

## Free Test for *Nosema* Disease in WV Honeybee Colonies

Fairmont State University senior biology major Jessica Balsei is conducting a research project to investigate the distribution and prevalence of *Nosema* disease in WV honeybee colonies. Dr. Donald Trisel is the FSU faculty advisor for the project. *Nosema apis* and *N. ceranae* are being implicated as potentially important contributors to the Colony Collapse Disorder that is causing problems for beekeepers around the world. We are requesting that beekeepers from across WV send us samples of bees for a free microscopic analysis to determine the degree of infestation.

This community service research project will allow individual beekeepers to make informed decisions regarding the management of their colonies. The summary results will also be of interest to beekeepers throughout the region as we learn more about the problems our bees are facing.

Dr. Trisel will be attending the 9/25/09 Fall Meeting of the WV Beekeepers Association at Jackson's Mill and will be accepting bee samples for free analysis at that time. Samples may also be sent through the mail. Participating beekeepers will need to complete a short survey to provide additional background information and data for analysis. For more information, please contact Dr. Trisel by email [dtrisel@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:dtrisel@fairmontstate.edu) or by phone at 304-367-4308.

### Instructions for Participation:

*Who may participate?*

- Any beekeeper who manages bee colonies in the state of WV may participate.

*How many samples can each beekeeper submit?*

- We will accept 1 sample of bees from each eligible beekeeper.

*How do I collect the sample of bees?*

- Collect 25 field bees from the entrance of one hive by brushing bees into a small, leak-proof container with approximately 1 fluid ounce of rubbing alcohol. Label the container with your name, the hive # (or other identifier), and county where the colony is located.

*How do I submit my sample?*

- Bring your sample and the completed survey to the WVBA Fall Meeting at Jackson's Mill on 9/25/09 and give it directly to Dr Trisel. If you won't be attending the meeting, you may send your sample by mail. The mailing address is located on the survey.

*Who will see the results of my sample?*

- You are the only one who will see your individual result. Your result will be emailed or mailed to you soon after the analysis is complete. Summary data from the whole research project will be presented to the scientific and beekeeping communities in the Spring of 2010. We plan to present the data for the whole state and by county, but individual names will be protected.

*What is the deadline for submitting bees for analysis?*

- We'd like to have all samples delivered to us by November 6, 2009.

