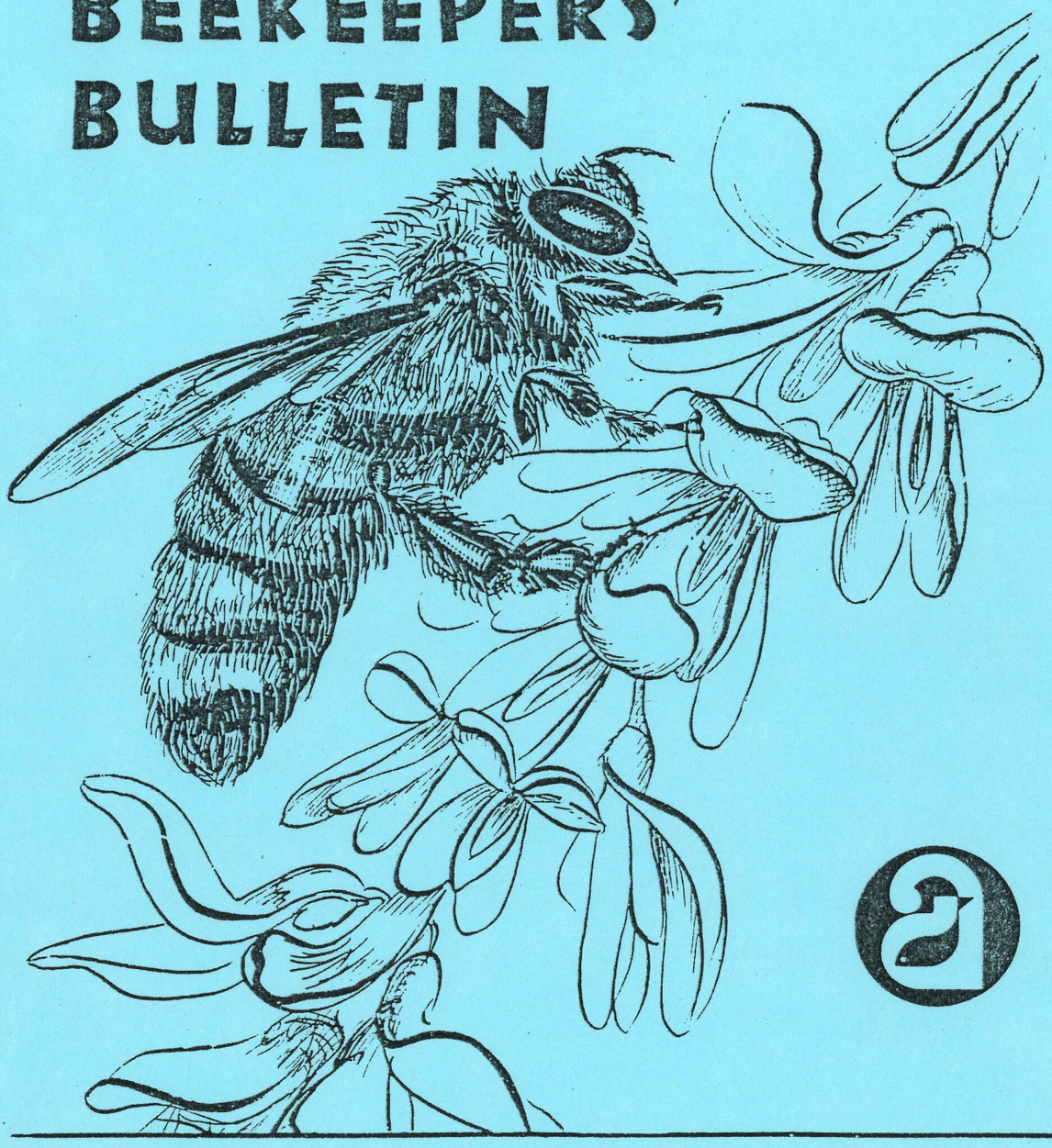
THE BEEKEEPERS' BULLETIN



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AUGUST 1985

MAF TODAY

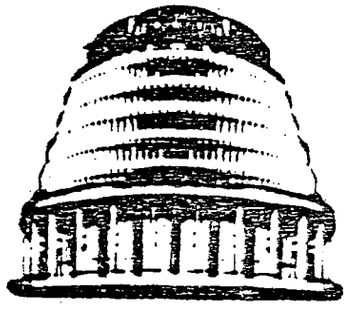
What's MAF doing these days? Certainly not what it was doing two years ago.

That might cause some beekeepers to grumble, but the changes are bringing more benefit to New Zealand. The MAF Advisory Service has a clear purpose : to increase the economic wealth of this country.

Those of you at the Greymouth industry planning workshop will have been left in no doubt - MAF must target its resources to areas with the highest payoff for the nation.

Today's MAF must be more business-like. Every individual in the organisation is expected to produce tangible results, results which are in line with regional and national goals.

Beehive Buzz



AAOs have their individual objectives to achieve, and several areas are common to all or most of us. We've pulled those ones together to make co-ordinated objectives. Here they are:

1. To begin beekeeping financial monitoring on a national basis by 31/05/86.

2. To develop and implement natonal emergency resource procedures (ERP) by 31/03/86.

3. Adoption of a national AFB control system by 31/05/86.

4. Implement an advisory programme for increased queen bee exports by 31/05/86.

5. Implement a national quality assurance package by 31/05/86.

6. Implement a national kiwifruit pollination advisory programme by 28/02/86.

7. Set and disseminate research priorities by 31/07/85.

There, I hope that wasn't too boring to read through. Let's look at the kiwifruit pollination one and see how it will work in this district.

Major actions	Target completion date
1. Ascertain which beekeepers supply hives, and in what numbers.	31/03/85
2. Obtain assistance of other MAF staff to carry out a hive survey in November 1985.	30/09/85
3. Discuss with NBA pollination committee.	30/09/85
4. Train selected MAF Field Officers in survey techniques.	15/11/85
5. Survey selected hives in KF orchards for disease status and pollination practices.	10/12/85
6. Draw up extension programme for 1986 pollination season based on survey results.	31/01/86
7. Estimate future demand for hives and advise NBA and KFGA.	31/01/86

The other 6 main co-ordinated objectives are also underway:

1. Financial monitoring - there's an article in this issue of "The Beekeepers Bulletin" on that, and one by Murray Reid in next month's "New Zealand Beekeeper".

2. Emergency response procedures (ERP) are a means of preparing for these situations: exotic plant pest or disease outbreaks (eg fruit fly); exotic bee pest or disease outbreaks; climatic emergency (eg flood, snowfall). Animal disease outbreaks such as foot and mouth disease are catered for by a similar organisation within MAF's Animal Health Division.

   I'm already involved in the setting up of a Nelson ERP committee, and the bee disease response is being co-ordinated nationally. You'll hear a lot more about ERP in the next six months as the procedures are finalised.

3. AFB control programme. Much of this is already in place in my district, including:
   - a goal for MAF to check-inspect 10% of district apiaries;
   - finance and manpower negotiated for this level of inspection;
   - administration to take over full responsibility for the apiary register;
   - use of beekeeper disease-reporting forms;
   - producing disease statistics for the district.

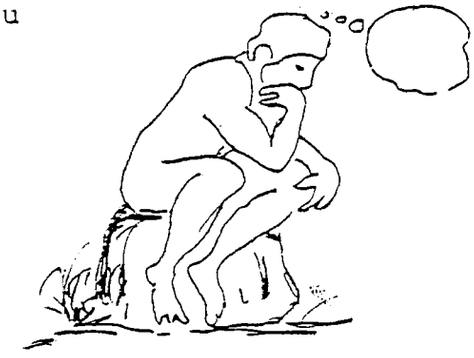
4. Queen bee export programme. Much of this is going on in the north of the North Island, as you'd expect. The list of major actions runs to 2½ pages, so I can't cover it all here. Read elsewhere in this bulletin about the formation of the New Zealand Queen Bee Producers' Association.

