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NBA will consult with all beekeepers on levy proposals

Beekeepers throughout New Zealand are to be consulted next month by the National Beekeepers Association on the process required for a Commodity Levy and a levy under the Biosecurity Act.

Although addressed through the same consultation process, the two levies are separate, the first to fund industry-good activities and the latter to fund the National Pest Management Strategy for American foulbrood disease. Proposals for consideration include establishing a Biosecurity Levy so all beekeepers contribute to the control of American foulbrood disease. Currently, only those with 10 or more hives or three apiary sites must contribute.

The proposals also consider the setting of a new Commodity Levy for those who have more than 10 hives or three apiary sites. However it is planned the administration of the process will be simplified under the new Levy Order. At present, all beekeepers are invoiced for the levy and those not meeting the threshold are required to return a statutory declaration. Under the new process, only those beekeepers over the threshold would be invoiced and required to pay the levy.

The Commodity Levy will be used in marketing, lobbying, industry development, export issues, legislation, standards and product support, and administered by the NBA.

All beekeepers will be sent ballot papers for the Commodity Levy and information on the Biosecurity Levy in early May. The Biosecurity Levy does not require a vote, but the NBA must consult with members and present the results of the consultation to the Minister of Biosecurity, along with details of the proposal. Meetings to explain the two levies will be held in the following locations in mid May:

Auckland,	Wednesday	May 8	7.30 pm
Whangarei	Thursday	May 9	7.30 pm
Wellington	Monday	May 13	7.30 pm
Palmerston North	Tuesday	May 14	10.30 am
Hawkes Bay	Tuesday	May 14	7.30 pm
Rotorua	Wednesday	May 15	1 pm
Nelson	Thursday	May 16	10 am
Christchurch	Thursday	May 16	7.30 pm
Timaru	Monday	May 20	1 pm
Dunedin	Monday	May 20	7.30 pm
Gore	Tuesday	May 21	10.30am
Cromwell	Tuesday	May 21	7 30 pm

Full details of the meetings will be sent out with the information in early May.

For more information contact NBA executive secretary Tim Leslie (04) 494-9184

Front Cover

Lotus Major (*Lotus pedunculatus*), the marshbirdfoot trefoil of Europe, is found throughout New Zealand, grows well in North Auckland and thrives on the clay of the far north. The bees work it in November and December. Perhaps reflecting the deep yellow pollen, cappings produced from this honey have a distinctive yellow appearance and honey produced from Lotus Major is heavy-bodied, occasionally remaining in the combs after a normal time in the extractor. The light amber honey has an excellent flavour. (from *Nectar and Pollen Sources* of New Zealand by R.S. Walsh).

Leadership training days

Stage 1 leadership training days are being offered to provide the skills to effectively promote the beekeeping industry within and outside the National Beekeepers Association.

The one-day programmes were due to start in Christchurch on April 22, continuing the next day in Gore, in Auckland on April 29, Rotorua on April 30 and finally Palmerston North on May 6.

Participants will be led through the following areas: Strategic Planning and Management Processes, Team Leadership, Communications, Meeting Management and Project Management.

Provided by the New Zealand Institute of Management (NZIM), Canterbury branch, the training is interactive and practical, designed to challenge you and provide information that can be used immediately.

Course leader Eric Livingstone, a former managing director of Guthrey Breeding Services, is an experienced strategic planner and business advisor. He now has his own consultancy business, helping clients with strategic planning and change.

- **The sessions are free to all members of the NBA, although numbers are limited. Contact Jon Manhire, the AgriBusiness Group, ph (03) 365 6806. e-mail jon@agribusinessgroup.com or Polly Foster, NZIM Canterbury, ph (03) 3748 530, e-mail polly_foster@nzim.co.nz for more details.**

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Compensation issues and the biosecurity act

By Glenn Dixon

Beekeepers losing income from the movement control restrictions to combat the spread of varroa mite infestation in New Zealand may be able to seek compensation.

The control restrictions are implemented under the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act). It allows compensation to be awarded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) for losses incurred due to restrictions on the movement or disposal of goods.

Beekeepers in areas affected by varroa have been prevented from carrying out their normal cyclical activities. As the mite spreads, further movement restrictions will be imposed, resulting in further losses by beekeepers in areas south of "the line" across the central North Island. The immediate declaration of a 5km movement control restriction after the recent scare that varroa had reached the northern outskirts of Wellington is an example of the potential for further income losses.

From a legal perspective, many of the current issues involving varroa compensation claims are common to the law of civil disputes. Some aspects are unique to biosecurity claims and the beekeeping industry.

The National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand (NBA) and the beekeeping industry have taken many steps to prevent the spread of varroa. Industry members have helped draft management strategies and conduct apiary site tests to determine the spread of the mite. In terms of a legal analysis, compensation issues should be seen as separate to the industry's input into varroa management.

Eligibility for compensation

MAF administers the Act and determines the eligibility for compensation payments. The compensation provisions aim to "encourage early reporting of suspect exotic harmful organisms (including disease) by ensuring affected owners will not be worse off as a result of any response by MAF".

Compensation under the Act will only be paid for a loss that:

1. Is verifiable. It must be an actual loss incurred, and not a claim for loss of future earnings. There must also be some material evidence or confirmation of the loss; and
2. Results from damage to, or destruction of property, or from restrictions placed on the movement or disposal of goods; and
3. Is caused by the exercise of powers implemented under the Act for the purpose of managing the organism or disease.

Recent examples of compensation payments for such losses include where beekeepers have been prevented from gaining access to apiary sites for the harvest of honey, or where pollination contracts have been unfulfilled because hives could not be moved into the controlled area.

The compensation claim process can be complex and time consuming. Proving the actual loss suffered is not always easy and professional assistance from a lawyer or accountant is advised where there is likely to be some dispute as to eligibility, or the claim is particularly technical. Advisers can assist at different levels; either taking over the claim process completely, or guiding a beekeeper through it, with assistance as required.

A downloadable-Claim Form from the MAF web site provides some basic information and procedural steps.

Industry members must understand the nature of their claim in terms of the compensation provisions of the Act. Movement control restrictions and the availability of permits to shift goods will be closely scrutinised.

Compensation will not be granted just for any loss in income because of varroa infestation. The loss must have been caused by the powers implemented to combat the spread of the mite.

MAF, accordingly, will rigidly apply the statutory provisions to ensure only those claims meeting the criteria outlined in the Act, are compensated.

Mitigation of loss

Every claimant has a duty to take reasonable steps to minimise their loss. A failure to mitigate or reduce the value of the loss could cause the claim to fail outright, or significantly reduce the amount payable. Pro-active steps and planning to minimise losses incurred through powers implemented under the Act must be undertaken.

The duty to mitigate loss will be looked at closely by MAF. An example of such a failure could arise where a beekeeper has lost valuable pollination contracts, but has taken no other steps to find other sources of income to offset the losses. MAF can reasonably expect beekeepers to try and find new apiary sites to replace ones where access is lost. Successful claims have been made for expenses incurred in finding new apiary sites.

A number of beekeepers have other business interests which may interfere with their timely harvest of honey or maintenance of apiary sites. When making a claim, beekeepers must be seen to give a high priority to their honey interests.

No compensation

In certain circumstances, compensation will not be paid, regardless of the merits of the claim. The Act provides that compensation must not be paid to any person who has failed to comply with the Act or any of its regulations (including strategy orders), where the failure is serious or significant, or contributes to the presence or spread of the organism being managed or eradicated.

A number of beekeepers have been investigated by MAF for failing to furnish Annual Disease Returns required under the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998. Their compensation claims have stalled, often for months, until investigations are completed. MAF seems to interpret this provision of the Act to mean compensation must not be paid if any administrative breach of a regulation or strategy order has occurred, even in respect to another organism or disease unrelated to varroa, and even during the period prior to the varroa infestation.

Scrupulous compliance with all regulations and pest strategy orders is essential for a successful compensation claim.

Annual Disease Returns are a prime example of an area where compliance has traditionally been poor. In 1999, 55% of beekeepers failed to submit ADRs by the required date. As well as compromising an otherwise successful claim, failure to comply with a Pest Strategy Order is an offence punishable

by a fine of \$5000 for individuals and \$15,000 for corporations. To date, there has never been a prosecution for ADR non-compliance, however MAF is now taking a firm approach and its Special Investigation Group can ensure a full criminal investigation is carried out.

