

Improvements of regulations on organic farming to facilitate the practice of organic beekeeping

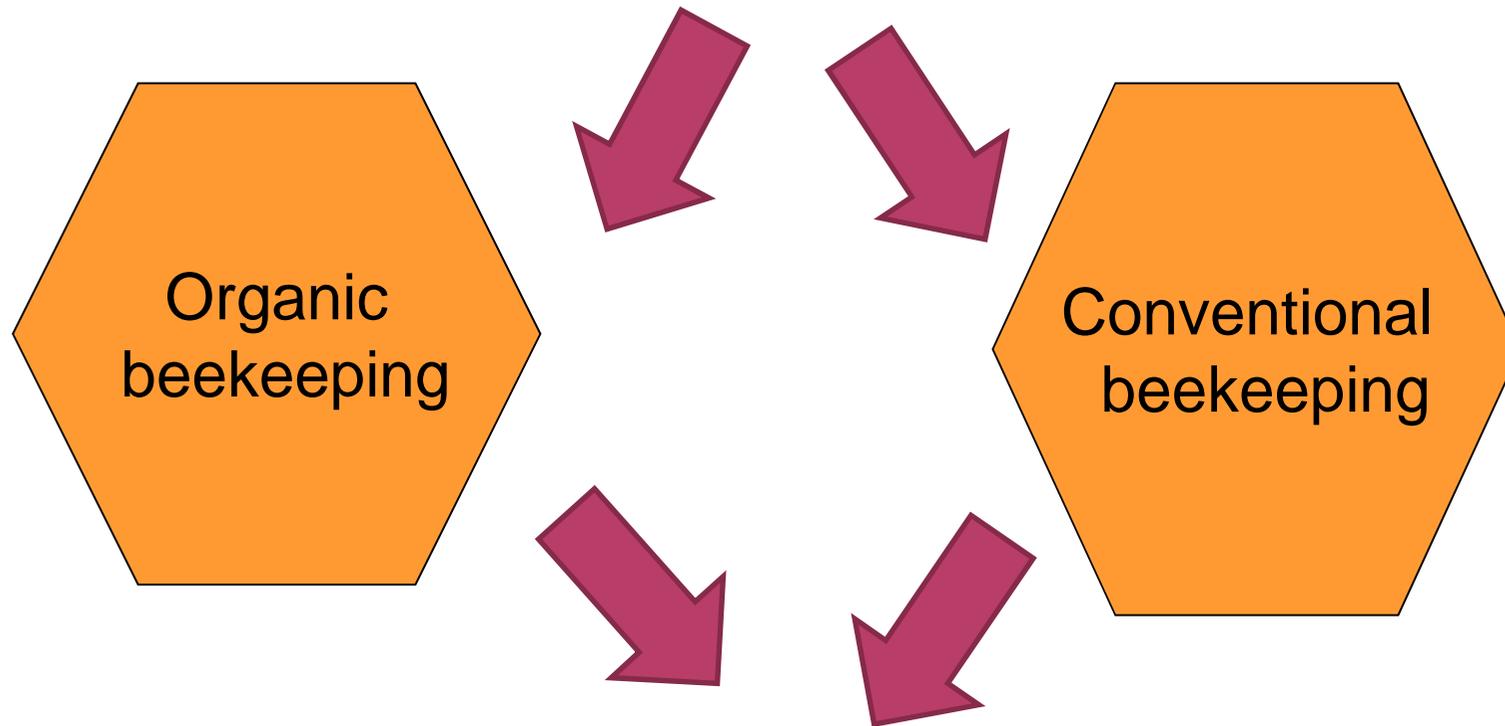


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Good beekeeping Practices

- Young and productive queens
- Ensure pollen and nectar sources for bees
- Access to water
- Feeding when necessary with the proper feed
- Replace combs regularly
- Manipulate bees with methods that cause them less stress
- Sufficient reserves of honey and pollen for the winter
- Precaution measurements against bee diseases
- Proper use of pharmaceutical products
- Good handling of bee products.
- Avoid adulteration

Good beekeeping Practices



Healthy bees,
Pure, natural and safe products

Rules , Restrictions & supervisions

**Reg. 834/2007
889/2008**

**Control bodies
Competent authorities**

**Siting of the apiaries
Controlling bee diseases
Replacing the combs (conversion period)
Feeding bees**

Clipping queen's wings
Not destroy drone brood

Reg. 889/2008. The siting of the apiaries

Article 13

The member states **may** designate regions or areas where beekeeping complying with organic production rules, is not practicable

Article 78

Where no areas are identified by the member states, the beekeeper **shall** provide the control authority or control body appropriate documentation and evidences including suitable analyses that the areas meet the **conditions** required by the regulation.

