

## National Agricultural Genotyping Center

### Honey Bee Sample Shipping Instructions

#### **SAMPLE STORAGE/PACKAGING/SHIPPING PROCEDURES FOR HONEY BEES**

**Ship overnight or early in the week (Monday or Tuesday) to avoid unpredictable storage temperatures over the weekend.** Specimens will likely decay due to secondary bacteria or fungi, which thrive under warm, humid conditions. Genotyping and pathogen testing might be difficult to impossible on decayed specimens. Below are the general guidelines for sending specimens to NAGC.

##### *Whole body (honey bees only)*

1. Honey bees should be placed in breathable containers such as **double-bagged** paper bags. Have the bags double-bagged prior to bee collection.
2. Label the paper bags with **Submitter Name, Hive Name/Number, and Date/Initials of Collection.**
3. Submit a minimum of 50 bees per hive. This can be achieved by scooping approximately 1 cup (8 ounces) of honey bees into the labeled paper bags. Be sure to keep honey bees from different hives separate for proper testing.
4. Fold the bags 3-4 times to close and secure with staples and/or tape.
5. Place all labeled paper bags containing honey bee samples in a crush-resistant box.
6. **Include the completed Submission Form with the sample shipment.**
7. Ship samples dry, at room temperature. For extreme conditions where the temperature exceeds 26°C (80°F), it is recommended to ship the samples with cold packs or dry ice.
8. If bees are live, label the outside of the box with "**LIVE BEES**". Alternatively, you may place the samples in the freezer overnight prior to shipping.
9. Avoid shipments over the weekend.

If there are any questions regarding sampling and shipping procedures, please contact the National Agricultural Genotyping Center Laboratory at 701-239-1451.

##### **Ship Samples To:**

**National Agricultural Genotyping Center  
1605 Albrecht Blvd N  
Fargo, ND 58102**