Claim process

Once a claim is submitted to MAF, it is carefully analysed to ensure it meets the strict criteria for compensation. Often a claim is assessed by the varroa compensation advisory group, which includes people with industry experience, accountancy, public policy and legal expertise.

Inquires will be made to ensure there has been no breach of the Act as outlined above. If all the criteria outlined in the compensation provisions of the Act are met; and there has been no apparent breach or failure to mitigate the loss suffered, then the claim will be paid.

If the claim is declined in whole or part, then the claimant is advised and invited to make submissions. If the claim is then still declined, then the arbitration process begins.

MAF prefers to negotiate from the outset of the varroa compensation process, and the recent meetings were an example of this. This does not mean a claim failing to meet the criteria will succeed.

Negotiation gives the claimant an opportunity to put their case to MAF officials in person. This may result in a successful outcome, minimise the number of issues in dispute requiring arbitration or, at the very least, help the claimant understand why their claim has failed so he or she can avoid similar mistakes in the future.

In rare cases, MAF has made *ex gratia* payments in situations where the claim has significant merit, but falls strictly outside

the compensation criteria. An example could be where a beekeeper has provided valuable assistance in the management of varroa and has been disadvantaged by the distraction of this involvement.

Disputed claims

The Act provides for mandatory arbitration to determine the outcome of disputed claims. Arbitration is traditionally an alternative form of dispute resolution operating outside the court system. In the case of bio-security claims, the Act prohibits claims being brought against MAF in court.

Parties in commercial disputes often favour arbitration because it can provide swift determination of claims, the parties have a degree of autonomy and in most cases, it can be more cost effective than the court system. In cases involving highly technical issues, the arbitrator is often an acknowledged expert in the field.

Parties must fund the cost of the arbitrator and the venue, as well as the usual costs involved in obtaining legal representation. The losing party is usually ordered to pay a significant portion of the other party's legal costs.

Decisions reached in arbitration are binding on the parties, and courts will only overturn a decision in rare cases. As at December 2001, there had never been arbitration under the Act to determine a disputed compensation claim.

Varroa claimants face two major disadvantages with the arbitration process.

Firstly, as a private dispute resolution process, arbitration decisions are not reported in the same manner as court decisions. This means there is no way to analyse how previous cases have been interpreted, nor do earlier cases provide precedent for new cases. Each must stand on its own merits



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with no judicial guidance. Essentially, every claimant is flying blind.

The second disadvantage is the standard requirement of confidentiality between parties. This is normal in arbitration, but can act against the greater interests of the industry. Claimants are prevented from sharing their experiences with other beekeepers.

Valuable insight into the arbitration process - and the outcome - cannot be freely shared within the industry. A cynic might think a mandatory arbitration provision was one way the Crown can prevent compensation claims from entering the public domain.

Legal aid funding has traditionally been available for civil disputes where appropriate, financial hardship criteria is met. Arbitration, because of the consensual nature of the process as an alternative to the Court system, is not legally aided.

Recently, the Legal Services Agency (the Government organisation administering legal aid) approved legal aid to a beekeeper for arbitration. This was because under the Biosecurity Act, arbitration is the only means a disputed claim can be heard.

The New Zealand Law Society is working to have the Legal Services Act amended to recognise the compulsory nature of arbitration under the Biosecurity Act. If successful, legal aid funding will be more accessible to claimants, and will assist those facing great hardship to have their claim heard.

Conclusion

Every beekeeper who submits a claim for compensation under the Biosecurity Act needs to have a thorough understanding of the basis of their claim, and how it meets

the statutory criteria. Such knowledge will assist in the preparation of the claim, and help avoid future losses, which may not be recoverable under the Act.

MAF has shown a willingness to work with claimants to try and resolve some issues in dispute. At the end of the day, however, unless the claim falls within the strict criteria of the Biosecurity Act, it will fail.

- **Glenn Dixon is a solicitor at Simpson Allan Law, Tauranga. He acts for a number of beekeepers that have disputed claims for Biosecurity Act compensation against the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Glenn can be contacted by telephone, (07) 928-9900, fax (07) 928-9901 and e-mail: glenn@salaw.co.nz**

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Apimondia Congress 2003

INVITATION

We are pleased to send out the invitation to the beekeepers' world to attend the XXXVIII International Apicultural Congress under the auspices of APIMONDIA. The congress will be held in Ljubljana in Slovenia, a land of Anton Jansa and autochthonous Carniolan bee. We are honoured to bring beekeepers and scientists all over the world together on this occasion. The national organising committee extends a warm welcome and invites you to APIMONDIA 2003. We look forward to meeting you in Ljubljana.

PROGRAMME

August 24 (Sunday)

Evening Opening Ceremonies, ApiExpo
Opening and Reception

August 25 (Monday)

Morning Plenary Session and Symposia
Noon Poster Presentation
Afternoon Plenary Session and Symposia
Evening General Assembly

August 26 (Tuesday)

Morning Plenary Session and Symposia
Noon Poster Presentation
Afternoon Plenary Session and Symposia
Evening Slide Session, Slovenian Music and Dance
Evening

August 27 (Wednesday)

Morning Plenary Session and Symposia
Noon Poster Presentation
Afternoon Plenary Session and Symposia
Evening Film and Slide Session

August 28 (Thursday)

Morning Plenary Session and Symposia
Noon Poster Presentation
Afternoon Symposia and Symposia
Evening Plenary Session, General Assembly and Farewell Reception

August 29 (Friday)

Technical tours

CONGRESS THEMES

- BEEKEEPING ECONOMY (Chair Dr. Dinh Quyet Tam)

Plenary session Ecological bee management and honey production
Symposium International trade of honey bee stock, legislation and veterinary inspections
Symposium Public services to enhance beekeeping industry
Symposium Conference Worldwide Professional Beekeepers Association

- BEE BIOLOGY (Chair Prof. Dr. Octaaf Van Laere)

Plenary session Biodiversity in bees, maintenance of indigenous bee races
Symposium Biology and social organization in bees
Symposium How to use honey bees to monitor environment?

- BEE PATHOLOGY (Chair Dr. Wolfgang Ritter)

Plenary session Control of bee diseases without the use of medicaments
Symposium Viruses and other agents as secondary infections of Varroa mites
Symposium Occurrence and breeding of bees resistant to bee diseases

- POLLINATION AND BEE FLORA (Chair Prof. Marinus Sommeijer)

Plenary session Pollination of agricultural plants by honey bees
Symposium Origin and composition of honeydew
Symposium Management of non – apis bees for pollination purposes

- BEEKEEPING TECHNOLOGY (Chair Mr. Gilles Ratia)

Plenary session Informational and other new trends in beekeeping technology
Symposium Production of quality honey
Symposium Bee Products: Quality and standards
Symposium Practical aspects of bee breeding programmes

- APITHERAPY (Chair Dr. Theodore Cherbuliez)

Plenary session Apitherapy - science and practice
Symposium Apitherapy in regular medical practice
Symposium Standardisation of bee products for pharmaceutical use

- BEEKEEPING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Chair Dr. Nicola Bradbear)

Plenary session Beekeeping against poverty
Symposium Beekeeping development in Eastern Europe
Symposium Beekeeping development worldwide

SUBMITTED PAPERS

The Apimondia Standing Commissions will select submitted papers for oral and poster presentations. Papers and communications should be submitted by the Intranet dedicated facility that will be available on the congress website <http://www.apimondia2003.com>

If unable to have access to Internet, papers should be sent to Apimondia with at least one translation in English to the following address:

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APIEXPO 2003

ApiExpo will be located in the exhibition hall of Cankarjev dom, Cultural and Congress Centre. A total of 2500 m² will be available to display beekeeping equipment, publications, beverages, bee products and everything related to bees. A standard booth space (3m x 3m) includes one registration pass that provides access to all plenary sessions, symposia and special events. Each exhibitor can purchase one additional pass at the rate of "Companion". Standard equipment includes