5. National quality assurance programme. This covers the certification and quality assurance of exports, especially honey and queen bees. New manuals have been collated for both of these. Nosema control is also important here, and in this district there'll be : an article of mine in the spring "Beekeeper", talks to branches, and a newsletter article.

6. We've looked at kiwifruit pollination in detail already.

7. Set and disseminate research priorities. This has already been done. As advisers we made a list of priority areas for bee and beekeeping research, which is being circulated to all research agencies in New Zealand. We also collated a list of projects already going on, and found to our surprise 28 different people doing beekeeping-related research.

So, there it is. I hope it's given you some idea of how MAF, and in particular each region's AAOs, are working for specific results. Another feature of the programmes is the way we're working closely with your industry organisation, the NBA, and co-ordinating our efforts in some areas through industry planning.



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HOW TO KNOW WHEN YOUR'RE GROWING OLDER

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
You feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.
Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
You get winded playing chess.
You finally reach the top of the ladder, and find it leaning against the wrong wall.

BEEKEEPING GROWS

The beekeeping industry is continuing to grow. In the Nelson apiary district, totals for the year ending 31st May 1985 are:

583 beekeepers; 2133 apiaries; 22 775 hives.

That's a growth of 10% in hives, 6% in apiaries and 2% in beekeepers from last year's figures.

Nationally there are over 300 000 hives, up from 270 000 last year.

The computerised apiary register allows us to break the district totals down by area.

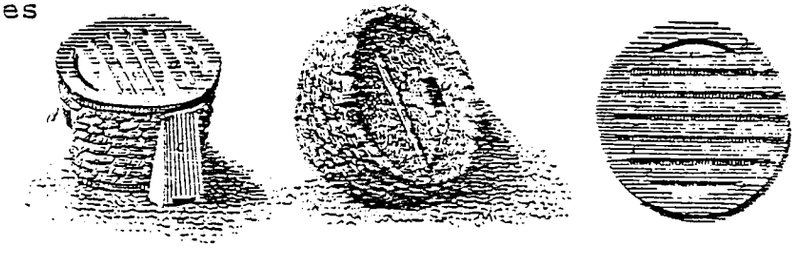
Beekeepers resident in:	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Marlborough	148	502	5 447
Nelson	270	924	8 368
Golden Bay	39	124	1 472
Murchison/Reefton	16	93	433
Westport/Karamea	36	140	1 708
West Coast (remainder)	74	350	5 347
TOTAL	583	2 133	22 775

AFB statistics are a little different this year. In the past we've taken them for the year ending 31 January. Now we've shifted that to a more sensible 31 May. This does mean though, that for this year of transition we've got BL totals for 16 months; 01 February 1984 - 31 May 1985. Next year they'll be back to a normal twelve month basis.

That's inflated the figures a little, but not by too much as still only one spring is counted.

153 apiaries (7.23%)

340 hives (1.52%)



They compare with 120 apiaries (5.97%) and 287 hives (1.83%) for last year. The 1984-85 figures are the highest totals ever, but the percentage incidence is lower than for the 1977-78 year (11.07% and 1.74% respectively).

To help you to bring these figures down (they're your problem), MAF has the objective on AFB control procedures that I discussed earlier in this issue.

The use of the disease reporting forms has really improved prompt notification of AFB, which makes our job a lot easier. We'd appreciate more prompt registration of apiaries (within 14 days is the requirements), a continuation of the trend of numbering sites, and a VAST improvement in the return of spring hive inspection statements on time. One-third of the beekeepers being late, including prominent commercial ones and industry leaders, is just not good enough.

Don't 'play' with disease, burn it and bury it, then report it.

Be a Responsible Beekeeper.

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A BEEKEEPER'S LAMENT

It all started in 1967 when they changed from pounds to dollars, and overnight the overdraft doubled.

I was just gettin' used to this when they brought in kilograms or somethin', and the honey crop dropped in half. Then they started playing around with the weather and brought in Celsius, and we haven't had a decent fall of rain since.

This wasn't enough-they had to change over to hectares, and I end up with all my bee sites just half this size. Then to cap it all off they changed over to kilometres, and I find I'm travelling twice the distance.

Then they brings on them litre things so I'm buying four times as much petrol.

And now believe it or not, daylight saving. Well I've saved up enough daylight to see me through, so I'm gettin' out, before they halve that.

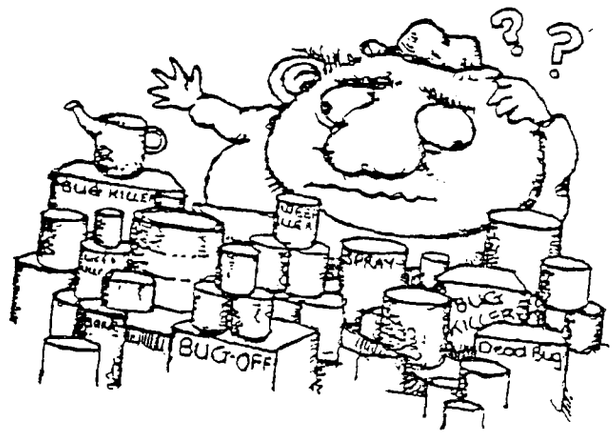
Goodbye

- The Australian Bee Journal
January 1985

1080 POISONING AND BEES

How safe is 1080 poison when laid near beehives? Well, a lot of factors have to be considered before answering that question - the most important are what bait the poison is mixed with, and how near it is to hives.

Obviously pollard bait poses no problems, it's only when "jam" (apple pulp) is used that there can be trouble for the beekeeper.



The Pest Destruction Boards instructions say that 1080 in jam shouldn't be laid within 400 metres of an apiary. The Forest Service use the same limit. If poisoning needs to be done closer to an apiary, the beekeeper is advised to move the hives out.

Experience has shown that there's very little danger to bees over the autumn/winter period if baits are at least 400 m from hives.

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MAF'S FINANCES

What's happening with MAF's financial allocation? You've heard rumours of budget cuts, and are being asked to pay for things you've had free in the past.

MAF's funding from the government is being cut, and we are expected to recover as many costs as possible. The cuts are progressive over this financial year and the two following.

We have not been singled out for specific attention. The New Zealand Forest Service, Ministry of Works & Development and DSIR are all in the same situation as us.

Our situation is:-

Firstly, that this year our operating vote, or funding, has been reduced by a total of $1 million. Next financial year, beginning March 1986, it will be reduced by $5 million and the following year by $10 million.

The June 1985 Budget said that we had to make these savings from research, advisory and information services. The savings have been made across MAF for this year and planning for the future cut is underway.

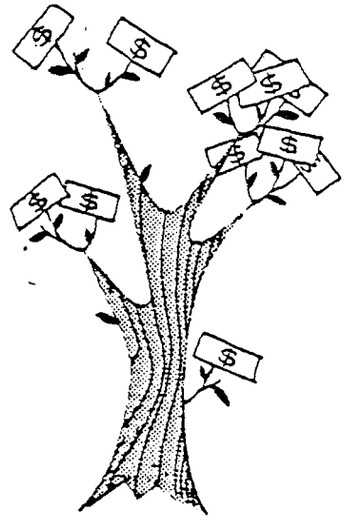
Secondly, we were told in the 1984 Budget that we were to charge product inspection fees. These are to be one-third of costs this season and two-thirds in the 1986/87 year. These costs cover all Dairy and Meat Division activities, and some of Advisory Services and Animal Health Division work. The only effect on beekeeping so far is a charge for honey export certification.

Thirdly, all services provided by MAF are to be identified and charged out on a full cost-recovery basis. This charging will offset the cuts in our funding and will apply to services to outside clients. The only evidence you've seen of this so far is a charge for this Bulletin. That's come about because the Government Printing Office is charging for printing it now, which in the past was done free. Advisory Services Division is also now going to have to pay other MAF divisons for their services, eg computer and library services.

What does this mean for MAF?

Reducing costs

Clearly we will have to sort out, at all levels in MAF, what each of our programmes is costing and which are marginal in terms of our mission or value to our clients. We will also have to look very hard at all tasks we have a mandate for and reduce the costs of carrying them out.

