

The proposal for the American Foulbrood 2024/25 Beekeeper Levy is to remain the same at \$40 per beekeeper with an increase to the colony levy from \$1.70 per colony to \$1.95 per colony.

Q4 Do you have any feedback on the proposed rate of levy and its role in supporting the implementation of the AFB PMP changes for 2024/25?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 21

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	For hobbyists with up to five or six hives, the flat rate should suffice. If people are selling honey and have six hives or more, it makes more sense yo pay a levy per colony. Beekeeping is already expensive, don't make it even more expensive as it will put people off beekeeping and that will ultimately be bad for the bee population. The cost of living crisis is a real thing and impacting many hobbyists who are trying to make ends meet.	10/20/2023 3:20 PM
2	Once again you fail to provide enough up to date financial information to make an informed decision about whether the levy increase is justified. It is not good enough.	10/20/2023 12:46 PM
3	When have you guys been really serious about foulbrood. Feel free to ring me and I will tell you why I am saying this.	10/20/2023 9:51 AM
4	I already pay enough compliance and operating costs. More and more fees and levies is not sustainable for the industry.	10/19/2023 9:07 AM
5	This economic climate is not the time to raise levys and fees to beekeeper. The cost of compliance is rising in every area such as fuel, labour, equipment and feeding costs. Then add the cost of living crisis to that. We don't need more costs put on beekeepers shoulders. AFB is arguably not on the forefront of challenges the beekeeping industry is facing. Varroa, rising costs and honey prices are a more pressing issue for us during this time. Therefore I do not support raising the levy as beekeepers, including myself, are under enough financial strain already.	10/19/2023 9:01 AM
6	I am prepared to pay a little more for the annual fee that we are paying...	10/19/2023 5:32 AM
7	Provided we get an understanding of where the money is being spent. I would like to see more transparency from the agency about what is happening out there from the AP2's point of view. There also needs to be better collaboration between AP2's and apiary managers - creating this relationship is key. Some regions I wouldn't know who the AP2 is. I also believe the agency needs to provide disposal holes for all regions as this would help having somewhere for beekeepers to take their afb. Proper reports on their findings need to be emailed not left under lids. Some AP2's we have dealt with are very rough on the bees and equipment which raises the issue of how experienced they are. other AP2's are great and work really well alongside companies but there isn't a standard.	10/18/2023 1:34 PM
8	As a responsible commercial beekeeping operation we manage our hives so we are inspecting for AFB every time we work a hive. Once or twice a year is not enough to find and eradicate afb. We comply with our Deca & have notified AFB org, and burnt hives when we found AFB. We quarantined hives in apiaries for over two years and never had another case in the yards it was found in. We would have no hesitation in doing it again. There is no stigma for having found afb, failing to deal with it, however, we feel should be deal with by afb org to the fullest of the powers available. Costs of obvious non-compliance should be covered by the non-compliant beekeeper/s not funded by compliant beekeepers. We have supplied honey samples when requested, and have also offered laboratory results of afb testing we have paid for, and are happy to do so again in the future. We have had little or no income in the last year and have had to be careful with our spending. We believe that the afb org should do the same. If the levy does not meet the cost then costs need to be cut as with any business.	10/14/2023 7:01 PM
9	!thank you yes I have no problem with levys per say. but presently I don't feel we not are getting the best bang for our buck. Better management of our PMP would eliminate AFB. NOT FARM IT! based on the above statement I vote no for any levy increase. ----- and on other hand, I would strongly vote YES. I would like to see more "AP1s" at the coal face. dealing with AFB beekeepers on the spot. for a long time now I have felt there is a disconnect between middle mangers and beekeepers on the ground. keep up the good work, thank you for the opportunity to "engage". cheers.	10/14/2023 10:35 AM

