

## Protect SA's apiary industry and sample for Varroa mite

Wednesday 9 November 2022

SA beekeepers with 20 or more hives are being called on to play their part in protecting our state from Varroa mite by sampling 10% of their hives per apiary.

Sampling hives gives PIRSA and industry confidence that SA is free of Varroa mite, and protects apiary businesses and associated pollination-dependent industries.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is offering free sampling kits at a series of upcoming workshops across the state.

At the workshops, beekeepers will receive their sampling kits, learn how to sample for Varroa mite and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Workshop dates and locations:

- Murray Bridge, 21 November, 6pm-7.30pm
- Mt Gambier, 22 November, 6pm-7.30pm
- Naracoorte, 23 November, 6pm-7.30pm
- Keith, 24 November, 6pm-7.30pm
- Loxton, 25 November, 6pm-7.30pm
- Port Lincoln, 29 November, 6pm-7.30pm
- Clare, 30 November, 6pm-7.30pm
- Nuriootpa, 1 December, 6pm-7.30pm
- Adelaide, 2 December, 6pm-7.30pm
- Kangaroo Island, 6 December, 6pm-7.30pm.

Venue locations will be confirmed in the coming weeks and communicated to registrants.

PIRSA will cover the costs of sample container delivery and return sample processing.

Beekeepers need to register to attend the workshops so PIRSA can organise enough sampling kits for attendees in advance.

Register to attend a workshop by 16 November, visit [www.pir.sa.gov.au/varroa](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/varroa)

Beekeepers are reminded that restrictions continue to be in place for moving bees, hives and associated apiary products, including queen bees from NSW, Victoria and Queensland into South Australia.

Beekeepers need to apply for a permit to import queen bees into SA from Victoria and Queensland with testing, inspection and documentation requirements to be followed. Movements from NSW are not permitted.

Find out how to apply for a permit for importing queen bees at [www.pir.sa.gov.au/varroa](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/varroa)

Remember, if you notice signs of Varroa mite, including weak hives, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on **1800 084 881**.

### Quotes attributable to Program Manager SA Varroa Response Paul Dowsett

*To protect South Australian apiarists and pollination-dependent industries, it is critical that Varroa mite surveillance and movement controls continue.*

*Beekeepers and apiarists need to step up and play their part in surveillance by sampling for Varroa mite, to protect their business and industry.*

*It is a requirement for beekeepers to register with PIRSA and sample their hives regularly.*

*The more hives that are sampled, the more confident we are that SA is free of varroa mite.*

*Movement restrictions are necessary for us to maintain a high level of biosecurity as we continue to protect South Australian industries.*

*Honey production value was estimated at \$13 million in 2020–21. Pollination is a critical and valuable input to the horticultural and field crops sector with the industry revenue of the crops pollinated by bees in South Australia totalling just over \$1.4 billion in 2020-21.*

### Recommended sampling rate\*

Total number of hives (including nucs) to sample per apiary†:	Rounds and total number of samples:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>10% of hives per round.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Round 1 - by Jan 31 2023</li><li>Round 2 - by April 28 2023.</li></ul>
Examples:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>20 hives in 2 apiaries = 2 samples/apiary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Round 1 - 4 samples</li><li>Round 2 - 4 samples</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>84 hives in 4 apiaries = 9 samples/apiary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Round 1 - 36 samples</li><li>Round 2 - 36 samples</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>96 hives in 3 apiaries = 10 samples/apiary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Round 1 - 30 samples</li><li>Round 2 - 30 samples</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>100 hives in 1 apiary = 10 samples</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Round 1 - 10 samples</li><li>Round 2 - 10 samples</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>106 hives in 12 apiaries = 11 samples/apiary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Round 1 - 132 samples</li><li>Round 2 - 132 samples</li></ul>

\*excludes those directed to sample at a different rate.

† rounded up.