Article 13

The siting of the apiaries shall be such that, within a radius of 3 Km from the apiary site, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops and/or spontaneous vegetation and/or crops treated with low environmental impact methods which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic

- 1. How to qualify the beekeeping production as organic?
- 2. What documentation, evidences or analyses do they need?



Residues from agrochemicals



Honey, Wax, Pollen, ?



What level ?

0.1 ppm ?
? 5,
10 ppb ?

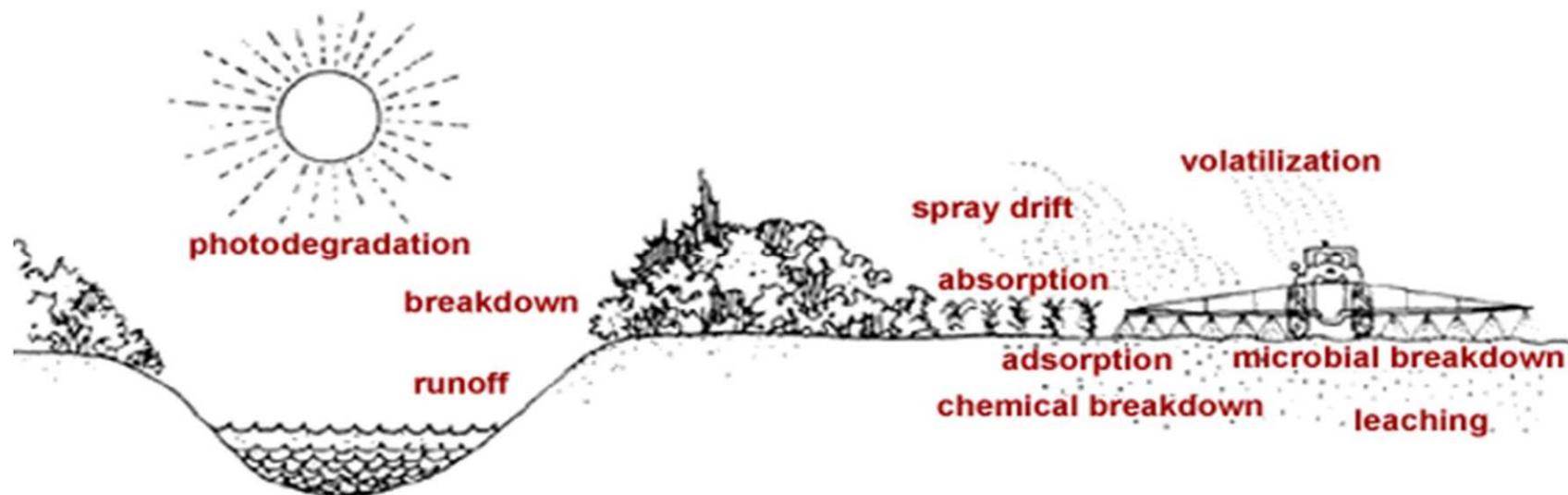
15 ?

**Explicit
definite
clear
Applicable
to everyone
in the same
way**



article 13 of regulation 889

The siting of the apiaries shall be such that, **within a radius of 3 Km from the apiary site**, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops and/or spontaneous vegetation and/or crops treated with low environmental impact methods which **cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic**