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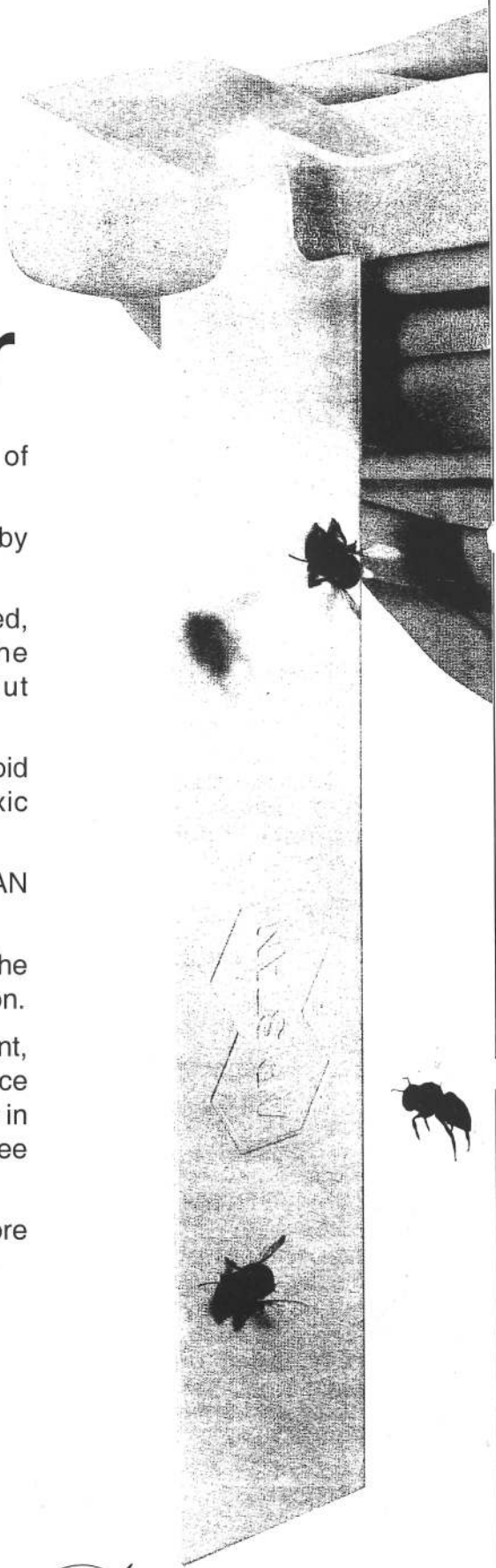
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With standard equipment	1,300 EURO	1,600 EURO	1,900 EURO
Without equipment	1,100 EURO	1,300 EURO	1,700 EURO

CONTESTS

There will be contests for the following areas: technical inventions and innovations, products based on beehive products, films, slides, photographs of bees and beekeeping,, books, apicultural philatelic collections, journals, original packaging and advertising of hive products. There will be also a contest for exhibition booths. Detailed information will be provided in the second circular.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The official languages of the congress will be English, German, Spanish and French. Simultaneous translations will be provided for official languages for the plenary sessions and the opening and closing ceremonies.

VENUE

The congress will be held in Cankarjev dom, Cultural and Congress Centre, located in the very heart of Ljubljana within walking distance of all major hotels, shops, restaurants and main sights of the city. Cankarjev dom can accommodate up to 5,000 visitors. Annually it hosts 250 national and international congresses and convention-related events. For more information visit the website: <http://www.cd-cc.si>

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REGISTRATION FEES

All fees and payment should be quoted in EURO.

One companion registration can be purchased with a full congress fee. Only full congress fees include technical tours.

Additional tickets for technical tours for participants with one day passes will be available at the registration desk at the rate defined in the second circular.

	Before Dec. 31, 2002	Before June 1, 2003	After June 1, 2003
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Congress Participant	300 EURO	340 EURO	390 EURO
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Canadian mites start resisting varroa controls

Beekeepers must follow instructions carefully when using varroa controls, warns JOHN GATES, a British Columbia apiculture advisor who attended New Zealand's NBA Gisborne conference in 2000. Otherwise, mites will develop a resistance to the products within five years (Bayvoral, while not registered in Canada, belongs to the same chemical group as Apistan).

Varroa mites were first discovered in the United States in 1987 and in New Brunswick, Canada in 1989. By 1993, beekeepers in various parts of Canada, including British Columbia, were routinely using Apistan for mite control.

The active ingredient that kills the pest in Apistan is the synthetic pyrethroid, fluvalinate. For a number of years Apistan was an effective, easy-to-use control; maybe too easy.

Many beekeepers relied on it solely to solve their mite problems. Almost from the beginning we were told mites could develop a resistance with a control life little more than up to 10 years. Partly for that reason, we did the necessary work to get liquid formic acid approved for use in Canada. It is still not available to beekeepers in the US.

Since formic acid became available in British Columbia, we have recommended rotating controls: formic acid in the spring and Apistan in the autumn to extend the useful life of Apistan and to control tracheal mites (not known to occur in New Zealand).

But formic acid has not been as easy to use as Apistan and for that reason many beekeepers have relied solely on Apistan to control varroa.

Several years ago we began hearing fluvalinate no longer controlled varroa in parts of Europe. More recently, fluvalinate-resistant bees were confirmed in a number of US states.

During the 2001 northern autumn, several beekeepers in the Okanagan and Fraser Valley reported large numbers of live varroa in hives after the full, 42-day Apistan treatment and some hives were beginning to collapse. When we investigated, using a field test developed by Jeff Pettis (USDA), some of the mites seemed to be highly resistant but in at least one outfit the bees still seemed to be susceptible to fluvalinate.

Fluvalinate-resistant mites should come as no surprise since we have been using Apistan for at least eight years and some beekeepers have not been rotating control products.

So what should we expect and what should beekeepers be doing?

Resistant mites are no joke and are bound to cause a great deal of damage to the industry.

A major concern is that beekeepers who are not monitoring mite levels will not realise they have resistance until they start seeing large losses! In a 1997 manual, *Controlling Parasitic Mites in Honey Bee Colonies*, I wrote:

"The key to long term success in controlling parasitic mites is an effective monitoring programme. Mite control can

sometimes be successful in the short term merely by using control products on a calendar basis however, sooner or later that approach will fail, with disastrous consequences. To effectively control mites, beekeepers must be aware of mite levels in their hives at critical times of the year."

There are a number of strategies beekeepers can use to assess the effectiveness of controls and to prolong the usefulness of Apistan.

First, monitor hive mite levels before and after treatment. There should be many times more mites before treatment than after. Methods of checking include:

1. Before treatment, place screened sticky boards in some of your hives. Leave them in for 24 hours then remove them. Mark the boards to identify the hives, count and record the number of mites. If the boards are still relatively clean they can be reused. Place two Apistan strips in the brood areas of the hives then reinsert the boards in their original hives. Remove after 24 hours and count again. On average you should get at least 20 times the mite fall using Apistan as you saw using sticky boards alone. Perform this test on as many of your hives as possible. Don't jump to conclusions based on the results from one hive. If you consistently get 10 times or less you should be concerned. After a full 42-day treatment with Apistan, less than 10 mites should appear on the sticky boards over 24 hours, after the strips have been removed.
2. Shake adult bees from a couple of brood frames into a shallow cardboard box, shake the bees to one end, scoop 1/4 cup of bees into a jar of windshield wiper fluid, agitate the container for 5 minutes (or place the samples into a box and drive on a really bumpy dirt road for 10 minutes), then pour the bees and fluid into a household strainer

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BK10

with mesh size enough to let the mites through. Catch the fluid and mites on a cloth attached to a bucket using clothespins. The mites should be easy to see on the cloth and the bees will be held back by the strainer. You may want to wash the bees a second time. Record the mites and the hive numbers. Do the same test after the full Apistan treatment. You should see far fewer mites after the treatment than before. Again, this is just an indication. Don't jump to conclusions. Test as many hives as possible.

(In New Zealand, HortResearch is studying the effectiveness of different varroa sampling methods. Results will be published in this journal when the work is completed.)

Prolong Apistan usefulness

1. Before using any treatment, monitor mite levels. Don't treat if you don't have to. Contact the apiculture programme for threshold levels requiring treatment.
2. Rotate chemical treatments. Use formic acid in the spring and Apistan in autumn. Trial other approved treatments and stop using Apistan every year if any of them are effective.
3. Try using screened bottom boards. Recent research (Ellis et al, 2001) demonstrated screened bottoms increase the effectiveness of treatments that might otherwise be marginal, including Apistan when mites have developed a resistance to it. Brood production was higher in hives with bottom screens. *(No New Zealand research has been carried out on screened bottom boards).*

If your monitoring reveals that Apistan is no longer controlling varroa, change to another approved product. Depending on your circumstances you might also try some of the bio-mechanical methods such as drone brood removal, described in mite control manuals.

