

National Beekeepers Association

American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy

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Abstract: This document provides members with the NBA direction statement for industry good activities that it intends to carry out over the next 6 years

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1 Introduction

1.1 Areas

- Research and Development
- AFB Management Agency
- Training and Education
- Collection and Accounting – This is to collect and account for the levy and is an administrative operational component related to the whole PMS. Therefore there is no further explanation in this plan.

1.2 Budget

Area	Budget
Research and Development	\$58,000
AFB PMS Management Agency	\$190,000
Training and Education	\$42,000
Collection and accounting	\$20,000
Total	\$310,000.00

2 AFB Management Research and Development

2.1 *Background*

Historically much of the research and develop was carried out or supported either by MAF for disease and beekeeping management. Over time, the inputs from government have lessened and research has become more reliant on overseas material complemented by some privately funded local research. NBA intends to continue with a number of programmes that develop improved practical management techniques for beekeepers and the management agency so that they are better able to manage AFB whilst maintaining the relatively clean image of the industry.

Also, with the advent of Varroa, the complexities of managing multiple pests, practically and effectively are increased and the NBA believes that some significant research and development will aid the industry.

2.2 *Objectives*

The objectives are:

1. To continue to research and development of practical management techniques for beekeepers for the elimination of AFB in New Zealand.
2. To communicate research and development relevant to New Zealand to the widest possible community of beekeepers
3. To research the combined impacts of other pests/diseases and AFB so to improve the management pests/diseases for the beekeeper.

2.3 *Strategy*

Priority is given to programmes that:

1. Reduce the cost and impact of AFB to all beekeepers.
2. Research and development that develops industry strategies multiple pests/diseases with AFB.

2.4 *Programmes*

2.4.1 Elimination of AFB

This is a research, development and education programme to improve the overall industry management of AFB by:

- Research into managing the vectors for AFB both in and outside a beekeeping operation.
- Research into disease prevention techniques and possible ways of eliminating AFB in beekeeping operations and the industry as a whole.

2.4.2 Combined Impacts of Pests/Diseases with AFB (Varroa)

Undertake research jointly with the Varroa programme to identify threats and impacts related to Varroa and AFB. From this improve beekeeper and industry management techniques for AFB and Varroa so that the combined impact to beekeepers can be reduced.

2.4.3 AFB Management Systems and Processes (Management Agency)

Identify and develop improved methods of AFB management for the management agency so that it can undertake its responsibilities more effectively. With this is the improvement of systems and processes under the AFB PMS that beekeepers and inspectors are required to comply with. The aim is to simplify the processes and documentation so that any burden is minimised whilst protecting the interests of the industry, AFB PMS and the beekeeper.

2.4.4 Research and Development Communication

This is a concerted programme to ensure that all beekeepers are aware of and have access to the latest research and development related to AFB. Techniques need to be further developed so that all beekeepers can access information about AFB and the management of AFB through a number of channels in any location in NZ. This needs to cover commercial, semi-commercial and hobbyist beekeepers and the organisations that they belong to.

3 AFB PMS – Management Agency

3.1 Background

The NBA is the management agency identified under the AFB PMS. This places responsibilities on the NBA to undertake AFB pest management in accordance with the legislation so that the ultimate goal of AFB elimination from NZ can be achieved.

In summary, the NBA is required to:

- Oversee beekeeper compliance activities such as identifying, recording, reporting and destruction of AFB.
- Management of AFB disease outbreaks.
- Keep accurate records on apiaries, beekeepers, disease incidence and equipment movements.
- Report to the Minister and the industry on meeting its obligations and progress towards the goals under the AFB PMS

3.2 Objectives

The objectives are:

1. To manage the AFB PMS in the achievement of the long term goals by ensuring that the management agency is responsive in AFB outbreaks, and proactive in audit at risk beekeepers, ensure that all beekeepers comply with the requirements of the AFB PMS.
2. Undertake targeted programmes that could impact the success of the AFB PMS.
3. To ensure that beekeepers comply with the AFB PMS requirements and that they understand their obligations

3.3 Strategy

The strategy is to:

1. Manage the day-to-day PMS strategy through a combination of contractors and NBA representatives.
2. Regularly remind and inform beekeepers and if necessary, take further action on their obligations under the AFB PMS.
3. Monitor potential threats to the strategy by undertaking analysis of disease occurrence so that proactive measures can be undertaken.
4. Ensure that outbreaks and incidents are managed to minimise the risk to the AFB PMS and affected parties.
5. Employ targeted auditing techniques that identify at risk beekeepers and geographic areas.