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10	Not marking money and it hard time So you should rethink your budget And the time of year when you count the hives should be the 1 of June not in March	10/11/2023 8:42 PM
11	I'm simply a hobbieest bee keeper who enjoys looking after my bees. I'm also an active member of the Wanganui Bee Club and keep up to date with what is happening in the industry. I'm not in it for for the money as commercial bee keepers are and I therefore find it unacceptable to have to pay such high levy fees for just 2 hives. \$46 a year is way too high considering all the other cost associated with caring for Bees such as Varroa treatments etc. I am an experienced bee keeper, I have a Deca and take full responsibility to ensure my hives are healthy. I know what to do if AFB should affect my hives as I care about other bee keepers and the importance of reducing the spread of AFB. Surely that should count for something as I am doing my bit.	10/10/2023 9:41 PM
12	Levy punishes small hobbyist beekeepers excessively. Perhaps start the levy at 5 hives and proceed upwards from there	10/10/2023 7:05 PM
13	This is a 14% increase which to me seems to be out of line with other market forces with no corresponding increase in the value of honey to fund the increase. I would have thought a 10c per hive much more reasonable. For me it makes no difference but I have seen many beekeepers struggling financially.	10/10/2023 6:08 PM
14	Times are already tough as with the rising costs of everything else to do with beekeeping why does they need to go up too?? i reckon we pay enough as it is nowevery year it rises and to be honest i dont see that much has changed since i entered the industry in 2019 to warrant a yearly increase !!! My opinion is leave it as it is for the next year to give us a breather i personally have had to get a second job to fund my company as the rising costs are crippling with not alot of return to cover it.	10/10/2023 4:17 PM
15	Agree that the levy should increase for beekeepers that have less than 200 colonies but the levy should not increase for beekeepers who have more than 200 colonies. Revenue from the levy should predominately be used to train and introduce more AP2s and not be used to fund administration costs.	10/10/2023 1:10 PM
16	Well, since a lot of AFB is transferred from dead outs and hives without any colonies which still remain in the field, I would not alter the AFB levy but instead, it should be charged on Hives and Colonies. So, Leavy paid on hives (dead and alive)rather than only colonies. Rightfully and fairly this would then cover the cost of the surveillance work on Hives with and without colonies. It would be at the same time an incentive for beekeepers to clean dead colonies up from the apiaries and look after the gear better. Any beekeeper who does a good job pays only for live colonies because that is all he/she has in the Apiaries. Maybe this should have been considered at the startI am not aware that it has. I think this would be a great change in times were we face more and more apiaries with dead colonies. How to cover the cost of surveillance work on dead colonies? And how to encourage beekeepers to clean up dead colonies? This might be a good solution	10/10/2023 12:23 PM
17	Agree with the changes to management strategies but not the fees increasing again. Continuously increasing fees makes it harder for the smaller operators like myself to survive and I'd say puts many hobbyist beekeepers of similar size or smaller off compliance altogether. Perhaps there could be a higher initial fee for larger operators of say 200+ hives? Although larger operators are more compliant I would think that they and their employees/ apprentices require more access to training/ courses.	10/9/2023 8:26 PM
18	I think it's more than fair.	10/9/2023 6:11 PM
19	I wish to compliment you all with the progress you are making with AFB. KInd Regards [REDACTED]	10/9/2023 4:44 PM
20	Not really, you do an amazing job. 😊	10/9/2023 3:28 PM
21	Rates should not be increased no matter how small. Times are tough and beekeepers are facing multiple challenges in all areas. Cost of treatments, loss of hives, rising sugar syrup prices to name only a few. There is already an incredible amount of stress within the current state of the industry and many of us see no hope what so ever. I may only have a few hives myself, but for those who own significantly more something as small as this could easily be the straw that broke the camels back.	10/9/2023 12:11 PM
22	I feel that the the whole mpi American foulbrood authority is un nescicary. I have not seen a change in the rate of afb in my whole career. The inspector came and spent ages checking my	10/9/2023 12:05 PM

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hives, all to find no afb as I told him when he tuned up. The beekeeping sector in nz is struggling, a lot of the bad careless operators have dropped out and the number of hives is in decline. There is no explanation why the rate of fees is going up. The new apiweb thing dosent work well on my phone, the previous version worked well. The whole thing is a huge revenue making joke. Beekeepers realize the importance of keeping afb out of our business's we dont need a government authority checking us over and charging us extra for there service! MPI need to justify there spending in the same seriousness we as beekeepers are, we are all struggling, and being extremely carefull to keep our bills down. My personal beekeeping bills have gone down because the income has gone down, not up, how does mpi think we can afford more fees?

