

Responsible beekeeping

“Everyone wants to save the world but
no one wants to help do the dishes”

Miss Lorraine Johnston SRUC Bee Advisor

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- 30 years Secondary school teaching
- BA honours RMPS
- Post Graduate Certificate in Education
- National 5 beekeeping
- Royal Society bee health projects
- SBA Intermediate beekeeper
- Chair of SSBKA
- Occasional helper at Oor Bees



This presentation was funded by the Scottish Government as part of its Honeybee Health Strategy

Aims



- To understand what it means to be a responsible beekeeper
- To make us think about how we can **improve** our husbandry and beekeeping skills
- To be responsible **swarm collectors**
- To have better experiences and **better bees!**

What is an irresponsible beekeeper?

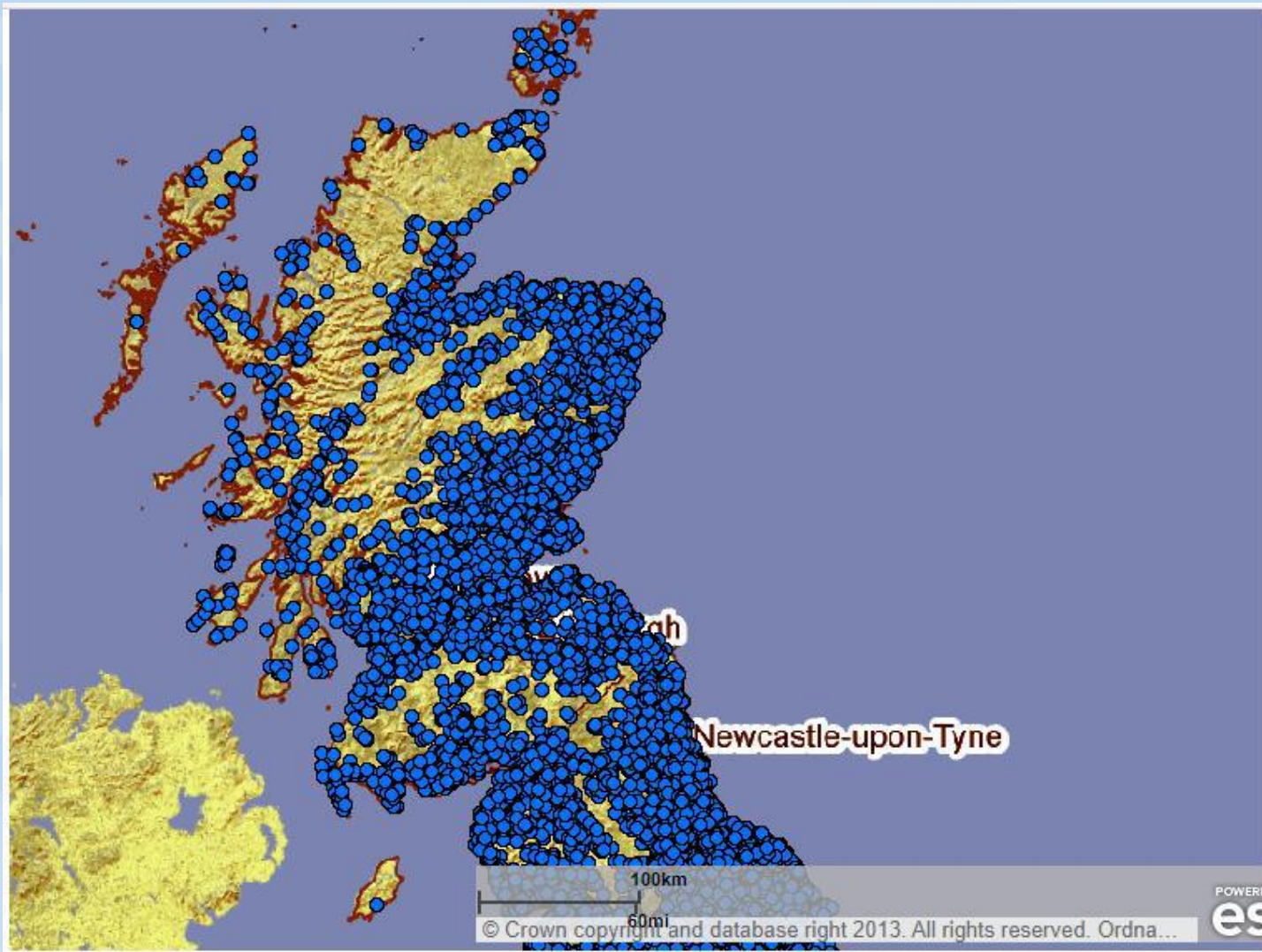


Responsible beekeeper?



