



AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

"The voice of the Beekeeper"

Volume 1 Number 2

March - April 2008



Are you concerned about honey prices?

Honeybee Industry Crisis Meeting Agenda Page 7

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AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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2008 Membership Subscription Rates

The Association Membership year runs from 1 March to 28 February.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Season

The season is again reverting to drought conditions, 40% of the State is drought declared at present with many areas to be declared over the next few weeks if no substantial rains occur. Honeyflow conditions do not look good with prospects such as Winter Ironbarks, White Box and Spotted Gum all showing only patchy bud. Stringybarks have assisted bees too maintain hive strength and Winter stores since Summer, however there are reports that many hives are not up to strength and hive numbers are down. Honey take has varied throughout the State from poor to near average production by some beekeepers. Honey stocks held by beekeepers are minimal.

Honeybee Industry Crisis Meeting

NSWAA backed by FCAAA and with the assistance of AHBIC are running an Industry Crisis Meeting prior to the New South Wales Conference on Wednesday, 21 May.

This meeting is to be facilitated by Mike Williams who has assisted many Rural Industries in the past.

Speakers coming to this meeting include ACCC to speak on Collective Bargaining, HPMAA, NARGA (National Association of Retail Grocers Australia), Horticulture Australia to speak on Statutory Marketing, and a Honeybee Industry presentation. There should be resolutions from this meeting taken on to the round of State Conferences.

If you are concerned about our Industry you should be there.

Over the past couple of months, World stocks of honey have diminished with Europe paying up to \$4.00 Australian for Argentinean honey.

This raises the question, why low prices in Australia?

Forest Site Fees

Forests New South Wales has been sending out renewal notices over recent weeks. Bee Site renewal notices are now being handled from a Central office.

Sites may be taken for extended Permit periods (up to 5 years) with substantial savings. This may not be very beneficial during the present low income period, however in the future it will present lower cost options.

With the centralised billing system, burnt sites in the western region were not recognised, after negotiation between the Executive and State Forests this oversight is to be rectified.

Sydney Show

Show figures are down a little this year (approximately

20%) so we expect profit to be down a little more as some costs have risen. However, the promotional value of the Show has increased since the honey tasters and the show bags were introduced.

On behalf of the Executive, I would like to thank all who donated product and time for the Show and also to our Secretary Julie who brought all the loose ends together to make it happen during a busy time of the year for our other activities, (end of financial year, membership renewal, conference arrangements etc).

In these times of economic stress, where financial investments may be at risk, I take this opportunity to remind branch secretaries/treasurers that the investment of member's funds in unsecured deposits is inappropriate and they should endeavour to ensure all funds are placed in the most secure investment possible.

Vale

We are saddened to hear of the passing of two of our beekeepers over past weeks.

Jack Mumford (David's father) who was one of the earlier commercial pollinators.

John Greenham, a queen breeder, passed away after a long battle with cancer. Our sympathies are extended to both their families and friends.

Bill Weiss

State President

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

Would you like to sponsor Conference 2008?

In past years, many industry people have sponsored our Conference papers via an Ad which has been a wonderful support and we would like to continue.

We would also like to offer beekeeping entities an opportunity to sponsor an amount they choose.

This sponsorship money could be used to sponsor our many speakers we get to Conference.

**If interested, please contact Julie Lockhart on
Ph: 02 9631 3934 Email: nswaa@bigpond.net.au**

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Anne & Gordon Beattie
Peter McGann

Brogo
Mogo

WE CARE FOR OUR INDUSTRY'S FUTURE

Fellow members, whether honey producers, pollinators, part timers or producer packers, of the NSWAA.

Testing times are gripping the industry, if it's not drought, fire, dwindling resource base, high Aussie dollar, or global restraints; it's still got to be dealt with. This is why we need pro-active and experienced people to lead our industry into the future. It's time to talk with your colleagues in the industry and add power and progress to our Association's cause. Can your branch or area put forward a candidate and help contribute to our industry's future?

The positions on the State Executive will be coming vacant at Conference, it is up to industry to put up interested delegates who they would support and help with the making of decisions throughout the next year. You don't need all the experience if you have the support of others.

I will not be running for the Executive Council this year as I am planning to travel and other things that will sap my enthusiasm for this position, it is only fair to the industry that I don't stand, maybe returning later with renewed enthusiasm for an industry in the 21st century and beyond.

I have enjoyed my time on the Executive. I was welcomed, shown the ropes and had a big learning curve as to what the Associations do for industry and why more beekeepers should support our membership.

Our Western Plains branch has quite often had a member on the Executive and members attending meetings, who have benefited from both input and understanding the complexity involved, sometimes with the simplest of problems.

The requirements for the job are to understand the incoming issues and correspondence, turn up at meetings, about 4 a year and also to have the whole industry in mind when making decisions. You are expected to spend a few days at Sydney's Royal Easter Show and attend the NSWAA Annual Conference. Some travel to meetings and accommodation is covered by the Association.

I come from a predominantly pollination perspective and have provided a point of view on many things with my limited knowledge. Other Executive members have vast knowledge in areas such as bee genetics, politics, honey production, package bees, resources and marketing. It is good to have a mix of knowledge, area and age on the Executive.

Foremost in my mind was that the average beekeeper was not a successful 4th generation beekeeper with 2000 hives, but a battler with 500 to 700 hives with a family to feed, extremely limited by current climate and prices.

