



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

**Marlborough Convention Centre  
Alfred Street Blenheim**

**20 July 2018  
(Friday)**

**Report prepared by:  
Clifton King, National Compliance Manager**



# National Compliance Managers Report

## *National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan*

I am pleased to present my first National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan Report to the Apiculture New Zealand Annual General Meeting.

My first seven months as National Compliance Manager have been focused on managing the transition from Rex Baynes to myself, assessing the current AFB control programme, and planning changes that will deliver much lower levels of AFB than beekeepers are currently experiencing.

### **Reported Incidence of American Foulbrood, June 2017 – May 2018**

Beekeepers notified 2,806 cases (0.32% of hives) of American foulbrood (AFB) in the 12 months to 31 May 2018. 2,614 cases (0.33% of hives) were notified with AFB in the 12 months to 31 May 2017.

The annual incidence of AFB has increased at a rate of 15% per year since 2015 (1,210 cases notified, 0.21% of hives) in response to the rapid growth in the beekeeping industry. These statistics confirm the Management Agency Boards decision to develop and consult on a new 5-year strategy to eliminate AFB in 2016/17.

### **American Foulbrood 5-Year Strategy**

The Management Agency has worked with the Ministry for Primary Industries to plan the approach to amending the AFB National Pest Management Plan and Levy Orders required to progress the 5-year strategy. This process revealed that it would cost the Management Agency \$250,000 to amend both the plan and levy orders, and that most of the 5-year strategy could be implemented through more appropriate resourcing of the existing National Pest Management Plan Order.

The Management Agency Board has decided that full implementation of the existing National Pest Management Plan is the most appropriate mechanism for reducing the levels of AFB in New Zealand and that an increase in the levy is required to fund full implementation. The proposal to amend the levy order was announced during the AFB ApiNZ conference presentation on Monday 23 July 2018.

### **ApiWeb Upgrade**

Upgrading ApiWeb to make it easier for beekeepers to register apiaries and complete Annual Disease Returns is a key initiative to both reduce compliance costs and encourage beekeepers to meet these obligations.

A Request For Information to upgrade ApiWeb was released to suppliers in October 2017. The upgrade was to be jointly funded by the Management Agency, Ministry for Primary Industries and AsureQuality. In February 2018 AsureQuality advised the Management Agency that the expected cost of the project was \$500,000, which is significantly greater than expected, and that AsureQuality would not be able to contribute financially to the project.

The Management Agency and Ministry for Primary Industries have decided that this project will not proceed as proposed, and that a more cost-effective solution that supports full implementation of the National Pest Management Plan, and wider honey bee biosecurity, food safety and export assurance requirements will be developed. This project will be progressed after the Minister has decided whether to amend the levy order.

## **Honey Survey Results**

Seventy-nine risk management premises and retail honey samples have been tested for the presence of AFB spores by the Ministry for Primary Industries Wallaceville laboratory. All samples tested negative for AFB.

## **Thank you!**

I'd like to thank the AFB Recognition Course Trainers, Inspectors (AP2's), the Apiculture Team atASUREQuality Ltd, and Janette for their work operating and administering the National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan. Managing AFB is frequently challenging, and your efforts do make a difference.

I'd also like to thank the many beekeepers I've met thus far. I have appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, whether over the phone or in person and gain a better understanding of your perspectives on how we can work together to eliminate AFB.

**Clifton King**  
**National Compliance Manager**