

5 Year Plan Draft Due For Release for Beekeeper Consultation

In the latter part of this year work has been undertaken on the development of a 5 Year Plan, the purpose of which is to create a practical set of steps that New Zealand beekeepers can take to manage American Foulbrood.

The draft document, to be released to industry prior to Xmas is the result of a collaborative approach involving industry, science and government.

It is important that beekeepers now have the opportunity to have input in this partnered approach to eliminating AFB from New Zealand. This will be posted on our website but please contact this office if you wish to have a hard copy posted to you.

An Important Message for Beekeepers Not Holding a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA)

Beekeepers not holding a DECA should have already arranged to have their hives inspected by an approved beekeeper and all necessary documentation lodged withASUREQuality.

Please be advised those beekeepers who have failed to comply with this direction sent to you in August are in default of the AFB PMP Order. The AFB PMP is required to provide details of defaulting beekeepers to the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Destruction of AFB Infected Plastic Hives, Boxes, Lids and Other Infected Material

As a further reminder to beekeepers and to avoid confusion, the AFB PMP Management Board's policy is that "scraping" off wax and treating with Sodium Hypochlorite is not an approved method of destruction when dealing with infected plastic beekeeping gear as highlighted above.

The Board has been advised by Dr Mark Goodwin of Plant and Food Research that "scraping" is too difficult to quantify as opposed to "dipping" at 160 degrees for 10 minutes or irradiation. A key point made by Dr Goodwin is that Sodium Hypochlorite can only kill what it reaches.

AFB infected plastic hives, boxes, lids, frames and any other plastic material must be burnt. This must be done in a responsible manner, noting the challenges this presents. Safe re-cycling options are under investigation with some excellent progress being made. We will advise details and process in due course.

AFB Recognition Courses

The AFB PMP Management Board is pleased to report that 1,103 beekeepers took advantage of the 65 courses made available to the industry in 2016. This figure far exceeds that of previous years.



Earlier this year we extended an invite to beekeepers to consider becoming an AFB Recognition Course trainer.

In thanking those who responded, I can advise we intend progressing this initiative in 2017 given the ever increasing numbers of new beekeepers.

For those of you who wish to register for a course in 2017 are invited to secure a place and make payment by registering via our website www.afb.org.nz/beekeeping-courses where you will find the first six months of scheduled courses.

An Apiary – What the Law Says

Beekeepers will appreciate what constitutes an apiary goes to the very centre of the AFB Pest Management Plan.

The law is clear and states that an “Apiary” is defined as a place notified as an apiary in accordance with Clause 17 of the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998. Clause 17 requires a beekeeper to notify a place as an apiary if one or more beehives owned by that beekeeper is located at that place. If there is a group of beehives, each beehive within that group (the apiary) must be situated 200m or less from another beehive owned by that beekeeper.

The AFB PMP Management Board considers Clause 17 to be explicit in the requirement that for a group of beehives to be an apiary, the maximum distance measured between each beehive in the group (the apiary) must be no greater than 200m. Alternatively, 100m from the centre point of the group (the apiary) in any direction.

2017

Some exciting new initiatives are being progressed for 2017, this will include rapid notification of AFB incidents in proximity to your apiaries; further details will be announced in the New Year.

On behalf of the AFB PMP Management Board I would like to extend to all beekeepers and their families a safe and happy Xmas and prosperous New Year.

Rex Baynes
AFB PMP Manager

NB Please contact us if you wish to receive this newsletter via email