- Apiary plan
- Considerate to Neighbours
- Plan for swarm control
- Improved biosecurity
- Notifying suspicion of disease
- Following the law
- Sourcing of bees
- Imports
- Other pollinators
- Best Practice
- Being informed





Based on 50,000 bees per colony.: 11,885,200,000 bees in the UK during the season?

• Is it responsible not to increase bee numbers?

Good Husbandry = Healthy Bees

- Bee suits
- Gloves
- Examination
- Tools
- Apiary Hygiene

Personal
Hygiene

- Hive condition and cleanliness
- Apiary sites
- Number of hives
- Stands and drifting
- Comb exchange /sterilization

HIVES &
COMBS

- Seasonal management
- Pest control
- Adult Bee disease control
- Brood disease control

Care of Stock
Colony
Management

Livestock
Bee
Improvement

- Selection
- Purchase of Bees
- Splitting
- Rearing Queens(methods)
- Drone colonies
- Culling
- Collection of swarms

Good Apiary



- Secure
- Accessible
- No near neighbours
- Barriers from walk ways
- Plenty forage
- No more than 12 in a good site
- Landowner permission
- Honey rent
- Public liability insurance
- Risk assessments

Responsible Hygiene

Disease is caused by pathogens and stress!!

- Clean bee suits and other clothing
- Clean gloves
- Clean hive tools etc.
- Clean hive equipment
- Replace brood comb regularly



Swarms, the problems



- Disease
- Health and safety
- Public nuisance
- Bees in buildings
- Difficult to reach bees

Public nuisance

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 sec 49

Dangerous and annoying creatures



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Any person who suffers or permits any creature in his charge to cause **danger or injury** to any other person who is in a public place or to give such person reasonable cause for **alarm or annoyance** shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine.

A district court may, if satisfied that any creature kept in the vicinity of any place where a person **resides** is giving that person, while in that place, reasonable cause for annoyance, make an order requiring the person keeping the creature to take, within such period as may be specified in the order, such steps (short of destruction of the creature) to **prevent the continuance of the annoyance** as may be so specified



Responsible swarm collecting



- Safety first
- Education
- Practice
- Experience
- Bee partner
- Bee removers

Swarms

- Public Nuisance
- Disease spread
- Feral colonies
- COLLECTING SWARMS
- Responsible to collect
- Isolate for 6 weeks.
- Fresh foundation
- Disease inspection
- Treat for varroa



Nucleus method

- 2 frames food with bees
- 2 frames bees(hatching brood) with bees
- Queen
- 1 or 2 frames of clean drawn comb or foundation
- Shake in 2 frames of nurse bees if keeping in the same apiary
- Move away from apiary or stuff entrance with grass
- Must be fed as small foraging force and could die if not fed.
- Be ready to provide space
- Please see the more detailed information sheet



**Don't forget
to reduce
queen cells
to one 7
days later!**





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Inspections and notifiable diseases

Bees_mailbox@gov.scot

- **You** are our best surveillance!
- Learn how to do a full brood inspection.
- Learn how to identify brood diseases:
- Differentiate between common and notifiable.
- At least one full brood inspection a year.
- Report suspicion of disease.
- Learn which ones are the notifiable pests & diseases and how to identify them.



VETERINARY MEDICINE ADMINISTRATION RECORD – TO BE KEPT FOR 5 YEARS

NAME:	ADDRESS:
APIARY NAME/LOCATION:	POST CODE:

TO BE COMPLETED AT TIME OF PURCHASE					TO BE COMPLETED AT TIME OF ADMINISTRATION						
Name and Address of Supplier of Medicinal Product	Date Purchased	Identity and Quantity of Medicinal Product			Date of Administration	Hive numbers/ID	Duration of treatment	Withdrawal period	Name of person administering veterinary medicine	Total quantity of veterinary medicine used	Date & route of disposal if not administered
		Name	Batch No	Quantity							

Beekeepers are required to keep proof of purchase and a record of purchase, administration and disposal of all veterinary medicines for a minimum of 5 years under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2011SI 2159.