23	all DECA holders need to be promoted to others so we can cover the country with AFB inspections	10/9/2023 11:51 AM
24	The industry is a dangerous spot, with falling hive numbers which might indicate a future of higher AFB percentage. The loss in levy comes at the wrong time - if anything we should be trying harder now. The costs of the levy are not significant for commercial beekeepers, and reasonable for hobbyists like myself...	10/9/2023 9:43 AM
25	They do bugger all now except take or money why should we pay one cent more	10/7/2023 4:11 PM
26	I understand the roll of Levies, and how it has helped greatly in Taranaki. However, please remove me from your mailing list . I am no longer a bee keeper. Sold all my hives.	10/7/2023 8:37 AM
27	Rediculous amount to charge someone with one hive as well as all the other payments for registration and checks we need to do. \$40 should come active after 3 hives. Under 3 hives it should be \$15 + \$1.95/hive	10/7/2023 12:05 AM
28	Because I have so few hives a levy rate increase as proposed is immaterial to me. But I think the importance of controlling AFB really justifies significant resources. So increase the levy as needed - provided those funds are used diligently and with out waste.	10/6/2023 10:15 PM
29	Increased costs due to inflation & low prices paid for honey, decreasing Hive numbers. The Agency needs to reduce expenditure to follow the reduction in hive numbers If more beekeepers exit the industry due to not enough operating revenue caused by more levies and high operating costs, there will not be enough money to support the AFBPMP Agency Beekeepers have had to reduce spending to keep operating, so should YOUR AGENCY	10/6/2023 9:27 PM
30	An increase in levy is appropriate at this time considering the extra work that will be required due to downturn in industry and beekeepers exiting industry and problems that creates.	10/6/2023 6:21 PM
31	It seems to me, as a hobbyist beekeeper, that levy rates should be less per beekeeper for anyone with 5 or fewer hives. (Or perhaps a graduated system depending upon hive numbers?). I have no problem with having the same per hive levy rate as commercial beekeepers but feel that commercial beekeepers paying \$46.00 on a par with hobbyists with far fewer hives, is unfair. Having said this, I believe that the Management Agency Board has an excellent programme going for both beekeepers' education and AFB eradication.	10/6/2023 4:51 PM
32	I am a hobbiest having a break from bees due to injury- so I don't wish to pay \$40 as my hives are zero this year and the cost is onerous. I have no honey, no income from bee goods. I think commercials could be charged more than hobbiests as they have an income from it. Otherwise it's prohibitive. \$20 bucks per year if you have 1plus hive would be fairer. Zero if you have zero hives.	10/6/2023 4:00 PM
33	Costs have sharply risen for all expenses related to beekeeping. Sugar has skyrocketed, compliance costs continue to increase, fuel is set to continue to rise, significant pressures are on wages and retaining staff. To even suggest increasing costs is hard to comprehend. DO NOT INCREASE THE LEVY. It is already too high.	10/6/2023 1:34 PM
34	Thanks for all the mahi!	10/6/2023 1:23 PM
35	The current strategy for the control/elimination of AFB is badly flawed and needs review. For some reason the "privacy rights" of a site with AFB overrides the rights of all other bee keepers in the general area, so diligent bee keepers are disadvantaged. It is UNSATISFACTORY that bee keepers are notified that AFB has been notified within 5 kms of their site. They need to know exactly where the problem is so that swarms and other close proximity issues are a known and can be mitigated. It is agreed that AFB is not a "blame issue" for bee keepers who report (they need to be commended), but we know that bee keeper	10/6/2023 1:04 PM

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cross contamination within their Aparies is the reason why AFB is not disappearing. The balance between "public reporting of an AFB site infection" and "failure to report" has to be found, otherwise AFB will be an on ongoing problem and NO LEVY should be payable because you are doing nothing useful to solve the problem. The current strategy is NOT WORKING, so it is time for a serious rethink.