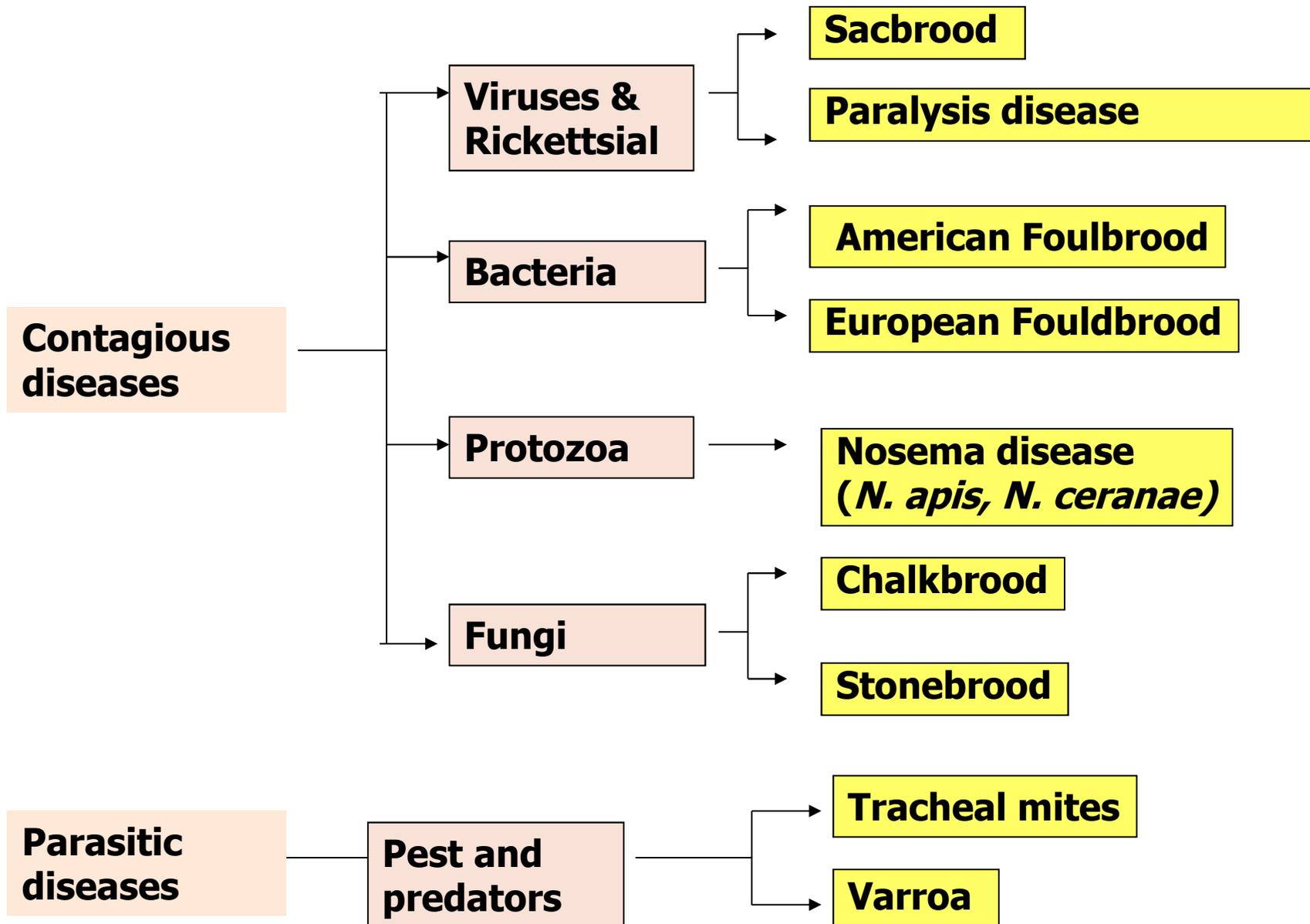
Propose amendment to article 13 of regulation 889

