

Confidential to the ApiNZ Board and AFB Management Agency

American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan

Governance Report Apiculture New Zealand (Inc)

Report 3 – June 2017

**Report Compiled By
Rex Baynes
AFB NPMP Manager
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Reported Incidents of American Foulbrood

Between 1 April and 31 May 2017, 327 cases of AFB were reported in 194 apiaries.

For the 12 months to 31 May 2017 the disease incidence rate equates to 0.33% of hives in 2.76% of apiaries. The incidence rate is slightly elevated from the earlier report however the difference is not statistically significant.

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, is typical for this process. It is difficult to manage this as any action taken against these late reports is likely to result in under reporting. This matter is being addressed by the AFB PMP Management Board.

Beekeeper, Apiary and Hive Numbers

The beekeeping industry remains in a significant growth phase unlike anything seen in recent history. AsureQuality report 302 new beekeeper registrations were processed in the last 2 months, which while still considered high, has dropped significantly to that of previous months.

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

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.

Register Location	Beekeeper Count	Apiary Count	Hive Count
Blenheim	607	4,545	58,334
Canterbury	1,052	5,693	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

Annual Disease Returns (ADR's)

Annual Disease Returns were sent to 7,913 beekeepers in April 2017. On the 1st June 2017, 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 previous years where documentation has been mailed. There were several teething issues however overall given the numbers involved it was a pleasing result especially given the increase use of the online ApiWeb portal.

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. Since then a further 184 (6%) have been returned late leaving 792 outstanding. 4 COI's were returned in the 2 months to 31 March 2017.

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

Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements DECA's

49% 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 31 May 2017, just 22 DECA applications were approved for existing beekeepers. DECA's are activated 12 months after the exam is sat and passed. Over the same period 172 new beekeepers (almost eight times as many) beekeepers entered the industry.

AFB Inspection Program

The routine surveillance aspect of the AFB Authorised Person inspection programme was tightly managed over the last 2 months to allow the AP2's to complete allocated work, however reported AFB outbreaks and issues of concerns raised by beekeepers continue to be followed up promptly.

Emailing of 2017/2018 Levy Invoices

In the April report it was noted that following a series of trials some 7,500 beekeepers received their levy invoices by email. Beekeepers who did not provide an email address received their invoice by conventional mail. Overall the emailing of invoices proved successful however the AFB PMP Management Board will undertake a review in order to establish the reasons why the percentage of payments received at various dates (pre 1 June) was lower than under the previous New Zealand Post mailout.

AFB Recognition Course Training

As reported in April the AFB PMP Management Board continues to place a great deal of emphasis on facilitating AFB Recognition Training Courses 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

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

In the April report we identified a target 1,300 passes and in excess of 70 courses as being the goal for 2017. This has subsequently been reviewed and we are looking at a figure of 1,400 and 75 courses respectively.

An AFB Recognition Course Train the Trainers course is planned for Taupo in Late July. Those attending will be a mix of nominated company representatives (from large organisations) as part of the Board's in-house training initiative. The balance will be from regions where we are light on the ground in terms of trainers.

The refresher course initiative outlined in the April report is slowly being rolled out.

5 Year Strategy

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

Work is concluding on the above that which will establish clearly defined operating protocols to ensure levels of consistency and accountability between the organisations involved, these being Ministry for Primary Industries, Apiculture New Zealand (Inc) and the AFB PMP.

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, OIA requests, surveillance and monitoring, enforcement. Also included is a comprehensive communications tree identifying the key contacts in all organisations.

On 13 June the Board met with MPI representatives John Sanson and Megan Verry, the objective being to progress the various tasks agreed to by both parties at an earlier joint meeting in April. Board members consider this meeting worthwhile with an action sheet being received from Megan within 3 hours of the meeting concluding. It was noted that it is important that we see a culture change at all levels within MPI, we must turn the perception from villain to hero.

The AFB PMP Chairman is still to receive a reply to his 8 May 2017 letter to the Director General of MPI regarding MPI representation on the AFB Board. This matter may be resolved on 16 June during a meeting between the Director General and John Hartnell in Wellington

Apiculture New Zealand Conference 2017

As with last year the AFB PMP Management Board has agreed to participate by taking up the offer of a stand in the industry good section of the trade display area.

It is generally accepted that last year's effort was very successful as a strong communication tool with a great many delegates taking the opportunity to interact with the AFB PMP representatives.

AsureQuality

Regular face to face meetings with AsureQuality management continues with the last meeting having taken place in Christchurch on 31 May 2017.

Website www.afb.org.nz

The website continues to have a high level of visitor activity with visitors at a higher than expected level. Registrations for training are received via the site.

The Board have agreed to a website review and upgrade to make it more user friendly.

Rex Baynes
AFB NPMP Manager