The industry needs ideas to get people buying and using more of our Australian honey. It needs to steer AHBIC and others to work for the industry with the passion and effort we put in, in the paddock, to pay their levies.

I was amazed with the networking of our industry's past

presidents, agriculture specialists, scientists, politicians and beekeepers from other states, all working for the survival of our industry and pushing our importance to the economy and food production, as others have done previously.

I have been very happy with the effort displayed by all in the Executive including the Secretary who keeps us in line!

I encourage all female and male members to either support a delegate or put your hand up for nomination at this year's Conference, and bring ideas or motions from the floor to make the industry stronger.

Please consider us all as one,

Bryn Jones
Executive Councillor

Message of Thanks to Show Volunteers

I would like to thank the following volunteers and donors for their time and help at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Many thanks to Australian Rainforest Honey, Beechworth, Capilano, Leabrook Farms Honey, Podargus Farm and R Stephens Tasmanian Honey for supporting the Association with their donations towards the Honey Promotional Bags.

Also, thank you to the Bingley Family for all their donated time to pack honey. Thank you for the generous donations of honey for packing from The Jones family, Dubbo.

Thank you to the Northern Tablelands Branch for lending their honey tasters to us to use at the Show. Also to Capilano for lending us another three honey tasters. With five honey tasters going we were able to have all honeys tasting every day throughout the Show.

They once again proved to be a huge success. With beekeepers manning the tasters at all times, it allowed the public to not only taste a great Australian product but to ask questions about how bees make honey. This is a great way to promote and educate the public.

The success of 'Honeyland' is owed to all those mentioned in this article. We had a good show this year but it wouldn't happen without all our volunteers and donations.

Anthony Beattie, Ashleigh Kelly, Beaver Powers, Billy Weiss, Brendan Smith, Brett Bingley, Brian Woolfe, Bruce White, Bryn Jones, Carl Cooper, Casey Cooper, Cate Burton, Charles Bingley, Colin Duke, Colleen Butcher, Craig Klingner, David Bingley, Debbie Smith, Eric Whitby, Enid Whitby, Gary Lucas, Geoff Manning, George Butcher, Graham Porritt, Greg Roberts, Irwyn Doherty, Jade Powers, James Holdsworth, James Holt, James Kershaw, James Lockhart, Jeff Smith, Jenny Bingley, Jessica Bingley, Jodie Burey, John Benfield, Josephine Drew, Joshua Lockhart, Kae Klingner, Kevin Haswell, Lynn White, Margaret Blunden, Mitchell Lucas, Monte Klingner, Neil Bingley, Neil Peadon, Nicki Smith, Nicola Lockhart, Noelene Benfield, Nural, Paul Drew, Pearl Butcher, Reg Marsh, Rhonda Smith, Rosemary Doherty, Rujee Duke, Sam Bingley, Shannon Schmidt, Shona Blair, Snowy Cadigan, Terry Parnell, Tom Bingley, Warwick Smith, Wayne Hammond

Once again thank you to all for your time, we couldn't do it without you.

Cheers Julie

Honeybee Industry Crisis Meeting

Nelson Bay Diggers (RSL) Club, Shoal Bay Rd Nelson Bay
Wednesday 21 May 2008 from 11.00am to 4:30pm

The following speakers will hopefully provide an insight into the current situation and future trends regarding the setting of prices at farm gate for honey producers and what needs to happen to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the honeybee industry.

Chair: Mr Fred Benecke

Media Spokesperson: Mr. Greg Roberts

Mediator: Mr. Mike Williams

Media Liaison: Mr. Chris Brown, Media Speak

AGENDA

1. **Producer's View** - Mr. Bill Weiss/Mr Ken Gell "Can the Honeybee Industry Survive?"
2. **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) - Ms Fiona Grant**
"Collective Bargaining"
3. **Retailer Traders' Association - Mr John Cummings, Independent Grocers Association**
"A Retailer's View"
4. **Major Supermarkets' Viewpoint/ Woolworths**
5. **Representative of Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia (HPMAA) / Capilano Honey Ltd - TBA** "Marketing Honey"
6. **Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) - Warwick Scherf** "Do statutory levies work?"
7. **Question Time**
8. **Facilitator's Open Forum** - Introduction - Mr Greg Roberts

2008 CONFERENCE

The NSW AGM will be held at the Nelson Bay RSL Club, Shoal Bay Road, Nelson Bay on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 May 2008.

Nelson Bay is a very popular town with all levels of accommodation available. For information and maps contact Port Stephens Tourism on **Freecall 1800 808 900** or visit their website www.portstephens.org.au

**Included in this edition is
a pre-registration form for Conference
plus a notice for the Crisis Meeting**

You will notice there is a discount for those who pre-register. Conference fees this year are \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members. Registration on the day of Conference will be \$85 for members and \$95 for non-members.

Please try and pre-register as this helps with administration of the Conference both for myself and the Club.

Please return all forms to me no later than 12 May 2008. All pre-registrations must be back by this date.

See you there.

Julie Lockhart
Secretary

CONFERENCE FISHING TRIP

Expressions of interest are required for a day fishing trip on Tuesday 20 May. If we have enough people a day will be arranged at a cost of \$130 per head.

Contact: President: Col Wilson Ph: 02 4930 4950 or Secretary: Don King Ph: 02 4943 1033 (evenings)

LADIES EXCURSION

There will be an excursion on Friday 23 May to Morpeth, an historical town near Maitland, renowned for its craft shops and homemade goods. There will be a guide available to take the group around the town.

