

AFB NPMP Change Programme

Together we can accelerate AFB elimination



 THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN



To support the implementation of the updated American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan, The Management Agency has identified and begun implementing five key priorities. We're calling this the **AFB NPMP Change Programme**. And its success relies on the commitment of New Zealand beekeepers. This document shares exactly what we're doing, why we're doing it, and how it will be done. As always, we welcome your feedback and questions.

The programme objective is to accelerate the elimination of AFB from managed beehives in New Zealand by transforming beekeeper focus from the 'presence or absence of AFB' to the 'implementation of good AFB elimination practices'. The programme will be rolled out over several years, as allowed by funding and responsible resource allocation.

Success of the programme relies on a collective effort from the sector and part of our focus is to support beekeepers to work together toward this common goal.

We're here to support New Zealand beekeepers in their fight against AFB.

Priority 1

HiveHub Security and Functional Enhancements

To ensure that HiveHub continues to meet the needs of busy beekeepers we will invest in its maintenance and upgrades, including cybersecurity and safeguarding beekeeper data. Improvements will support the implementation of the updated AFB NPMP. Specifically, we will improve the way we use HiveHub data to triage AFB elimination efforts. With our resources constrained, as they are industry-wide, and the risk of AFB from unknown sources on the rise (such as potentially abandoned or unregistered apiaries), it's important that we manage our elimination efforts as efficiently as possible. This priority will utilise HiveHub's potential as a powerful tool in the fight against AFB.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Diversify and automate HiveHub functionality for the implementation of the new AFB NPMP.
- 2.** Utilise HiveHub data for predicting disease trends, areas of AFB risk, and triaging elimination efforts.
- 3.** Continually upgrade functionality and security so that beekeepers continue to trust HiveHub to be an easy, user-friendly, secure system that safeguards beekeeper data.



