

## **AGRIQUALITY LIMITED REPORT TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND: HAMILTON 20 JULY 2006**

### **1. PERSONNEL**

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It was with regret that the apiculture section farewelled David McMillan from the team during the year. David joined in us in October 1992 and after 13 dedicated years of service decided to accept an offer from a honey company in the South Island. David's contribution over the years is very much appreciated but the good news is that his talents will not be lost to the beekeeping industry. We welcomed Marco Gonzalez to the team in May this year (see the July issue for a profile). Marco is a veterinarian from Paraguay, but has been in New Zealand for 4 years under taking post-graduate studies at Lincoln University.

### **2. BEEKEEPER, APIARY AND HIVE NUMBERS**

There were 2694 beekeepers, 18954 apiaries and 300728 hives on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 (see Table 1). This compares to 2911 beekeepers owning 294886 hives on 19281 apiaries this time last year. Beekeeper numbers are continuing to track downwards with a net reduction of 217 beekeepers for the year ending June 2006. This compares with a net reduction of over 300 in the previous 12-month period. Hive numbers however, continue to increase (6000 over the past 12 months) indicating that existing beekeepers have a certain amount of confidence in the industry. 229 new beekeepers registered this season (up 50% on last year) while 446 deregistered.

Varroa mite was confirmed in the South Island on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006, which depending on the success of an eradication plan, could result in a significant reduction in the number of hives in the South Island over the next few years. The table below illustrates the net reduction in beekeeper, apiary and hive numbers over the last 6 years.

**Table 1 Changes in New Zealand beekeeper, apiary and hive statistics since varroa arrived in the North Island in 2000**

| May-2000         |           |        |        | June 2006        |           |        |        |
|------------------|-----------|--------|--------|------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Location         | Beekeeper | Apiary | Hives  | Location         | Beekeeper | Apiary | Hives  |
| Blenheim         | 414       | 1741   | 28443  | Blenheim         | 255       | 1628   | 25013  |
| Canterbury       | 727       | 4748   | 60356  | Canterbury       | 507       | 4051   | 55753  |
| Hamilton         | 486       | 2800   | 49863  | Hamilton         | 185       | 2193   | 39544  |
| Otago/Southland  | 451       | 3495   | 50823  | Otago/Southland  | 339       | 3243   | 48784  |
| Palmerston North | 1214      | 3655   | 43534  | Palmerston North | 655       | 3256   | 46468  |
| Tauranga         | 496       | 2971   | 51008  | Tauranga         | 257       | 2669   | 53630  |
| Whangarei        | 1168      | 3033   | 36086  | Whangarei        | 496       | 1914   | 31536  |
| New Zealand      | 4956      | 22443  | 320113 | New Zealand      | 2694      | 18954  | 300728 |

**\*Loss of beekeepers, apiaries & hives from 2000 to 2006**

| Location         | Beekeeper | Apiary | Hives | Loss '00-'06 |        |       |
|------------------|-----------|--------|-------|--------------|--------|-------|
|                  |           |        |       | Beekeeper    | Apiary | Hives |
| Blenheim         | 159       | 113    | 3430  |              |        |       |
| Canterbury       | 220       | 697    | 4603  | North Island | 1771   | 2427  |
| Hamilton         | 301       | 607    | 10319 | South Island | 491    | 1062  |
| Otago/Southland  | 112       | 252    | 2039  |              |        |       |
| Palmerston North | 559       | 399    | -2934 |              |        |       |
| Tauranga         | 239       | 302    | -2622 |              |        |       |
| Whangarei        | 672       | 1119   | 4550  |              |        |       |
| New Zealand      | 2262      | 3489   | 22874 |              |        |       |

\* The varroa bee mite was discovered in NZ in April 2000, an apiary levy was introduced in 2003 for the American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy (PMS) and a hive levy was introduced (for South Island beekeepers only) in 2005 for the varroa PMS

Source: AgriQuality Limited

**3. HONEY CROP 2006**

The nectar flow stalled after Christmas, following the good flow in late spring and early summer from many bush sources. The honey that was produced in early 2006 came in over a two-month period, as a rather long protracted flow. Despite this, average to above average crops were reported from the North Island and below average crops in the South Island with the exception of Canterbury.

