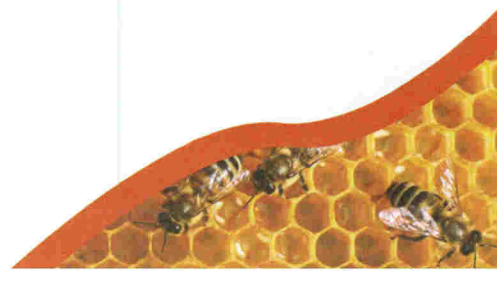


**American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan Report
to the
Annual General Meeting of Apiculture New Zealand (Inc)**

**Millennium Hotel & Spa
1270 Hinemaru Street
Rotorua 3040**

**12 July 2017
(Wednesday)**

**Report:
John Hartnell (Chairman)
AFB PMP Management Board**



American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan AFB PMP

Introduction and Background

The Biosecurity (National Pest Management Plan) Order 1998 (clause 6) states the Management Agency for the AFB PMP is the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand (Inc.) NBA. On 1 April 2016 the NBA (Inc.) became Apiculture New Zealand (Inc.). At the time of preparing this report the change to Apiculture New Zealand has yet to be formalised, therefore for the purposes of this report reference will be made to Apiculture New Zealand.

Apiculture New Zealand has a statutory responsibility to implement the AFB PMP, which comprises a range of regulatory and educational programmes. The plan is funded using income generated from a mandatory levy on beekeepers and apiaries through the Biosecurity (American Foulbrood – Apiary and Beekeeper Levy) Order 2003.

The AFB PMP Management Board

The AFB PMP Management Board is made up of the following industry representatives.

Mr John Hartnell	(Chairman)	Canterbury
Mr Frans Laas	Otago	
Mr Jason Ward		Hawkes Bay
Mr Gabriel Torres		Northland
Mr Russell Marsh		Otago
Ms Kim Poynter		Bay of Plenty

Mr Russell Marsh is the APINZ representative while Ms Kim Poynter is a seconded member representing the non-commercial beekeeper sector.

In August 2016, Mr Neil Mossop stood down as part of Board policy, along with the NBA Representative appointee, Mr Stephen Black. It is appropriate that acknowledgement be given to the contributions made by both Neil and Stephen during their time on the Board.

Governance Document

Apiculture New Zealand (Inc.) and the AFB PMP Management Board operate under a formal Governance Document that sets out clearly defined reporting requirements and other standard operating procedures and protocols.

A copy can be found on the AFB website under policies - AFB/22/0/11 - 012.

Financial

For the first time approximately 7,500 beekeepers received their levy invoices by email. Beekeepers who have not provided an email address received their invoice by conventional means. Overall the emailing of invoices proved successful, however the AFB PMP Management Board intends reviewing why the percentage of levy payments received under the electronic initiative at key milestone dates were lower than the historical mail out result.

Debt collection remains with our partner Debtworks New Zealand Ltd, a relationship that is delivering excellent results.

Reported Incidents of American Foulbrood

For the 12 month to 31 May 2017 the disease incidence rate equated to 0.33% of beehive colonies.

A number of AFB notification reports for this period will have been received as part of the ADR return process which although outside the 7 day legal reporting timeframe. Late reporting is difficult to manage as any action taken against the offending parties could result in under reporting. This matter is being addressed by the AFB PMP Management Board.

Increased Compliance Equates to Increased Reporting

It is important to recognise that with increased compliance in relation to Annual Disease Returns and Certificate of Inspection forms such activity generates a counter reaction in terms of increased AFB reporting. Add to this very large beekeeper registrations and hive increases during the period.

Beekeeper, Apiary and Hive Numbers by Apiary District

The beekeeping industry remains in a significant growth phase unlike anything seen in recent history. AFB PMP Contractor, AsureQuality reports that 302 new beekeeper registrations were processed in April and May 2017. While considered high, this figure mirrors registration activity of previous months.

To assist in understanding the spread across the country the following table shows beekeeper, apiary and hive numbers by what is termed apiary district. The heading for Whangarei for example covers Northland and Auckland. This statistical information will be provided by way of New Zealand provincial boundaries in the future for clarity.

