



THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

Membership

The National Beekeepers' Association (NBA) currently has about 400 members.

The beekeeping industry

Commercial and hobbyist beekeepers provide pollination services, produce honey, wax, pollen, propolis, royal jelly and bee venom.

Apiary Register Location	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	292	1,874	26,533
Canterbury	502	3,783	52,796
Hamilton	175	2,207	41,236
Otago / Southland	335	3,325	51,280
Palmerston North	576	3,156	47,724
Tauranga	249	2,834	58,404
Whangarei	473	2,049	35,422
New Zealand	2,602	19,228	313,399

(Source: AgriQuality 2007)

Products and services

Honey

In 2007 - 9,660 tonnes of honey produced at a rate of 30.7kg per hive. Both native floral sources and introduced plant species are important to New Zealand Beekeepers. The major honey crops are derived from pasture and native floral sources and others such as Honeydew (Beech), thyme and Vipers Bugloss. Beekeepers also rely on pollen sources and secondary nectar sources that vary between winter, spring, summer, late summer and autumn.

Pollination

A very significant beekeeping service to 45,400 ha of horticultural land and 10,361,800 ha of pastoral land.

There is heavy reliance on pollination of pastoral farming and in particular clover which is dependent on pollination by bees. The clovers provide an important source of nitrogen fixation in New Zealand Pastures. The maintenance of the ryegrass/clover sward allows for the low cost grassland production systems that enable our dairy and sheep industries to be world leaders.

Estimates for 2007 Gross agricultural revenue and expenditure include:

- Dairy: \$6.298 billion
- Meat: \$2.270 billion for cattle meat and \$2.12 billion for sheep meat
- Wool: \$560 million
- Horticulture: \$3.016 billion

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)

Exports

- about one third of annual honey production
- about 114,000 kg of beeswax
- 4,350 queens
- 15,120 x 1kg equivalent packages of bees exported to the northern hemisphere.

Legislation

- Animal Products Act 1999
- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Agricultural Chemicals and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996

Threats

Beekeeping in New Zealand is threatened by

- unwanted diseases such as European Foulbrood, Africanized and Cape bees, several viruses and mites
- increased compliance costs e.g. risk management programmes, certification, business costs
- importations

Varroa has changed the Industry. Since its arrival in 2000, there are 2,354 fewer beekeepers, 3,215 fewer apiaries and 6,714 fewer hives.

American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy

Beekeeping Industry has a National Pest Management Strategy for American Foulbrood (which is managed by a Management Agency.

The contact is Rex Baynes, Tel: (04) 5666 0773, Fax: (04) 5666 0779, E-mail: rbaynes@ihug.co.nz

Research

The NBA is actively leading research for the benefit of the whole industry. Areas of research include:

- Bee management following the arrival of Varroa
- Diseases, especially Varroa
- Pollination services
- Honey for health and medical uses
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Skill shortage

The beekeeping industry is experiencing a continuing shortage of skilled people to enter the industry. The NBA continues to ask the Immigration Department to facilitate the recruitment of beekeepers from overseas by giving a high priority to this occupation.

Publications

The NBA publishes "*The Beekeeper*" eleven times a year. The April and October issues are distributed to all beekeepers throughout the country.

Two internationally respected books are available for purchase:

- The Elimination of American Foulbrood without the use of Drugs
- Control of Varroa

NBA Contact details

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