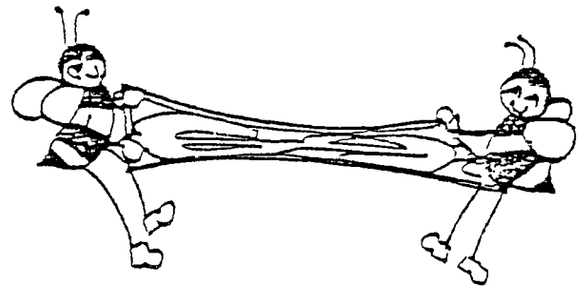


Increasing revenue

We will need to recoup full costs in those areas we are not charging for, or where we are only recovering part of the cost. If our clients don't want a service, it will be difficult to justify continuing it.

However, we are being asked to recover a fair measure of costs, not to maximise profits.

I'll try to keep you informed of any future developments in this area.



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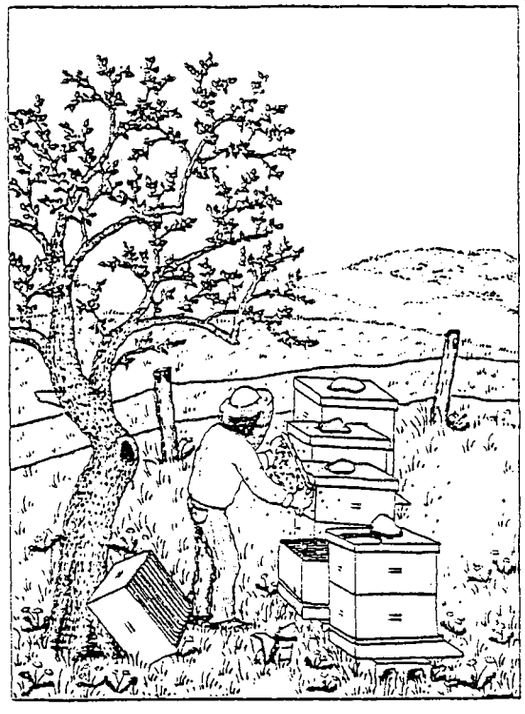
MAF INSPECTION

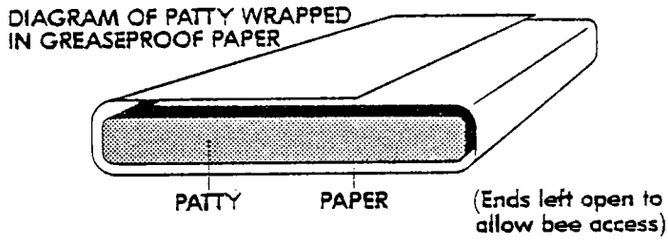
MAF's check inspection of 10% of apiaries will be done this year entirely with permanent MAF staff. This is because of an almost complete reduction in the amount of money available for paying part-time inspectors (PTIs). With MAF staff already on the payroll, the only extra cash expense is to pay for vehicle running.

Other regions have adopted a different strategy - using beekeeper PTIs, but offering no payment. That is another option we may have to look at in the future.



POLLEN SUBSTITUTES

Lactalbumin is now being sold as Alatal 560, by the Dairy Board's trading company Alaco, (P O Box 417, Wellington, phone: (04) 723 630). It costs $2.80/kg ex store North Island, or freight-free on one-tonne lots.



The recipe has been given before: 12.5 kg lactalbumin, 25 kf brewer's yeast (unsalted), 70 kg sugar, water to mix. It's most convenient to mix it in a dough mixer at a bakery, shape into 500 g patties (approximately 12 mm thick), wrap in paper as shown and freeze until needed.

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QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM CONFERENCE

"It wasn't conclusive what they did, but the conclusions from the study were ..."

"Definition of an expert:
- x is the unknown quantity
- spurt is a drip under pressure".

MORE QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM CONFERENCE

"On behalf of the co-op I am prepared to speak on this matter - we have no comment."

"I'm quite sure - I <u>am</u> sure - why I'm here."

"Some people even seem to think there's some spare honey around at the moment."

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CALIFORNIA SEARCHES FOR MORE AFRICANIZED BEES

Some of you may have seen a TV news report a month ago, which said that Africanized honey bees (AHB) had been found in California. We've heard surprisingly little since, given the normal media hysteria on this subject. Now I've been able to find out more from "Speedy Bee", a magazine that really lives up to its name.

One feral colony of Africanized honey bees (AHB) has been found in an oilfield in the southern San Joaquin Valley, near Bakersfield in California. There have been six interceptions of AHB at US ports, but this is the first record of them on land.

The AHB colony was found by sheer chance on 14 June 1985, by a worker at the oilfield. He stopped his machine to investigate carcasses of a fox and a crow that he had seen : a rabbit ran past a burrow entrance, bees issued from the burrow and attacked the rabbit. The worker plugged up the burrow with oily, asphalt-like soil and later told the foreman, who eventually told the county agricultural commissioner's office. If this sounds long and drawn out, then so was the "discovery". Read on.

County officials took a sample of the bees and killed the colony. The sample went to a laboratory in Sacramento, California's capital, where it languished among all sorts of other work. Eventually it was looked at, tentatively identified as Africanized, and on 19 July sent to the University of California at Berkley. Here at last was someone who knew something about AHB!

The tentative ID was confirmed at UC Berkley, and at the USDA lab in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The term used was "highly Africanized".

Then things started to happen. The remains of the feral colony were excavated : 20 combs were found in a space 1.7m x 0.3 m in size, which is big even by European standards. It had probably been there for a year or more, and at least one swarm cell was found.

Preliminary tests of surrounding hives (110 apiaries in a 1000 km^2 quarantine zone) haven't found any Africanization. However, identification of AHB is not easy, nor is it always conclusive.

Where did the colony come from? It's likely that it hitchhiked into the US in a shipment of oil equipment from South America. It could also have joined a ship passing through the Panama Canal.

AHB swarms could easily reach New Zealand. They have an amazing ability to travel, and have already reached the Great Lakes of North America, and Great Britain, on board ships.

MAF's Emergency Response Procedures (ERP) include a section on AHB. We are drawing up plans to deal with such a discovery, so that the initial decisions have been made and early actions decided upon in advance. We'll be watching California's experience with interest.

Source: *Speedy Bee* 14(8) : 1, 5 (August 1985)

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FINANCIAL MONITORING

MAF is setting up a national monitoring scheme for beekeeping businesses. We're doing this to get realistic, current data on how such businesses are faring.

The information is needed to:-

- monitor the effects of changing seasons and Government policy on the industry;
- help us to target our advisory work to the most important parts of a beekeeper's business;
- give advice to MAF head office and Treasury on the industry;
- obtain good informatin to use when discussing beekeeping with intending beekeepers, Rural Bank, trading banks and other agencies.

I've approached several beekeepers in the region about participating in the scheme. With their co-operation this programme will greatly help the industry in the medium to long term.