On the return trip the bus will stop for lunch at *Smarty Plants*, a large modern nursery with a huge homeware/gift shop. Cost \$35 (includes lunch) Bookings required by 5 May.

2008 BEEKEEPING FIELD DAY

In conjunction with the NSW Apiarists' Association Annual Conference, the Hunter Valley Branch will host a Field Day on Saturday 24 May 2008 at Williamstown, approximately 25 minutes drive from Nelson Bay.

Gates open 9.00am.

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THAT'S MY OPINION AND I'M WELCOME TO IT

A column by Greg Roberts



In my last column I raised the issue of a potential world shortage of honey; just to add to that, Argentina's 2008 honey crop was reported to be about 60,000 metric tons down from the previous year's crop of 70,000 metric tons, both a long way from the 2005-2006 crop of about 110,000 metric tons. Argentina experienced a very poor spring but with favorable rains production did improve for the latter part of their season. With the Eastern European production down European honey buyers have been busy in Argentina and they have been aided by a strong Euro versus the US dollar. One report has stated that they may be paying \$1.75 a pound for both industrial and bottling grade honeys, some European buyers are unhappy paying this price but they need a large quantity of Argentinean honey to meet their demands.

It is also reported that Chinese honey has been banned in Japan and their buyers have also been busy in South America.

Industry Crisis Day (Nelson Bay)

I congratulate the NSW Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) for organising an industry crisis day and also congratulations to the Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations (FCAAA) for supporting this day. With honey production down both domestically and internationally world prices are on the rise - except here in Australia, the question could be asked of our marketers - are they sales people or simply just discounters?

The Australian Competition and Consumers Commission (ACCC)

The ACCC is the Australian Government Agency that administrates the Trade Practices Act. The objectives of the Act are to benefit all Australians by promoting competition and insuring consumers are treated fairly. The Act encourages competition between businesses by prohibiting anti-competitive conduct, however it recognises the challenges of small businesses negotiating with large businesses, it has also been recognised that small businesses are more likely to be heard on terms and conditions if they join other small businesses to collectively negotiate with large businesses, however negotiating collectively may breach the Trade Practices Act.

Following the recommendations of the Dawson Review of the competition provisions of the Trade Practices Act, the Act has been amended to provide small businesses with a process for obtaining immunity from legal action under the Act for such purposes of collective bargaining by small business. Collective bargaining refers to an arrangement under which two or more competitors in an industry come together to negotiate terms and conditions with a supplier or customer which can include discussions on price. In my opinion Honey producers are competitors as they sell honey to different honey packers who are again competitors. A group of businesses can also appoint a representative such as an industry association to act on their behalf in negotiations. The changes to the Act also allow for collective boycotts when their group of small businesses agree not to acquire goods or services or supply goods to larger businesses in which the group is negotiating.

However small business must obtain protection from legal action under the Act for collective bargaining and the associate collective boycotts by lodging a collective bargaining notification with ACCC and by setting out full particulars of their collective bargaining arrangements in which their businesses propose to engage.

Collective bargaining notification will be on the agenda at the Crisis Day.

Marketing Levy

Another issue that should be discussed at the Crisis Day is an Industry Statutory Marketing Levy. At the Royal Easter Show this year the NSWAA had honey tasting and I was surprised at the number of young people who have never tasted honey in their lives, this is an absolute disgrace on our marketers and promoters. If we were to ask our young people what is their greatest concern in life no doubt it would be environmental issues such as global warming. Environmentally, honey and honey production stands tall against our competitor's spreads. Overseas research has stated that domestic honey production has a lower energy cost than any other spreads. These environmental promotions of honey may be our greatest defence against imports.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) have a set of principles and guidelines for consideration of new primary industry marketing levies. The Commonwealth Government encourages broad industry consultation by advocates of a new marketing levy with those producers who will be subject to a new levy ballot. I believe our industry should examine the principles and guidelines set out under the Act. Early and ongoing consultation should occur around the management of a marketing levy. Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) is the declared industry service body in which a honey industry levy may be struck. HAL currently manages research and development and marketing services for twenty five statutory levies.

The Australian Honeybee Industry may wish to consider whether HAL would be the appropriate recipient of a marketing levy for our industry.

The main objective of the levy collection system is to maximize promotion of our products at the lowest cost. Levies are collected by the Levy Revenue Service which operates on a cost recovery service, it would be appropriate the monetary returns should be greater than the collection costs. The usual collection options are directly from the producer or at the point of sale the levy is usually based upon per kilogram or per tonne rate. Products not sold are automatically exempted from the levy under the legislation, consideration should be given by industry whether or not exports attract levies. Exports can be excluded once consultation within the industry has been agreed upon.

There will be a presentation on Industry Statutory Marketing Levy at the Industry Crisis Day.

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A PRACTICAL SUSTAINABLE APPROACH

Pro-Active Cross-Stock Selection: What it means and how it benefits you

By Melanie Kirby and Mark Spitzig - New Mexico USA

The Southwest Survivor Queenbee Project

Keeping bees these days is nothing like when our pappies started. And for those of us continuing the trade, and the newbees, the necessity and urgency with which we must research, learn and implement efficient techniques is comparable to being an around the clock “student for life” beekeeper while also trying to maintain and progress your business. The bottom line is production; if your livestock can’t perform up to par, they are costing you time, money, energy and ethics. There is a saying, “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” And some even venture to say, “Well-shoot, if it is broke, someone else will fix it.”

