

LET'S TALK

THE NEXT 10 YEARS OF THE
PMP FOR AFB ELIMINATION



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THE AFB PMP

We all want to protect the beekeeping industry against the effects of clinical AFB.

The Biosecurity Order 1998 (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) is due to expire on April 1st, 2023. This is what holds beekeepers accountable for the identification and destruction of infected beehives, to prevent the spread of disease.

Your ideas and feedback will help to develop the AFB PMP for another ten years, beyond April 1st, 2023.


THE AFB ELIMINATION GOAL

The goal of the AFB PMP is to eliminate clinical AFB from managed beehives in New Zealand.

AFB is everywhere, including in soil, so eradicating the organism is an impossibility. But, we can eliminate the infection from managed beehives in NZ.

If AFB hives are identified and destroyed before they infect 1 other hive (on average), then elimination will occur.

Eliminating AFB is highly dependent on beekeepers actively using best practice.




The minimum infective dose for a beehive is 5 million spores. Clinical disease is prevented by avoiding the introduction of large numbers of spores into beehives.

HOW DOES THE AFB PMP ENABLE ELIMINATION?

- **It specifies baseline AFB elimination obligations applicable to all beekeepers.**
 - Registration and identification of apiaries
 - Beehive inspections for AFB and notification of AFB cases
 - Destruction of AFB cases and rules to prevent the spread of AFB
- **Provides beekeepers with the opportunity to commit to eliminating AFB through Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements (DECA).**
 - Additional AFB inspection obligations
 - Additional traceability obligations
 - May permit sterilisation of appliances
 - Exempt from Certificate of Inspection requirements
- **Gives The Management Agency powers to monitor beekeeper compliance and take enforcement action.**

The collective commitment of DECA holders to inspect and eliminate AFB from their hives is critical to eliminating clinical AFB from managed beehives in New Zealand. The Management Agency is responsible for monitoring DECA holders AFB elimination performance.

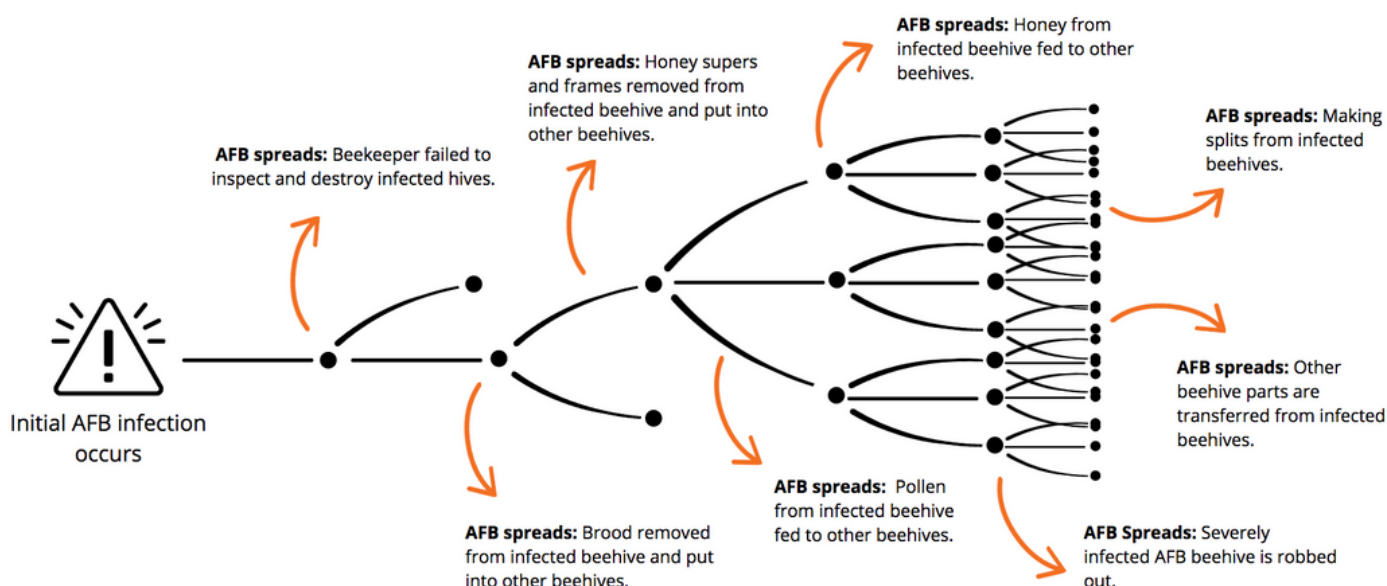


Eliminating clinical AFB will reduce colony losses, reduce costs and increase production.

