

EPIZOOTY OF BROOD DISEASES IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. The benefit of bees to a beekeeper and the environment depends on the number of bees and strength of bee colonies. The latter depends on quality and quantity of a brood. Seeking for profitability in apiculture one should pay attention to the health of bees and especially that of a brood. In the apiaries situated on the territory of Lithuania we investigated 3961 bee colonies during their active periods from 1997 to 1999, of which 637 bee colonies were found to be infected with various brood diseases (American foulbrood, European foulbrood, Chalkbrood, Scalbrood). The incidence of Chalkbrood was the highest during this period. This disease accounted for 21.99 % (in 1997), 10.75 % (in 1998), 26.47 % (in 1999) of the total incidence of brood diseases. An increased brood disease incidence was observed in 1999.

Keywords: honey bees, infections in brood, American foulbrood, European foulbrood, Chalkbrood, Scalbrood.