Well time is ticking and nerves are jittering while we see how our honeybees fair through this 2008 season. Let us consider how we might be proactive vs. reactive. By admitting that something is broke, we are NOT admitting being broken. We are prepared to reestablish ourselves, our livelihoods and our livestock to the highest levels of integrity, sustainability and quality. The Challenge is out there, determination sincere and intentions positive.

The Challenge? Good question. The challenge is to become more involved in the stock that you keep. You and your bees’ biggest asset: their health. If you have unhealthy livestock, you don’t have much else. You begin to use crutches of the chemical kind and find that the addictive treadmill causes much suffering. Yet, don’t forget who and what you are dealing with. You are dealing with Mother Nature, in all her glory and story and being able to adapt to such a dynamic interface is a challenge in and of itself. It is a challenge that promotes collaboration, respect, acknowledgement of limitations and motivation for discovering and establishing reliable resources and management techniques for your livelihood. In other words, it is a challenge that we as beekeepers share a little more information, share stories of experience; and share quality stock. All of our bottom lines are similar: to live well and to live long.

Several regions have begun to form “genetic cooperatives” of varying kinds. The idea of cooperatives is not a new idea, but one of sincere interest as our American beekeeping industry struggles to meet the demand and the challenges of not only keeping bees alive, but keeping them productive (and profitable). The Southwest Survivor Queenbee Project is such. The initial project started in The Land of Enchantment, also known as New Mexico, by Zia Queenbee Company and funded in part through a Western SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research Education) Farmer/Rancher Grant. The Southwest Survivor Queenbee Project invites beekeepers throughout the Rocky Mountain regions and beyond to participate by sharing their quality stock for survivor queenbee cross-stocking. This project establishes a sustainable reliable resource (beekeepers) for quality honeybee stock that is suitable to our diverse climates and that are chosen by beekeepers for beekeepers.

Finding, selecting and breeding quality queenbees that produce regionally-fortified stock is a quest. It is a quest that requires incentives. These incentives are beneficial. These incentives include attaining hearty stock that that can endure, that are naturally healthy, that are pest/disease resistant, that are hygienic, that are gentle and that are productive. Which in the grand scheme of things, means they cost you less for

more while keeping you happy with your management and sustainability. Experienced beekeepers know when they encounter an awesome colony. Subjectivity is in play. But guaranteed, if your livelihood depends on these girls, you want quality. So you’re apt to choose your best because you want the best. By sharing your quality stock with others who have chosen their quality stock, the potential is there for some long-lasting quality.

We know that honeybees are not native to the Americas. We know that they have come from all over and that bottlenecking of honeybee genetics is and will continue to be a problem for American beekeeping if left unaddressed. There are our valued researchers and scientists who are jumping the ropes and dotting the i’s and crossing the t’s wanting to work with federal regulators in an effort to establish quality regulation for importation of healthy honeybee genetics. We appreciate their efforts and to all those who are working to decipher just where American beekeeping is and its continuance. We also realize that it is also up to us, all of us who are working with honeybees in whatever capacity, to do our part in “fixing what may be broke”. The decision has been made for many of us to become more proactive in our stock selection and to work together to perpetuate our chosen livelihoods.

Zia Queenbee Company is owned and operated by myself, Melanie Kirby and my partner Mark Spitzig. Starting with our sister company Superior Honey Farms (based in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan), we chose from our best NWC and SMR Italian colonies that had survived through at least two winters for breeding contenders. We established a small, but resilient genetic pool of honeybees that perform well in the cold, Great Lakes region of the north central U.S. These survivors also performed well in the rigorous diversity of the high altitude, dry and riparian microclimates of the Southern Rockies. Having honeybees that can adapt to diverse climates, handle migration, and also maintain healthy production and endurance are desirable and should be propagated.

Originally, our trip to NM was to be merely for what we thought to be: mild overwintering accessibility and early spring production. It took over a year’s worth of work trying to convince my partner Mark. Meeting and visiting New Mexican beekeepers is truly enlightening. We are all “Diamonds in the rough”, so to speak. Being able to adapt to the diversity and disparity of the Wild West keeps our constitutions hearty, our minds peaked and innovative and our taste buds spicy! We have learned to start work early, attend to office and shop tasks during the mid-afternoon heat wave, and then return to the field again until sundown- which brings us back indoors to attend to phone calls and more shop work.

New Mexico’s Land of Enchantment is a state of contradictions. Where one would expect animosity and disparity, there is integration and interchange. This holds true for our current cultures: Native Pueblo Americans, Anglos and Hispanics. This also holds true in our reverence and continuance of ancient and historical, traditional practices: acequias (water ditch management), ranching, and artistry as well as recent modern centers of aerospace and science. This is my take on the situation, being a native New Mexican. To share, NM is also home to over 19 Native American Pueblos, Smokey the Bear, the largest international hot air balloon fiesta, the first U.S. Spaceport, excellent cuisine, breathtaking landscape,

numerous outdoor activities including rafting, mountain biking and climbing, skiing as well as many new and old talented artists.

