

The apiculture surveillance programme funded by MAF Regulatory Authority has two objectives

- To meet the reporting requirements of our trading partners to facilitate trade
- to enable the early detection of a new or exotic disease

In the past, apart from samples submitted by exporters, most sampling and inspection has been done by MQM Officers. Our contract with MAFReg for the current year has changed this emphasis and now has the following components

- Samples submitted as part of the PMS will also be tested for exotic mites and EFB
- MQM will be running a training programme in exotic disease identification, hopefully in conjunction with the PMS training for Approved Beekeepers
- All beekeepers will be sent an exotic disease identification pamphlet
- A declaration relating to exotic disease is to be included as part of the Annual Disease Declaration required by the PMS
- MQM Apicultural Officers will visit suspect apiaries to inspect and collect samples
- Every five years a national survey of 1000 randomly selected apiaries will be undertaken

If this programme is to work successfully it will require close cooperation between the successful PMS contract tenderers and the successor to MQM as well as good access to the apiary register.

## 5.0 American Foulbrood and NBA AFB Control Programme

o test 200 boxes  
o write AFB field day kit.

The 1997-98 AFB Control Programme contract with MAF Quality Management (MQM) contained most of the provisions of the 1996-97 contract, including the inspection of 4% (975) of registered apiaries by MQM personnel, the provision of inspection lists for NBA volunteer inspectors, counselling of beekeepers with AFB problems, production of an education package on AFB suitable for use at branch field days as well as various other services relating to disease control and reporting. The contract also required MQM to solicit 200 samples of honey from commercial honey packers and arrange to have them tested for *Bacillus larvae*.

32 extra

MQM inspection requirements were exceeded, with 1007 apiaries inspected. The average apiary size was also exceeded, with inspected apiaries averaging 6.7 hives (target minimum apiary size was 6 hives). A total of 27 MQM staff and contract beekeepers were used in these inspections.

The NBA executive canvassed branches prior to this year's contract to determine which

11 did

branches wished to carry out NBA volunteer (diseaseathon) inspections. Five of the 16 branches elected not to be involved in this part of the programme.

134 PTB's

NBA branch inspections totalled 606 apiaries, or 61% of the 987 required to achieve the target of 4% of registered apiaries. This is 6% better than last year, mainly due to the excellent performance of Waikato and Auckland beekeepers during the EDPR exercise. A total of 134 letters of appointment were issued to beekeepers wishing to assist in NBA inspections, with 120 letters of appointment actually being used. (Tables 2 and 3)

The total of 6.8% apiaries inspected (MQM: 4.2% + NBA: 2.6%) was short of the 8% inspection level set by the NBA executive. A total of 10,859 hives were inspected (MQM: 6720 + NBA: 4139). This figure represents 3.8% of the beehives in New Zealand registered at the time the contract was let.

MAF

117

201

NBA 78  
195

46  
247

493  
688

866  
1113

MAF Quality Management personnel found 201 hives and 117 apiaries infected with AFB (3.0% of hives and 11.6% of apiaries inspected). As directed by the contract, all MQM inspections were targeted whenever possible to areas where there was the greatest likelihood of finding AFB (ie, trouble spots/outbreaks). NBA inspectors found a further 78 hives and 46 apiaries infected (1.9% of hives and 7.6% of apiaries inspected). Beekeepers reported an additional 866 hives and 493 apiaries to be infected.

The overall reported incidence of AFB in New Zealand beehives in 1997-98 was 0.38% of hives and 2.8% of apiaries, down from 0.46% of hives and 2.9% of apiaries in 1996-97. The current incidence of AFB in New Zealand is now at its lowest point since 1975.

AFB Honey.

Two hundred sample jars, packaging and reply paid courier tickets were sent to 48 beekeepers and/or honey packers. To date 136 jars have been returned and tested for AFB. Only 2 samples were found with any AFB contamination. One of these had only one colony of AFB growing which is not regarded as significant but the other culture plate had enough AFB colonies to suggest there was an infection in the production apiary. This proved to be the case on trace back but the beekeeper was already aware of the problem.

- concludes an report - hope its not the last  
- guess time will tell -

5.1 NBA American Foulbrood Disease Control Programme Report

Table 1: AFB Reported or Found by Inspectors to June 30 1998

Apiary District	Apiaries AFB		Hives AFB	
	97/98	96/97	97/98	96/97
Whangarei	61	72	101	118
Hamilton	153	130	266	262
Tauranga	138	147	228	345
Palmerston North	62	96	109	191
Blenheim	86	84	177	148
Lincoln	52	89	93	139
Invermay	104	76	171	131
Total	656 (2.8%)	694 (2.9%)	1145 (0.38%)	1334 (0.46%)



**TABLE 2: Performance of MAF Staff and Beekeepers on Contract to MAF**

Apiary District	Apiaries			Hives		Staff Used	
	Assigned	Inspected	AFB	Inspected	AFB	MAF	Contract beekeepers
Whangarei	107	131	28	793	28	3	0
Hamilton	118	124	12	872	19	5	0
Tauranga	138	138	32	1231	73	3	1
Palmerston Nth	160	163	8	981	21	2	4
Blenheim	77	73	20	801	30	1	2
Lincoln	214	214	6	1047	7	2	0
Invermay	161	164	11	995	23	4	0
Total	975	1007	117	6720	201	20	7

**Table 3: Performance of NBA Inspectors to June 1998**

NBA Branch	Apiaries			Hives		Letters of Appointment	
	Assigned	Inspected	AFB	Inspected	AFB	Issued	Used
Far North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auckland	24	17	5	206	7	4	4
Waikato	163	198	20	1686	34	45	45
Bay of Plenty	125	126	9	590	19	17	14
Poverty Bay	63	42	0	198	0	6	6
Hawkes Bay	100	66	0	217	0	13	10
Sthn Nth Is	121	36	3	109	5	4	4
Marlborough	70	50	3	228	5	5	5
Nelson	2	2	0	39	0	0	0
West Coast	23	2	2	35	2	4	1
Canterbury	226	48	4	414	6	28	28
Sth Canterbury	70	19	0	417	0	8	3
North Otago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Otago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	987	606	46	4139	78	134	120