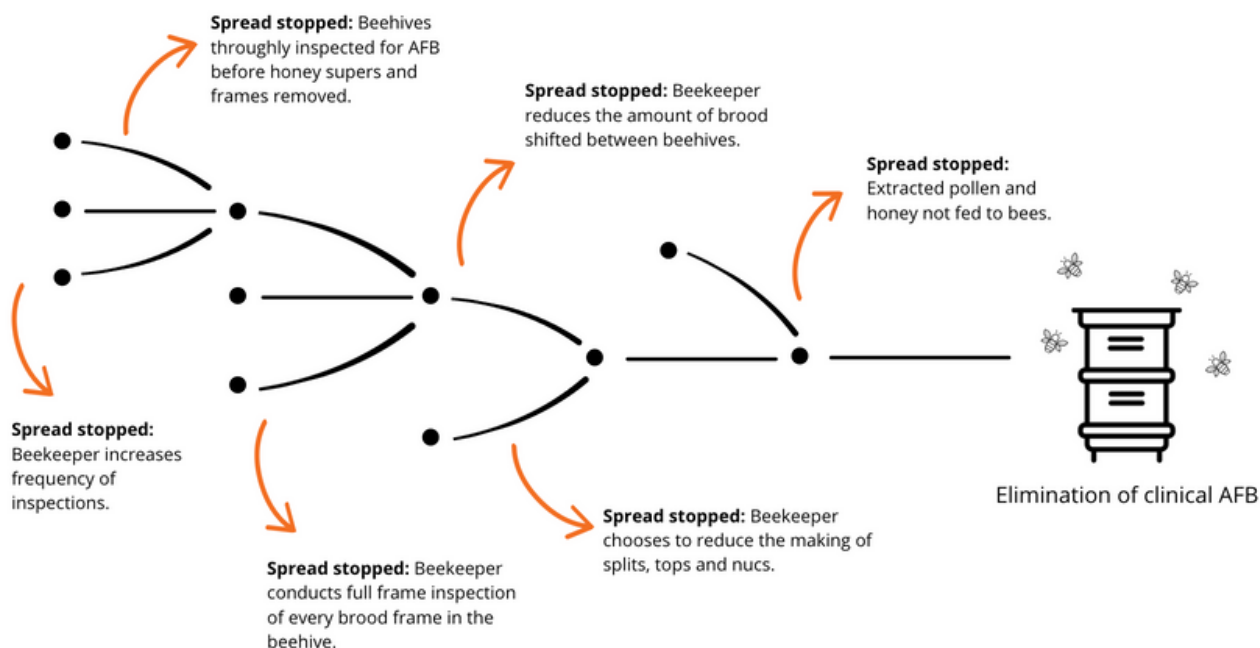
CONTROLLING THE SPREAD

Beekeepers can stop the spread of AFB infections by continuing to use best practice. Only a minimal number of AFB infections occur for reasons beyond the control of beekeepers.

Failure to adequately inspect beehives and destroy cases of AFB



Adequately inspecting beehives and destroying cases of AFB



HAVE YOUR SAY

THE FUTURE OF THE AFB PMP

The Management Agency is reviewing the current AFB PMP before drafting a proposal for the next 10 years of AFB PMP.

We are consulting with beekeepers and will use your ideas to form the proposal.

It's important that all beekeepers have their say.

We're conducting three rounds of consultation with beekeepers.

- **Consultation Round 1: 24 June - 11 July 2021 (Complete)**

Beekeepers were invited to share their ideas on the AFB PMP via an online survey.

- **Consultation Round 2: November - December 2021**

We used your input from Round 1 to propose changes to the AFB PMP. We will inform, engage and consult with beekeepers on issues and opportunities.

- **Consultation Round 3: June - August 2022**

Your Round 2 feedback will enable us to propose detailed changes to the AFB PMP. We will then seek your feedback prior to the submission of the proposal.

