

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), formerly called Fall Dwindling Disease, is something we've been following and attending research discussions about. It clearly hit the media big in the first couple of weeks of February 2007. It should be made very clear that as far as researchers are concerned, **nothing is confirmed at this point as to what is causing CCD. Everything is speculation but the scientists are working furiously to find and confirm answers.** The latest information is currently available at:

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/pressReleases/ColonyCollapseDisorderWG.html>

We know that it doesn't involve where the queens came from or what feed is being consumed by the bees.

We do know that there are some unusual fungal and viral conditions showing up in the digestive systems. Many of the bees are showing unusually high levels of many of the common known bee ailments which indicate compromised immune systems.

We also know that many of the beekeepers who are experiencing high losses are saying that they've stressed their bees out through migration, "hard" splitting, &/or periods of time without adequate food supply.

One of the other things that are being investigated involves pesticides both from the environment and from residues in the hives from the chemicals used by beekeepers for parasitic control.

Another possibility which is being looked into and **not confirmed** is *Nosema ceranae*.

Nosema ceranae is something that we'll have more information about in the near future.