

Single Source Exemption: Contract T011120  
Term is 1/1/09 – 12/31/09  
Cost - \$18,077

The Department received an exemption from the “Contract Reporter” requirements to enter into a single source with the Arkansas Experimental Station for *Nosema ceranae* Testing and Analysis.

## **Program Background**

*Nosema* is considered one of the most prevalent and economically damaging of honey bee diseases. In 2007, a new microsporidium, *Nosema ceranae*, was reported in the U.S. The full effects of infection have not been determined; however, the following observations have been made: *N. ceranae* can kill bees in eight days, causes a gradual depopulation, higher autumn/winter colony deaths and low honey production.

It is important that the apiaries in New York State be tested for this disease, which may play a role in Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

## **Selection Rationale**

Cornell University's Department of Entomology does not have the experience or equipment required to do the testing of this honeybee disease, as the expertise needed is limited in the U.S. There is another laboratory in Canada that is able to run the required testing, however it is more expensive and is currently unavailable due to their current workload. We also sought the assistance of the federal honey bee disease laboratory at Beltsville, MD. But they do not have the capacity to run these samples.

The University of Arkansas Department of Entomology works with social insects and does genetic testing of diseases. They have over ten years experience and the analytical equipment to do the required testing and have the capability and capacity to test large numbers of samples. To our knowledge, the Arkansas laboratory is the only other source for this work.