- **Submission of Proposal: September - October 2022**

We will submit our detailed proposal to the Minister.

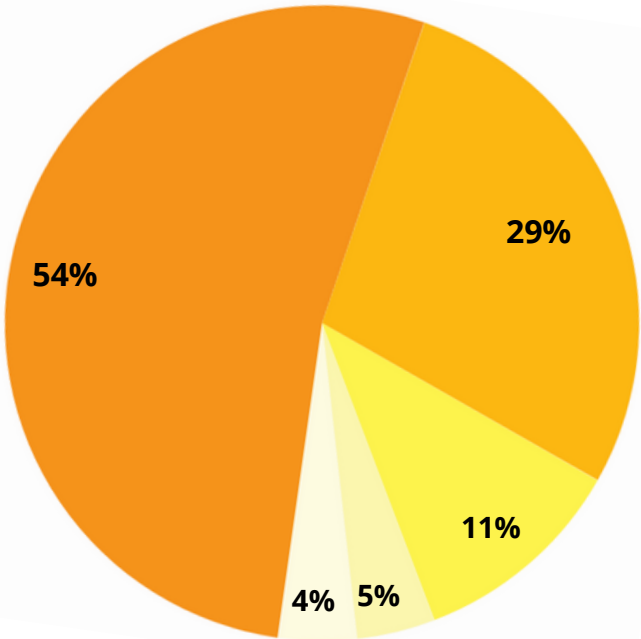
Consultation timeframes are indicative only.

WHAT WE HEARD

YOUR STANCE ON LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

During the 1st round of consultation we asked you, "What do you think about beekeeper legal obligations to eliminate AFB?"

No changes to legal obligations required.
Some changes to legal obligations required.
Major changes to some legal obligations are required.
Major changes to most legal obligations are required.
No legal obligations required.



YOUR TOP 4 PRIORITIES FOR THE AFB PMP

- **Education, training, and support** to ensure that all beekeepers know how to eliminate AFB.
- **Beekeeper commitment and practices** to eliminate AFB.
- **Surveillance and prevention** to verify that all beekeepers are meeting their AFB elimination obligations.
- **Enforcement and penalties** to deter beekeepers from non-compliance and to mitigate the impacts of non-compliance.



BEEKEEPER SUBMISSIONS

EDUCATION, TRAINING & SUPPORT

Submissions for training, education and support to ensure that all beekeepers know how to eliminate AFB:

1. Training to be mandatory
2. More education and information to be available
3. Improve training courses / materials
4. Courses to be free or lower cost

OUR RESPONSE TO YOUR SUBMISSIONS

- **Training to be mandatory**
 - Pest management plans cannot compel people to complete training. But, we can propose that the AFB PMP be amended to require the completion of refresher training every 5 years to retain a DECA.
 - And that beekeepers employed by a DECA holder must attend AFB recognition and refresher training as a condition of the DECA.
- **More education and information to be available**
 - The Management Agency is planning to review and update the AFB Recognition course, including course promotion.
- **Improve training courses / materials**
 - The Management Agency proposes to develop online refresher training.
- **Courses to be free or lower cost**
 - It is more equitable to fund training courses through course fees than levies.



BEEKEEPER SUBMISSIONS

COMMITMENT & PRACTICES

Submissions for beekeeper commitment and best practices to eliminate AFB:

1. Beekeepers need to play their part and comply with AFB obligations
2. Vigilance and good beekeeping practices are vital
3. Some beekeepers flout the rules, are indifferent, or don't know about them
4. The Management Agency can help through more support and engagement

OUR RESPONSE TO YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Changing the culture of the beekeeping industry in a positive way is bigger than The Management Agency - we all have important roles to play.

- **All beekeepers**
 - Encourage fellow beekeepers to implement good AFB elimination practices and report suspected non-compliances to The Management Agency.
- **The Management Agency**
 - Provide AFB elimination advice and promotes best practice for elimination via training courses, website, communication materials, presentations.
- **Beekeeper organisations and clubs**
 - Promote good AFB elimination practices and senior beekeeper support for new beekeepers.