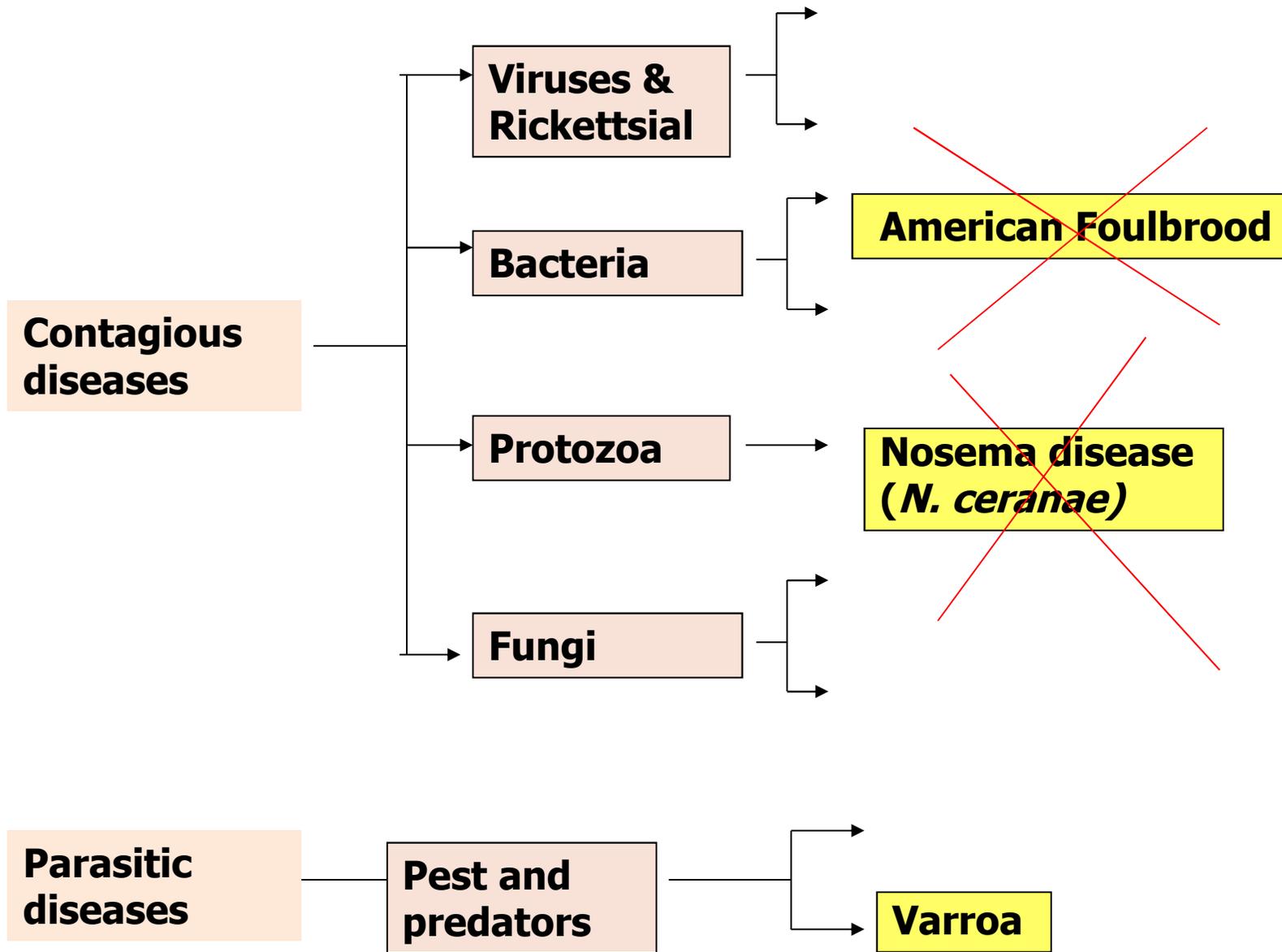
The siting of the apiaries shall be such that, ~~within a radius of 3 Km from the apiary site~~, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops and/or spontaneous vegetation and/or crops treated with low environmental impact methods which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic **cause contamination* of bee products**

* Contamination: Contamination of wax/honey in levels higher than ????? mg/Kg

“Apiaries shall be kept at sufficient distance from sources that may lead to the contamination of beekeeping products or to the poor health of the bees” (Reg. 834 article 14.b)

Agrochemicals, motorways, industrial areas, waste dumps





Synthetic acaricides against Varroa mites

Tau- Fluvalinate
Coumaphos
Flumethrin
Apistan
Cymiazol

Conventional beekeeping

Natural non toxic substances against Varroa mites

Thymol
menthol,
Camphor
Eucalyptol
Oxalic acid
Formic acid
Lactic acid

Organic beekeeping
(Reg 889 article 25.6)

Article 25 **Specific rules on disease prevention**

4. If despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated **immediately** .

7. If a treatment is applied with **chemically synthesized allopathic** products, the colonies treated shall be placed in isolation apiaries and subsequently, the conversion period of one year is laid down

Propose amendment to article 25 of regulation 889

4. If despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated **immediately** .

~~Just delete them~~
7. If a treatment is applied with chemically **synthesized allopathic** products, the colonies treated shall be placed in isolation apiaries and subsequently, the conversion period of one year is laid down

Conversion period (Reg 889, article 38)

3) Beekeeping products can be sold with references to the organic production method only when the organic production rules have been complied with for at **least one year**.

5) During the conversion period the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping”.

Gradual replacement



Residues

Direct Complete replacement



No residues



Direct and complete replacement of the combs:
Bees should be fed with syrup to build their combs

Feeding (Reg 889 article 19)

- Feeding bees *is permitted only*



Last honey
harvest

**Overwinter
Stimulate feeding**



15 days before
the start of the next nectar

also in case of long lasting exceptional weather conditions or catastrophic circumstances which hamper the nectar or honeydew production (article 47)

Feeding shall be with organic honey, organic sugar syrup, or organic sugar

Propose Amendment to the article 38 of the regulation 889

Beekeeping products can be sold with references to the organic production method only when the organic production rules have been complied with for ~~6 months~~ **At least one year** after the complete replacement of all combs of the colonies.

B. Feeding

- Provision regarding pollen or pollen substitutes in periods of shortage
- Provision for feeding bees during conversion period and replacement of combs by the direct method

Please think about these amendments to the regulation. They may help to raise awareness to more beekeepers about organic farming.

THANK YOU