



July Update

AFB Spore Testing of Retail Honey Pack Samples (for your information)

The AFB PMP Management Board is increasing the testing programme relating to retail packs collected on an independent national basis from the domestic market place, including supermarkets, farmers markets and other sales outlets such as Trade Me.

The results provide a snapshot in time as to the status of AFB spores in extracted honey from known apiaries. This retail test programme is undertaken every six months as we seek to build up a creditable results profile. Testing is undertaken by MPI National Animal Health Laboratory (ISO Accredited) in Wallaceville, Upper Hutt.

This programme will be expanded in the near future to capture results from honey that is destined for export markets either in bulk or retail form.

Key Documents that you should be aware of

The influx of new beekeepers entering the industry has highlighted the need for increased education relating to two key documents which must be completed during the year. These are the **Certificates of Inspection**, and the **Annual Disease Return**.

Certificates of Inspection (COIs)

This document is **sent out at the start of the beekeeping season in August** every year. The **COI** is only sent to beekeepers that do not hold a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (**DECA**). The **COI** document **must be returned by the 30th of November**. To finalise, complete and return the **COI**, the beekeeper must have every hive they own inspected for AFB by an Approved Beekeeper who has held a **DECA** for over two years.

To find an approved beekeeper to inspect your hive, you can refer to our website for a list of beekeepers who have volunteered to help with inspections. Alternatively contact this office and we can mail you a copy.

A **COI** is no longer required once a beekeeper successfully sits an AFB Disease Recognition test, completes the mandatory 12 month education period and has their DECA approved by AsureQuality qualifies to hold a **DECA**.

Annual Disease Returns (ADRs)

This document is **sent out at the end of the season in April** every year. They are sent to every registered beekeeper (even those without hives), **and must be returned by the 1st of June**. This is an important biosecurity document, we ask that you check and update your contact details, including email and cell phone, your apiary information, record any sales or purchases of bees made in the previous year, and ensure that all AFB finds have been reported (AFB infected hives are to be destroyed and AsureQuality notified within 7 days). An inspection of your hives is **not required** to complete your Annual Disease Return.



AFB Recognition Courses

The successful completion of an AFB Recognition Course (with test) is a key step for eligible beekeepers as they seek to achieve DECA status; we encourage all beekeepers to sit this course, which is held up and down the country throughout the year.

If you wish to attend, please submit an online application via our website – please visit www.afb.org.nz to register and obtain further information. Alternatively contact this office and we take your registration information over the phone.

Already a DECA Holder?

We are now running AFB Refresher courses throughout the year. The course is 90 minutes long with no test. As an option you may attend the full AFB Recognition Course above (without the test) if there are no scheduled refreshers being held in your area. Please visit www.afb.org.nz to register and obtain further information. Alternatively contact this office and we take your registration information over the phone.

If you have any queries regarding the AFB Recognition courses, please contact Janette on training@afb.org.nz or ring the office – all our courses are very popular, so please get in early.

Ministry for Primary Industries Representation on the AFB Board

To strengthen the partnership between MPI and the AFB PMP Management Board an invitation has been issued to the Director General MPI for a senior agency representative to attend and contribute to the AFB PMP Board Meetings.

Beekeeper Legal Responsibilities (did you know)

The Biosecurity Act 1933 requires beekeepers to comply with certain rules, some of which are highlighted below.

Clause 12 (1) A person who keeps honey bees must keep those honey bees in moveable frame hives.

Clause 13 (1) Every person in charge of the keeping of honey bees must ensure the normal access to honey bees, bee products and appliances is kept free from vegetation that would impede or prevent inspection.

Clause 14 (1) No person may use any drug, substances, or mixture of substances in relation to apiaries, honey bees, appliances or bee products that has the effect of masking, obscuring or concealing symptoms of American Foulbrood or increasing the difficulty of detecting the disease or *Paenibacillus* larvae.

Clause 28 (1) Where an American Foulbrood case is discovered in a beehive, the beekeeper who owns that beehive must, within 7 days of becoming aware of that case, destroy by burning all honey bees, bee products and appliance associated with that honey bee colony unless directed otherwise by an Authorised Person.

AFB Annual Report

A copy of the 2017 Annual Report and Conference 2017 presentations are now available on the AFB website. A copy of this report can be posted to you on request.

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