales from cells without destroying cell walls



Vita AFB diagnostic field test kit (antigen-antibody reaction)

This kit can be used to confirm the AFB diagnosis on specific larva displaying AFB symptoms.

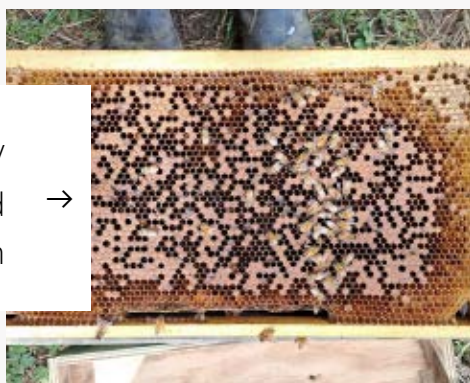


AFB PCR swab laboratory testing

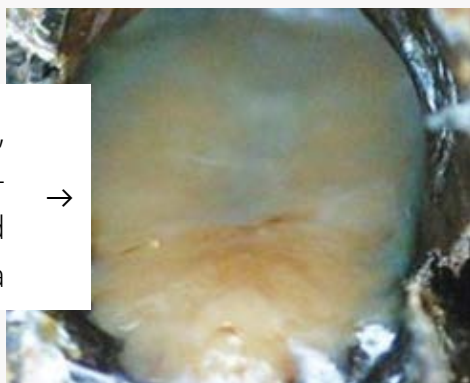
Swab testing can help to identify and quantify the presence of AFB contamination in beekeeping gear that doesn't contain brood, or in dead hives where visual inspection is impossible. It can also be used in an apiary to identify which beehives, if any, are currently incubating AFB before they display signs of the disease.

Infected with AFB

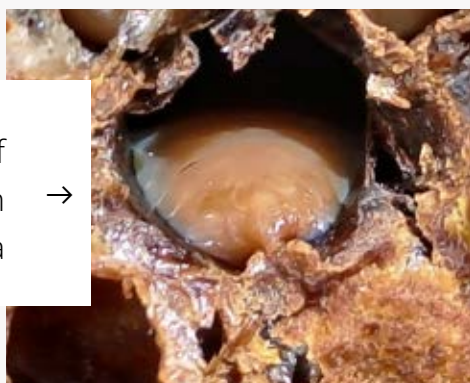
Patchy brood/
spotted
brood pattern



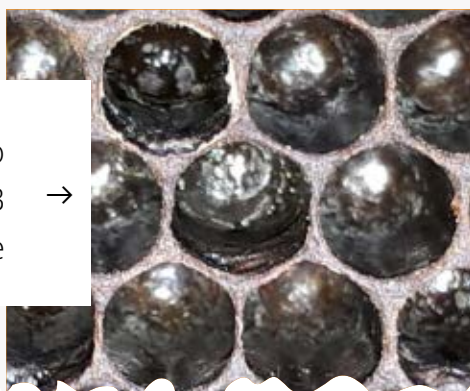
Discoloured,
coffee-
coloured
larva



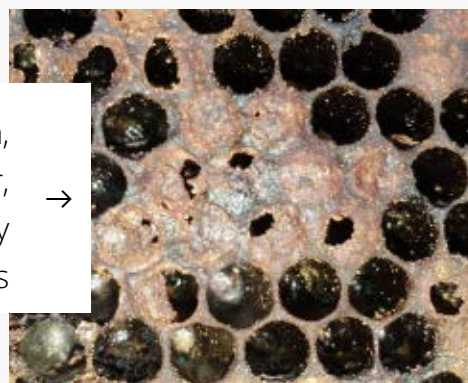
Loss of
segmentation
of larva



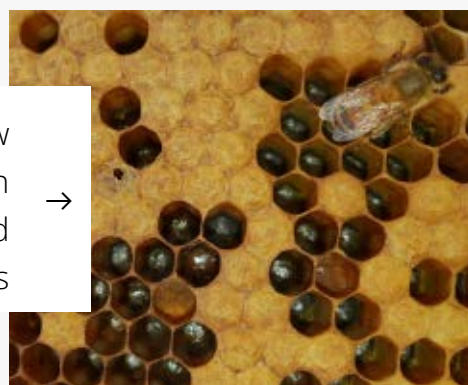
Impossible to
remove AFB
scale



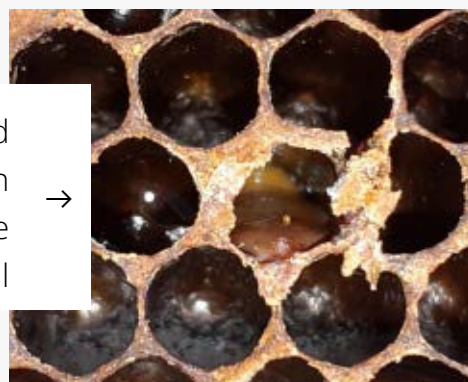
Sunken,
darker,
greasy
cappings



Bees chew
holes on
capped
cells



Slumped
larva in
the base
of the cell



Pupal
tongue

