

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WALLACEVILLE ANIMAL RESEARCH CENTRE, PRIVATE BAG, WELLINGTON.

The Superintendent Beekeeping, Horticulture Division, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 1500, WELLINGTON.

IMPORTS OF QUEEN BEES

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Regarding the above you are well aware of the possibility of imported bees bringing in acarine disease. In addition there are other dangers.

European foulbrood, a brood disease caused primarily by <u>Streptococcus</u> <u>pluton</u>, followed by the growth of secondary bacterial invaders, is regarded overseas as serious. It is not present in New Zealand but is common in most overseas countries, including the U.S. and Canada. Although the disease does not affect adult bees there is a possibility that the causative bacteria could be brought into New Zealand by imported queens on their bodies or internally. Although both Noesema apis and Malpighamoeba mellifica are found in New Zealand, imported queens could bring in more virulent strains.

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