



 THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN



AMERICAN FOULBROOD 2024/25 LEVY CONSULTATION

WHY IT MATTERS

The Management Agency is currently undertaking consultation with New Zealand beekeepers on a proposal for the American Foulbrood Beekeeper Levy for 2024/25 to remain the same at \$40 per beekeeper with an increase of 25 cents from \$1.70 per colony to \$1.95 per colony.

**Submissions close
5pm Friday
20 October 2023.**

[MAKE A SUBMISSION →](#)

American Foulbrood (AFB) is the most serious disease affecting honeybees in Aotearoa. The disease has been subject to legislative control in New Zealand since 1906 and a national pest management plan (AFB PMP) since 1998. In the absence of effective disease controls, AFB causes a significant decline in honeybee populations, honeybee-related industries, and agricultural production.

Due to the serious impact of AFB, all New Zealand beekeepers have legal obligations to eliminate AFB from their beehives. Implementation of the AFB PMP is funded by the American Foulbrood beekeeper and colony levies and has successfully prevented the reported incidence levels of AFB from increasing to the devastatingly high levels of the late 1980s - early 1990s.

ABOUT THE 2024/25 LEVY PROPOSAL

SETTING THE 2024/25 LEVY RATE

The **American Foulbrood Beekeeper Levy** was set at \$40 (\$46 including GST) per beekeeper and \$1.70 (\$1.96 including GST) per bee colony in 2020. Since then, the Management Agency has delivered the following services to support New Zealand beekeepers in their fight against AFB.

- One Operation Manager each in the North Island and South Island to ensure that The Management Agency has the capacity to manage the inspection of apiaries and investigate and respond to beekeeper notifications of non-compliance and AFB.
- HiveHub was launched. A modern, purpose-built system that is user-friendly and makes compliance and reporting quick and easy for beekeepers.
- The recruitment, training, and deployment of a network of qualified AP2s across the country has boosted our rates of inspection and enforcement.
- Around 60 classroom AFB recognition and refresher courses are run per year. Both the full course and refresher course have become more accessible with a newly developed online platform and the upskilling of our trainers.
- Two Apiary Coordinators to better support beekeepers during the peak months associated with ADRs and COIs.
- 500 honey samples are tested for AFB each year. This enables us to allocate AP2 resources to high-risk areas.

The Management Agency is **proposing that the levy for the 2024/25 levy year remain the same at \$40 per beekeeper while increasing the colony levy by 25 cents to \$1.95 (\$2.24 including GST) per bee colony.**

The proposed levy takes into consideration beekeeping industry challenges and the resulting financial hardship experienced by many beekeepers. While being conscious of the use of levies in a challenging economic climate, the need for The Management Agency to identify and resolve AFB non-compliance before infection can financially impact neighbouring beekeepers is vital.

Despite the increased colony levy and the proposed reduction of expenditure by \$121,000, The Management Agency is forecasting a revenue loss of \$220,000 for 2024/25. This is based on the forecast decline in the number of registered beekeepers and colonies. We are committed to continually explore opportunities to reduce the budget in areas of lower demand, without compromising our ability to support beekeepers in their fight against AFB.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AFB PMP

The Management Agency undertook an extensive consultation with beekeepers on the National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan (AFB PMP) from June 2021 – September 2022. The resulting AFB PMP proposal was submitted to the Minister for Biosecurity in 2023.

The proposed levy increase will enable The Management Agency to implement changes intended to shift beekeeper's focus from AFB presence/absence to the implementation of good AFB elimination practices in an engaged, committed, and sustained manner. Learn more about the AFB PMP consultation and proposal [HERE](#).

The implementation of the proposed changes to the AFB PMP requires The Management Agency to develop new capabilities in the following areas:

- **New AFB elimination courses for commercial beekeepers** focused on integrating AFB elimination procedures with routine husbandry practices to ensure that all beekeeping staff are aware of and implementing these practices as agreed in the Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements (DECA).
- **Active reviews and monitoring of the DECA** to ensure that The Management Agency is satisfied that beekeepers are implementing the practices and procedures specified in their DECA's and understand their responsibility for AFB management within the document.
- **Communications and engagement** focused on the education of all beekeepers and promoting the benefits of implementing effective AFB elimination practices.
- **Monitoring compliance with plan rules** through targeted apiary inspections and improvements to beehive traceability through the requirement of beekeeper registrations prior to hive transfers and new apiary registration.
- **Enforcement of plan rules** to include the use of s114 General Powers and changes to existing systems (i.e., HiveHub) to support the implementation of infringement fines.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Management Agency is seeking beekeepers' views on the proposed rate of levy for 2024/25.

Consultation on the 2024/25 levy is open until **5pm Friday 20 October 2023**. Beekeepers will receive the levy proposal via email, or post if they do not have an email address, from **6 October** and can share their views by:

- Completing the online submission form, or
- Posting a submission form to **The Management Agency, PO Box 88 Rolleston, 7643**.

For further information

You can email us at info@afb.org.nz

Once consultation has closed, The Management Agency will consider all feedback and notify beekeepers of the outcome in December 2023.

View the Proposed Budget 2024/25 [HERE](#).

Start your submission here

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