I believe that Apistan resistance is beginning to appear in BC and other parts of Canada. Given the evidence from other countries, the resistance will continue to spread. You will not notice a problem in your hives if you are not actively monitoring your bees. Visual inspections for adult mites on bees in the hive are not good enough. Beekeepers must change management and treatment methods to avoid serious losses. "Bee prepared!"

References

Ellis et al. 2001 Efficacy of a Bottom Screen Device, Apistan, and Apilife Var, in Controlling *Varroa destructor*, *Am Bee J.* 141(11): 813-816.

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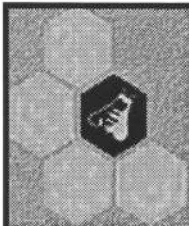
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2002 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

In accordance with the National Beekeeper Association's Rules, three members of the executive committee retire in rotation each year. This year they are Jane Lorimer for the North Island and Lin McKenzie and Philip Cropp for the South Island.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand Inc

Election of three members to the executive committee - one member to be domiciled in the North Island and two to be domiciled in the South Island.

NOMINATION FORM

We the undersigned members of the Association hereby nominate:

NAME IN FULL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

With his/her consent as a candidate at the election of three members to the Executive Committee of the Association

NOMINATED BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

FULL NAME:- _____ FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE _____ SIGNATURE _____

SIGNATURE OF
CANDIDATE: _____ DATE: _____

Nominations, which close at 9.00am Thursday 2 May 2002, are to be addressed and forwarded to

**The Returning Officer
National Beekeepers Assn., of NZ (Inc)
PO Box 715
WELLINGTON**

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF CANDIDATES AND MEMBERS

1. Everyone receiving a nomination form can be nominated or can nominate and/or second a member's nomination.
2. Any member can nominate and second another member as a candidate for election to the executive committee.
3. **Candidate's biographical notes in support of their candidature.** The Association will include with voting papers up to 200 words of biographical notes submitted by the Candidate with his/her nomination.
4. A copy of the roll of members will be supplied to the secretary of each branch.
5. **Scrutineers:** A candidate may appoint a person to act as scrutineer. The returning officer must be advised of the name and address of a suggested scrutineer before the poll closes at 9am Thursday, June 6, 2002

2002 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand Inc

The executive is seeking nominations to fill the vacancy (North Island member) caused by the resignation of Fiona O'Brien, elected to the executive as a North Island member in the 2001 Executive Committee election.

This election takes place in accordance with the provision of Rule 16f and the person elected will hold office for the balance of the unexpired term of the vacating member i.e., one year.

Election of a member to the executive committee to be domiciled in the North Island.

NOMINATION FORM

We the undersigned members of the association hereby nominate:

NAME IN FULL:- _____

ADDRESS: _____

With his/her consent as a candidate at the election of three members to the executive committee of the association

NOMINATED BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

FULL NAME:- _____ FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE _____ SIGNATURE _____

SIGNATURE OF
CANDIDATE: _____ DATE: _____

Nominations, which close at 9am on Thursday, May 2, 2002, are to be addressed and forwarded to:

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PO Box 715
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4. A copy of the roll of members will be supplied to the secretary of each branch.
5. **Scrutineers:** A Candidate may appoint a person to act as scrutineer. The returning officer must be advised of the name and address of a suggested scrutineer before the poll closes at 9am Thursday, June 6, 2002

Letters to the Editor

Are we too small to be effective?

In the past, when our association wanted central Government approval, co-operation or just its help, the response seemed to be: "They are just a small bunch of beekeepers. Put their request in the Do-Later basket."

That was all too evident when the varroa mite was found in South Auckland in 2000. Our experts were saying: "Do it now and we can eradicate."

Central Government's reaction?

"Let's form a working party to see if we can eradicate, control or afford it. Then we will think about it for a while, draw up a couple of plans, think about it some more and, if we think about it long enough, it will be too late to eradicate (at \$50 million). Then we will go for the control option (\$7.6 million) - but only for a limited time. After that beekeepers can pay for control for the rest of their natural . . ."

It does not matter if the small commercial guy goes broke and who cares [about] the hobbyist, anyway? Or the farmer who doesn't get his clover, or the orchardist who doesn't get his apples and pears and the vegetable and squash growers who do not get their crops pollinated - let alone the home gardener. Let's not worry about the beekeeper who survives the initial infestation - they can just keep paying year after year after year . . . just so long as it does not cost the country too much now."

Now that I've got that (tongue in cheek) gripe out of my system, let's look at what we can do about the problem.

My first comment is, as a stand-alone association, the National Beekeepers Association is too small. As a single unit, we don't have the clout we need to make our Members of Parliament listen (our local MP didn't even turn up to the meeting we called).

With the Western Australia Honey issue, the technical objections made by the NBA are well founded, but do we have the clout to make Government listen?

Australian lobby groups are large, as evident with their refusal to accept our apples because of the fire blight threat.

After all, we do have a "Free Trade" Agreement with our friends across the ditch and I can't see any attempt by us, as a stand-alone association, to alter their thinking.

What should we do? Become a stand-alone association within a larger group with similar ideals?

My choice would be Federated Farmers. Most of its existing members rely, in some way, on the humble honeybee.

How would it affect us? And what would change?

Outwardly, we would not change much at all. We would still have an NBA as we know it: president, secretary, treasurer and committee. We would still manage our affairs and make our decisions, but we wouldn't have to do it alone. We would have all the recourses of a large organisation, including a large lobby group with the weight of thousands of agricultural, pastoral and horticultural farmers throughout New Zealand. There would be marketing, international trade, legal employment and accident compensation advice. In fact, almost any problem you may need help with.

Beekeepers paying \$1000 or more could see a reduction in their levies and we could all have access to the 27 experts employed in the federation's policy department. Several large,

commercial beekeepers are already members, joining as individuals. But oh, what a difference it would make if we all became members.

Federated Farmers members generate a large percentage of New Zealand's income, so imagine the clout this would give us. Remember, we still have diseases and pests yet to invade us. We need the power of a large lobby group to enable us to act as soon as any new disease is found. As an island country, we have a unique opportunity to eradicate if we act fast enough. We can put all eradication plans we like into place. But without the clout to get central Government backing, we will get nowhere.

Think about it. Put your views - for or against - in a letter to the editor. Or attend a branch meeting and make it a discussion point.

- Milton Jackson

Waipawa

Hobbyists poorly served by proposed levy

At first glance it would seem that 3510 beekeepers do not have to pay a levy. Even at a flat rate of \$10 per hobby beekeeper, this would be an added income to the National Beekeepers Association of \$35000 plus, gross.

I am a member of the NBA and do not pay a levy. However, I have never been opposed to a national levy of some sort. Having read the [two-tier levy proposal, February 2002 *NZ Beekeeper*] has made me think again.

The points on page 8, a) to f) are to do with the industry, economics, production, marketing, prices paid, etc. The points g) to l) and also n) show what would happen to any money paid in the form of subs. The NBA executive can do just about anything it wants with any money it receives.

Nowhere are hobby beekeepers mentioned. For their money would a half-page "hobby corner" be grudgingly conceded in the journal each month? Unless all hobby beekeepers are able to be integrated at and have a say at all levels, I do not see much support for levies coming from this quarter.

- Neale Braithwaite

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Library

What a dreadful summer it has been for many beekeepers - coping with very perverse weather conditions and the varroa mite as well.

Some of the overseas magazines included in the "Postings" have in-depth articles about living with, and managing varroa. To get on the magazine list, just send \$10 or \$20 as a credit base and packs of five to seven magazines will be mailed to you. Each package costs 90 cents in postage and another 10 cents is added as a loan fee per magazine. So, five magazines and postage will take \$1.50 off your credit balance. Return postage to the library is at the borrower's cost.

Copies of *The Speedy Bee* are no longer arriving so *Hivelights*, a magazine published by the Canadian Honey Council is being considered.

As always, suggestions on books or videos for purchasing for the library are welcome.

Papers added to the catalogue are listed below. If you have a catalogue, keep it up to date by putting these on it. Dr Peter Molan donated all the new papers, except one, and his support for the library is much appreciated.

- Chris Tairaoa (librarian)

R50 Molan, Peter

Why honey is effective as a medicine;
2: The scientific explanation of its effects.

R49 Molan, Peter

Why honey is effective as a medicine:
1. It's use in modern medicine.

R48 Molan, P. and Julie Betts

Using honey dressings: the practical considerations.