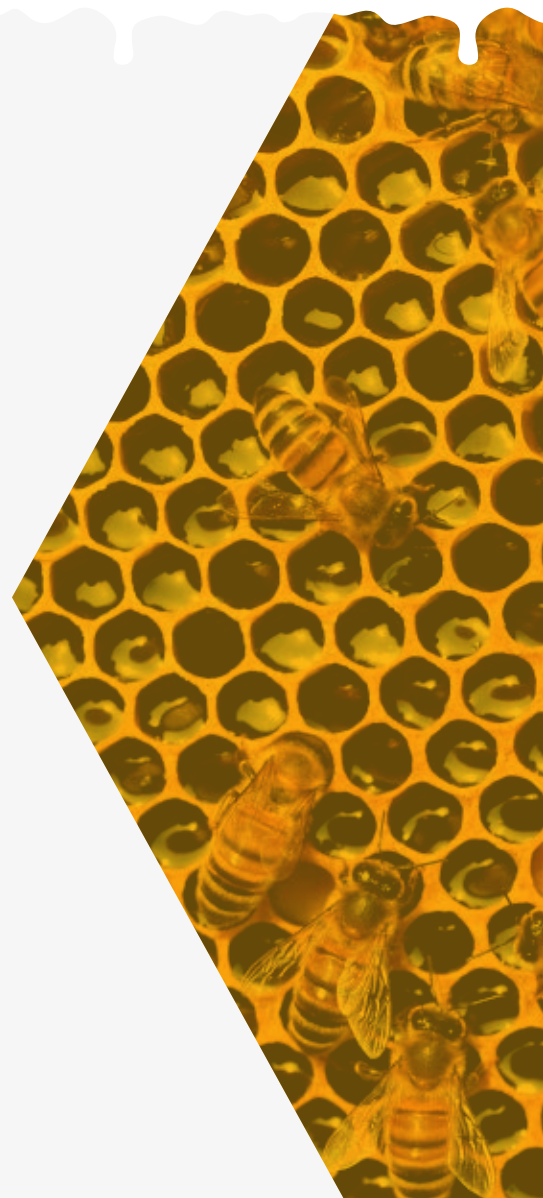
Priority 2

Training and Upskilling of Commercial Beekeepers and Employees

Empowering commercial New Zealand beekeepers and beekeeping employees to recognise AFB and understand their legal obligations is a crucial part of supporting the elimination of AFB from managed hives. As the single source for commercial beekeeping training and upskilling, The Management Agency can support commercial beekeeping businesses to accelerate AFB elimination. We have begun developing a training package following interviews with commercial operators and The Management Agency's operations managers to identify knowledge gaps. The first round of training modules will be open for consultation late-2024 and ready for launch mid-2025.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Develop a training module focussed on best practice bee husbandry and ways to integrate AFB elimination as part of business as usual operations.
- 2.** Provide education on The Management Agency's expectations for AFB management including clarity on decision-making for DECAs, and defining success measures for various sized operations.
- 3.** Assist with developing scalable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for commercial beekeeping businesses.



Priority 3

DECA Review Project

Over 4,800 beekeeping operations in New Zealand hold a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) with The Management Agency. We have identified widespread misconceptions of what a DECA is and how it works. As a result, this priority will focus on informing beekeepers to ensure clear understanding of the purpose of a DECA and how it ties to the AFB elimination goal. Reviews of existing DECA templates (commercial and hobbyist) have begun and will include beekeeper feedback. The implementation of this project will take a phased approach; beekeepers with outdated DECAs (>5-10 years old) and those showing year-on-year increases of cases of AFB will be approached first for reviews and amendments.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Ensure practices and procedures set out in the DECA are sufficient to eliminate AFB from all beehives owned by the beekeeper.
- 2.** Provide clarity on The Management Agency's decision-making process in relation to amending or cancelling a DECA.
- 3.** Monitor the performance of DECA implementation by beekeepers through regular audits based on AFB risk factors.



Priority 4

Effective Communications

We have introduced a quarterly newsletter, and our social media page has been reactivated for regular information sharing. We welcome feedback and input on specific topics you would like us to focus on. Our General Manager Niharika (Niha) Long and Operations Managers Marco Gonzalez and Dwayne Hill will meet as many beekeepers as possible in person. We will develop resources to assist all beekeepers with their statutory obligations and provide clarity on The Management Agency's functions and decision-making frameworks. The primary goal of this priority is to ensure that all beekeepers, new and veteran, have access to the right information at the right time in the right place.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Provide easy access to resources that assist beekeepers with their legal obligations and AFB elimination efforts.
- 2.** Clearly communicate The Management Agency's functions and its goals, success measures, and success stories.
- 3.** Identify champions in the industry who have successfully achieved AFB elimination.
- 4.** Create a cultural sense of responsibility for the care for honeybees.



Priority 5

Efficient Resource Management

Our sector is navigating challenging economic conditions. Between May 2023 and May 2024, there was a 9.8% decline in beekeeper numbers and an 11% decline in registered colony numbers. This has significant implications for pollination and our primary industry partners like horticulture, while the impact on AFB elimination is twofold. It creates a higher risk of AFB spread (e.g. abandoned apiaries) while reducing the funds available for us to fight AFB. It is anticipated that colony numbers may decline further. As a result, we have prioritised continual monitoring of operational expenditure while ensuring that we deliver on supporting the updated AFB NPMP with the other four priorities in this document.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Review operational expenditure and find areas of cost savings without compromising on AFB detection and elimination activities.
- 2.** Continually conduct cost benefit analysis to identify areas of cost savings.
- 3.** Focus resources on targeted inspections and investigate available surveillance tools.



Thank you to the many beekeepers who are continually vigilant and do their part in managing AFB in their operations. Thank you also to the beekeepers who reach out and seek our advice.

We encourage you to support AFB elimination efforts by reporting neglected and abandoned apiary sites using HiveHub. Your reports enable us to investigate unknown sources of AFB and take action before it spreads to neighbouring operations. We are only a phone call or email away.

We're here to support New Zealand beekeepers in their fight against AFB. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the AFB NPMP.

Learn more at afb.org.nz

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