

### TAIS Testing Procedures:

In order to diagnose problems found in hives often times it is necessary to sample the hives and determine the source of the problem. TAIS can assist beekeepers in a limited capacity by checking nosema and varroa levels in hives. Beyond these tests it will be necessary to use outside labs to help diagnose problems.

TAIS can run diagnostic tests to determine nosema and varroa levels in a hive. At this time we can only run 2 nosema and 2 varroa samples per year per beekeeper. In order to test a hive, please follow this protocol:

1. Fill out the submission form in **pencil**. Place in separate plastic storage bag and put in mailing box.
2. **For nosema testing:** Collect a sample of approximately 100 bees in alcohol (isopropyl alcohol is acceptable) from the entrance or outer frames of a hive. Half pint mason jars work well for collection and transport. Jars must be leak proof to mail.
3. Insert a label with name, address, phone number and email address into the jar. The label **MUST** be written in **pencil** (pen or marker will wash off in alcohol).
4. **For varroa level testing:** Collect a sample of approximately 300 bees in alcohol from the brood area of the hive.
5. Insert a label with name, address, phone number and email address into the jar. The label **MUST** be written in **pencil** (pen or marker will wash off in alcohol).
6. Before shipping pour off excess alcohol and package jars in plastic storage bags to prevent leakage during shipment.
7. Mail samples to:

Texas Apiary Inspection Service  
2475 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-2475

8. Once the tests are complete TAIS will email the results to the email you provide with the samples. Samples are run on a first come first serve basis. TAIS will make every attempt to quickly return results but processing time may vary depending on workloads.

**Submission Form**

Name

E-mail address

Mailing address

Phone number

Location of sample 1

Location of sample 2

**Samples included:**

Nosema sample 1

Nosema sample 2

Varroa sample 1

Varroa sample 2

**Labels**

Please fill out these labels **IN PENCIL** for each sample submitted.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of hive \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle one: Sample 1 / Sample 2      Circle one: Nosema / Varroa

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of hive \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle one: Sample 1 / Sample 2      Circle one: Nosema / Varroa

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of hive \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle one: Sample 1 / Sample 2      Circle one: Nosema / Varroa

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of hive \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle one: Sample 1 / Sample 2      Circle one: Nosema / Varroa