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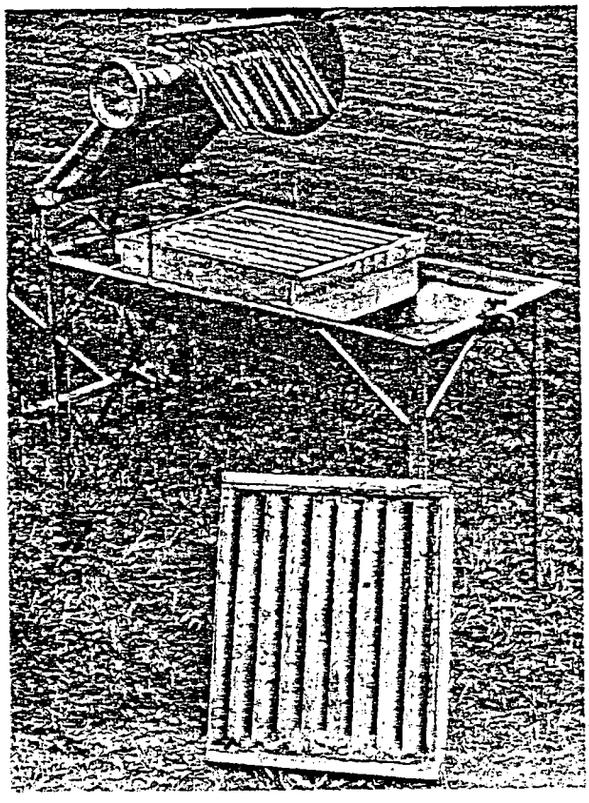
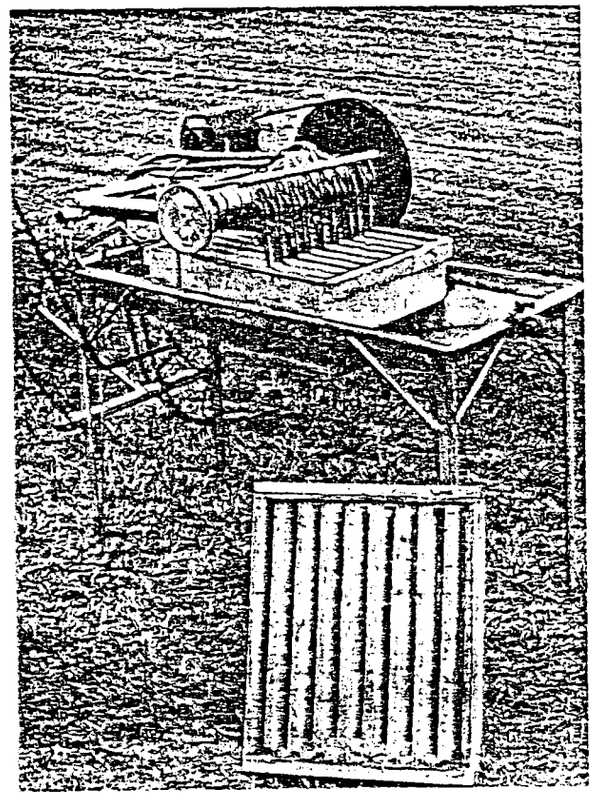
AN UNCAPPER WITH A DIFFERENCE

We've now got extractors that take frames by the box instead of singly, but what about uncappers? Now surely there's at least one mechanical genius out there ...



A – Step One.



B – Step Two.

Home-Constructed Super Uncapper.

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It is hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place.

H.L. MENCKEN

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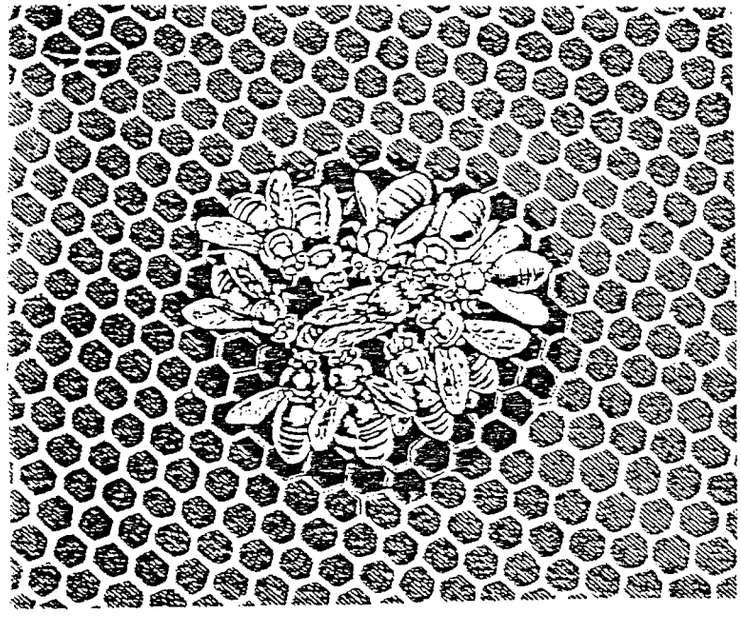
QUEEN BEE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

There's been an exciting development in the queen bee industry in New Zealand, with the formation of a professional association for queen producers.

The New Zealand Queen Bee Producers' Association was finally formed at the Greymouth conference, after preliminary rules had been drawn up at meetings in Northland.

The NZQBPA has 12 objectives listed, in the general areas of industry co-ordination, business ethics, stock improvement, and market development.



Membership is open to NBA members who sell at least 500 queens per year. Others may become associate members.

Formation of this association is important because it signifies a new willingness for producers to work together, to improve the standard of local market queens and to co-ordinate the developing of export markets.

Further information is available from the secretary:

Malcolm Haines
RD 2
KAITAIA

(Phone: 1228)

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POLLEN ANALYSIS REPORT

Dr Neville Moar's paper on pollen analysis is now available, for $2.50 from DSIR. Containing 31 pages, it summarises the findings of a comprehensive study.

Reference: Moar, N.T.1985.
Pollen analysis of New Zealand honey
New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research 28 : 39-70

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KNOW YOUR DISEASES : 4 'DISAPPEARING DISEASE'

Disappearing disease is a term we used to hear a lot of in the beekeeping literature. It strikes me that the name isn't used much any more.

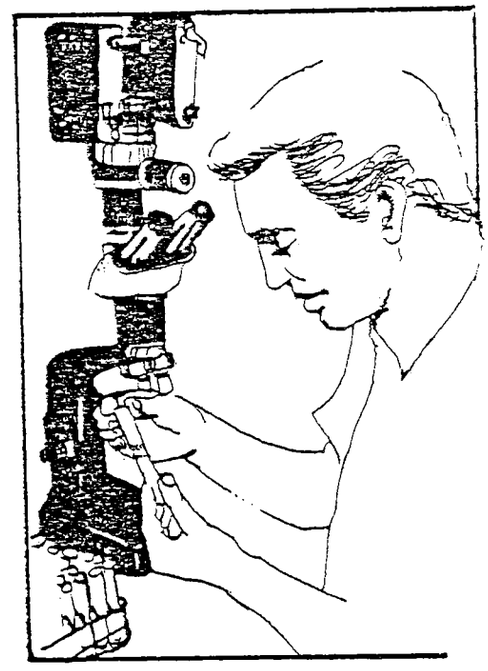
What is 'disappearing disease'? Dr H Shimanuki, who was in New Zealand recently, has some fairly strong words to say about the name for a start.

"'Disappearing disease' is a classic case of a misnomer. In the first palce, the bees disappear, not the disease. In addition, in my opinion, the term is used as an umbrella for what may well be many maladies.

"No laboratory test (for 'disappearing disease') is yet available to confirm the presence of any disease in the colony - communicable or noncommunicable.

"I am convinced that the terms 'disappearing disease' and 'autumn collapse' should be dropped. I suggest that we use 'spring', 'autumn' or 'winter dwindling syndrome'. If proof is found that there is indeed one disease, then a new name should be coined."

So, 'disappearing disease' (DD) means different things in different circumstances. One study in Florida showed DD to be related to pollen deficiencies.



Commercial beekeepers with hives in Florida found a severe decline in colony population in winter and spring, with no dead bees apparent.

A variety of treatments were applied:-

- adding 1 comb of pollen produced a gain in adult bee numbers twice that of the control group.
- feeding Fumidil-B had no effect, indicating that nosema disease was not a problem.
- feeding a poor pollen substitute diet (3-4 year old soyabean flour with or without brewer's yeast) actually resulted in less population growth than doing nothing.

Your disappearing disease won't be the same as Florida's. But there's some interesting lessons to learn from this study:

- nosema was not a problem <u>in this instance</u> (but then the West Coast isn't much like Florida).

- fresh pollen is very valuable.

- feeding a poor pollen substitute may do more harm than doing nothing would. (This study was carried out before the lactulbumin diet had been discovered).

Kulincevic, J.M.; Rothenbuler, W.C.; Rinderer, T.E.; 1982. Disappearing disease I - Effects of certain protein sources given to honey bee colonies in Florida. *American Bee Journal* 112(3) : 189-191.