Register Location	Beekeeper Count	Apiary Count	Hive Count
Blenheim	607	4,545	58,334
Canterbury	1,052	5693	73,480
Hamilton	726	4,555	84,504
Otago/Southland	658	4,158	54,249
Palmerston North	1,779	13,901	252,060
Tauranga	882	7,918	149,082
Whangarei	2,132	9,441	139,648
Totals	7,836	50,211	811,357

Further detail regarding statistical trends can be found on the AFB website.

Annual Disease Returns ADR's

Annual Disease Returns were sent to 7,913 beekeepers in April 2017. On 1 June 2017, a total of 5,143 ADR's (65%) had been returned and processed. This compares to 60% return at the same time last year.

Beekeepers were for the first time sent their ADR's via electronic means, a major departure from the mail-outs that of previous years. There were several teething issues however overall given the numbers involved it delivered a good result. We also saw increased use of the on-line ApiWeb portal as the ADR lodgement tool of preference.

Certificate of Inspection (COI)

In August 2016, 3,296 non-accredited beekeepers received a Certificate of Inspection as is required under the Order 98. By 15 December (legally imposed deadline), 2,323 COI's (70%) had been returned. Since then for this reporting period a further 184 (6%) have been returned late leaving 792 outstanding.

The AFB PMP Management Board has authorised the conducting of COI default inspections utilising their dedicated AFB auditors, a chargeable activity.

Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements (DECA)

49% of beekeepers currently hold a DECA, a fall of 11% from historical highs.

APIWEB Upgrade

As reported in 2016 the AFB PMP Management team along an industry working group, which included AsureQuality, carried out a user review of APIWEB and its ability to support the industry looking to the future. With huge increases in beekeeper registrations and hive numbers and the demand this is having on the current system, the AFB PMP Board must ensure the right software and hardware is in place to meet future demands.

This initial meeting took place on 9 October 2015 in Hamilton involving a number of industry people who regularly use the APIWEB system. A number of desired outcomes were established and recommendations made.

In the months following this meeting an AsureQuality Business Analyst consulting with AsureQuality and the AFB PMP Management Board produced a tender scoping document; this has now gone out for independent review and initial costing. This initial work is being funded by the AFB PMP and AsureQuality as a lead in to a formal tender process.

5 Year Strategy Development

Submissions on the first draft of the 5 Year Strategy were very favourable. Some beekeepers have raised matters and ideas which had not been identified to date, while others provided significant amounts of technical detail, all of which was greatly appreciated.

The submissions were then compiled and have been worked through with the Board's strategic partners, AsureQuality and MPI.

It should be noted that some submitters expressed doubt about the value to be gained by developing a 5 Year Strategy. The AFB PMP Management Board has affirmed the need for change to create a more successful program for dealing with AFB. This will include looking at all aspects of AFB management and bringing the conclusions together in a way that enables beekeepers to engage in shaping the future.

Part of this process will be the development of strategic document setting out the plan for the future. Further consultation with the wider beekeeping community is critical to the process and is planned to commence in August.

The majority of beekeepers agree that change is necessary and the AFB PMP must be managed in a manner that reflects the present-day beekeeping environment. In addition, beekeepers are strong in the belief that non-compliant operators should be brought into line with stronger legal requirements and industry best practice. Beekeepers also agree that technology could be better utilised and communications improved.

The Board met in Lower Hutt 11 through 13 of June during which time lengthy discussion took place on further refining the draft strategy. The goal remains to reduce the incidence of clinical American Foulbrood to below 0.1% by 31 December 2022. The progression of an aggressive eradication plan will be subject to full industry support, including the active participation of MPI.

Of immediate importance in the short term is to establish industry standards that will:

- Recognise, reward and build on exemplary American Foulbrood Management Practice
- Recognise and affirm fully compliant American Foulbrood Management Practice.
- Support non-compliant apiarists to become compliant
- Make chronic non-compliance untenable

Underpinning the above will be the need to make system improvements including legal reform, provision of adequate resources, fit for purpose measurement and monitoring, better communications and engagement, robust compliance processes and training.

Development of MPI and (ApiNZ) – AFB PMP Operating Protocols

Following a recent audit of the New Zealand apicultural industry by China, MPI undertook an audit of the AFB PMP including the latter's relationship with MPI.

As a result of the auditor's findings and subsequent meetings between senior MPI management and the AFB PMP Management Board an Operating Protocol has been developed with the purpose of clearly defining roles and responsibilities to ensure levels of consistency and accountability between the organisations involved.