3.4 Programmes

3.4.1 Day to Day management

The core activities of the day-to-day management are:

- Keeping the AFB PMS apiary, beekeeper and disease incidence register up to date and accurate with information supplied by beekeepers, inspectors and other sources.
- Providing information to beekeepers on registration,
- Managing the Annual disease returns, issuing, following up and recording results

3.4.2 Monitoring

The Monitoring activities are:

- Targeted spore testing programme monitoring the levels of AFB in brood and honey.
- Sample testing for inspectors and beekeepers monitoring AFB spore levels throughout the country.
- The apiary register for reports of disease occurrence
- Analysis of results of the above and determine the measures required to address any areas potentially or currently at risk.
- Diseaseathons covering wide areas and a range of beekeepers to identify hidden sources of disease.

3.4.3 Compliance and Auditing

The Compliance and Auditing Programme works with beekeepers to ensure that they are complying with the AFB PMS requirements and meeting their obligations.

These include:

- Physical audits of potential or current at risk beekeepers. This may be due to levels of disease detection (reported, inspected or through testing programme), non-compliance or disease occurrence in the area.
- Targeted education programme for beekeepers failing to comply with the requirements.
- Analysis of the level of compliance and improvements to the compliance mechanisms.
- Enforcement of legislative requirements if necessary where the management agency sees it in the best interests of the AFB PMS.
- Counselling to beekeepers that are falling below the minimum acceptable standards
- Auditing compliance to the DECA scheme by beekeepers.

3.4.4 Outbreak and incident Management

The Outbreak and incident management programme is a response programme to major disease occurrences that an individual beekeeper is unable to manage.

The activities include:

- Development and maintenance of a response plan for outbreaks and incidents. This includes a risk management plan for AFB incidents.

- Response to outbreaks and incidents
- Analysis of incidents and outbreaks to determine cause, how they can be managed better and changes required to the monitoring programme.

3.4.5 Communication, Reporting and Management Agency Obligations

There are a number of requirements on the management agency to report. The NBA sees that this is an important area for overall good of the AFB PMS. The activities include:

- Regular reports in Beekeeper on the progress of the AFB PMS and recent news and events.
- Formal reports to the Minister as required by the Biosecurity Act.
- Internet web site with news, information and education material.

4 Training and Education

4.1 Background

The NBA sees training and education as a core area for achieving the goals of the AFB PMS. Therefore much of its focus is in programmes that facilitate an industry wide knowledge base in the management of AFB to its eventual elimination from New Zealand.

4.2 Objectives

The objectives are:

1. Provide educational material including publications, articles and supporting documentation to beekeepers and other organisations.
2. Provide an information resource for beekeepers on disease management in general
3. Up skilling beekeepers in the prevention, recognition and destruction of AFB.
4. Knowledge based competency assessment available to all beekeepers so that they can effectively discharge their responsibilities under the AFB PMS.

4.3 Strategy

The strategy is to:

1. Further development of the information resources and making it available via electronic means to beekeepers.
2. Maintain support workshops, day and evening programmes through the branch structure and other organisations
3. Keep a pool of DECA trainers under the DECA scheme for beekeepers.
4. Provide an easy to use competency assessment programme for beekeepers.

4.4 Programmes

4.4.1 Information Resources Programme

The information resources programme develops new material and updates current material with recent changes or improvements to the AFB PMS and its application. These include:

- Web site resource for beekeepers to download and review information about AFB management
- Regular articles in Beekeeper on AFB management at all levels within the industry.
- Printed information resources for beekeepers.

4.4.2 Competency Training programmes

This programme was established with the introduction of the current AFB PMS. The programme consists of a number of resources including the Book "Elimination of AFB without drugs", trainers and a competency test. This all leads up to a beekeeper gaining their DECA.