Shimanuki, H. 1978. Synonymy in bee diseases. In : Morse, R.A. (ed). *Honey bee pests, predators and diseases.* Ithaca New York, Comstock Publishers, pp 342-343.

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Lettuce is like conservation; it must be fresh and crisp, so sparkling that you scarcely notice the bitter in it.

C D WARNER

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POLLINATORS

Don't forget to take part in the Nelson registered pollinators scheme, if you are going to be doing pollination in this area.

The scheme sets minimum hive standards, advises growers of participating beekeepers, and gives advice to growers on pollination.

To register, or for futher information, contact Michael Wraight, Braeburn, RD 2, Upper Moutere, (Phone: LMO 708).

I'll also be requiring a list of contracts before hives are shifted for kiwifruit pollination. This is a statutary requirement, and is needed for disease control purposes. It's also useful for analysing trends in pollination hive numbers, and I sent results to those participating in the scheme last year.

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Recent newspaper reports have noted that as from July 1 1985 import licensing will be removed from honey and beeswax. Tariffs (20%) remain for imports from most countries except Australia and the Pacific Islands. However, the MAF still prohibits all honey and wax imports unless under permit. So the status quo remains.

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MELLITIPHIS

This little mite caused quite a fuss when it turned up in Great Britain in 1982 on New Zealand queens. Now it's been found in the recent big queen and package shipment to eastern Canada.

The export queen advisory programme that I've mentioned has a section on Mellitiphis. Before we can do much about reducing its incidence in exports, we need to know some more about it. That's where you can help.

We need some more specimens of Mellitiphis. If you see this mite, please try and capture some specimens in a jar. The adult is brown or dark brown, almost circular in shape and about 0.7 mm across. Young mites are white, and about the same size as adults.

The specimens are needed for Mr D Manson, a MAF scientist who is helping to determine the best control measures for Mellitiphis. This is a vital step before we can gain access to the US market for queens. After a lot of groundwork by MAF and Foreign Affairs officials, that access could be granted soon.

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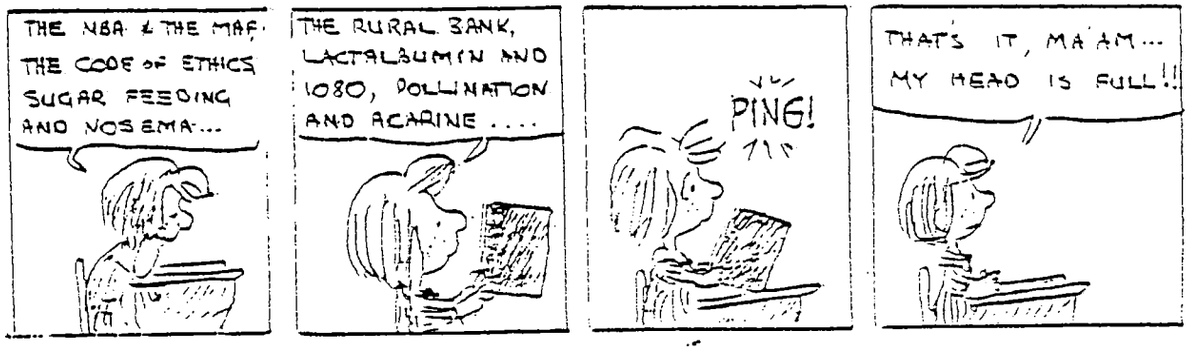
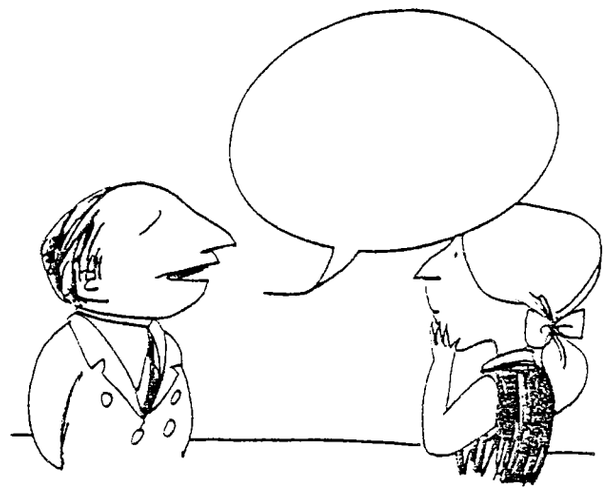


IMPROVING THOSE BRANCH MEETINGS

To ensure consistent attendance at your meetings, make sure that each meeting has a guest speaker or a theme specified beforehand. People often can't be bothered making it to a meeting if they're not sure whether it will be about someting in particular or nothing at all.



In the last "NZ Beekeeper" magazine, the Hawkes Bay branch commented:

"we now have guest speakers and an increasing attendance."

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HOW DOES POLLEN TRAPPING AFFECT HONEY PRODUCTION?

In the last issue of the "Bulletin" I reported on a German study of pollen trapping. That showed a 60% reduction in honey storage by colonies with traps on permanently.

Another study, this time done in Canada, throws some more light on the subject. For two consecutive seasons, 20 colonies were examined. They were started with packages; 10 had no traps on (control colonies), while the other 10 had OAC traps on from when the packages were hived until the end of the honey flow.

The results show some difference between colonies with traps on and those without:

	Year 1	Year 2
Brood area	no significant difference	no significant difference early in the season, but 20% less in trap colonies later.
honey crop	31% less on trap colonies	18% less on trap colonies but this is not significantly different.

(Even though there are differences in all measurements between trap and control colonies, these differences must reach a certain size before they are statistically significant. Otherwise, it's quite likely that they result from random variations).

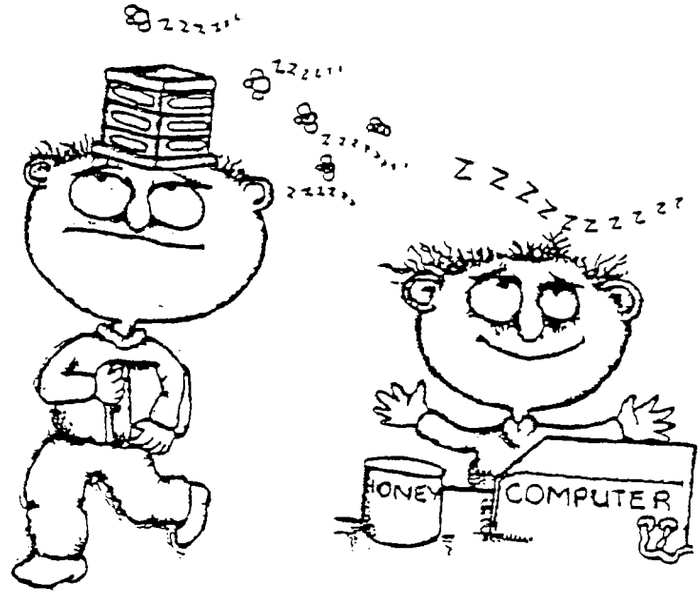
The economic benefits of pollen trapping depend on the relative prices of honey and pollen. For the Canadian experiment, the figures look like this:

Year	1		2	
Treatment	Control	Trap	Control	Trap
Average honey production (kg)	115	79	129.5	106
Honey income (@ $C1.10/kg)	$126.50	$ 86.50	$142.45	$116.60
Average pollen production (kg)	-	12.7	-	7.2
Pollen income (@ $C7.70/kg)	-	$ 97.79	-	$ 55.44
Gross income	$126.50	$184.69	$142.45	$172.04

If you want to do a similar analysis for yourself, you will need to use:

* your pollen and honey prices,
* detailed records of honey and pollen production, preferably over more than one season.

I suggest that the drop in honey production would be less with the New Zealand practice of removing the trap over the honey flow.



Reference:

Nelson, D.; Zumwalt, E.; McKenna, D. 1985. Pollen trapping's effect on honey production.