R47 Dunford, Cheryl

Using honey as a dressing for infected skin lesions.

Molan Peter C.

A brief review of honey as a clinical dressing

R46 Molan, P.C.

Selection of honey for use as a wound dressing.

R45 Molan, Peter C.

Potential of honey in the treatment of wounds and burns.

R31 Molan, P.C.

The role of honey in the management of wounds.

R44 Dunford, C. et al

The use of honey in wound management.

R43 Molan, P.C.

Authenticity of honey

R42 Shaw, Debbie, Christine Leon, Stoyko Kolev & Virginia Murray

Traditional remedies and food supplements.

R41 Allen, K.L. & P.C. Molan

The sensitivity of mastitis-causing bacteria to the anti-bacterial activity of honey.

R38 Willix, D.J., P.C. Molan & C.G. Harfoot,
A comparison of the sensitivity of wound-infecting species of bacteria to the anti-bacterial activity of manuka and other honey.

R37 Molan, P.C.

The anti-bacterial activity of honey. The nature of the Anti-bacterial activity.

R36 Mizrahi, Avshalom & Yaavoc Lensky, Ed.

Beeproducts. Properties, applications and apitherapy

R35 Cooper, R.A., P.C. Molan & K.G. Harding
The use of honey as an antiseptic in managing *Pseudomonax* infection

R33 Molan, P.C. and K.L. Allen

The effect of gamma-irradiation on the anti-bacterial activity of Honey

R34 Somal, N. al, K.E. Coley, P.C. Molan & B.M. Hancock
Susceptibility of *Helicobacter pylori* to the anti-bacterial activity Manuka honey

R32 Cooper, R.A., P.C. Molan & K.G. Harding
Antibacterial activity of honey against strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* from infected wounds.

R51 National Beekeepers Association Strategic Plan 2001-2004

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US and Argentina fight over honey

By Larry Rohter

Arull, Argentina - Scores of angry bees are swarming around his head, but Juan José Baudino doesn't mind. It is harvest time here on the pampas, and as he moves from hive to hive, removing trays to check the production and health of his bee colonies, sticky, golden honey oozes from the combs.

A few miles down the road, a gleaming new processing plant, financed by contributions from hundreds of local beekeepers, is also buzzing with activity. There, gallon after gallon of honey is separated from wax. Some of the honey will be either bottled and trucked to supermarkets in Buenos Aires, or poured into metal drums and shipped to Germany, France and Spain.

Abroad, Argentina's image is of a country unable to compete globally and intent on protecting its inefficient local producers. The George W. Bush administration has been especially critical, citing Argentina's supposed unwillingness to compete as a main cause of its economic crisis.

"They don't have any export industry to speak of at all," US treasury secretary Paul H. O'Neill said dismissively in an interview with the magazine *The Economist* last summer. "And they like it that way.

But here on the humid pampas, where fields of alfalfa and clover stretch to the horizon, the emergence of a flourishing honey industry belies that notion. In little more than a decade, Argentina has become the world's leading exporter of honey, selling nearly 90,000 tons (91440 tonnes) a year to foreign markets, with almost half of it going to the United States.

The United States, however, has not greeted this with praise or support. Instead, responding to complaints of dumping by American honey producers - complaints that honey importers in the United States call unfounded - it placed tariffs of up to 66% on Argentine honey, effectively shutting it out of the market.

The decision, effective since November 2001, has dealt a serious blow to an industry earning \$US86.6 million in much-needed foreign exchange in 2000 and providing a livelihood to thousands of farmers. Though the Argentine government has done little to mount a defence or appeal, officials argue that Argentine beekeepers are being unfairly punished for being more efficient.

"What's really going on is that they don't want to buy from us," José Ignacio de Mendiguren, the new minister of production, said in an interview in Buenos Aires. "Argentina is a large and very competitive exporter in the agricultural sector, but we're matched against agricultural economies in the United States and Europe that not only close their borders to us, but subsidise the same products that we make.

"If they really wanted to help Argentina, what they would do is not so much lend us money, but let us sell what we produce," Mr. de Mendiguren said criticising the Bush administration.

"This always happens. It happened with lemons too. Whatever Argentina is capable of exporting, we know that the United States will administer its own trade in such a way as to be able to protect its own producers at our expense."

Honey importers in the United States share the concerns. Nicholas Sargeantson, president of Sunland International, an importer in New Canaan, Connecticut, said Argentine honey was "of a very high quality," and some packers preferred it to domestic honey because it was cleaner.

The US Commerce Department ruling against Argentina illustrated "the immense hypocrisy of US trade law," he added.

"On the one hand, the US advocates to the world to tear down trade barriers," he said, "but on the other it has these wonderfully convenient dumping laws which enable domestic producers to bring a case against foreign suppliers any time they see competition they don't like."

The main honey producer in this dairy region of north-central Argentina is a non-profit federation of co-operatives known as FCJAC SanCor.

Founded in 1985, largely with a \$500,000 loan from the United States-supported Inter-American Development Bank, it set a goal of providing opportunities for poor farm workers.

"Nobody knew much about beekeeping when we started, but it seemed to be the perfect complement to cattle raising," the traditional economic backbone of the region, said Oscar Paira, the co-operative's manager. "Beekeeping didn't require space or food, so it seemed to be a way to get a big result from a small investment."

Mr. Baudino, a 40-year-old father of two, was an early and enthusiastic supporter, seeing it as his only way to progress. The son of a windmill repairman, he began with 20 hives and a \$2000 loan and today owns nearly 1000 hives.

"When I started, I had just gotten married and had nothing at all," said Mr. Baudino, who estimates his family income at \$12,500 a year. "I'm not rich by any means, but to go from nothing to where I am now in just 16 years is quite a feat in Argentina, and I owe it all to honey."

The American dumping complaint baffles Argentine beekeepers, who tend to be small producers of limited means and education and no experience with accountants and lawyers. The US began its investigation by giving producers and exporters 30 days to answer a nearly 150-page questionnaire in English.

Because they could not understand English and failed to realise what was at stake - or had incomplete records - the Argentine beekeepers did not respond.

In the absence of "a satisfactory response" from beekeepers, American auditors were then authorised to turn to "the best available evidence". That turned out to be a magazine article riddled, Argentine producers and exporters say, with errors and false assumptions.

"It's absurd to think that we [Argentina beekeepers] somehow determine international prices for honey," Mr. Paira said. "It's the market, in particular the United States, that does that. And as small producers, we couldn't possibly remain in business if we were selling below the cost of production."

Another key element was tax rebates that American honey producers called an unfair subsidy. But producers here say the government is so bankrupt it has been years since they received state support.

"It's not just that these subsidies don't exist, but that we have to pay all kinds of taxes that weren't taken into consideration in the evaluation of the complaint," said Fernando Esteban, a producer with 200 hives who is also editor of the country's leading beekeeping magazine.

In a telephone interview from Bruce, San Diego, American Honey Producers Association president Richard L. Adee dismissed the Argentine accusations.

"They were unable to prove that they weren't dumping," he said. Therefore they deserved to be penalised to the extent permitted under American law.

In Argentina, producers' incomes have now dropped from \$1150 a ton to \$950. "We had the same amount of honey to

sell, the middlemen knew we had to sell it, and with one less market to sell it to, they were able to take advantage of the situation and drive down the price," Mr. Paira said.

At the same time, wholesale prices are rising rapidly in the United States, importers say. In just a few months, the cost of a pound (500g) of white honey has gone from 50 cents to 80 cents, reflecting the inability of honey users to fill the gap left by the disappearance of Argentine honey.

"We really don't have a clue how we're going to meet the requirements of the US packing industry over the next 12 months," Mr. Sargeantson said. "What we have now is a situation that I've never seen before in 27 years in this business, one that in the long run is going to benefit nobody."

- *New York Times*

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Bee & Herbal New Zealand Ltd

PROPOLIS WANTED

Using advanced research technology and innovative product development techniques, we have produced an exciting new dimension in user-friendly added value bee products. The latest innovative addition to our propolis range is our propolis lollipop now available through Healtheries Kidscare range in supermarkets and healthfood stores.

Note: Also available to beekeepers suppliers ex our factory shop.

When we entered the propolis market four years ago, the price for raw propolis had been stuck at \$100 per kg pure for sometime. Our competitive innovation has helped increase returns to the beekeeper by up to 50%. To help continue this forward momentum we need your continued support in supply.