Some exceptionally good yields were recorded in Northland, the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki and Canterbury. Yields in these areas ranged from 36 to 95 kilograms per hive with district averages of 36 to 42 kilograms per hive. The national average was 34.7 kilograms per hive. The New Zealand honey crop was calculated at 10,423 tonnes, up 734 tonnes from the 2004/05 season of 9689 tonnes (see Table 2). The six-year average is 9180 tonnes with a range from 4682 tonnes (2002) to 12,252 tonnes (2003).

Table 2 New Zealand Honey Crop (tonnes)

|   | 2001 | 2002 | 2003  | 2004 | 2005 | 2006  | 6-year<br>average |
|---|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------------------|
| Northland, Auckland, Hauraki Plains       | 869  | 593  | 1066  | 1047 | 1221 | 1337  | 1022              |
| Waikato, King Country, Taupo              | 672  | 708  | 2210  | 1164 | 1095 | 1124  | 1162              |
| Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, Poverty Bay    | 794  | 319  | 2064  | 2052 | 1498 | 1937  | 1444              |
| Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu, Wairarapa | 1735 | 750  | 1607  | 1330 | 1440 | 1935  | 1466              |
| Marlborough, Nelson, Westland             | 606  | 300  | 1350  | 550  | 800  | 690   | 716               |
| Canterbury, North Otago                   | 2743 | 921  | 2400  | 1500 | 1500 | 2100  | 1861              |
| South and Central Otago, Southland        | 1725 | 1091 | 1555  | 1245 | 2135 | 1300  | 1509              |
| New Zealand                               | 9144 | 4682 | 12252 | 8888 | 9689 | 10423 | 9180              |
| Yield/Hive (kg)                           | 29.4 | 15.0 | 40.8  | 30.2 | 33.1 | 34.7  | 31                |

Source: AgriQuality Limited

#### 4. DISEASE REPORTS

Between June 1 2005 and May 31 2006, 952 cases of American foulbrood (AFB) were found by beekeepers and/or AgriQuality staff in 482 apiaries. This is an average disease rate of 0.32% of hives. Of these AFB reports only 18 cases were found and reported by beekeepers who are not DECA holders. This represents 0.002% of the total number of hives held by non-DECA holders.

Murray Reid

National Manager Apiculture  
AgriQuality Limited  
Hamilton

# New Zealand beekeeper, apiary and hive statistics by apiary district as at 12-Jun-2006

| <i>Apiary Register<br/>Location</i> | <i>Category 0 - 5 Hives</i> |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <i>Beekeepers</i>           | <i>Apiaries</i> | <i>Hives</i> |
| Blenheim                            | 145                         | 157             | 351          |
| Canterbury                          | 327                         | 381             | 756          |
| Hamilton                            | 106                         | 117             | 210          |
| Otago/Southland                     | 177                         | 194             | 446          |
| Palmerston North                    | 423                         | 466             | 976          |
| Tauranga                            | 107                         | 122             | 263          |
| Whangarei                           | 325                         | 356             | 669          |
| <i>New Zealand</i>                  | 1610                        | 1793            | 3671         |

| <i>Apiary Register<br/>Location</i> | <i>Category 6 - 10 Hives</i> |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <i>Beekeepers</i>            | <i>Apiaries</i> | <i>Hives</i> |
| Blenheim                            | 30                           | 43              | 241          |
| Canterbury                          | 53                           | 102             | 428          |
| Hamilton                            | 19                           | 30              | 144          |
| Otago/Southland                     | 43                           | 59              | 329          |
| Palmerston North                    | 103                          | 164             | 814          |
| Tauranga                            | 28                           | 42              | 232          |
| Whangarei                           | 67                           | 106             | 506          |
| <i>New Zealand</i>                  | 343                          | 546             | 2694         |