The Speedy Bee 14(6) : 16.

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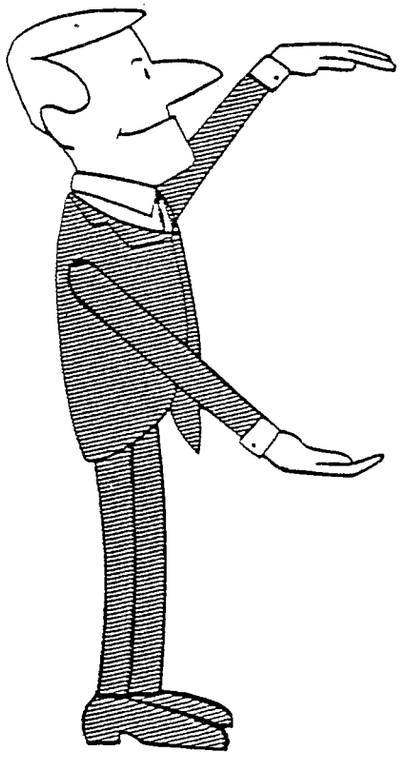
POLLEN TRAP MESH

A warning about buying the wrong size of mesh for your pollen traps. MAF recommendation is for 4.28 mm square apertures, which is usually made with 0.90 mm wire. Some other publications suggest 4.18 mm square apertures.



One beekeeper recently bought some mesh that was, he was assured by the vendor, suitable for pollen traps. It had 3.99 mm square apertures, and bees found it very difficult to pass through. Congestion resulted, and pollen yield dropped off.

Another lot being sold averaged 4.11 mm squares, but was very inconsistent: in one direction squares varied from 3.48 mm to 4.85 mm in size.

Beware of what you buy, and measure a sample with callipers if necessary.
Aglink FPP 533 contains wire dimensions and supplier's names and addresses.

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TRADE TABLE

* Dudley Ward (97 Guy Street, Dannevirke) is importing a rather good-looking honey pricker from Norway. It automatically pricks each cell in a comb twice. The original version was hand-operated, but Dudley has powered it by compressed air. This brings the price to over $3 000.

* Polystyrene, top-bar mating nucs are available from John & Jenny Dobson, The Bee Farm, RD 1, Hastings (phone: 789 449 Hastings). They cost $6 plus freight for the polystyrene only, $10 complete but unpainted, or $12 finished and ready for bees.

* Radial extractor (20-frame). $2 350 from Hardbark Engineering, Woodside Road, Oxford (phone: 24 388 Oxford).

* From the same firm, an overflow alarm to avoid those honey house "whoopsies". Battery-powered, cost $60.

* "Apislift" hive loader. Designed and distributed by J L & S K Brown, Katikati Honey Centre, RD 2, Katikati (phone: 490 810).

CERACELL FOUNDATION LTD. P.O. BOX 58114 AUCKLAND PHONE 2747236

Cat.No.	Item	Price
1	Master queen grafting tool	$31.80
2	Cell cup, plastic Kenco @-.15 per 200@-.12	$120.- per1000
3	Queen catching cage	$ 2.30
4	Queen marking kit, green with marking cage	$16.46
5	Queen marking cage, plastic	$ 1.30
6	Queen marking dots, colours	$ 7.94
7	Queen marking discs, 1-99 numbered	$ 4.03
8	Proboscis measuring device	$15.95
9	Queen introducing cage, plastic 1-99 -.27@100-999-.25@ 1000 -.23@	
10	Cell punch	$13.90
11	Cell base punch	$20.34
12	Transferring probe with magnifying glass	$11.65
13	Transferring needle, plain	$ 7.49
14	Magnifying glass 4"	$12.67
15	Queen and drone trap, 240mm	$13.20
15a	Queen and drone trap, 320mm	$21.36
16	Emlock hive fastener with galv. band 1-9$7.95@ 10+	$ 7.55 @
17	Nicot cell cup holder	@ $ -.20
18	Nicot cell cup	@ $ -.15
19	Nicot cell protecting cage	@ $ -.25
20	Uncapping knife, speed king electric	$121.55
21	Uncapping knife, master	$132.40
22	Uncapping knife, steam	$ 60.55
23	Uncapping knife, stainless steel plain	$ 16.15
24	Viscous honey pricker	$ 95.15
25,26,27	Uncapping scratchers, three types, $9.75	$12.75/18.75
28	Bee veil, round "CERACELL"	$ 8.15
29	Bee veil, square	$ 8.15
30	Gloves, "CERACELL" extra small,small,med,lge	$19.30
31	Overalls, sizes 4 - 12	$29.95
33	Pith helmet	$19.95
34	Hat, Oadant plastic ventilated	$18.80
35	Capwell, safety toe white PVC 3/4length gumboot	$34.75
36	Boots, king leo 12" high leg	$65.89
37	Boots, king leo ankle length	$54.80
38	Hive tool, Kelly	$10.50
39	Hive tool with hook	$10.80
40	Waxing tube	$ 8.65
41	Fabj spray	$ 7.63
42	Bee escape, Porter 1-9 @ $1.95	
43	Bee escape, Herzog	$ 3.09 @
44	Bee brush, bristle	$ 9.75
45	Bee brush, nylon	$ 7.35
46	Queen excluder "HERZOG" 1-9$9.35@ 10-49 $8.85@	@ $ 8.40 50-100
47	Frame wire crimper, all metal heavy duty	$51.60
48	Feeder, plastic, division board type	$ 6.25
49	Sour embedder	$ 6.75
50	Embedder, electric, complete with probes	$63.34
51	Spare probes	$ 3.63
52	Smoker, galv. 100mm without guard	$22.30
53	Smoker, galv. 100mm with wire guard & fire tube	$29.45
54	Smoker, stainless steel 100mm with wire guard	$32.85
55	Smoker,stainless steel 120mm no guard	$29.-
56	Smoker, brass 100mm with wire guard	$34.05
57	Smoker, stainless steel 100mm with guard & fire tube	$36.55
57a	Smoker, extra tall, no guard	$37.85
58	Spare bellows	$ 9.90
58a	Spare fire tube for Cat.No. 53 & 57	$ 6.50
59	Contap, honey gate 40mm	$15.46
60	Honey gate, galv. 1½"	$53.65
61	Honey gate, galv. 2"	$51.33
62	Molasses tap, gunmetal 50mm	$58.20

Cat.No	ITEM	PRICE
63	Frame wire, 200g galv.	$ 4.31
63a	Frame wire, 200g tinned	$ 5.37
65	Frame wire, 2.2kg tinned	$31.35
65a	Frame wire, 2.2kg galv.	$23.28
66	Nails 15x1.4mm 500g $2.04 1kg $3.85 per box	$78.58
67	25x1.6mm 500g $2.14 1kg $4.30 "	$87.57
68	40x2.0mm 500g $2.09 1kg $3.95 "	$80.62
69	50x2.24mm500g $2.05 1kg $3.94 "	$80.43
70	60x2.8mm 500g $2.03 1kg $3.83 "	$78.22
70a 12x1 50g $-.60. 100g $-.95 250g $2.20 500g $4.05 1kg		$ 8.10
70b	30x1.4mm 250g	$ 1.15
	40x1.6 "	$ -.95
	50x2.24mm "	$ -.85
71	Honey tank, 90lt with lid & tap	$67.20
72	Honey pail, 20lt with lid & handle 1-9$7.40	$ 7.15 ten +
73	Mirex wasp bait camo. out of stock	
74	Benzaldenyde 500g	$ 9.25
75	" 1kg	$16.52
76	" 2kg	$32.48
77	P.D.B. crystals 1kg $5.29 bulk price per kg	$ 3.94
77a	" 4kg	$16.79
78	Cellcure Tricunol, wood treatment 2lt. $	
	20lt.can$	
	60lt.can$	

