

Department  
of  
Agriculture  

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Horticulture Division



#### CONTROL OF BEE DISEASES

American Foul Brood, *Bacillus larvae*, which was introduced into New Zealand with imported bees many years ago, is the most serious disease of bees in New Zealand. Methods of dealing with bee diseases in recent years have been successful in reducing the incidence of American Foul Brood to low proportions in the main honey producing areas. Experience has shown, however, that to hold the present level of disease and ultimately eradicate this bacterial disease from the country, strict control measures, based on a policy of burning infected hives must be continued.

The first consideration of the beekeeper is to maintain healthy stocks of bees. This can only be achieved when all beekeepers make periodical inspection of their hives during the breeding season and deal promptly with any brood troubles found. The beekeeper who gives his bees proper attention is a benefactor to his neighbour beekeepers but, as he has no control of the flight of his bees, he must run the risk of their contracting infectious disease unless all other beekeepers in the neighbourhood co-operate. Without efficient organisation and a widespread knowledge of the destructive nature of the diseases affecting bees, it is difficult for even an efficient beekeeper to carry on successfully over a long period. He cannot take precautions against his neighbour's carelessness. His is a losing battle unless the State gives him legal protection.

The Apiaries Act, 1927, and the regulations thereunder are administered by the Department of Agriculture, and were designed to enable the maximum of protection and service to be applied to the beekeeping industry for the economic production of honey and beeswax.

All persons owning hives of bees should be thoroughly familiar with the requirements embodied in the Apiaries Act, 1927, and its subsequent amendments. The main points affecting all beekeepers are summarised briefly as follows:—

**All Hives** of bees must be registered with the Department of Agriculture and it is the responsibility of the owner to see that this is done.

**All Bees** must be kept in hives fitted with proper moveable frames in which the combs are built in such a way that they can readily be removed from the hive for examination without cutting or breaking.

**Bees, Bee-combs and Appliances** must not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of for removal without first obtaining a removal permit from the Apiary Instructor for the district.

**Bees, Bee-combs and Appliances** must not be moved from one property to another to establish a new apiary without a permit as in the above paragraph—except that were they are free from disease they may be moved between a beekeeper's own registered apiaries.

**Diseases . . .** The Apiary Instructor must be notified of the presence of bee disease within seven days after its first becoming apparent.

**Where Disease** has become apparent in an apiary the beekeeper must take all precautions to prevent bees from gaining access to infected material from a diseased colony i.e. honey, combs, supers, frames, etc.

**Hives** must at all times be kept free from overgrowth by vegetation or from other obstruction which would impede or prevent inspection.

**Penalties** upon conviction for infringement of the various provisions of the Apiaries Act, 1927, are established at maximums of £20 to £50 pounds.

**Further Information** regarding the provisions of the Apiaries Act is readily available from the local Apiary Instructor.

As in past seasons a number of competent beekeepers have been appointed as Part-time Apiary Inspectors for the current season to assist Apiary Instructors in seasonal apiary inspection work.

With the Department's inspection programme and with all beekeepers co-operating by being their own inspectors, it is expected that this activity would result in a considerable reduction in the over-all incidence of bee diseases.

#### STAFF

Mr. D. W. A. Seal, Apiary Instructor, Invercargill, resigned from the service of the Department in September to take up commercial beekeeping on the West Coast. He leaves the service with our best wishes, and appreciation of his assistance to the Beekeeping Industry and to the Department.

Mr. G. D. Jeffery, Instructor in Apiculture, Oamaru, will attend to apiary inspection and any urgent matters at Invercargill periodically until a fresh appointment is made to fill the vacancy for the Southland district, which is being advertised. Meantime beekeepers in the Southland Apiary District should continue to address all correspondence to the Apiary Instructor, at Invercargill as usual.

#### TESTING QUEEN BEES

Arrangements have been made to investigate methods for measuring the worth of different strains of bees for honey production. For this purpose 10 queen bees, two from each of five distinct strains, will be introduced to hives in an apiary to be located near Oamaru. The characteristics of these queens and their progeny will be compared and evaluated during the next two seasons.

It is hoped that this work will assist producers who are having difficulty in producing queens up to the required standard by their present methods of selecting breeder stock.

E. SMAELLIE, Superintendent Beekeeping Industry.

*Don't let your Hives arrive at next season's  
Honey Flow with old, failing Queens*

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DELIVERY SEPT. 1 — NOV. 10

FEB. 1 — MARCH 31

# BATES' APIARIES

R.D. 2, MATAMATA — PHONE 6155