CONTACT US NOW FOR NEW SEASONS PRICES

All propolis tested by qualified (PhD) scientist using accurate three sample testing.

Adding value to your bee products allows us to add value to your hive returns.

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Bee & Herbal NZ Ltd

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Factory: (07) 823-2496

Mobile: 025 422-451

Fax: (07) 823-2497

Email: bee-herbal@bee-herbal.co.nz

BK30

Overseas Trade Statistics

Prepared for National Beekeepers Association

Ref No: 4482901A

HS10 Items by Country of Destination for Exports, Cargo

HS Items Code	Description	Country of Destination	Net Month of January 2002		1 Month Ending January 2002		
			Unit	Quantity	Quantity	FOB (\$NZ)	
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	China, People's Republic of	NMB	200	2,312	200	2,312
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	TOTAL HS ITEM	NMB	200	2,312	200	2,312
0106.90.00.17	Animals; live, queen bees other than in packages	Japan	NMB	300	4,300	300	4,300
0106.90.00.17	Animals; live, queen bees other than in packages	TOTAL HS ITEM	NMB	300	4,300	300	4,300
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Australia	KGM	1,525	18,640	1,525	18,640
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	360	7,489	360	7,489
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Japan	KGM	75	2,527	75	2,527
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Singapore	KGM	480	7,137	480	7,137
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	United Kingdom	KGM	9,000	151,005	9,000	151,005
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	United States of America	KGM	3,337	30,237	3,337	30,237
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	14,777	217,035	14,777	217,035
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Australia	KGM	18,044	215,771	18,044	215,771
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Bahrain	KGM	600	4,399	600	4,399
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Canada	KGM	384	2,607	384	2,607
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Cook Islands	KGM	84	770	84	770
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	2,737	63,019	2,737	63,019
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Japan	KGM	1,660	36,921	1,660	36,921
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Korea, Republic of	KGM	300	5,904	300	5,904
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Singapore	KGM	5,135	37,469	5,135	37,469
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United Arab Emirates	KGM	2,945	27,866	2,945	27,866
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United Kingdom	KGM	7,795	73,669	7,795	73,669
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United States of America	KGM	1,471	5,219	1,471	5,219
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	41,155	473,614	41,155	473,614
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	606	9,292	606	9,292
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	606	9,292	606	9,292
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Australia	KGM	1,350	12,712	1,350	12,712
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	1,350	12,712	1,350	12,712
TOTAL ALL CARGO					719,265	*	719,265

Source : Statistics New Zealand, Overseas Trade

From the colonies



Canterbury

The 2002 annual general meeting will start with a dinner at 6pm in the Alpine View Lounge, Hornby Working Men's Club on April 30.

Business procedures begin at 8pm sharp, but dining is a part of the proceedings. Anyone wanting to join in the meal (average price \$10-\$12) should telephone Trevor Corbett, (03) 314-6836 or Rae Blair, (03) 315-6615 ASAP.

Next month, the Canterbury branch NBA remit meeting will be held on May 28 at 1pm sharp. Note the new premises, Federated Farmers Building, 3/25 Sir William Pickering Drive, Christchurch.

Important: Please note that from May 1, Federated Farmers is occupying new premises near Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies on Sheffield Crescent. The May and June meetings will be during the daytime. Your involvement is invaluable.

- Rae Blair, Waiau

Hawkes Bay

Not much to report this month. The secretary has been touring and the president has been in hospital.

The honey supers are mostly empty except for a small, late flow near the coast. There do not seem to be as many wasps this season except the Asian paper wasps are common.

The dismal harvest did not stop a large attendance at the two varroa seminars organised by Byron Taylor on April 11, 12 and 13. It was good to learn the best methods of detection and treatment, even if it was only theoretical this time. There are still no reports of mites this side of the line although there is a concentration of hives just to the north along the Napier-Taupo road.

- Ron Morison, Taradale

Bay of Plenty

The season is winding down and describing what it has brought for many of us is really disappointing. Honey production for our members, as in many parts of the country, is well down. On the positive side, the honey produced is fetching considerably better prices.

Varroa is really making its presence felt and stories about hive losses are becoming common. Varroa has now spread throughout the bay and re-infestation occurs in many areas. It is quite common to see mites in hives while under treatment.

Apart from the poor honey season, some of us had the opportunity to produce bulk bees and queen bees for the package bee export. Also, propolis continues to fetch good prices.

At our March branch meeting, the organic acid varroa controls were highlighted. HortResearch scientist Dr Mark Goodwin from Ruakura attended and gave us an overview on all treatment options.

Our branch is aware that the National Beekeepers Association, having not radically changed to become an efficient industry body, now faces the dilemma of gaining insufficient support for the new Levy Order. It is too late to be making these changes now and I believe the majority of members in the Bay of Plenty branch will not support it.

For too long, this branch has received virtually no benefits for the levies paid. A letter was written to the Minister of Biosecurity, Jim Sutton, to relay our grave concerns. It was sent on February 25 and a reply was received

this month, telling us the minister had written to the NBA president for a response to the branch's concerns.

Mr Sutton also promised to look at the association's rules when he assesses the new levy order, should the referendum be successful.

Of utmost importance will be the abandonment of the discriminatory mite control line, restricting beekeepers access to their sites or utilising new ones. This causes division, and considerable friction between beekeepers north and south of the line.

Our organisation has been instrumental in helping to implement the line so should carry most of the blame for this friction. I understand with the expiry of the two-year plan in October, it is likely the line will go unless the minister decides otherwise and is prepared to allocate extra money on controls. Another likely scenario is that varroa will be found south of the line - which will make it go as well. Hopefully, common sense will finally prevail after two years.

- Gerrit Hyink, Katikati

Southern North Island

The weather was mild last month, keeping bees fairly active - and often hungry. Many beekeepers are having to feed their hives. Some have extracted 4kg of honey per hive.

- The branch AGM is being held on April 22 in the Wanganui Croquet Rooms, Parsons Rd, Wanganui, starting at 10am.

- Frank Lindsay, Johnsonville

Northland

As prophesised, the recent season wasn't a good one, although there is a little honey around.

The varroa mite is on the rampage and its effects are pretty frightening. Secondary infections, like sac brood and chalk brood arriving after the mites have attacked, are the big problem up here.

It is a sad sight, to visit an infected hive and see the bees crawling on the ground outside the hive, escaping the dead, stinking brood. Hives do not even have to be highly contaminated for the infections to strike. Once 50 to 100 mites have started nipping the brood, infection quickly spreads.

The infections are a bigger problem than the mites will ever be, although they're the cause of it. Two of my apiaries have been hit so far. They had big, strong hives, filled with 40,000 to 60,000 bees, but it looked like someone had sprayed them with fly spray. The hives were full of honey, but there was a 100% wipe out.

Northland beekeepers are now resigned to the fact that many hives will be lost, although bees may build some resistance to the secondary infections in a few years. In the meantime, in the same way people's natural immunity to tetanus fails when we cut our skin, bees fall prey to any of the 80 viruses found in hives once the varroa mite has attacked them. Infection then spreads like wild fire.

A warning to South Island beekeepers relying on stringent varroa controls in Wellington to keep the mite at bay: What about the risks at other ports? Are ships sailing directly to the South Island from Whangarei or Auckland being checked? Hopefully the mite will never reach the South Island, but beekeepers in Southland or Canterbury are surely as vulnerable as their counterparts in Picton.

Kent, in the north of England, boasted 33 commercial beekeepers 10 years ago. Now, after the arrival of the varroa mite, there are just three.

- Don Hoole, Paparoa

Double check varroa levels in hives after autumn treatment

By Dr Mark Goodwin
Hort Research, Ruakura

By now most beekeepers in areas with high varroa numbers will have completed their autumn treatment.

Those who have used formic or oxalic acid will need to check varroa levels after the treatment to ensure the treatments have worked, as the effects can be variable. Those using Apistan or Bayvarol do not usually need to check varroa levels post treatment as there is not much that can go wrong.

Apistan or Bayvarol strip removal

It is just as important to remove strips at the right time, as it is to insert them. As the strips get older, the amount of miticide released decreases. Leaving the strips in for longer than recommended exposes the mites to low levels of miticides and increases the risks of the mites building up a resistance.

Hopefully, you will know how many strips you have used per hive as they can be difficult to find at times, slipping down between frames, sticking between frames or left lying on the floorboard. At Ruakura, the occasional strip has even found its way out of a hive and ended up on the grass.

