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# The BBKA



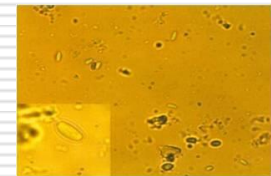
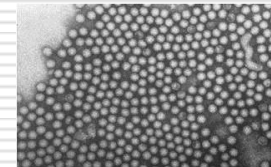
- ❑ National Association of beekeepers made up by 64 Area (county) Associations comprising 220 Local Divisions or Branches
- ❑ 20,500 members (+ 8,000 in last 30 months)
- ❑ Educational Charity – No: 212025
- ❑ Governed by an Executive Committee of 13 Trustees reporting to its Annual Delegate Meeting
- ❑ Objects: i) to promote and further the craft of beekeeping  
ii) to advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment

# Threats to honey bees



## Diseases:

- Foul Brood (American and European - notifiable)
- New exotics (Small Hive Beetle, Tropilaelaps – notifiable)
- Varroa
- Viruses
- Microsporidians – Nosema apis and ceranae
- Colony Collapse Disorder - CCD?



## Weather

## Habitat – Forage availability

## Bad beekeeping

## Regulatory effects – veterinary medicines regulations

## Pesticides



# The BBKA & Pesticides



BBKA approach is pragmatic

Necessary to meet food requirements

Major contribution to productivity

Safety depends on correct use & stewardship

Risk based rather than hazard based



# BBKA Engagement



Historically damage to colonies a problem

BBKA engaged with agro-chem companies reducing losses notably (1990s onwards)

Input to UK pesticides guide – good practice

Emphasis on best practice & stewardship

Dialogue with companies to be properly informed



# BBKA objectives



Neonicotinoids appear to be a step forward

Conflicting / insufficient data on possible sub-lethal effects

BBKA calls urgently for more research

Regulatory environment must be updated also

Concerns: i) immediate ban may slow research

ii) older / dirtier products may fill the gap

Appropriate action must be based on evidence