



Confidential to the ApiNZ Board and AFB Management Agency

American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan

Governance Report Apiculture New Zealand (Inc)

Report 5 – October 2017

**Report Compiled By
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Reported Incidents of American Foulbrood

Between 1 August and 30 September 2017, 469 cases of AFB were reported in 304 apiaries. The increase in cases of AFB compared to the August report is due to spring checks.

Looking at the 12 months to 30 September the disease incidence rate is 0.35% of hives and 2.86% of apiaries. The incidence rate continues to climb slowly as expected. The increase in migratory beekeeping poses higher risk of infection transfer hive to hive, as does inexperience and the desire to expand too quickly, all factors that must be monitored.

AFB PMP Management Board Meetings

So far in 2017 the Board has met on 4 separate occasions (2 day meetings plus) with a further and final meeting for 2017 scheduled for 16 and 17 November in Wellington.

Beekeeper, Apiary and Hive Numbers

The beekeeping industry remains in a significant growth phase unlike anything seen in recent history, however numbers have tended to level out since the last report in August. AsureQuality report 209 new beekeeper registrations were processed in the last 2 months, 3% down when compared to the same period last season. .

Year	Registered Beekeepers	Number of Apiaries	Number of Beehives
2000	4,864	21,633	299,172
2001	4,550	20,993	320,113
2002	3,973	20,258	305,152
2003	3,649	20,228	300,729
2004	3,211	19,592	292,530
2005	2,911	19,281	294,886
2006	2,694	18,954	300,728
2007	2,602	19,228	313,399
2008	2,589	20,439	343,155
2009 (June)	2,663	21,593	365,709
2010 (June)	2,957	22,440	376,672
2011 (June)	3,265	23,356	391,540
2012 (June)	3,802	25,309	425,498
2013 (February)	4,127	26,263	435,619
2013 (June)	4,273	27,142	453,820
2014 (February)	4,767	29,638	496,062
2015 (February)	5,396	33,462	546,837
2016 (February)	6,558	39,831	641,692
2017 (February)	7,758	49,080	787,310
2017 (June)	7,836	50,211	811,357
2017 (August)	7,785	50,764	812,443
2017 (September)	7,875	50,427	806,871

Beekeeper, Apiary and Hive Numbers by Apiary District

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. The AFB PMP Management Board has requested this statistical information be provided by way of New Zealand provincial boundaries. The Chairman has been advised

Register Location	Beekeeper Count	Apiary Count	Hive Count
Blenheim	605	4,443	54,428
Canterbury	1,049	6,066	80,505
Hamilton	730	5,371	109,286
Otago/Southland	651	3,993	52,706
Palmerston North	1,812	14,066	229,166
Tauranga	906	6,899	126,987
Whangarei	2,122	9,589	153,793
Totals	7,875	50,427	806,871

Annual Disease Returns (ADR's)

Annual Disease Returns were sent to 7,913 beekeepers in April 2017 as is required under the legislation.

6,282 beekeepers (79%) returned their ADR on time though a number of these were processed by AsureQuality after the 1 June deadline due to the volume of returns being handled by registrars at that time. As at 1 October 2017, 936 defaulters (12%) have yet to file their ADR.

The Board's concerns relating to the continued rate of non-compliance has been drawn to the attention of Mr Geoff Gwyn, Director, Readiness and Response with the Ministry for Primary Industries during the August AFB PMP Management Board meeting. Geoff is now a permanent member of this Board. MPI are now looking at what options we have within our current scope to take these offenders to task.

Of major concern is that 230 DECA holders are in breach of their obligations under their Conformity Agreement to lodge their ADR within the required 1 June deadline. Letters have been prepared notifying individual defaulting DECA holders that if their ADR is not lodged by a given date their DECA will be cancelled with no guarantees of reinstatement.

Certificate of Inspection (COI)

In August 2016, 3,296 non – accredited beekeepers received a Certificate of Inspection. By 15 December (legally imposed deadline), 2,320 COI's (70%) had been returned. There are currently 649 COI defaulters (20%) who have yet to file paperwork for the 2016/2017 season.

The consequence of being in default has yet to be established with MPI.

Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements DECA's

50.4 % of beekeepers currently hold a DECA, which has remained unchanged over recent months. With the significant increase in beekeeper numbers, this percentage has fallen from a historic high of almost 60%. In the two months to the 30 September 2017, 153 DECA applications were approved for existing beekeepers.

AFB Authorised Persons

- AP2 Survey

To aid in future planning the Board has referred to all AP2's a questionnaire in the form of a survey seeking feedback. Questions range from the volume of work undertaken, possible conflict of interests in completing the role, inspection follow up , Health and Safety, support levels from the various agencies and comments on the 5 year Strategy/Plan.

The Board has received a 90% plus response. A results summary document has already been prepared with further work required for presentation to the AFB PMP Management Board meeting in November.