My partner's original take on the situation was typical mid-western: that NM is just another southwestern desert state that has little to offer; too hot, too dry sandy desert, "How can anything live there?" You do not hear much about beekeeping in NM. Much to his surprise, he found beekeepers facing seasons that are just as cold as his home in northern Michigan and that have a shorter growing season due to altitude. The northern mountains of NM reach upwards of 13,000 feet. We often work bees viewing snow capped mountains. The southern areas are still above the 3000 foot level with over 9,000 foot mountains of the southern Rockies reaching Las Cruces. What a surprise for someone from Michigan! Through this 400 mile long state runs the Rio Grande down from Colorado through NM and into Texico- (Texas and Mexico). A mobile beekeeper can follow the bloom from the chile, cotton fields and mesquite of the southern valleys and desert to the clover of the high mountains. Pray for rain. You must know how to pray for rain in NM.

Temperature extremes here are huge. It is not uncommon to experience a 50 degree swing between day and night. Beekeepers all the way up the Rocky Mountains face the same challenge. The temperature swings are however, very good for setting sugars in melliferous plants; but hard on small colonies trying to build in the spring. Speaking of spring, when is spring in NM? In Las Cruces (45 miles north of El Paso, TX), plums, apricots, and mustard are all blooming in March. In Albuquerque, cherries, apricots, peaches and apples bloom in April. In Taos, apples and other fruits bloom in mid to late May! Alfalfa can be grown almost year round in southern NM, whereas in northern NM, you are lucky to get at most two cuts during the growing season. The growing season in Taos is shorter than on the shores of Lake Superior in Marquette, Michigan. This variety of bloom time should demonstrate to anyone the extreme diversity of NM climate.

Of course all of this depends on rainfall; the snow pack of the past winter in the northern mountains of both NM and Colorado, and the vast and incredible irrigation system of the Rio Grande. This system, also known as Acequias (Ah-say-kee-uhs) irrigates hundreds of thousands upon thousands of acres in NM alone. The total miles of irrigation ditches and canals sprouting from the Rio Grande cannot be counted. The oldest irrigation systems here date more than 1000 years back and have been supporting people since that time. For almost 400 miles a strip of green varying from ½ to 2 miles wide snakes its way south between mountains and mesas. It is along this strip of agriculture nestling the Rio Grande, that thousands of birds from the north: sand hill cranes, Canada Geese, ducks, robins etcetera come south to spend their winter at places like The Bosque del Apache Wildlife Wetlands Refuge or even any open field where food and water may be available. Resources are scarce. And like anywhere in the USA, water and agricultural land are being gobbled up by rampant urban, over- development.

However, beekeepers are like bugs; they are tucked in and around every available reliable water source. In southern NM are the "big boys", two multigenerational beekeeping families. The other colonies kept here in NM are mostly by beekeepers keeping 50-500 colony range along with a growing number of very serious newbees keeping between 1 and 5 colonies. Both the NM Bee Law and the NM Bee Act require (as requested by beekeepers) that apiaries upwards of 15 colonies (north of Interstate-40), and 25 colonies (south of I-40) are to be registered. This law states that no other apiary of that size may reside within 1.5 mile radius of the established apiary so as not to encroach on a neighboring beekeeper's foraging area- curbing oversaturation and ensuring ample food and

nutrition for the bees- if it rains of course.

As described, resources are scarce. Water is certainly a limiting factor in NM. Beekeepers cluster along the agricultural valleys and water ways and yes, this can create conflict. In the limited forage areas near waterways, one can hardly set down a normal 40-50 colony in a yard and expect a good yield. The limit here is evident unless a special flow is on. Having these scenarios as our landscape, we have been asked, by our peers to assist with raising quality queenbees whose progeny prove themselves time and again in the diversity of The Land of Enchantment.

Trying to select a better Queenbee is nothing new. But these days, a regionally selected Queenbee is becoming more desirable. The national and international trade of honeybee pests and diseases is creating a reaction similar to that in the food industry. There are a growing number of people seeking local products. These local products include regionally adapted honeybee colonies and queens.

Beginning in the spring of 2006, the Zia Queenbee Co. of Dixon, NM collaborated with Hays Honey and Apple Farm (owned and operated by Ken Hays- president of the New Mexico Beekeeper's Association -for the past 6 years). Ken desired queens produced from his own favored, unmedicated stock; honeybees that he felt were adapted to the rigors of the high deserts and microclimates of the Land of the Enchantment. Finding a bee adapted to New Mexico is a challenge.

Beekeepers all the way up the Rocky Mountains face the same challenge. Thus, the quest includes finding a regionally adapted honeybee for the arid, higher altitude, mountainous, riparian and dry deserts. They say necessity is the mother of invention but necessity also promotes openness and interchange. While working with Ken Hays back in 2006, we produced several untreated cross-stocks. Selecting from the best of his untreated Italian and Russian colonies, we grafted from these to produce daughters. Half of these daughters were mated near Ken's colonies and half were mated in our apiary neighborhoods.

By promoting queen promiscuity and fecundity (also termed as "polyandry") in our breeding and rearing practices, we develop saturated mating zones with chosen survivor drone breeders. Establishing Survivor cross-stock production and well-mated queen performance embrace Mother Nature's own design while reflecting healthy and conscientious rearing. Published research by Tarpy¹ and others, demonstrates the increased acceptance, performance, longevity and productivity of diversely mated queenbees. Having colonies with queens that can produce multiple sister and sub-sister families within their own hive develops an overlapping network of health. For instance, if one group of sisters is prone to a particular ailment, then it is isolated within that sub family and the remainder of the colony can overcome and resist the ailment thus preserving the hive and the colony as a whole organism.

