



What is an AFB Recognition Course?

An AFB Recognition course is run by the AFB Management Agency aimed to teach beekeepers how to recognise the signs and symptoms of AFB. It also covers how to inspect a hive for AFB, how to prevent AFB from spreading, how to implement quarantine procedures & teaches good management practices and to effectively destroy any AFB infected hives.

Who should attend an AFB Recognition Course?

All beekeepers are encouraged to attend an AFB Recognition course which will help to familiarise them with what is normal and what is not in their working hive. This ensures that the detection and recognition of AFB is caught early and eliminated, prior to spreading. Even if you do not wish to become a DECA holder, it is important to be able to confidently recognise the signs and symptoms of AFB.

Do I have to pass an assessment?

Yes, there is an assessment at the end of the course content consisting of 25 questions to test your knowledge on what you have just been taught. If you have reading or learning difficulties, you are welcome to bring a support person with you to a classroom course.

What does it cost?

The cost is \$100 (incl GST) per person for the full course and assessment. This is for both the online and classroom courses.

Do I become a DECA holder by attending this course and passing the assessment?

Attending the course and passing the assessment is one step towards becoming a DECA holder. You must also show compliance with all rules of the AFB Pest Management Plan. A good explanation of the DECA process can be found [HERE](#).

Where are these courses?

The courses are held all over the country in most main centres. It is a one-day course starting at 9am through to approx. 3pm.

Locations of our classroom courses can be found [HERE](#).

Can I do this online?

Yes! We have our AFB Recognition Course and assessments available online. You can register for either online or classroom by clicking [HERE](#).

Should every beekeeper become a DECA holder?

Not everyone has to become a DECA holder, some beekeepers are happy to let an authorised person inspect their hives each year for their annual COI. However, for the New Zealand beekeeping sector to collectively eliminate AFB, it is important that all beekeepers know the signs of symptoms of AFB to ensure early detection and decisive actions and avoid it spreading.



What is a DECA?

The Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) is a formal agreement between the beekeeper and the Management Agency.

Beekeepers that enter into a DECA with The Management Agency are committing to eliminate AFB from their beehives through carrying out the AFB elimination practices and procedures specified in the agreement and specific to their own beekeeping operation. In recognition of this commitment, The Management Agency provides the beekeeper with an exemption from the Certificate of Inspection requirements.

The Management Agency regularly monitors all DECA holders' performance for AFB management and may ask for it to be reviewed or amended, if a year-on-year increase is observed.

What is an AFB Recognition Refresher course?

This is an abbreviated version of the full course that every DECA holder should attend (either online or via a classroom course). This is to ensure you are up to date with the signs of symptoms of AFB within your colonies.

If there is not a 2 hour classroom refresher in your region, DECA holders are welcome to attend any full course as a refresher. They can leave when the other beekeepers start the test. Alternatively, we have a FREE online refresher which is self-paced and can be completed anytime.

What is the “yellow book”?

This book is called the Elimination of American Foulbrood Disease without the Use of Drugs. It is a very valuable tool for all beekeepers, and we encourage everyone to become familiar with its contents. For every person who signs up for an AFB Recognition Course (either classroom or online), they will receive a free copy of this book once their course payment has been processed. If you wish to purchase a copy of this book, the cost is \$25 (inc GST). Email training@afb.org.nz to order one.

I've lost my DECA, do I have to attend a course?

Please click [HERE](#) to refer to the chart showing the pathway to getting your DECA back. As part of this pathway, we would require you to attend an AFB Recognition Refresher course, you are not required to sit the AFB Recognition test again.

I'm a commercial beekeeper with a team of workers, how can I keep them up to date with their AFB Recognition?

If you have a group of eight or more workers, we may be able to have a local trainer come visit your operation and do an in-person refresher course during your quiet times of year. Alternatively, your team could complete the online refresher on a rainy day. They would also be welcome to attend a local community course if there was one nearby.

If you have any queries that have not been raised above, please give Janette a ring on 0800 232 767 or email on training@afb.org.nz. We are here to help keep you educated on your AFB Recognition.