Further information can be obtained from Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey. KT15.3LS. Telephone: 01932 336911.
www.vmd.defra.gov.uk

IMPORTS & SOURCING BEES



- RESPONSIBLE SOURCING OF BEES especially in varroa free areas
- BE AWARE OF ILLEGAL IMPORTS
- SOURCE BEES LOCALLY WHEN POSSIBLE
- BE AWARE OF AFB/EFB SITUATION FROM BEEBASE
- INSPECT BEES BEFORE PURCHASE IF POSSIBLE/ ASK A MENTOR
- USE QUARANTINE APIARIES WHEN POSSIBLE



Beebase

BeeBase



KEEP IT UP TO DATE PLEASE!

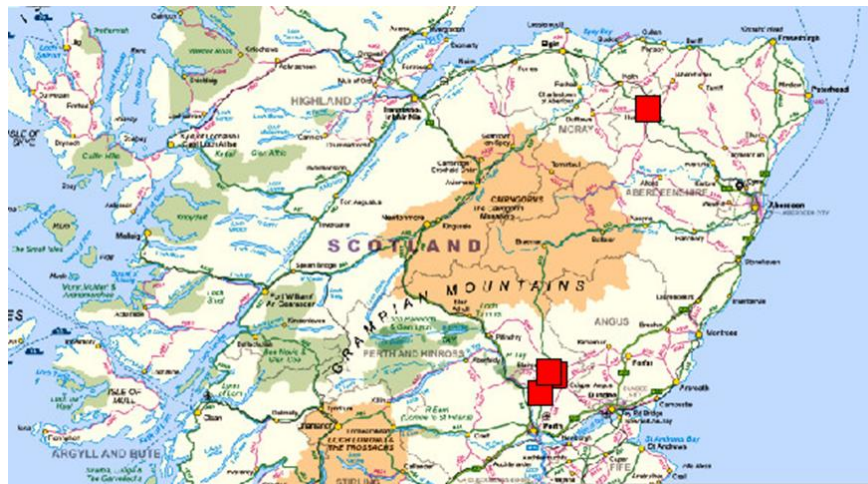
- Compulsory registration of beekeepers?

- WHY? (Free/safe)

- Your bees.

- Your neighbours bees

- Scottish Bees



- BeeBase has all latest cases of EFB and AFB found through the year.

- Information on how to spot these diseases and pests can be found on 'BeeBase' at www.nationalbeeunit.com/

HONEY BEES: FRIENDS OR FOE?

- **Size of apiaries.**
- **Native bees.**
- **Location of apiaries.**
- **Timely movement of hives.**
- **Healthy bees.**
- **Disease management**

COMPETITION

CHANGE IN PLANT
COMMUNITY

DISEASE
SPILLOVER



Legal Responsibilities of a Beekeeper



- IMPORTANT – Honey bees are a food producing livestock
- You must only use **VMD approved medications** to treat pests or diseases
- Read and follow medicine instructions exactly
- It is **illegal** to use non-approved products to treat a pest or disease, and you may be prosecuted if you do so.

Non-approved products include:

- Antibiotics
- Essential oils
- Rhubarb leaves
- Banana skins
- It is a legal requirement to keep medicine records for 5 years following treatment



Key messages & further info



- Disease
- Swarming
- Buying bees & equipment
- Up to date information
- Biosecurity
- The law
- Education

WINTER PODCAST

<https://player.captivate.fm/episode/b031e430-eb19-45d5-a439-57bb9a04792d>

Thank you all!

- You tube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRaE5UJlCBEXPZFpYACjErg/playlists>

- Feedback

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mC1UyEzmbkS41QyY_-VIJp1l9LJf5atBjEazVFFwtU9UNkhQUEIEN01MRDJBtUQ5OTg5VE83RUpxSCQIQCNOPWcu



**Further information can be
obtained from**



- E-mail Lorraine.Johnston@sruc.ac.uk

Tel- 07795101861

- BeeBase online

www.nationalbeeunit.com

THE HONEY BEE HEALTH STRATEGY



FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY
POPULATION OF HONEY BEES



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[https://www.gov.scot/
publications/scotland
s-honey-bee-health-
strategy-
implementation-plan/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-s-honey-bee-health-strategy-implementation-plan/)