BOOKS

87	First Lessons in Beekeeping, Oadant	$ 5.52
87a	The Hive and the Honey Bee, Oadant	$23.87
87b	Beekeeping Questions & Answers, Oadant	$15.60
87c	Honey in the Comb, Killion	$16.72
87d	Honey Bee Brood Diseases, Hansen	$12.95
87e	Keeping Bees, Beckley	$ 9.50
87f	Mastering the Art of Beekeeping Vol.1 Aebi	$ 9.95
87g	Mastering the Art of Beekeeping Vol.2 Aebi	$ 9.95
87h	Practical Beekeeping, Tompkins&Griffiths	$10.50
87i	Beekeeping, Vernon	$ 4.50
87j	ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture, Root	$28.24
87k	The Honey Kitchen	$16.97
87l	How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey, Kelly	$ 3.65
87m	Practical Beekeeping in NZ, Matheson	$17.95
87n	Beekeeping for Fun, Chapman-Taylor & Davey	$12.-
87o	Feeding Sugar to Bees	$ 2.01
87p	Feeding Honey Bees Pollen	$ 2.61
87q	Establishing and Using Nuclei	$ 2.07
87r	Methods of Raring Queens	$ 3.44
87s	Propolis	$ 3.44
87t	Pollen and its Harvesting	$ 2.07
87u	Mead	$ 1.24
87	Beekeeping in the United States	$26.65
87w	The Wonderful World of Honey	$19.95
87x	Nature's Golden Treasure, Honey Cookbook	$31.80
105	Honey Bee, wall chart	$19.20
106	Bees - Hymenopteria, wall chart	$19.75
107	Honey Bee, study prints	$69.95
108	Honey refractometer	
110	Haubolt staple gun, for frame wire, staple 4-14mm	
112	Haubolt stapie gun, for frames, staples 20-40mm	

Prices charged will be those valid at time of dispatch. Please use our order form where possible. For detailed description of items in this price list consult our illustrated catalogue.

24 Andromeda Crescent, East Tamaki, Auckland

E.&.O.E.

CLEANING THOSE CLOGGED-UP BEE ESCAPES

To make it easier to clean clogged-up Porter bee escapes, just place them in a jar or tin, cover with alcohol or meths, and leave overnight. Next morning remove the escapes and finish the job with a toothbrush and warm, soapy water.

Save the jar and alcohol for another batch. When the alcohol gets too dirty pour it through a paper coffee filter - save the alcohol and start all over again and add only additional alcohol to cover escapes.

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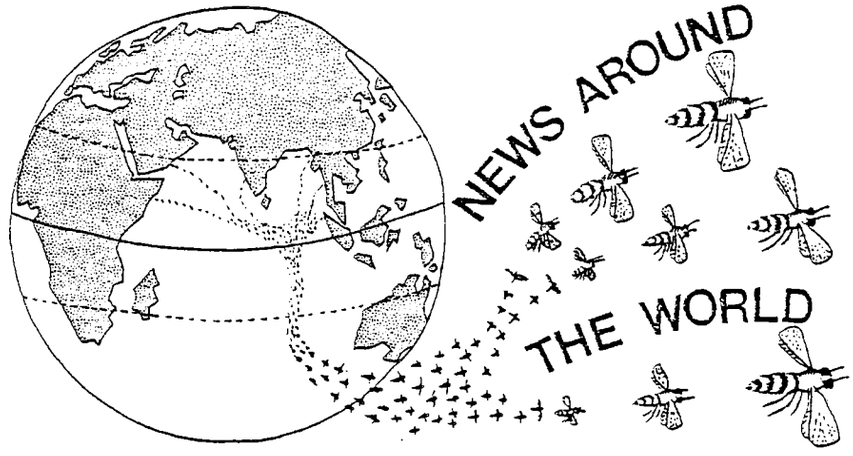
WORLD HONEY MARKETS

MAF has compiled a fairly comprehensive summary of honey marketing information. It's based on reports provided by trade commissioners for around the world, and contains details of trading patterns for 28 different countries and importers' addresses for most of those.

Contact the NBA executive secretary if you wish to buy a copy.



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AUSTRALIAN HONEY PRICES

One serious impact of EFB gaining a foothold in New Zealand would be the opening up of Australian honey imports. Murray Reid is putting an article on this in the next "New Zealand Beekeeper" - read that for a wider look at the question.

But in the meantime, to scare the pants off you, is a recent price list for bulk Australian exports. The recent weakening of the Australian dollar against the New Zealand dollar has dropped these by $NZ100 per tonne from previous prices.

Grade	Average f.o.b. price ($NZ/tonne)
W	1 380
ELA	1 323
LA	1 323
MA	1 298
A	1 245
D	1 224

Source: June 1985 Australian Beekeeper.

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BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE ON SUBSCRIPTION

Are you reading someone else's copy of this Bulletin? Do you see the branch copy occasionally, and wish you could get your own? Now you can.

The "Beekeeper's Bulletin" is now available on subscription : for only $10 per year you can enjoy your own copy of this magazine. In the past we had to restrict circulation to minimise costs; now anyone can get a copy if they're prepared to pay a sub.

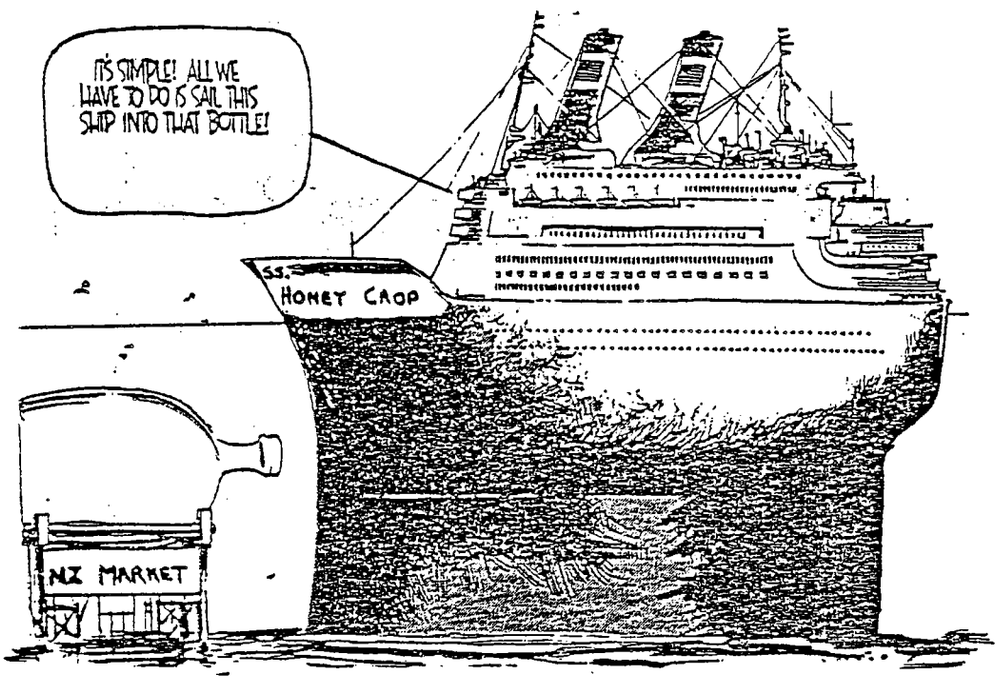
There's an order form inside the back cover of this issue, for anyone who wants to enrol for the rest of this subscription year.

* * * * * * * * * *

EXPORT CERTIFICATION MANUALS

MAF's procedures for certification of beekeeping exports have been brought together into two manuals: the "Queen honey bee export manual" and the "Honey export manual".

They set out procedures that exporters must follow, and contain sample forms for different countries. Copies have been sent to the NBA executive, and copies can be obtained from the secretary.



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SUGAR PRICES

New sugar prices (ex Chelsea sugar refinery, Auckland)

	per bag	per tonne
A 1	$27.70	$791.43
industrial raw	$24.00	$685.72
fine liquid*	$727.16 per dry tonne equivalent plus transport of $5,890 per tanker.*	

* FLS has only been available in rail tanker lots, which has restricted it to the North Island. Apparently it is now available in 200-litre drums from Chelsea depots (eg, Christchurch, Dunedin).