36	In these tough times for beekeepers it is not a time to increase levy fees. We are struggling as it is. If anything you should be decreasing levy costs to help struggling beekeepers.	10/6/2023 12:33 PM
37	I'd be happy if it were to increase to \$2 if that would help in the fight.	10/6/2023 12:23 PM
38	All bee keeping spend a lot of money to protect the bees and the buy the bees food that's why we don't want to increase the rate of levy thank you	10/6/2023 11:19 AM
39	My issue is this, i am a small time bee keeper with one apery and 4 hives max. I pride my self in keeping a clean tidy operation and treat for varroa mite as per procedures, and continually clean old frames etc. I have been hit with American foulbrood previously. When i ask questions on who in the area i may have got it off, i am told that that is private information. This past season i have had a bee keeper start an apery not more than 50m from my hives. We need rules and regulations as politeness has gone from the industry. I want more for my money.	10/6/2023 10:46 AM
40	It's already waaaaaaaay to expensive, and the management agency is ineffective. If the management agency disappeared altogether it would make no difference to me. My recommendation is as follows. Do what the beekeepers have to do currently: Take a pay cut. Cut services. Reduce staff levels Look for alternate sources of income. Do not increase the levy. Sincerely, [REDACTED]	10/6/2023 10:27 AM
41	Keep up the good work	10/6/2023 10:09 AM
42	I would be happy if the either beekeeper and colony rate were increased further, so the PMP can do much more to reduce and eliminate AFB. Perhaps \$50 per beekeeper, and \$2 per colony.	10/6/2023 10:02 AM
43	The afb org has not got a handle on afb does NOT contribute positively to handling in my business except for uneccasary disturbances to myself and my bees Me paying them extra money so they can more time to muck around I'd just another strain on the struggle that is still very real for beekeepers	10/6/2023 9:59 AM
44	The Management Agency each year has been wasting \$\$\$\$ on their AP2 meetings in Lincoln,Christchurch. With over thirty contractors attending, the cost of Accommodation, Food, Airfares, Transport, Hire of buildings etc, PLUS \$40 per hr each for 2 days. How much is the total out lay for both weekends??? So they can watch videos of African Bees,also teaching on how to do inspections of Hives. This is carried out when CHRISTCHURCH has the highest rate of AFB????? You would think these so called new AP2s would be paired up with more experience AP2s to do inspections around Christchurch.The Management Agency manager in Christchurch is not up to it,Good at spending \$\$\$\$ and you want a increase in Fees,I don't think so when you have managers who can't do their jobs correctly [REDACTED]	10/6/2023 9:58 AM
45	Seems like a fair and reasonable increase.	10/6/2023 9:53 AM
46	It all getting too much and adding up. For hobby bee keepers like me, we earn nothing off our hives. Yet you want us to keep paying more and more and it just isn't sustainable. For every extra cent you tax me, that's precious money I can used for hive maintenance and improvement. Starting to wonder if it's all worth it!	10/6/2023 9:38 AM
47	New Zealand needs it. In future please use correct grammar and English or Maori, not both in the same sentence. I don't understand Tena Joe so don't use it. Our country is. New Zealand, use it American Foulbrood 2024/25 Levy Consultationn Supporting beekeepers in their fight against AFB Tēnā koe, The Management Agency is currently undertaking consultation on a proposal to set the American Foulbrood – Beekeeper Levy for 2024/25 at \$40 per beekeeper and \$1.95 per colony. 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	10/6/2023 9:33 AM
48	Increasing the levy again is unacceptable, beekeeping is expensive enough already. Less and less people will get into beekeeping if the costs keep raising.	10/6/2023 9:24 AM