| <i>Apiary Register<br/>Location</i> | <i>Category 11 - 50 Hives</i> |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <i>Beekeepers</i>             | <i>Apiaries</i> | <i>Hives</i> |
| Blenheim                            | 30                            | 67              | 739          |
| Canterbury                          | 40                            | 105             | 822          |
| Hamilton                            | 17                            | 32              | 398          |
| Otago/Southland                     | 47                            | 123             | 1185         |
| Palmerston North                    | 68                            | 218             | 1596         |
| Tauranga                            | 40                            | 78              | 1081         |
| Whangarei                           | 48                            | 119             | 1177         |
| <i>New Zealand</i>                  | 290                           | 742             | 6998         |

| <i>Apiary Register<br/>Location</i> | <i>Category 51 - 250 Hives</i> |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <i>Beekeepers</i>              | <i>Apiaries</i> | <i>Hives</i> |
| Blenheim                            | 19                             | 173             | 2462         |
| Canterbury                          | 23                             | 224             | 2384         |
| Hamilton                            | 15                             | 152             | 2013         |
| Otago/Southland                     | 30                             | 302             | 3728         |
| Palmerston North                    | 30                             | 279             | 3474         |
| Tauranga                            | 34                             | 257             | 4509         |
| Whangarei                           | 27                             | 240             | 3012         |
| <i>New Zealand</i>                  | 178                            | 1627            | 21582        |

| <i>Apiary Register<br/>Location</i> | <i>Category 251 - 500 Hives</i> |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <i>Beekeepers</i>               | <i>Apiaries</i> | <i>Hives</i> |
| Blenheim                            | 14                              | 282             | 4954         |
| Canterbury                          | 27                              | 710             | 9808         |
| Hamilton                            | 8                               | 208             | 3596         |
| Otago/Southland                     | 15                              | 366             | 5444         |
| Palmerston North                    | 12                              | 212             | 3817         |
| Tauranga                            | 14                              | 215             | 4485         |
| Whangarei                           | 11                              | 220             | 4584         |
| <i>New Zealand</i>                  | 101                             | 2213            | 36688        |

| <i>Apiary Register<br/>Location</i> | <i>Category 501 - 1000 Hives</i> |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <i>Beekeepers</i>                | <i>Apiaries</i> | <i>Hives</i> |
| Blenheim                            | 10                               | 391             | 6577         |
| Canterbury                          | 25                               | 1087            | 16019        |
| Hamilton                            | 12                               | 511             | 10025        |
| Otago/Southland                     | 17                               | 856             | 12136        |
| Palmerston North                    | 8                                | 363             | 6054         |
| Tauranga                            | 18                               | 570             | 12720        |
| Whangarei                           | 7                                | 227             | 5218         |
| <i>New Zealand</i>                  | 97                               | 4005            | 68749        |

| <i>Apiary Register<br/>Location</i> | <i>Category 1000+ Hives</i> |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <i>Beekeepers</i>           | <i>Apiaries</i> | <i>Hives</i> |
| Blenheim                            | 7                           | 515             | 9689         |
| Canterbury                          | 13                          | 1443            | 25538        |
| Hamilton                            | 8                           | 1145            | 23155        |
| Otago/Southland                     | 12                          | 1352            | 25270        |
| Palmerston North                    | 11                          | 1562            | 29837        |
| Tauranga                            | 16                          | 1392            | 30462        |
| Whangarei                           | 11                          | 647             | 16350        |
| <i>New Zealand</i>                  | 78                          | 8056            | 160301       |

| <i>Apiary Register<br/>Location</i> |                   |                 | <i>Total</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <i>Beekeepers</i> | <i>Apiaries</i> | <i>Hives</i> |
| Blenheim                            | 255               | 1628            | 25013        |
| Canterbury                          | 508               | 4052            | 55755        |
| Hamilton                            | 185               | 2195            | 39541        |
| Otago/Southland                     | 341               | 3252            | 48538        |
| Palmerston North                    | 655               | 3264            | 46568        |
| Tauranga                            | 257               | 2676            | 53752        |
| Whangarei                           | 496               | 1915            | 31516        |
| <i>New Zealand</i>                  | 2697              | 18982           | 300683       |