BEEKEEPER SUBMISSIONS

SURVEILLANCE & PREVENTION

Submissions for beekeeper surveillance and prevention to verify that all beekeepers are meeting their AFB elimination obligations:

1. Detect non-compliant beekeepers and beekeeping practices
 - Unregistered beekeepers
 - Unregistered apiaries
 - Abandoned apiaries
2. Target areas of AFB outbreaks
3. Contact tracing / regulate beehive & equipment sales
4. Increase AP2 apiary inspections
5. Require honey testing for AFB spores
6. Honey test results to be provided to The Management Agency

OUR RESPONSE TO YOUR SUBMISSIONS

1. Detect non-compliant beekeepers and beekeeping practices

The Management Agency assesses all cases of suspected non-compliance reported to The Management Agency. Beekeepers can assist by ensuring that they report suspected non-compliances to The Management Agency.

2. Target areas of AFB outbreaks

The Management Agency routinely assesses all AFB notifications and targets areas with clusters of disease for inspection. Beekeepers can assist this process by ensuring that they report all of their cases of AFB within 7 days.

3. Contact tracing / regulate beehive & equipment sales

The Management Agency proposes that beehive traceability is strengthened by:

- A new plan rule requiring beekeepers to notify The Management Agency of beehive sales and purchases within 7 days of the transaction, and
- Amend the Annual Disease Return transfer of beehive ownership requirements to require notification of the Beekeeper Registration Number .

BEEKEEPER SUBMISSIONS



OUR RESPONSE TO YOUR SUBMISSIONS

4. Increase AP2 apiary inspections

The Management Agency agrees that increasing the number of AP2 apiary inspections would enable more effective monitoring of beekeeper compliance with their AFB elimination obligations. However, increasing the number of apiary inspections requires increased levy funding. The Management Agency considers both the value of additional inspections and the cost of increasing the levy when setting the rate of levy.

5. Require honey testing for AFB spores

Honey testing is a highly cost-effective mechanism for confirming that commercial beekeepers have eliminated AFB from their beehives. The Management Agency is expanding honey testing to verify that commercial DECA holders are eliminating AFB as specified in their DECA.

6. Honey test results to be provided to The Management Agency

Improving The Management Agency's access to AFB test results (including honey test results) will enhance The Management Agency's ability to monitor beekeepers AFB elimination performance and reduce the cost of honey surveillance.

The Management Agency proposes a new plan rule requiring diagnostic laboratories to provide all AFB test results to The Management Agency. A similar plan rule is already part of the National Bovine TB Pest Management Plan.

FUTURE PROOFING FOR NEW SURVEILLANCE METHODS & TECHNOLOGY

The current AFB PMP provides The Management Agency with authority to approve the use of technologies that are generally recognised by the scientific community, through publication in peer reviewed scientific journals, as being effective. However, it does not provide the power for AP2s to take dogs onto properties.

The Management Agency proposes that AP2s should have the power to take detector dogs onto properties to future proof the AFB PMP, should detector dogs be recognised as effective by the scientific community.

BEEKEEPER SUBMISSIONS

ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

To deter beekeepers from non-compliance and to mitigate the impacts of non-compliance, your submissions outlined:

- Non-compliant beekeepers should be subject to tougher enforcement and penalties

Beekeeper cited non-compliances:

- Unregistered beekeepers
- Unregistered apiaries
- Failure to report AFB
- Failure to destroy infected hives
- Dumping hives and equipment
- Selling infected hives and gear
- Failure to submit Annual Disease Return

Beekeeper suggested penalties to be imposed:

- Infringement fines
- Banning from beekeeping
- Cost recovery (for The Management Agency actions on default)
- Increased levy rate for non-compliant beekeepers

OUR RESPONSE TO YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Enforcement Powers

The current AFB PMP provides a comprehensive set of enforcement powers including:

- Power to give directions
 - To destroy AFB beehives and materials
 - To prevent the spread of AFB
 - To comply with plan rules (register apiary etc)
- Power to act on default and recover costs
- Powers to destroy abandoned/unregistered beehives



BEEKEEPER SUBMISSIONS

OUR RESPONSE TO YOUR SUBMISSIONS

The power to give directions to beekeepers successfully mitigates the AFB risks associated with non-compliance in most circumstances. Should the beekeeper fail to comply with the notice, The Management Agency is able to act on default to carry out the required actions and recover the costs of doing so from the beekeeper.