When disposing of used strips, read and follow instructions on the label. I have already heard of several landowners who have expressed concerns about strip packaging and used strips, that have been left lying around apiary sites.

INVASION

We have now entered the season where the highest levels of invasion occur. Invasion is where mites enter a hive from other hives, either from drifting bees or robbing. Last autumn, we recorded up to 80 mites per day invading colonies. If you have just finished your varroa treatment, invasion can increase the varroa populations very quickly. A colony without varroa can have more than 1000 mites two weeks later and more than 5000 two months later. Subsequently, some colonies may need to be treated twice in the autumn.

Beekeepers in the worst-affected areas may treat their colonies twice this autumn as a safety measure. That is obviously an expensive option, depending on how you value your time.

Another option is to sample some hives to determine if a second treatment is necessary. Beekeepers who were able to delay their autumn treatment, or those in areas where varroa has only invaded this season, can probably avoid a second treatment.

TESTING HIVES

A new method: This season we developed a new method of testing hives that may be worth trying. The previous method used for research projects, the sugar shake (see p35 of the *Control of Varroa* book), has many advantages but does not work when it is raining or when there is a heavy honey flow as the icing sugar gets wet. Icing sugar can also give variable results, especially if you don't repeat it three times.

The new method uses the same 400ml jar with a mesh lid used for the sugar shake method. Staple a new Apistan® strip

to the corner of a 100 x 150 mm index card. Place this in the jar so the card curls around the wall of the jar with the strip on the inside. The stapled corner should be at the top of the jar so the strip spirals down to the bottom of the jar. The jar needs to be painted black or covered in something to keep out the light as U.V. light degrades the fluvalinate in the strips.

Three hundred bees are placed in the jar with the strip. The jar is then left standing upwards, for about 20-30 minutes, and then inverted and shaken so the mites fall out and can be counted.

The longer the bees are in the jar with the Apistan, the greater the percentage of the mites that can be removed (Fig. 1). Thirty minutes should remove about 90% of the mites. The jars could be filled as you work through an apiary, placed on the hive lid and then shaken when all the hives have been finished.

As long as the strips are kept away from the light, they should be able to be used for more than 500 samples. It is probably a good idea to wash a few bees in alcohol or soapy water (P34, *Control of Varroa*) once the strips have been used for awhile, to ensure they are still active.

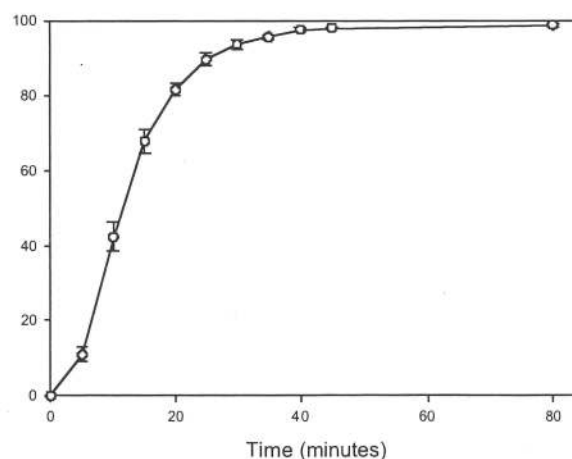


Fig. 1: Percent of mites removed from bees inside a Mason jar after different lengths of exposure to Apistan. The vertical lines are standard error bars.

Oxalic and formic acid mix

Just a couple of traps you don't want to fall into (we have fallen into both of them). Firstly, if you are using oxalic acid, you are probably using oxalic acid dihydrate. For the chemists among you, this is oxalic acid with 2 water molecules attached. Without the water molecules attached, the oxalic acid would absorb water, affecting concentration. The varroa book (P97) uses oxalic acid dihydrate, not oxalic acid when it describes how to make up the correct concentration.

The second trap is when making up plastic pouches for formic acid, put the required amount of paper in bags to totally absorb 250ml of 65% formic acid. This can be tested using 250ml of water. It is not much fun having to add more paper because you haven't tested the plastic pouches before adding the formic acid.

APs assistance pleases Pest Management agency

The response by Authorised Persons, level two, to deal with American foulbrood over the past year has been "outstanding", a recent report notes.

Since July 2001, four major outbreaks of American foulbrood have occurred in the North Island, the National (American Foulbrood) Pest Management Strategy Management Agency reports.

An audit in the Hauraki Plains involved 200 hives being destroyed. The co-operation of 45 Authorised Persons, level two, from the National Beekeeper Association's Waikato or Auckland branches, along with assistance from the landowner, enabled the work to be done in a single day. A further, part audit five weeks later revealed the disease had been eliminated and the "restricted place" notice could be lifted.

Another team of Authorised Persons level two, this time members of the NBA's Hawkes Bay branch, responded to an AFB outbreak within a deceased estate. Twenty-five hives were destroyed and the estate was then sold to an experienced beekeeper who will conduct follow-up audits.

In Tuakau, South Auckland, AFB was discovered when 10% of a large number of hives sold were infected with AFB. The agency worked through the problem with the buyer and the sellers and expects the problem to be solved now.

In another area of Auckland, approximately 130 hives had to be destroyed by AgriQuality Authorised Persons level one and Auckland branch Authorised Persons level two when a major AFB outbreak was discovered.

Branch members supplied the manpower and transport required to uplift the hives to a location where they could be safely and legally burned during a closed fire season.

All outbreaks will be audited during the next two months to see if further action is required.

Chairman re-elected

Frank Lindsay has been re-elected chairman of the National Beekeepers Association's compliance committee, following the acceptance of his resignation by the NBA executive at its March meeting.

Last September Frank had overlooked the re-registration of a seasonal apiary, making him inadvertently non-compliant. Committee members, however, said they understood the situation he found himself in and expressed confidence in him resuming his role as chairman.

The committee's decision was supported by the executive, which believes Frank made an honourable and correct decision when he submitted his resignation.

- **Lin McKenzie**
NBA Vice President

WANTED BY EXPERIENCED MAN

*Contract propolis scraping
Lower North Island*

Ph: Lachlan (04) 383 5210

BK80

Input sought for South Island movement control review

Control conditions for moving risk goods to the South Island have been in place for over a year and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry believes it is time these conditions are reviewed.

Under the existing conditions, some items (such as live bees) are prohibited from entering the South Island. Other items require a permit and must comply with certain conditions. Permits are usually issued for a time period, rather than per consignment.

Copies of the existing conditions have been sent to National Beekeeper Association branch secretaries, as well as some individual beekeepers/ honey packers and others directly involved in moving goods from the North Island to the South Island.

Anyone wanting to add their ideas on how movement restrictions can be modified can be sent a copy of the current conditions from Lucy Martinez, MAF Biosecurity, PO Box 2526, Wellington, telephone (04) 474 -199 or e-mail martinezl@maf.govt.nz

BULK HONEY WANTED

- Manuka
- Clover
- Clover Blend
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And all other honey types

Contact: Des Hansen
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HAMILTON

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Fax (07) 824 4754 **Mobile** 025 932 615
Email des.wendy@xtra.co.nz

BK 69

Bees get ready for winter

March was an easy month for me. During the month there was a late flow, many hives superseded their queens and some hives, instead of just superseding, were stimulated to swarm.

Swarms at this time of the year are normally of little value as they have to be fed during the winter and need a new queen. However, following perhaps the worst production summer ever, two swarms I caught have been put to good use.

One was given away to re-establish another beekeeper's hive that failed to produce a mated queen after it swarmed, and the other was put in a four-frame nuc box with two frames of honey. They should survive the winter (with the addition of another two honey frames) and will be used as replacement stock in the spring.

The four-frame nuc box was placed in the garden for a few days to settle down and allow the queen to mate before being moved to an apiary. Bees are fascinating and you can generally get an indication of what's going on by studying them on the flight board.

As I was observing bees with pollen coming in, I noticed a commotion below the hives. There were ants everywhere - climbing up grass and over the bricks at the edge of the garden. Within a few minutes I had worked out what was going on. The ants were getting rid of the spiders and other insects around the nest while other were driving queen ants from the colony. Seems the workers control the activities of the nest just like bees do in the hive.

While picking up a swarm, I noticed bees working something I wouldn't have considered a nectar source - totara berries. The bees haven't got the mouth parts to puncher the fruit, but they were feasting on fallen berries which had been damaged at base by children and animals. (always thought that these trees had no uses in beekeeping but we live and learn.)