My partner Mark has kept bees outside of Marquette, Michigan near Lake Superior since 2001; also a land of extreme weather conditions. His bees there are not treated in any fashion and many die. His desire to keep naturally hearty honeybees in a location that experiences close to 9 months of sincere winter, was and still is a quest that we work together on. To become a Great Lakes Sooper Yooper Breeder Queen,

1 (Public Library of Science (2007, October 10). For Honey Bee Queens, Multiple Mating Makes Her Attractive To Workers. ScienceDaily. from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/10/071008183309.htm>; also <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/12/061211124247.htm>).

a queen must survive a minimum of two full winters in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Colonies that emerge strong that second spring have their records checked. Only the best honey producers are then moved south to NM for breeding purposes. This is an ongoing process and we intend to continue to produce Sooper Yooper Queenbees adapted to the northern Great Lakes region- but that is another story.

Back to mating queens in New Mexico. After producing daughters from Mr. Hays' queens, we then began to produce queens from the breeders brought from Michigan. These were also cross mated with Ken's bees and our own. The first round cross stocks of these daughters have finished their second winter. They are subject to a spring 2008 evaluation (after the spring honey flow, we will have enough data to select from the best of them breeding contenders).

While working through 2006 season, we understood the need to expand our genetic pool by inviting other skilled beekeepers from our area to participate. So the question came up of how to pay for the extra fuel, time, record keeping and other expenses related to the project. The Western SARE Farmer/Ranch grant program provided an answer. In late 2006 we applied for a grant and by April of 2007, we happily received approval for The Southwest Survivor Queenbee Project. Bless their hearts for funding small time applied bee research.

Beginning in the spring of 2007, we began to solicit other local beekeepers to participate in the project. Five beekeepers worked with us this past 2007 summer by selecting their best queens to be used as breeding stock for the project. Rounds of daughters from these queens were mated in several mating yards with selected high producing breeders from the previous season who now serve as drone producing breeder support colonies. Both mated daughters and queen cells have been distributed to participating beekeepers. These daughters now enter the two season cycle of evaluation, and selection. Not until spring of 2009, will the queens produced summer 2007 become eligible breeders.

Participants are required to keep careful track of all queens. We ask them to name their breeder queens. Why? When a beekeeper received daughter queens from his breeder LuLu (named after his wife) he is more likely to remember them. He will number or name them individually and carefully keep track of their performance. The same beekeeper is more likely to keep better track of other queen daughters named by other beekeepers as well. The importance of record keeping for every queen daughter cannot be overemphasized. There was discussion this past January at the National Beekeeping Conference Special Interest Group session for Queen Producers and Breeders about the establishment of a pedigree program. Tracking and record-keeping are a must for establishing pedigree paradigms. While single race genetics should continue and also be protected, so should the establishment of proven cross-stocks that prove their abilities time and again in diverse regions and in migratory operations which traverse varied climates. This is an idea that can be developed to ensure that the production queens made available have some sort of accountability. What better accountability than by beekeepers ourselves.

Plans for 2008 are as follows: We hope to expand the number of beekeepers involved in the project. This includes an interested group from Colorado which is excellent as we need to expand our selection to our neighboring states. Our goal is this, to provide groups of queens from each participating beekeeper to each of the other beekeepers for evaluation in their location. We hope to continue to do this every season evolving as more or less beekeepers would like to participate. This coming season, we are trying to develop additional isolated mating yards in the mountains to create drone yards

specific to each participating beekeeper. Northern NM has many isolated mountain valleys. It is very hard for bees to travel between water and nectar sources and there are few professional beekeepers. I feel this is a reasonable and sustainable goal. As part of our operation and selection procedure, each year, various strains of queens from other producers around the United States that advertise Survivor Stock are being purchased. They are placed in colonies and subject to our two year evaluation program, only then will they be potential breeders.

A word on Africanized bees. As stated earlier, my partner is from northern Michigan. His information on Africanized honeybees in New Mexico came from national bee magazines, web information and hearsay. He was extremely reluctant to bring bees to New Mexico much less parts of southern New Mexico. After much research, he was persuaded. He has found that as usual, the media has sensationalized the problem for New Mexico. He was duped. These past two springs, we picked up swarms and removed whole colonies from fences, buildings and trees in southern, NM. Out of approximately 60 colonies picked up during those times, we found only two, just two- that grew to be squirrely and mean. The alarm over AHB in NM is way overblown.

For a state betwixt two others with AHB documentation, the obvious is the landscape rift- where the desert meets the Rockies and the Rockies meet the high plains. NM has high elevations of altitude and experiences a long, cold, winter dearth. That combined with the lack of water seems to keep the AHB at a minimum. We mate our bees in northern mountainous pockets well away from these "sightings". In addition to production of honey, bees need to remain genial.



NWC Survivor Breeding Contender



Southwest Survivor Queen

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THE SOUTHWEST SURVIVOR QUEENBEE PROJECT is a PRACTICAL APPROACH to developing and providing hearty, quality regional honeybee stock suitable to our diverse high-altitude Southwestern climates and ecologies. NM and neighboring states are home to vast ranges and mesas, valleys, canyons and high plains. The Rocky Mountains chisel through providing high-desert, alpine and valley riparian ecosystems. Honeybees that can survive the intensity of each season within our regions are proving their genetics and should be propagated.

