



**Confidential to the ApiNZ Board and AFB Management Agency**

# **American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan**

## **Governance Report Apiculture New Zealand (Inc)**

### **Report 20 – November 2020**

Report Compiled By  
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## Highlights Report

### 1. National Bee Health System Project

Development of the National Bee Health System has been a major undertaking for the Management Agency. The project is not just an IT project. It is also a business change project where the Management Agency has taken the opportunity to:

- correct issues associated with the ApiWeb/Apiary Database system that are not consistent with the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998
- redesign suboptimal business processes that represent workarounds for functionality limitations associated with the ApiWeb/Apiary database system, and
- place beekeeper and Management Agency staff requirements at the centre of the development process.

The project has made good progress but is running 4 weeks behind schedule as there is more complexity and detail than was recognised when the analysis and planning was completed in July 2020.

The National Compliance Manager and Smartapps Project Manager are currently replanning the User Acceptance Test and Piloting phases of the project to assess whether it is feasible to make up time during these phases or whether 'go-live' previously scheduled for late January 2021 should be pushed back to early February 2021.

The National Bee Health System is on target to deliver the following additional features beekeepers are not supported by ApiWeb:

- Support for multiple devices including tablets, smartphones and Apple computers
- Ability to register, deregister, update apiaries and notify AFB cases using a mapping interface
- Ability to register, deregister, update apiaries and notify AFB cases via an iOS or Android app. This includes offline functionality that will enable beekeepers to complete these tasks when they do not have cellular coverage.
- Simplified process for submitting Annual Disease Returns and Colony Returns
- Ability to complete Certificates of Inspection online
- Ability to apply for DECA's online

The system also includes numerous enhancements provided to Management Agency staff that will streamline Management Agency processes and enable Management Agency staff to spend less time managing data and more time using data to improve the elimination of AFB.

The ApiNZ Board should note that significant improvements in the mapping functionality provided to beekeepers will cause many beekeepers will realise that significant numbers of their apiary locations are recorded incorrectly. Some beekeepers will presume that this represents a fault with the National Bee Health System as they did not previously recognise that their apiary locations were recorded incorrectly in ApiWeb.

The Management Agency will highlight that it is aware that the location of many apiaries was recorded incorrectly in ApiWeb and will proactively send out communications to beekeepers advising them how to use the new system to recognise apiaries with incorrect coordinates correct them.

## **2. Ombudsman Investigation**

A beekeeper has made a complaint to the Ombudsmans office regarding a decision to decline his OIA requested. ApiNZ has responded to the Ombudsman Office and we await their response.

## **3. Consultation on rate of levy for 2021/22**

The proposed 2021/22 budget was released for consultation on 9 September and closed on 25 September 2020. 104 submissions were received.

Submissions have been analysed by an independent consultant and presented to the Management Agency Board at its meeting on 6 November 2020. The National Compliance is currently writing the minutes of the meeting and the decision will be announced in December 2020.

## **4. AFB Surveillance and Enforcement**

From 1 August to 30 October AP2s inspected 9,465 beehives and found 107 cases of AFB.

66 unregistered apiaries were identified. 65 of these apiaries have now been registered or are in the process of being registered. One apiary has been destroyed.

A significant number of beekeepers found to have unregistered apiaries are repeat offenders, and the Management Agency is cancelling their DECA's according to the Operational Plan.

An additional 3 beekeeping operations have been confirmed as High Risk Beekeeping operation (>10% AFB found at the time of AP2 inspection). The Management Agency has inspected all beehives owned by the beekeepers, ensured that all AFB hives were destroyed, issued a s128 notices and cancelled their DECA. The Management Agency will conduct follow up inspections in 6 months' time.

Following up default inspections were conducted on 6 beekeepers previously identified as High Risk Beekeeping operations. The follow up inspections have confirmed that twice yearly inspections combined with burning contaminated gear is a highly effective method for achieving rapid reductions in the level of AFB in a beekeeping operation.

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

Note: The Management Agency has ceased bimonthly reporting by AsureQuality and consequently the reporting in this section is more limited than usual. New reports will be established after the National Bee Health System has gone live.

### **AFB PMP Management Board Meetings**

The Board had its 5th meeting for the year on 6 November 2020.

### **Reported Incidents of American Foulbrood**

The annual infection rate is 0.304% of hives

### **Beekeeper, Apiary and Hive Numbers**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Registered Beekeepers</b>	<b>Number of Apiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beehives</b>
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
2020 (June)	9,745	61,017	879,007
2020 (July)	9,544	60,496	856,703
2020 (November)	9,688	60,714	855,302

### **Annual Disease Returns (ADR's)**

Annual Disease Returns were sent to 9,975 beekeepers in April 2020. 52% completed their ADR by the deadline of 1 June. As at 4 August 2020, 1,442 ADR's remain outstanding of which 73 are DECA holders. The DECA holders have had their DECA's cancelled by the Management Agency.

### **Certificates of Inspection**

Certificates of Inspection were sent to all beekeepers without a DECA byASUREQuality in early August. Management Agency Apiary Coordinators are responsible for checking and entering completed DECA's and providing support for beekeeper enquiries.

As of 27 October 2020, 3,568 beekeepers had yet to submit a Certificate of Inspection. These beekeepers were sent an email reminder on 27 October 2020.

The National Compliance Manager has asked ASUREQuality to issue a further SMS reminder to beekeepers with outstanding COIs on 9 November 2020.

### **Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements DECA's**

52% of beekeepers have a DECA.

### **AFB Recognition Course Training**

Attendance at training courses has been impacted as a consequence of the COVID-19 lock downs and reduced demand for courses during alert level 1.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Test via Proctor</b>	<b>Participants</b>
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	54	1	583

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