

**1.0 MAF QUALITY MANAGEMENT REPORT TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND : RAROTONGA 9-11 JULY 1990**

**2.0 ORGANISATION**

The National Apicultural Business Unit (NABU) became part of the Animals Business during the year instead of the Plants Business. This is mainly an administrative re-organisation and no changes in business activities were required.

**3.0 STAFFING: NATIONAL APICULTURE BUSINESS UNIT**

Clive Vardy, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Gore, resigned during the year and Matthew Sole, Field Officer, Alexandra, assumed some of the regulatory roles formerly held by Vardy. A decision was made by Regional Management South Region to advertise for an Apiculture Services Manager to be based at Lincoln. To date the position has not been advertised.

Apiary registers and systems were maintained and disease control programmes operated by Apicultural Advisory Officers at Whangarei (Derek Bettesworth) Hamilton (Murray Reid) Tauranga (Andrew Matheson) and Palmerston North (Ted Roberts). Field Officers were employed at Ashburton (Mike McPhillips) and Alexandra (Matthew Sole) and a Livestock Officer at Blenheim (Dave Grueber).

Brian Milne (Lynfield) continued to provide a disease diagnostic and queen quality evaluation service.

**4.0 BEEKEEPING STATISTICS**

**4.1 Beekeepers, Apiaries and Hives**

There were 6210 beekeepers owning 318203 hives of bees at 31 May 1990. (Figure 1). Beekeeper numbers declined by 485 or 7.2% over last year and hive numbers declared also declined by 12135 or 3.7%. There is no single explanation for this trend.

**4.2 Honey Production**

The total honey crop was assessed at 8752 tonnes (27.5 kg/hive) compared with last years crop of 5752 tonnes, (17.4 kg/hive) and the six year average of 8688 tonnes (26.7 kg/hive) (Figure 11).

Prices remained similar to last seasons and realised \$1.70 - 2.20 kg with most early sales falling in the \$1.80 - 200/kg range.

For the year to December 1989 New Zealand exported over \$4 million worth of honey and beeswax to over 22 different countries (Fig 111). The major markets were Germany, Japan, the UK, Australia, Taiwan and the Netherlands.

**4.3 American Foulbrood Disease (AFB)**

The 3831 diseased hives found by MAF, or reported by beekeepers, was an increase of 155 over last season. The number of infected apiaries also increased by 130 from 1530 to 1660. Fig 1V. The increase in diseased apiaries can be traced to hive management for kiwifruit pollination and undue levels of disease in hives owned by a few irresponsible commercial and semi-commercial beekeepers. MAF took a prosecution as a test case against one of these beekeepers but a trial date has yet to be set. Over 216 MAF officers and beekeepers appointed as temporary inspectors again examined hives for AFB. These teams inspected just under 15000 hives (4.8%) in 1966 apiaries (8.0%) and found 664 hives of disease. Figure V.

Beekeepers again proved willing to offer their vehicles and time to inspect hives. Working as teams on "disease-athons" appears to be the most effective system and will need to be continued if the target of 10% of apiaries inspected is to be achieved.

FIG IV AMERICAN FOULBROOD DISEASE LEVELS

IN APIARY DISTRICTS TO 31 MAY 1990

(1989 FIGURES IN BRACKETS)

Apiary District	Diseased Apiaries				Diseased Hives				% Apiaries Inspected by MAF Inspectors	
	No.		%		No.		%			
	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989
Whangarei/ Auckland	175	(235)	5.0	(5.6)	521	(643)	1.5	(1.5)	4.7	(10.3)
Hamilton	390	(293)	12.5	(9.6)	641	(491)	1.3	(1.1)	14.6	(8.7)
Tauranga	362	(358)	9.9	(9.4)	863	(681)	1.6	(1.1)	7.0	(5.1)
Palmerston Nth	136	(184)	3.3	(4.4)	253	(732)	0.6	(1.9)	7.7	(5.6)
Nelson	242	(160)	11.6	(7.2)	497	(427)	2.0	(1.7)	10.4	(13.0)
Christchurch	209	(147)	3.6	(2.9)	694	(421)	1.1	(0.7)	5.6	(6.1)
Gore	146	(153)	3.3	(3.4)	362	(281)	0.6	(0.5)	6.3	( 7.8)
Total	1660	(1530)	7.0	(5.6)	3831	(3676)	1.2	(1.1)	8.0	(8.3)

**FIG V NUMBER OF APIARIES AND HIVES WITH AMERICAN FOULBROOD DISEASE  
FOUND BY MAF OR REPORTED BY BEEKEEPERS TO 31 MAY 1990 (1989 FIGURES IN  
BRACKETS)**

	No. Apiaries	No. Hives	% Apiaries Inspected	% Hives Inspected
Inspected by MAF	889	8728		
Inspected by beekeeper inspectors	1077	6040		
Total Inspected (216 inspectors)	1966	14768	8.0	4.8
AFB found by MAF or beekeeper inspectors	181 (191)	644 (438)		
AFB Reported by Beekeepers	1479 (1348)	3167 (3228)		
Total AFB	1660 (1530)	3831 (3676)		