Pro-Active Cross-Stock Selection starts with you. We have a motto that we are committed to- Conscientious Beekeeping- "From the shores of Lake Superior to the banks of the Rio Grande". To all those conscientious beekeepers and researchers who we reunited with and met anew at the 2008 National Beekeeping Conference- thanks for continuing to inspire us. We are very excited to expand this project. We would like to invite interested beekeepers to contact us and would once again like to thank Western SARE.

And also very importantly, the beekeepers currently participating in The Southwest Survivor Queenbee Project: Ken Hays of Hays Honey and Apple Farm (Bosque Farms, 4200 feet), Steve Wall of Buckin' Bee (Santa Fe, capital of NM- 7000' elev.), Les Crowder of Sparrow Hawk Farms (Sabinal, Central Rio Grande- 4600' elev.), Ed Costanza of A Bee Honey Co. (Edgewood, East Mountains of Albuquerque- 6500' elev.), Jason Goodhue of Taos Mountain Honey Trader (9,000 ft. elevation Taos, NM), The Garcia Familia of Garcia Honey (Las Cruces, 3900' elev.), Derrick Maness of Wild Mountain Honey (Glenwood Springs, CO), Mr. Gene Carter of Carter Honey Farms, Inc. (Montrose, CO), Mr. Paul Limbach of Western Colorado Honey (Silt, CO), Mr. Al Summers of Ichiban Honey Co. (Longmont, CO), The Dorseys of D&D Honey Farms (Brush, CO), Tom Haefli (Del Norte, CO), Tom Theobald (Niwot, CO), John Duran (Lakewood, CO), Mr. Greg Watson- the NMDA State Bee Inspector and the many more additional NM, CO, Idaho and Utah beekeepers. And of course- thanks to the honeybees!

For more information you can email ziaqueenbees@hotmail.com and visit <http://www.ziaqueenbees.com/survivor.htm> You can also view the SW Survivor Project slide show at: http://www.ziaqueenbees.com/SWSQB_Slideshow.pdf

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FARMERS' MARKETS

By Gabi Brie

Gabi has a Masters in Gastronomy and did her thesis on Farmers Markets. Her partner is a commercial beekeeper so she also has a knowledge of the industry gabikevn@midcoast.com.au

Farmers' markets are great as an extra income for producers who are hobbyists. People who are producers for a living, get much more intangible benefits, such as testing the market with their product, making new contacts and finding customers for perhaps their farmgate business or their goods in retail outlets, and certainly learning a lot about marketing and presentation. People who are new to the business or perhaps changing focus, find them very valuable. They all enjoy the socialising and get a lot of satisfaction from the positive feed back they receive from their customers.

You've all seen the photographs in glossy magazines, young women carrying woven baskets full of flowers and leafy vegetables, colourful stalls and mountains of fruit in the background. That is the image of farmers' or growers' markets. The photograph was probably taken at a market held frequently in either a capital city or a large regional centre.

City markets are usually held more than once a month, attract hundreds of cashed up shoppers and the stallholders as a rule do well out of them. Smaller rural centres tend to only have monthly markets, have fairly strict geographic limits on the producers who may attend and the shoppers are usually more careful with their spending. Producers at these markets have more intangible benefits, other than financial. Many speak of the camaraderie among producers, the gaining of confidence in their presentation and marketing skills, and especially important is the benefit derived from becoming known as the producer of a high quality product, which will carry through to retail sales and eventually to wider markets. The feedback received from repeat customers is priceless.

If a beekeeper is interested in starting a stall at a farmers' market, it is important to do some homework first. Work out what you hope to gain from attending a market. It is usually time-consuming and labour intensive and the financial rewards may not be immediate. Careful preparation so you may present a first class product is important.

Most people who shop at farmers' markets are concerned about imported food, about the level of processing that an item undergoes before going on sale and fear of adulteration is also an issue.

The importance for the stall-holder therefore, is to establish a point of difference with the honey that is for sale at the local supermarket. Shoppers really like to know where the honey comes from, that it has no additives, has not been processed and that you are the producer who can talk to them about the origin of their food. Attractive presentation and a friendly attitude are vital. Price is not always the most important aspect on which shoppers make their decision to buy.

In essence, a small rural market is not likely to save your skin if the bank is banging on your door wanting huge repayments. However, if you're in the business for the long haul, and want to create other markets for yourself now that large packers have proven to be less than reliable as outlets, farmers' markets are a terrific way to find out what the customers want in terms of size of bottles or buckets, which honey is the most acceptable and which retail outlets may be interested in buying from you.

Some beekeepers have been encouraged to drive to the larger city markets to sell their produce, as the population base there makes a honey stall more sustainable. Only you can work out whether the time and effort is worth it and whether you still have the time left to actually produce the honey.

DOUG'S COLUMN

Doug Somerville

Technical Specialist, Honeybees - NSW Department of Primary Industries - Goulburn



Phosphine Fumigation

The use of phosphine fumigation as a means of controlling wax moth infestations in stored comb is widely recognised within the beekeeping industry. Information on the correct use of this fumigant can be found on the label of the registered product, in a past issue of the *Honeybee News* (July/August 2007) on pages 12 and 13 or in the NSW DPI *Primefact*, number 658, titled 'Wax moth', available on: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

As reported in the July 2007 *Honeybee News*: All pesticide users in NSW must hold a training qualification as required under clause 7A of the NSW Pesticides Regulation 1995. Training at AQF Level 3 is required to use aluminium phosphide tablets.

