

## Honey Imports and Why Bees Are Dying

Bees are amazing creatures; they are also vital for our existence. Bees and other pollinating insects account for over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all the fruit and vegetables in the human diet. Without them, we'd be going hungry.

But around the world, over the past 10 years, bees have been dying in their millions. Why? Because international trade in bees and bee products have spread a host of serious diseases<sup>1</sup> from Europe, Asia and Africa through to the Americas. And bees have wings, so they don't respect land borders. One of the worst diseases, now widespread, is called American Foulbrood (AFB). It produces spores which can last for up to 70 years, and these are carried in honey and wax. The whole of sub-Saharan Africa has gone down with AFB in the last 4 years, and it's out of control. The only treatment is to dig a hole and burn the hive. Even New Zealand has AFB, so Manuka honey is not safe. Nothing can stop this spread – except the sea.

St Helena has one of the best borders in the world: the Atlantic. It also has one of the last disease-free bee populations in the world. But the border is only as good as our border security. **That is why we have banned the importation of honey and some associated products<sup>2</sup> into St Helena – to protect the bees, and to preserve a rare and valuable resource.**

**Please think – don't kill our bees!**

**DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT OF HONEY  
WILL RESULT IN PROSECUTION**

Further information can be obtained from the Senior Veterinary Officer at [svo@anrd.gov.sh](mailto:svo@anrd.gov.sh), or tel: 00 290 4724.

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<sup>1</sup> American & European Foulbrood, Nosema ceranae/apis, Varroa destructor, CCD, Israeli Paralysis Virus.

<sup>2</sup> Bees Ordinance & Regs 1996 amended 2011

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