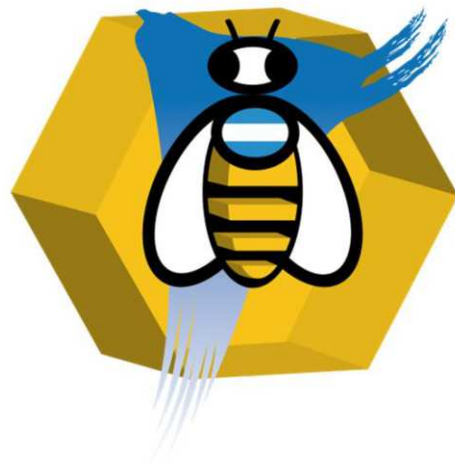




# Beekeeping in Switzerland

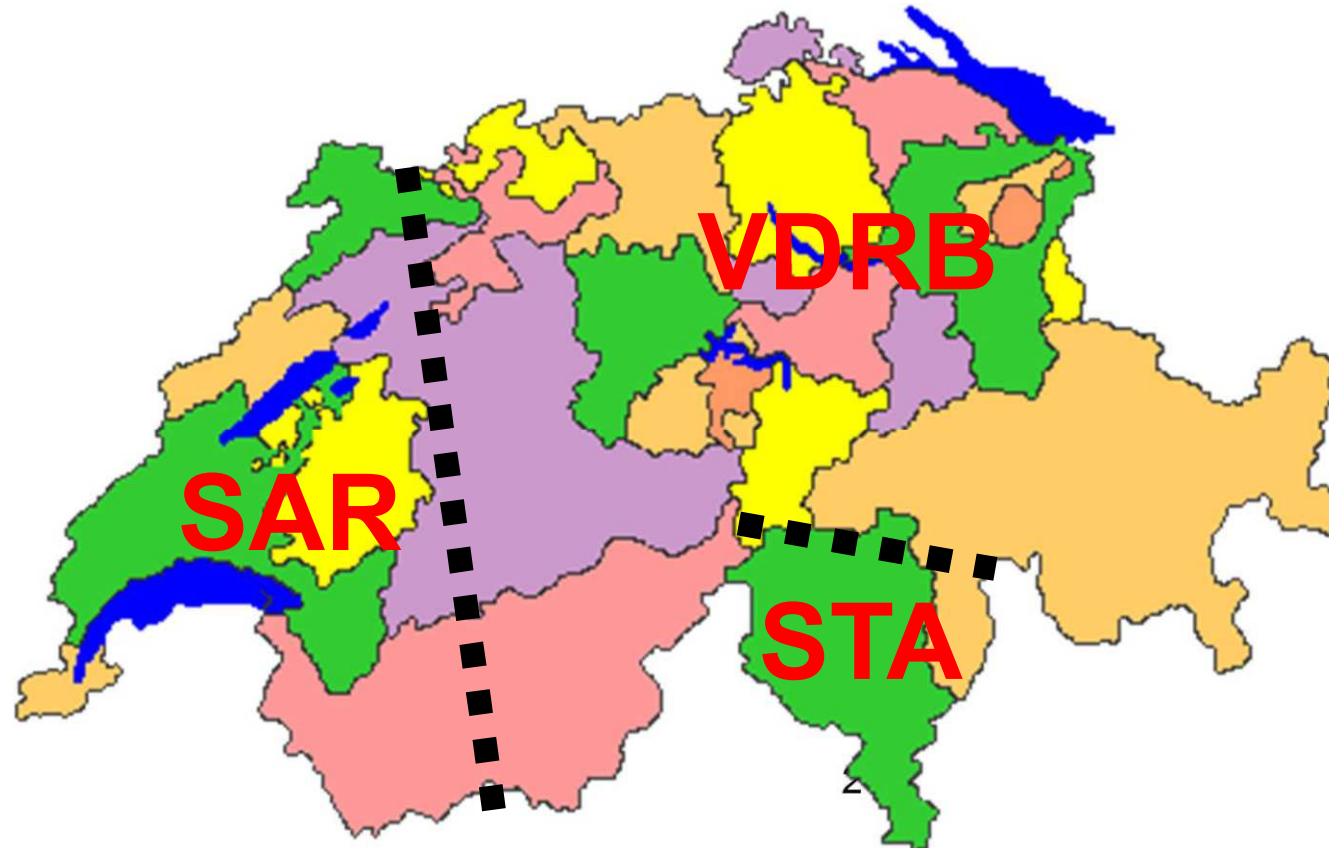
Robert Sieber



**APIMONDIA 2011**  
BUENOS AIRES • ARGENTINA  
september

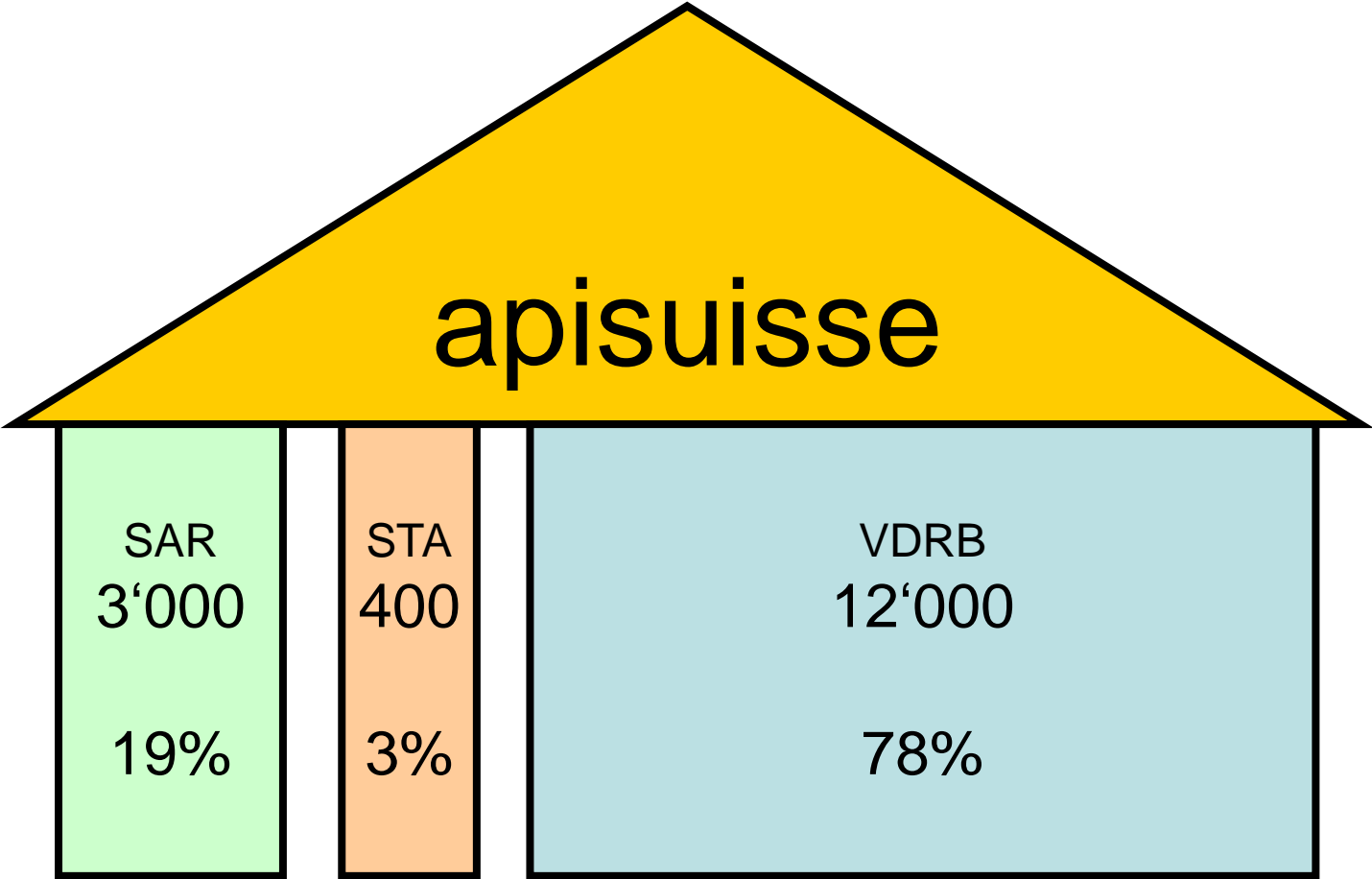


## Three Regional Organizations





# One Country Organization







## All kinds of hives





## Very high density of Beekeepers





## The 'typical' Swiss Beekeeper...

- 🐝 **Keeps an average of 10 colonies**
- 🐝 **Is 55 years old**
- 🐝 **A male with an increasing number of females**
- 🐝 **Is traditional**
- 🐝 **Does migrate colonies to a little extent only**
- 🐝 **Is not a professional**
- 🐝 **Hardly rears queens professionally**



## Honey

- 🐝 **Majority is multiflower honey**
- 🐝 **Approximately 20 kg per colony and year**
- 🐝 **Estimated annual production: 3800 t**
- 🐝 **Honey consumption per person in Switzerland:  
1.2 kg (approx 8.4 mio t)**
- 🐝 **High Price for Swiss Honey: 20 SFrs**
- 🐝 **A Gold Label Quality Program**
- 🐝 **Majority sold directly by beekeepers**
- 🐝 **Some collection of pollen, propolis, wax candles**





