UBKA Executive Committee Meeting 3rd March 2016

Bee Health Sub Committee

The main topic for late 2015 going into 2016 is the serious incidence of AFB and EFB. There are 40 apiaries affected with AFB and 5 apiaries with EFB with one apiary having both. The huge increase is thought to be combination not recognising the disease and selling infected nucs. It became evident that to cover only the re-inspection of the infected apiaries and the apiaries within a three mile radius would require at least 160 visits never mind routine surveillance of other areas. UBKA and INIB met with DARD officials to voice opinions and attempt to come up with firm proposals for a springtime plan. Three meetings have occurred and officers say that progress has been made.

I visited almost every association to highlight the disease situation which was much appreciated. Stephen Bell, the Queen's PhD student promoted a questionnaire on hive treatments and to publicise his research projects.

UBKA set up a Road show visiting Lisburn, Derry and Enniskillen with presentations from Bee Inspector Tom Williamson and retired Regional Bee Inspector Ian Homer and his wife Ruth, Vice Chairman BBKA. Tom gave the local statistics and Ian and Ruth gave a very informative disease recognition lecture. About 200 beekeepers attended these seminars.

We anticipate a DARD response soon.

John Hill 2nd March 2016