The document sets out the key areas where the parties involved will cooperate and the manner in which this will be done. For example statutory appointments, Official Information Act requests, surveillance and monitoring, enforcement. Also included is a comprehensive communications tree identifying key contacts in participating organisations.

The AFB PMP Management Board Chairman has corresponded with the Director General MPI in respect to MPI representation on the AFB PMP Board.

AFB Recognition Course Training

The AFB PMP Management Board continues to place a great deal of emphasis on facilitating AFB Recognition Training Courses on a nationwide basis. Courses are self-funding and generate a positive revenue stream for the AFB PMP.

The following table highlights the progress being made.

Calendar Year	Courses	Test via Proctor	Participants
2006	15	4	93
2008	88	36	264
2010	59	29	491
2012	39	7	490
2014	59	13	751
2016	65	24	1,127

There was a 6% test / assessment failure rate in 2016.

The target for 2017 is for 1,400 passes and in excess of 70 courses.

An AFB Recognition Course - Train the Trainers - is planned for Lower Hutt in late July. Those attending will be a mix of nominated company representatives as part of the Board's new in-house "large beekeeper" training initiative. This is focussed on consistent course delivery managed internally by approved company training staff. The balance will be from regions where we are light on the ground in terms of trainers.

An AFB refresher course programme in partnership with local clubs is gradually being rolled out.

It is appropriate that special thanks is accorded to the Board's AFB Recognition Course trainers who play a critical role in delivering the Board's annual training goals.

AFB Authorised Person Inspection Activity

A report summarising inspection work undertaken can be found on the AFB website under AFB Authorised Person Inspection Activity.

Retail Pack Honey Sampling Testing Programme

In order to meet the required legislative objectives, the AFB PMP Management Board coordinates on a timely basis a honey pack sample testing programme to assist in monitoring levels of AFB culture/spore counts in locally produced honey ready for sale to the consumer.

The honey samples are purchased from around the country by independent people who are not associated directly with the industry from a number of different sources ranging from supermarkets and health stores through to farmers markets and Trade Me. Once collected and collated the samples are delivered to the Ministry for Primary Industries Animal Health Laboratory (Wallaceville – Upper Hutt) for testing. This laboratory is ISO accredited and is recognised accordingly.

In October 2016, a total of 47 jars of honey were delivered to Wallaceville resulting in one sample having a reading of "heavy infestation" and another 6 testing for low infestation.

The AFB PMP Management Board has written to all 7 companies requesting production details including tracking information. These results have been handed over to AsureQuality for their recommendation.

The AFB PMP Management team have written to MPI seeking access to the export samples collected from RMP facilities so that the spore testing programme can be expanded to cover all industry production.

Requests for Information - The Official Information Act 1983

The AFB PMP Management Board has dealt with several requests for information under both the Official Information and Privacy Acts. Release of information has been managed in accordance with the legislation and formal Board policy. It should be noted such requests absorb both management time and levy payer resource.

Meeting Summary

To assist levy payers to understand the work undertaken by the AFB PMP Management Board and Management team and improve communication, a summary of the Board minutes is now placed on the AFB PMP website.

AFB PMP Text and Email Alerts

The AFB PMP Management Board continues to develop training and technology initiatives, designed to assist New Zealand beekeepers in determining the presence of AFB and its destruction.

The AFB Text and email alert system went live on 1 March 2017 with beekeepers embracing this improved reporting facility. The text notification advises beekeepers of an AFB notification (report) within 3 kilometres of the beekeepers apiary site, not a rob-out.

Notices of AFB rob-outs are emailed out byASUREQuality to neighbouring beekeepers.

Acknowledgement

The AFB Pest Management Plan is a substantial business, it has nearly 8000 shareholders with a 2017/18 budget of close to \$1 million, the complexity of the work involved, the dynamics of a fast growing industry and the need to be flexible and outcome focussed presents a very big challenge on a day to day basis.

The success of this business is reliant on good people delivering outstanding results, I wish to personally thank Rex Baynes & Janette Gwilliam for their commitment, it is never easy adapting to the level of change that has been implemented over the last 10 months; your contributions are appreciated.

To the Board - Kim, Russell, Frans, Jason & Gabriel – thank you for your considerable contribution, the industry needs to acknowledge the many unpaid hours that are required to actively manage your responsibilities. This level of commitment goes mostly unrecognised by the majority, something that must be addressed, as future industry growth will place greater demand on Board member's time.



John Hartnell
Chairman

AFB PMP Management Board