



Confidential to the ApiNZ Board and AFB Management Agency

American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan

Governance Report Apiculture New Zealand (Inc)

Report 17 – April 2020

Report Compiled By
Clifton King
AFB NPMP Compliance Manager



Highlights Report

1. National Bee Health System Procurement

The Evaluation panel was impressed with the quality of registrations and decided that 5 of the 8 vendors should be invited to respond to the RFP.

The RFP was developed and released to 5 vendors on 5 March 2020. All 5 vendors submitted proposals by the deadline of 9 April 2020.

Vendor presentations are scheduled for the 1st week of May and the preferred supplier is expected to be confirmed by the end of May.

2. Implementation of the new Hive and Beekeeper Levy Order

Cabinet approved the new levy order and it was notified in the *NZ Gazette* on 19 March 2020. The new levy came into force on 16 April 2020.

Levy invoices will be sent out with the combined Annual Disease Return / Colony Return forms during the week of 20 April 2020. Beekeepers are able to submit their Colony Returns via ApiWeb.

3. COVID-19

The Management Agency is an essential service and able to continue operating during COVID-19 alert level 4. The following changes have been made to protect the health and safety of staff, contractors, beekeepers or the wider public:

- All staff are now working from home offices.
- All AFB Recognition courses have been suspended from 23 March 2020 until further notice.
- All AFB apiary inspections were suspended for a 4-week period from 26 March 2020.
- An Apiary Inspection Policy for COVID alerts levels 4, 3 and 2 is currently being finalised. AFB inspections are expected to resume by 28 April 2020.

4. Transition Planning

The high-level plan to transition services provided by AsureQuality to the Management Agency has been approved by the Management Agency Board. Detailed planning is currently underway. The Management Agency has hired 2 excellent candidates for the Apiary Coordinators roles, and has re-advertised the Operations Manager role.

5. Verification of honeybee products for export

The Management Agency has been informed that MPI will not be prosecuting a beekeeper for making false Harvest Declarations in 2019, as MPI Legal are of the opinion that the Harvest Declaration form is legally unenforceable as drafted.

The beekeeper continues to be a Listed Beekeeper with MPI despite the Management Agency having evidence of him committing multiple serious offenses against the Biosecurity Act 1993.

The Management Agency Board has serious concerns about the integrity of official assurances for exported honeybee products and has sought assurances from the MPI personnel present at the Board meeting that there is a plan to address the integrity of the official assurance system. The Board was advised by MPI personnel that the COVID-19 response was the priority at MPI at the moment, however, follow-up enquires about Board's concerns would be made.

Appendix: American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan AFB NPMP Progress & Activity Report

AFB PMP Management Board Meetings

The Board had its 1st and 2nd meetings for the year on 14 February and 8 April 2020.

Reported Incidents of American Foulbrood

Between 1 February and 31 March 2020, 550 cases of AFB were reported in 251 apiaries.

The annual infection rate is 0.30% of hives and 2.14% of apiaries.

Beekeeper, Apiary and Hive Numbers

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 (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 (June)	7,836	50,211	811,357
2018 (June)	8,633	55,942	888,400
2019 (June)	9,378	59,019	921,522
2019 (August)	9,217	58,861	921,387
2019 (October)	9,240	58,791	917,411
2020 (February)	9,807	61,311	970,947
2020 (April)	9,905	61,490	944,022

Apiary, Hive and Disease Numbers by Regional Council

AsureQuality is now reporting apiary, hive and disease statistics by regional council. The following table includes data for the 12 months to 31 March 2020.

RegionName	Total Current Apiaries	Total Current Hives	Total Diseased Apiaries	Total Diseased Hives	Overall Apiary Prevalence	Overall Hive Prevalence
Northland	7104	109996	125	243	1.76%	0.22%
Auckland	3961	37214	84	133	2.12%	0.36%
Waikato	8067	145406	133	278	1.65%	0.19%
Bay of Plenty	3566	63478	62	113	1.74%	0.18%
Gisborne	1980	36883	26	150	1.31%	0.41%
Hawke's Bay	4049	65801	77	122	1.90%	0.19%
Taranaki	3141	44847	28	73	0.89%	0.16%
Manawatu-Wanganui	7767	142874	84	133	1.08%	0.09%
Wellington	4598	68757	150	344	3.26%	0.50%
West Coast	1202	13605	32	66	2.66%	0.49%
Canterbury	7542	104404	317	793	4.20%	0.76%
Otago	3319	38927	64	118	1.93%	0.30%
Southland	1125	15722	35	86	3.11%	0.55%
Tasman	1803	22284	35	56	1.94%	0.25%
Nelson	434	2479	10	14	2.30%	0.56%
Marlborough	1812	30957	55	97	3.04%	0.31%
Outside Regions	20	388	1	1	5.00%	0.26%
Totals	61490	944022	1318	2820	2.14%	0.30%

Annual Disease Returns (ADR's)

Annual Disease Returns were sent to 9,638 beekeepers in April 2019. 905 remain outstanding (9%).

Certificates of Inspection

Col inspection forms were sent to 4,548 beekeepers. 70% of beekeeper completed their Col by the due date. The Management Agency has prioritising default inspections for beekeepers that defaulted on both their 2017 ADR and 2017 Col.

Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements DECA's

In the 2 months to 31 March 2020, 32 DECA applications were approved.

AFB Recognition Course Training

AFB Recognition course training has been suspended effective 23 March 2020 as a result of COVID-19. In the interim beekeepers have been encouraged watch the videos on the Management Agency website as well as viewing the pages on recognising AFB.

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	91	28	1,224
2018	108	111	1,327
2019	96	127	1,106
2020	11	1	154

Clifton King
AFB NPMP Compliance Manager