The Management Agency proposes that it should also have the power to take action to destroy AFB beehives and prevent the spread of AFB to prevent a very small minority of non-compliant beekeepers from attempting to save the infected beehives instead of destroying them.

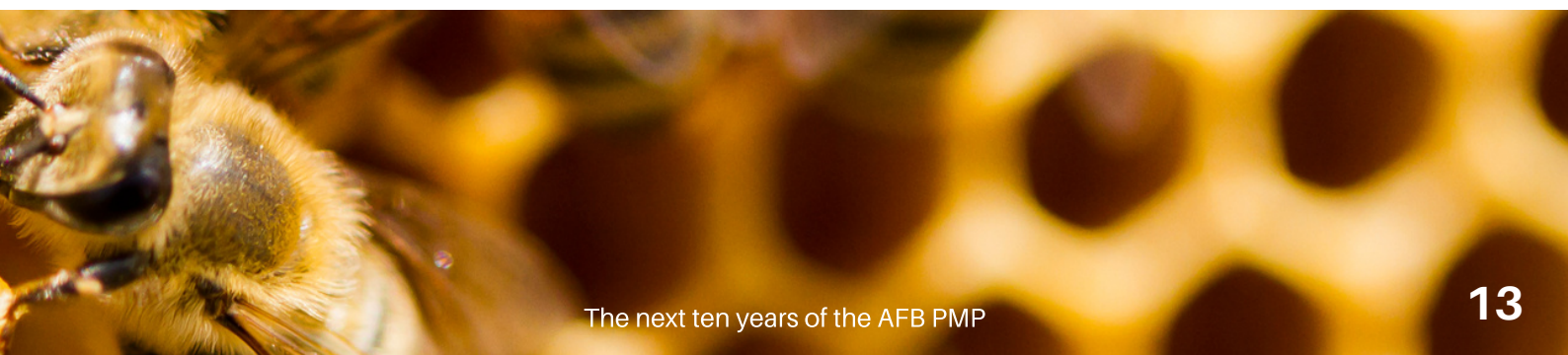
Penalties

The current AFB PMP enables The Management Agency to impose the following penalties for non-compliance:

- DECA cancellation
- Prosecution of offenses
 - Can result in fine and/or imprisonment
 - Undertaken by MPI on behalf of The Management Agency

The Management Agency proposes that it should also have the ability to impose infringement fines for the following offenses:

- Failure to keep honey bees in moveable frame hives
- Failure to register apiary
- Failure to submit Annual Disease Return
- Failure to complete Certificate of Inspection



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE AFB PMP

Your feedback during the 1st round of consultation helped to form the recommended changes to the AFB PMP outlined in this booklet. Your second round consultation feedback on the recommended changes below will assist The Management Agency in developing detailed changes. These will then be made available for your consideration in the 3rd round of consultation.

1. Education training and support

- Amend DECA rules to require:
 - Completion of refresher training every 5 years to retain a DECA
 - Beekeepers employed by the DECA holder to attend AFB recognition and refresher training as a condition of the DECA

2. Surveillance and prevention

- New & amended rules for notification of transfer of beehive ownership
 - New rule requiring notification within 7 days
 - Amend ADR rule to require Beekeeper Registration Number
- New rule requiring diagnostic laboratories to provide AFB test results to Management Agency
- New power enabling AP2s to use detector dogs

3. Enforcement & Penalties

- New power to destroy AFB beehives, and prevent the spread of AFB
- New ability to impose infringement fines as a penalty



WHAT'S NEXT?

THE SECOND ROUND OF CONSULTATION

The current 2nd round of consultation is to inform, engage, and consult on issues and opportunities.

A survey will be available in late November, requesting feedback on the proposed changes in this document.

Your feedback from the survey will then enable us to propose detailed changes to the AFB PMP. We will then seek your feedback again, during the third round of consultation, prior to the submission of the proposal.

You can view the full analysis and response of all beekeeper submissions from the first round of the consultation by [visiting the webpage here](#).

**THANK YOU, FOR YOUR ONGOING
COMMITMENT TO THE ELIMINATION OF AFB**





 THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

0800 AFB PMP
PO Box 44282
Lower Hutt 5040
info@afb.org.nz
www.afb.org.nz