

## **Advice 32-2010 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on an action level for the hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) content of feed for honey bees**

The FASFC has recently received several complaints concerning cases of conspicuous mortality of entire beehives. Later analyses showed that these colonies had been fed during the winter with a particular type of sugar syrup which had a high content of hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF). Since there is no standard as to the HMF content in syrups for honey bees, the Scientific Committee is asked to determine an action level.

Considering the elements listed in the advice, it is difficult to determine at present a definitive action level for the HMF content in syrups for bees. A **provisional** action level of **40 ppm** HMF is proposed. This action level should however be reviewed as new scientific studies are available.

The Scientific Committee makes several recommendations to reduce to a minimum the formation of HMF in syrups for honey bees.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".