- AP2 Instrument of Appointment Renewals

This task has been completed.

- AP2 Contracts

Work is now underway in completing the contract renewal process.

- AFB Inspection Program

The Pest Management Plan contractors AsureQuality advise that that over the last 2 months emphasis has been on communicating with AFB Authorised Persons (Inspectors) and allocating specific work to them.

In this report we tend not to provide specific detail by region however it is considered appropriate on this occasion to advise our serious concerns in regards the West Coast of the South Island. A recent in-depth inspection programme involving an AFB Authorised Person and Ms Chantel Rich of AsureQuality reveal major AFB issues in the Westport area. This has been historically an area of ongoing concern. The Manager and Chairman have discussed the situation and intend involving the Ministry for Primary Industries as the matter has gone on long enough.

- AFB Authorised Person Health and Safety Guidelines

In August 2016 the AFB PMP Secretariat launched the above guidelines, a project involving AFB Authorised Person consultation. In line with the new legislation a contractor's health and Safety committee has been appointed whose task it is to represent the AFB Authorised Persons with the aim of keeping the guidelines up to date and relevant. A review of the guidelines in consultation with the contractor representatives will be undertaken annually.

AFB Recognition Course Training

- Training Courses

As reported in June the AFB PMP Management Board continues to place a great deal of emphasis on facilitating AFB Recognition Training Courses (with test) on a nationwide basis. Note: Courses are self-funding and generate a positive revenue stream for the AFB PMP.

The following table is referred for your information.

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
2017 (as at 9 October)	80	17	1,110

There are 7 AFB Recognition Courses (with test) scheduled for the remainder of 2017. This number might increase based on demand.

The Pest Management Plan's goal for 2017 was to facilitate 85 AFB Recognition Courses (with test) with 1,400 participants.

In addition to the above 18 AFB Recognition Refresher Courses (no test) will have also been completed.

- AFB Recognition Course Trainer Moderation Programme

The AFB PMP Pest Management Plan now has 34 trainers in place and with that comes the need to ensure there is a consistent delivery and message standard reached. The Manager and Board member Ms Kim Poynter are working on a proposal for Board consideration based around a modern day self-assessment philosophy

- Refresher Course Training

There are currently 6 courses scheduled, some of which are being coordinated via local beekeeping clubs.

5 Year Strategy (American Foulbrood Eradicated by 2030)

The Board continues to progress the 5 Year Strategy with timely input from the Ministry for Primary Industries. The most recent version (Version 3.7 – Consultation Draft 2) has in the last few days been forwarded to industry for comment by 30 November 2017. The APINZ Board are asked to note that certain key actions emanating from the initial draft strategy are already being worked on. It is the Board's intention to launch the finalised strategy in early 2018, to be followed by consultation relating to the Pest Management Plan and Levy Orders.

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

It is anticipated this document will be confirmed and signed off by both MPI and the AFB PMP Management Board Chairman shortly.

Apiculture New Zealand Conference 2018 in Blenheim

The AFB PMP secretariat intend to continue their support of the Industry Good programme launched two years ago and will be attending the APINZ Conference in 2018 scheduled for Blenheim. The AFB PMP Management Board considers a presence at conference to be an important opportunity to communicate the AFB PMP message on a face to face basis.

AsureQuality / AFB PMP Management Team Meeting

The Chairman and Manager have since the beginning of the year met with AsureQuality management on 5 separate occasions with at least one more meeting scheduled before years end. These meetings are proving to be crucial in ensuring all “committed to” tasks are completed and the expected levels of accountability are met. All meetings are minuted with supporting action points.

AFB PMP Financial Year Budget 2016/2017

All necessary documentation including electronic and hard copy data has been sent to the auditors. There is a legal requirement that documentation be in the hands of the auditors by 31 October of each year. Audited accounts have been requested by mid-December and will be placed on the AFB PMP website by upon receipt.

Technology

Our contractors AsureQuality advise the APIWEB redevelopment is progressing with a drafted RFI (Request for Information) due to be sent out to four interested parties in early to mid-October 2017. It is anticipated that proposals will be received over a six- week period and will be reviewed through December 2017 and January 2018.

Access to the Apiary Database via Citrix is no longer possible and a replacement service accessed via the AsureQuality GIS (Geographic Information Systems platform is now available. This access requires that users have an ESRI ARC (Company Name) GIS online licence which the AFB PMP Secretariat is in the process of procuring.

Additional work has also commenced at mapping risk apiaries for the purposes of AFB Authorised Person inspection planning. This is information that will also be provided to the secretariat via ESRI ARC and their GIS platform once licencing is in place, thereby allowing increased visibility and live reporting covering inspector activity in relation to risk areas.

Website www.afb.org.nz

The website continues to have a high level of visitor activity far greater than expected. Registrations for training are received via the site.

The placement of the website on a new more efficient operating platform has commenced along with a review of the site.