I have been checking hives recently and some which had their crops removed early have expanded over the past month and are now short of stored honey. If yours are in this situation, feed sugar syrup (as thick as you can make it) so the hives have at least a super of honey.

Indications are for another warm winter, meaning some hives will continue brood rearing. This uses honey stores quicker than normal, so watch hive weights. Hives rearing broods will need checking in August to see there is enough food to last through to the first flow in October.

Hives should be prepared now for winter. Close down the entrance, if you haven't already done so, to prevent mice entering. Ensure the foundation is secure and the hive slopes forward slightly so water runs off. Clear any grass around the hive so there is an airflow underneath. Provide top ventilation by putting a match under each corner of the lid.

Now that robbing has finished and drones are being tossed out, do a final brood inspection and ensure the hive is free of American foulbrood. Also, remove or replace any broken frames or rotten woodware. Any broken frames with brood or

Frank Lindsay



honey should be moved towards the outer edges of the super so they can be changed in the spring.

Finally, check that stored supers are free of wax moth. Store in a cool, airy place or place a tablespoon of PBD crystal on a piece of paper on top of a stack of supers and cover. Ensure all cracks are sealed with paper or tape so the gas remains in the super long enough to kill the wax moth larvae. This does not kill their eggs, though, so repeat the procedure in a month.

Honey bee hive products - comments sought

The honey bee industry will soon have a chance to comment on the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's (MAF) import risk analysis and import health standard on honey bee products and used beekeeping equipment.

MAF produces risk analyses to identify and manage disease risks that may be associated with the importation of live animals and animal products. MAF Biosecurity contracted an apicultural scientist to write this import risk analysis. The risk analysis process is as follows:

- 1) Possible hazards are identified;
- 2) The way in which these diseases could be introduced and spread are analysed;
- 3) Appropriate measures are recommended to minimise the risks where appropriate.

The draft risk analysis is currently undergoing a process of expert review, involving scrutiny by international experts. Once reviewers' comments have been considered, the risk analysis and draft import health certificate will be made available for public consultation.

This is the opportunity for those involved in the honey bee industry to have their say.

The risk analysis and the import health certificate will dictate what products are allowed into New Zealand and what measures must be put in place to allow importation. It will affect everyone in the beekeeping industry.

The document will be posted on the MAF web site and copies will be sent to NBA regional branch secretaries, the Honey Exporters Joint Action Group, the Honey Packers' Association and importers of honeybee products.

The documents will be available for public consultation at the end of May 2002. Contact your regional branch to make sure you have a copy and can have your say.

- Helen Beban
National Adviser
International Animal Trade
MAF Biosecurity

National Beekeepers Association

MAF Sustainable Farming Funded Project - To expand options for NZ Beekeepers

Stage 1: Leadership Training

The objective of Stage 1 is to provide the skills to effectively promote the beekeeping industry both within and outside the beekeepers association. This one day programme will provide an opportunity for you to consolidate and review your leadership skills and realign your industry for the future.

This will be achieved by covering the following content areas:

- Strategic planning and Management processes
- Team Leadership
- Communications
- Meeting Management
- Project Management

The training is interactive and practical and designed to challenge you and provide you with information you can use immediately.

The training is being provided by the New Zealand Institute of Management (NZIM) Canterbury branch who were selected by tender. The course leader is Eric Livingstone, an experienced strategic planner and business advisor. He is a former Managing Director of Guthrey Breeding Services redirecting this company into a nationwide beef and dairy distributor. Eric now has his own business consultancy, helping 60 clients with strategic planning and change.

Comments from national executive members who attended the first course include:

I find the process of Strategic Planning can be quite heavy but Eric's presentation takes a lot of the mystery out of it.

*Tim Leslie
Executive Secretary*

This course has a strong focus on leadership and decision making.....a lot of beekeepers have to make some very big decisions in the next few years. This course will give them good grounding in the basics of sound business management.

*Philip Cropp
NBA Executive Member*

Dates are as follows:

29 April	Auckland	30 April	Rotorua
6 May	Palmerston North		

REGISTER YOUR ENROLMENT NOW....

These free sessions are available to all members of the National Beekeepers Association, although numbers per session are strictly limited so enrol now to secure your place by contacting:

Jon Manhire **The AgriBusiness Group:** **ph 03 365 6806**
Email jon@agribusinessgroup.com

Polly Foster **NZIM Canterbury** **ph 03 3748 530**
Email polly_foster@nzim.co.nz

BK79

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QUALITY BEEKEEPERS WOODWARE

BK 46

Articles published in the NZ Beekeeper Magazine are subject to scrutiny by the association's publication committee but do not necessarily reflect the views of either the association or the publisher.

May 1 deadline for editorial content in next month's NZ Beekeeper.

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or post material to Crown Kerr Printing,
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BRANCH CONTACTS AND MEETINGS

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Call: Mary-Anne (06) 855-8038

AUCKLAND BRANCH

24 Andromeda Crescent, East Tamaki

President: Brian Alexander

Phone/Fax: (09) 420-5028

Secretary

Chas Reade

Mobile: 025 772-502

Fax: (09) 634-4376

AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC.

PO Box 214, Waimauku, Auckland

President: Ian Anderson

Phone: (09) 480-8327

Email: iananderson@clear.net.nz

NORTH CANTERBURY BEEKEEPING CLUB

Meets the second Monday of April, June, August and October.

Contact: Mrs Hobson

Phone: (03) 312-7587

SOUTH CANTERBURY BRANCH

Peter Lyttle

Phone: (03) 693-9189

CANTERBURY BRANCH

Meets the last Tuesday of every month, February to October.

Field Day November.

Contact: Trevor Corbett

Phone: (03) 314-6836

CHRISTCHURCH HOBBYIST CLUB

Meets on the first Saturday each month, August to May, except in January for which it is the second Saturday.

The site is at 681 Cashmere Road, Commencing at 1.30pm.

Contact: Fiona Bellet "Oakwood"

Bradley Road, RD 5

Christchurch. Phone: (03) 347 9919

DUNEDIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meets on the first Saturday in the month September - April, (except January) at 1.30pm. The venue is at our club hive in Roslyn, Dunedin.

Enquiries welcome to club secretary,

Dorothy, Phone (03) 488-4390

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meets second Sunday of each month at 10.00am for cuppa and discussion and at 10.30am open hives.

Secretary - Liz Brook

187E Clarks Beach Road,

R.D. 4, Pukekohe

Phone: (09) 232 1111

Mobile: 025 720 761

Fax: (09) 232 1112 Email: liz@pageset.co.nz

HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH

Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm,

Arataki Cottage, Havelock North.

Phone: Ron (06) 844-9493

MARLBOROUGH BRANCH

contact Will: (03) 570-5633

MANAWATU BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meets every 4th Thursday in the month at Newbury Hall, SH 3, Palmerston North.

Contact: Joan Leckie, Makahika Rd,

RD 1 Levin

Phone: (06) 368-1277

NELSON BRANCH

Phone: Michael (03) 528-6010

NELSON BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Contact: Kevin

Phone: (03) 545-0122

OTAGO BRANCH

Phone: Mike (03) 448-7811

POVERTY BAY BRANCH

Contact: Barry (06) 867-4591

WANGANUI BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

Contact Secretary: Neil Farrer

Phone: (06) 343-6248

NORTH OTAGO BRANCH

Bryan O'Neil

Phone: (03) 431-1831

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND BRANCH

Contact: Frank

Phone: (04) 478-3367

SOUTHLAND BRANCH

Contact: Don Stedman

Ph/Fax: (03) 246-9777

TARANAKI AMATEUR BEEKEEPING CLUB

George Jonson

195 Carrington Street

New Plymouth

Email: honeyhouse@clear.net.nz

Phone: (06) 753-3320

WAIKATO BRANCH

Contact Tony: (07) 856-9625

Jan Klausen: (07) 386-0111

Next meeting will be in 2001 (date yet to be confirmed).

WAIRARAPA HOBBYIST BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meet 3rd Sunday each month (except January) at Kites Woolstore, Norfolk Road, Masterton at 1.30pm.

Convenor: Arnold Esler.

Phone: (06) 379-8648

WELLINGTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Meets every second Monday of the month (except January) in Johnsonville. All welcome.

Contact: John Burnet,

21 Kiwi Cres, Tawa,

Wellington 6006. Phone: (04) 232-7863

Email: johnburnet@xtra.co.nz