




 THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

A large, close-up photograph of a bee on a flower, serving as the background for the lower half of the page. The bee is positioned in the center, facing right, with its head and thorax clearly visible. The flower's stamens and petals are in soft focus, creating a warm, golden-brown atmosphere.

Consultation on the **American Foulbrood Beekeeper Levy & 2025 / 26 Budget**

Why it Matters

The proposal for the American Foulbrood Beekeeper Levy for 2025/26 is to remain the same at \$40 per beekeeper and \$1.95 per colony.

The Management Agency is currently undertaking consultation with New Zealand beekeepers on a proposal for the American Foulbrood Beekeeper Levy for 2025/26 to remain the same at \$40 per beekeeper and \$1.95 per colony.

The New Zealand apiculture sector is worth over \$500 million. This is comprised of domestic honey, export honey, and pollination services. American Foulbrood (AFB) is the most serious disease affecting honeybees in Aotearoa. The disease is present in almost all countries where honeybees are found. AFB was first recorded in New Zealand in 1877 and has been subject to legislative control in New Zealand since 1906 with a national pest management plan (NPMP) in place since 1998.

Biosecurity (American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan) Order 1998.

www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1998/0260/latest/whole.html

All New Zealand beekeepers have legal obligations under the AFB NPMP and are responsible for the elimination of AFB from their beekeeping operations. Having an NPMP has successfully prevented the reported incidence levels of AFB from increasing to the devastatingly high levels of the late 1980s – early 1990s.

AFB infected hives fail to grow to the strength required to produce a commercial crop of honey or effective pollination services; downstream effects of which include hive losses, reduced honey sales, market access issues to certain overseas markets, pollination, and income loss.

To support our beekeeping sector, New Zealand needs healthy honeybee colonies that are not affected by AFB.

What is the AFB Beekeeper levy

Implementation of the AFB NPMP is funded through the Biosecurity (American Foulbrood – Beekeeper Levy) Order 2003 which is payable by all beekeepers, prior to the start of the new levy year (1 June).

Biosecurity (American Foulbrood - Beekeeper Levy) Order 2023.

www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2003/0283/latest/whole.html#DLM220146

We need to hear from you

The Management Agency is seeking beekeepers' views on the proposed levy and budget for 2025/26. Consultation will open on 09 September 2024 and will close on Sunday 5pm 06 October 2024

How you can share your views

Beekeepers will receive the 2025/26 budget and levy proposal via email, or post if they do not have an email address, from 09 September 2024 and can share their views either by:

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

For further information, email us at info@afb.org.nz

Once consultation has closed, The Management Agency Board will consider all feedback and notify beekeepers of the outcome in November 2024.

Start your submission at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CJJBKNW

Submissions close 5pm on Sunday 06 October 2024

Where the money goes

We are committed to continually explore opportunities to reduce The Management Agency budget in areas of lower demand, without compromising our ability to support beekeepers in their fight against AFB.

For the 2024/25 year, the American Foulbrood Beekeeper Levy was set at \$40 (\$46 including GST) per beekeeper and the per bee colony levy was increased from \$1.70 to \$1.95 (\$2.24 including GST). The increase took into consideration the challenges being faced by the industry and the resulting financial hardship experienced by many beekeepers.

Since September 2023, the following cost-savings initiatives have been undertaken:

- Closing the Wellington office that was shared with Apiculture New Zealand.
- A reduction in postage costs, associated with the New Zealand Beekeeper magazine which is now available online.
- Re-prioritising funding from honey surveillance to targeted apiary inspections.
- Reducing the number of in-person Board meetings and trialling more frequent virtual meetings.

We have re-prioritised the budget to focus on areas of demand and utilise underspends to lay a foundation of the AFB NPMP Change Programme. This programme will provide a framework for the implementation of the new NPMP, coming into force in mid-2025. The re-prioritised budget includes:

- Continual improvements to HiveHub functionality for ease of beekeeper administration and additional features for Authorised Person inspection records.
- Investing in HiveHub cybersecurity assessments and remedial works.
- Developing an AFB Recognition course for commercial beekeepers and their employees.
- Training and upskilling our frontline staff (AFB Recognition Trainers and Authorised Persons).
- Greater engagement with beekeepers through beekeeping club visits and in-person meetings with both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers.
- Phased implementation of updates to the Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA).
- Following up on severe breaches and non-compliances of the AFB NPMP with relevant authorities.

Information about the NPMP Change Programme and the timeline to the AFB NPMP review can be found here:

afb.org.nz/review-of-plan-order

afb.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/AFB-Milestones-FA3_ONLINE.pdf

Setting the 2025/26 levy rate and the proposed budget

Between June 2023 and May 2024, beekeeper numbers and colony numbers fell by 9.8% and 11.7%, respectively.

In setting the proposed 2025/26 levy, the Management Agency has taken into consideration:

- The forecast decline in the number of registered beekeepers and colonies over the next 12 months.
- The current challenging economic climate.
- The resulting financial hardship experienced by many beekeepers.

The proposed 2025/26 budget has been prepared on the assumption that beekeeper numbers will reduce to ¹7,858 (a 5% decline from August 2024 stats) and colony numbers will decline to ²486,558 (an 8% decline from August 2024 stats).

Despite the forecast 9% reduction in levy income and the subsequent \$60,500 loss in operating profit, The Management Agency is committed to:

- Educate and empower beekeepers with the resources and information required to manage AFB in an engaged, committed, and sustained manner.
- Conducting targeted inspections to identify AFB hot spots with a special focus on regional AFB incidence levels.
- Resolving AFB non-compliance before infection can financially impact neighbouring beekeepers and communicating a pathway for serious breaches leading to infringement offences.
- Monitor the success of beekeepers' DECAs and AFB incidence.

The Management Agency is proposing that the levy for the 2025/26 levy year **remain the same** at:

- **\$40 (\$46 including GST) per beekeeper and,**
- **\$1.95 (\$2.24 including GST) per bee colony.**

Budget Proposal 2025/26 document

- Download from here:
afb.org.nz/levy-consultation-3
- Link to audited accounts for 2023/24 can be found here: afb.org.nz/audited-accounts

1. Beekeeper number as of 16 August 2024 (8,282)

2. Colony numbers as of 16 August 2024 (528,868)

Start your submission at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CJJBKNW

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