It is the liquid sugar syrup just prior to evaporation into A1. it is the equivalent of a 65% syrup.

Press 25/07/85

World overflowing with sugar

By FIONA LENEY of Reuters

Brussels

Eleven years ago, consumers in Western Europe were hoarding sugar like gold dust amid wild rumours of a global shortage.

Today the world is overflowing with sugar, its price is less than a tenth of what it was in 1974, and the glut is souring North-South relations, European and Third World officials say.

The slump in the world price has affected the wealth of Governments and peasants alike in developing countries such as the Philippines and Brazil.

It has also cost the European Community millions of dollars in a controversial export subsidy scheme which has spiralled in size as the price of sugar has fallen — although now even the Community has said that enough is enough.

The Community controls about 30 per cent of the world sugar market and Third World producers accuse it of helping depress prices by flooding the market with highly-subsidised exports.

Developing countries who depend on sugar sales as an engine for development charge that the Community — along with the United States, another big producer — has used its wealth to subsidise the dumping of its sugar surpluses on world markets.

Ironically, the Community also buys sugar from developing nations at higher than market prices under the Lome convention, a trade and aid pact with 66 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The 10-nation Community gives its own sugar producers a guaranteed price for sugar consumed within the bloc, and pays European traders export subsidies to bridge the gap between this and the price offered on the depressed open market.

As international prices have fallen, it has paid ever-larger rebates. The cost of its sugar policy more than doubled between 1981 and 1984, and it paid out about $US900 million ($1300 million) last year in rebates and storage costs.

Recently, the European Commission refused to increase the export subsidy after a further plunge in prices, abruptly withdrawing from the world market.

A Community agriculture spokesman said "We simply cannot afford to continue intervention. With the market as it is, the sky could be the limit."

He said the bloc had to dispose of a large sugar surplus, especially now when farmers were harvesting their sugar-yielding beets.

Community officials said that if the bloc stuck to its new policy, it could still be left with stocks of about two million tonnes when the harvest came in at the beginning of October in addition to the normal annual surplus of 3.57 million tonnes.

If the market did not revive, the present system whereby the Community finances export subsidies through levies on the producers' incomes would collapse by next year, they said.

The market price of sugar stands at under US3c per pound (454 grams), compared with an average of about US30c during the 1974 sugar panic.

Dieter Grupe, the head of the Commission's sugar division, said the Community would not lift its ceiling on export rebates until mid-August at the earliest, but admitted there appeared to be little chance of prices improving in the near future.

World sugar production has outpaced consumption each year since 1980 and some analysts estimate global stock surpluses as high as 17.3 million tonnes.

"It's crazy, the prices being quoted now do not cover production costs ... It's got to stop soon," he said.

Community producers have reduced their acreages by 15 per cent this year, but countries such as Brazil and Australia have increased theirs, he said.

To make things worse, the Soviet Union, once a large buyer on the world market, now obtained its supplies directly from Cuba, cutting demand on the open market.

A decision on whether to adjust Community sugar production quotas would be taken by the bloc's Agriculture Ministers in January or February, 1986, Mr Grupe said, adding that worldwide production discipline was badly needed to save sugar prices.

However, consuming and producing nations failed last year to negotiate a working international sugar agreement that would restrict exports at times of low prices. The previous accord proved generally ineffective, largely because the Community declined to join.

The ambassador to the Community in Mauritius, Mr Raymond Chasle, told NZPA-Reuters that the A.C.P. signatories of the sugar pact with the Community also wanted an international agreement between producers. The problem was the existence of protectionist measures in so many countries.

"It is complete anarchy on the market ... and the industrial countries are the ones who benefit most from the resulting low prices," he said.

BEEKEEPING POSITIONS SOUGHT

I've had quite a few enquiries lately about beekeeping jobs. Contact the enquirer directly if you're interested:

- Ken Everett, C/- Dobson substation, Westland is looking for a full-time job for 1-2 years. He's had experience working for commercial beekeepers and running his own outfit. 58 years old.

- Trefor Edwards, Tyn-y-Caeau, Tafarn-y-Fedw, Llanrwst, Gwynedd, Wales (yes, really!) would like 2-3 months work this summer. He's 35 and keeps 70 hives (small by our standards, but fairly large scale for Britain). He works for six months of the year as a part-time inspector for British MAF.

- C A Parrott, 6 Pady Court, Cirencester, Gloustershire GL7IYY, England. Hobbyist for 5 years, secretary of local beekeepers' association, would like to work for different beekeepers in exchange for board and lodging. Will be here from mid-January to mid-February.

And just a visitor:

- K E Hoare, 15a Craven Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 7RU, England. 10 years hobbyist experience. Would like to visit a queen breeder and a beekeeping club. Will be travelling around New Zealand for the last half of January, and based in Nelson for the first half of February.

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NEW AAO FOR PALMERSTON NORTH

A new AAO has started recently at Palmerston North - Ted Roberts. Ted has come from a position as Senior Lecturer in Agronomy at Massey University, and also runs a small commercial beekeeping business on the side. He is originally from Wales (though he does speak English!), and has also had beekeeping experience in Africa.

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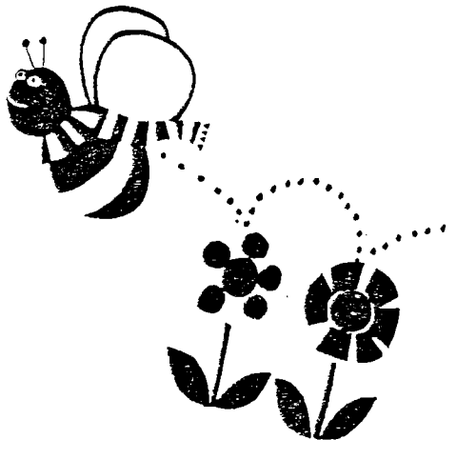
WIND POLLINATION OF KIWIFRUIT

Wind pollination of kiwifruit produces less than half the normal crop, according to MAF trials carried out in the Bay of Plenty over the 1984/85 season.

When bees and other insects were excluded from test plots of kiwifruit, a maximum of 40% of fruit was up to export grade. By using bees for pollination over 90% of flowers develop into export grade fruit, showing that honey bees are still the most important pollinators of kiwifruit.



In the trial three different methods were tried to make flowers unattractive to bees:

* All parts of the flowers were cut off except the stigma.

* Mesh bags were put over the flower leaving only the stigma exposed.

* Flowers were covered by day and opened at night.

In none of the trials did bees approach the treated flowers. All the pollination was due to the wind.

The trial found that pollen was dispersed downwind from male plants for about five days until the flower died. If the female flowers were less than six to seven days old, pollination resulted. Female flower buds which were closed for seven days then hand pollinated produced less and lighter fruit.

By using wind pollination a maximum of 40% of export grade fruit was obtained. An average of 30% of fruit reached the export weight of 72 grams or more. Results from wind pollination could be variable: in the 1983/84 trial only 24% of fruit was of export weight.

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IRRADIATION OF COMB HONEY

There's a lot of concern around the world about fumigant residues in foodstuffs. Ethylene dibromide has been banned in the US, and methyl bromide might go the same way.

One possible solution is to use low-dose irradiation. It doesn't make the food "hot", and doesn't have any chemical residues. (This is not exactly the same process as gamma radiation of AFB-contaminated equipment).

New Zealand scientists are considering the possibility of irradicating food crops, to eliminate the risk of unwanted chemicals or pests causing our produce to be rejected by importing countries.

If New Zealand builds a plant for treating foodstuffs, it could also be used for treating comb honey and pollen to ensure they're free of wax moth. There would probably be only one plant for the country ($7 million establishment cost), it wouldn't be in operation for a few years yet, and it would be in the Auckland area.

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Andrew Matheson

(A G Matheson)
APICULTURAL ADVISORY OFFICER

TO: ASD Administration Support
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
Private Bag
NELSON

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* I have enclosed the amount indicated; cheques payable to "Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (ASD)"

Please tick one

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