# Varroa Treatment

- 🐝 **Concept: no residues in neither wax nor honey**
- 🐝 **Alternative Treatment program**
- 🐝 **Counting dead Varroa on hive ground**
- 🐝 **Cutting drone combs**
- 🐝 **Formic acid or Thymol after summer harvest**
- 🐝 **Oxalic acid in brood free stage during winter**



# Bee Health Issues

## **Winter losses**

 **Systematically captured only since 4 years**

 **Applying COLOSS methodology**

 **between 16 and 32 %**

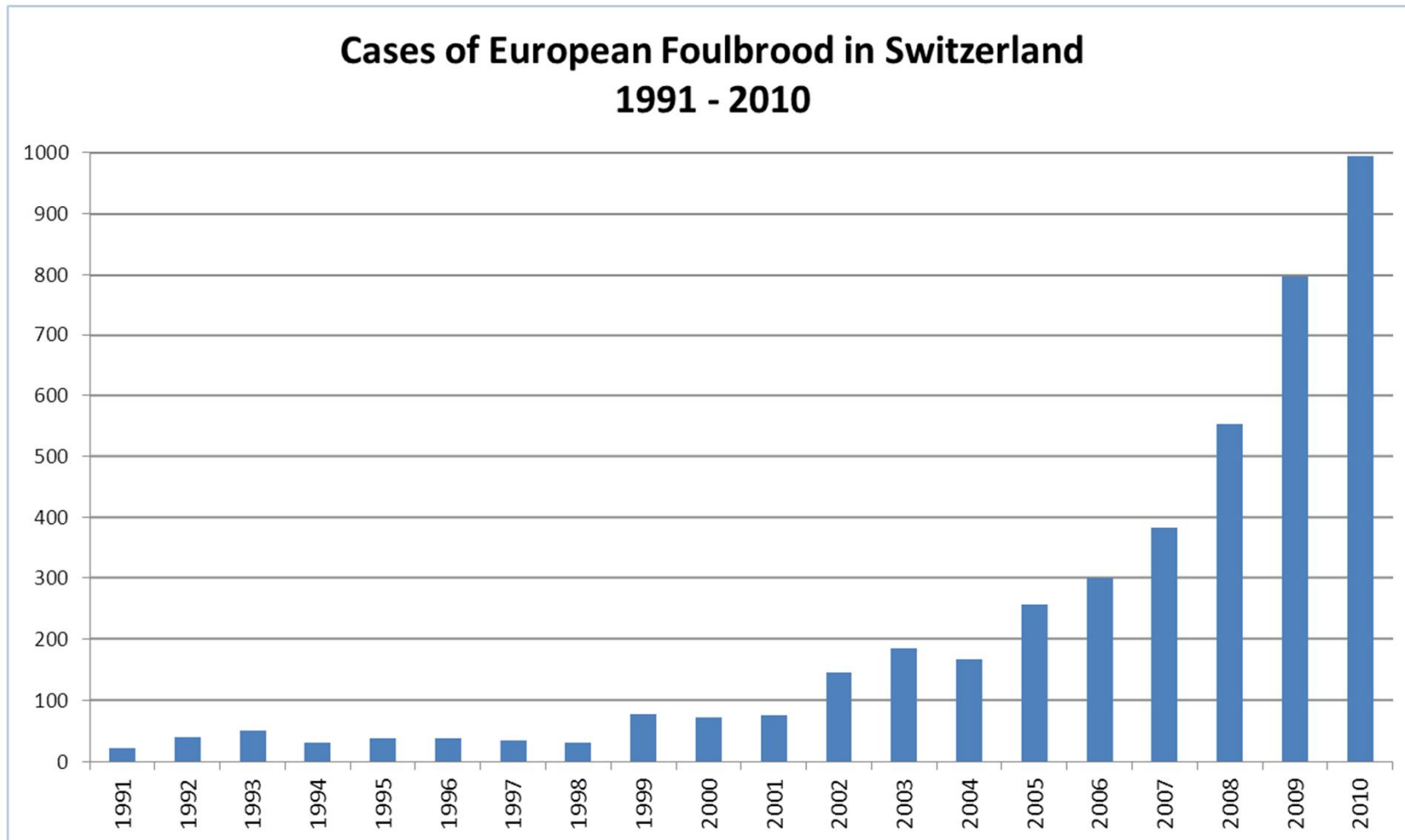
## **American Foulbrood**

## **European Foulbrood**



apisuisse

# 'Explosion' of European Foulbrood in Switzerland





## Outlook

-  **Improvement in terms of ‘good bee keepers praxis’**
-  **Training at all levels**
-  **Increased professional support**
-  **Queen rearing as a way to improve bee health**
-  **Communication to the public**
-  **More active involvement of politicians**
-  **Be an ambassador for bees**