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**Date:** 23 July, 1999 2:48:19 PM  
**Subject:** AFB levels

For those that haven't done the maths, this year's reported AFB levels (0.31%) are the lowest in 22 years and the third lowest ever recorded in New Zealand.

This is only 25% of the 1990 peak (1.2%) which means the number of hives reported and destroyed have decreased from 3831 in 1990 to only 938 this past year.

I understand there are one or two Annual disease declarations outstanding but hopefully they will not change the stats much.

As Agriquality is also having more and more difficulty in finding AFB hives the trend of decreasing disease levels is likely to be a true one. We can however never be sure of how many AFB hives are never found and how many are not reported if they are found.

Even with this it has to be a very positive trend

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