



# Honey Culture/Larval Smear Testing Submission Form

American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) kills honey bee brood (larvae and pupae) and can easily spread across your hives if not detected early. To reduce the incidence of both AFB and EFB and prevent the loss of colonies and hives, get your honey/larval smear tested at Gribbles Veterinary Pathology.

Note: AFB honey testing and AFB/EFB larval smear testing are done in-house, while EFB honey testing is referred to another lab. For instructions to collect a sample, please refer to the back of the form.

## Private Apiarist's Request for Laboratory Examination for Bee Disease - Honey Culture/Larval Smear test

### Apiarist's Details

Name	Registration/Brand Number
Postal Address	
Suburb	Postcode
Phone	Email

### Honey Sample/Larval Smear and Yard (Apiary) Identification

**For beekeepers with one yard (apiary) of hives:** If your hives are located at one yard (apiary) and you are submitting only one sample, write the words "YARD ONE" on the honey sample/larval smear and on this sheet here: \_\_\_\_\_

**For beekeepers with more than one yard (apiary) of hives:** Choose a different number for each yard (apiary) so you can identify the yard when you receive the test results. Write the same number on the honey sample/larval smear and on this sheet here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Test required:** Honey Culture for AFB  EFB  Larval Smear for AFB/EFB

Date Sample collected \_\_\_\_\_

### TEST PAYMENT

**Please note: Payment must be made prior to testing.**  
Please call 1300 307 190 to make your payment over the phone

and select option 4 for accounts. Lines are open Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm (AEST).

### ACCOUNTS USE ONLY

Ref Number	Receipt Number	Date Paid
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Note: For payment-related enquiries, please contact us at [vets@gribbles.com.au](mailto:vets@gribbles.com.au)

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## Instructions for collecting honey sample

### Type of sample required for the honey culture test

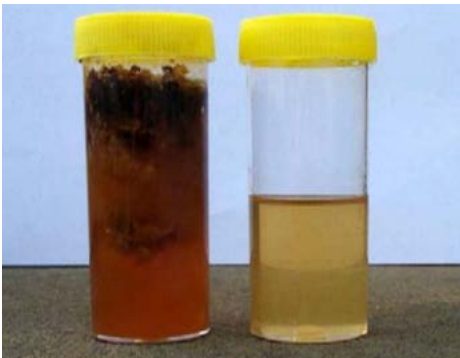
- It is important that the sample, where possible, contains extracted honey from all the hives in the yard.
- It should be collected from the extractor or from the settling tank where honey from all the hives in one yard is mixed together.
- The sample should not contain any honey from any other yard of hives. If honey from different yards is included in the one sample, it will not be possible to identify the yards that have AFB/EFB symptoms and those that do not.

### Sample collection and submission

1. Honey sample: Collect 125 ml of clean honey (no bees or wax) into clean, break/leak -proof container.  
Larval smear: Macerate 3-4 larvae, push off excess larvae onto a slide, and air dry it.
2. Label the container/larval smear with your name, beekeeper registration brand, and yard (apiary identification).
3. Fill out the Honey Culture/Larval Smear Testing Submission Form appropriately, with as much detail as possible.
4. Include the submission form with the honey sample(s)/larval smear(s), ideally in a submission bag. The submission form can be separated from the honey pot(s)/smear (s) in a submission bag by placing the submission form in the pocket.
5. Ship samples to Gribbles Veterinary Pathology, 1868 Dandenong Road, Clayton, Vic, 3168.

### Turnaround time for testing

- Our standard turnaround time is 30 days from arrival in the laboratory.
- Urgent turnaround time is 5-7 business days from arrival in the laboratory.
- Reports will come via mail.



**Photo 1.** Examples of poor samples that cannot be tested. On the left, the honey must not contain dirt and wax; on the right, the container must be filled to top with honey.



**Photo 2.** Example of good sample: Clean honey filled to the top of container.

**Note:** Sample testing kits are available at Gribbles Veterinary Pathology. For further information and pricing, contact our Helpdesk on 1300 307 190 or email [vets@gribbles.com.au](mailto:vets@gribbles.com.au)

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