Clause 266 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 requires a Work Cover NSW Fumigation Certificate of Competency to use fumigants in NSW. This was the subject of an application to the NSW Work Cover Authority for an exemption for use of aluminium phosphide tablets for treating bee keeping equipment. This exemption requires additional training on the safe use of aluminium phosphide tablets

This exemption was granted on the 29 February 2008 and published in the *NSW Government Gazette*, No.26. A copy of this regulation (exemption) follows this article. In essence the exemption is for three years. This only applies to those beekeepers who have a current pesticide users qualification. These qualifications are only current for five years. There is a need to attend another refresher chemical training course after the five years have lapsed to ensure that your training remains current.

In future, if doing the chemical training course or renewing your current training, a module will exist for on-farm fumigators. The writing of the competency and learning materials will be a joint project between NSW DPI and NSW TAFE. Once this is completed this material will be made available to those organisations conducting chemical

user training courses. Thus in future, if you are doing a chemical user training course and you use phosphine in your beekeeping business, make sure that the course on offer has the farm fumigation module as part of the certificate.

If you complete a chemical users training course before this on-farm fumigation module is available or your current chemical users certificate does not expire until after the gazetted three year period, then you will be offered alternative arrangements. Work Cover staff will deliver information sessions for this group. When the learning materials are complete and the training sessions mapped out it is envisaged that NSW beekeepers will be notified of appropriate locations and times to attend the information sessions in various regions of the state. The sessions will be covering much of the information on using phosphine gas fumigation already available to beekeepers contained within the NSW DPI Wax moth *Primefact*. If beekeepers are not able to attend the identified beekeeping information sessions then it is envisaged that there will be general training sessions across NSW available to other stakeholders that beekeepers could attend.

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NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT GAZETTE No. 26

OFFICIAL NOTICES - 29 February 2008

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION 2001

Exemption Order No. 002/08

I, JOHN WATSON, General Manager, Occupational Health and Safety Division, of the WorkCover Authority of New South Wales, pursuant to Clause 348 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 make the following Order

Dated this 25th day of February 2008.

JOHN WATSON,
General Manager,
Occupational Health and Safety Division,
WorkCover Authority of New South Wales

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 Exemption Order No. 002/08

1. Name of Order

This Order is the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 Exemption Order No. 002/08.

2. Commencement

This Order commences on the 29 February 2008, and has effect for a period of three years from that date.

3. Replacement of former Exemption Order

This Exemption Order replaces former Exemption Order No. 017/07, which is hereby withdrawn.

4. Exemption

Fumigant users specified in Schedule 1 are exempt from clause 270 (1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001, subject to the conditions specified in Schedule 2.

SCHEDULE 1

- 1 Users of the fumigants aluminium phosphide tablets by hand and chloropicrin by pressurised fumigation machine to control stored grain, invertebrate and vertebrate pests for on-farm use within the rural industry.
- 2 This exemption does not apply to fumigant users who use fumigants in a trade or business as a service to the rural industry.
- 3 Note: aluminium phosphide tablets produce phosphine.

SCHEDULE 2

1. The controller of premises where the fumigants are used must:
 - a. ensure that the fumigants are only used by persons authorised by the controller of premises;
 - b. meet the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995;
 - c. have attained a qualification issued in accordance with Level 3 of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) certifying that the competency units RTC3704A, RTC3705A have been achieved;
 - d. obtain appropriate training in addition to the competency units RTC3704A and RTC3705A in the on-farm safe use and handling of the fumigants referred to in Schedule 1 within two years after the issue of this exemption;
 - e. instruct the persons authorised by the controller of premises and referred to in 1. a. of Schedule 2 in the safe use of the fumigants, and ensure that any risks arising from the hazards identified in accordance with such use have been assessed and adequately controlled, and those persons are advised of the controls;
 - f. be satisfied those persons can be relied upon to use the fumigants without placing the health and safety of themselves or others at risk; and
 - g. ensure those persons are made aware of the application and limitations of this exemption order.
2. The person so authorised to use the fumigants in accordance with clause 1. a. to Schedule 2 of this exemption must:
 - a. be not less than eighteen (18) years of age;
 - b. meet the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995,
 - c. have attained a qualification issued in accordance with Level 3 of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) certifying that the competency units RTC3704A, RTC3705A have been achieved,
 - d. obtain appropriate training in addition to the competency units RTC3704A and RTC3705A in the on-farm safe use and handling of the fumigants referred to in Schedule 1 within two years after the issue of this exemption;
 - e. be able to communicate to a level that enables them to perform their duties safely; and
 - f. observe safe practices at all times whilst using the fumigants and take action to prevent any person being placed at risk.

5. Definitions

In this Order:

“rural industry” means in a workplace encompassing an area used predominantly for the production of stock or animal products (such as honey, milk or wool), rearing livestock or growing crops. This includes farms, orchards, vineyards, market gardens and forestry. This does not include workplaces solely processing or storing agricultural products.

“appropriate training” (in addition to the competency units RTC3704A and RTC3705A or equivalent in the on-farm safe use and handling of the fumigants mentioned in Schedule 1), means training acceptable to the WorkCover Authority of New South Wales (and that may be provided as part of the existing Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 3 competency units RTC3704A, RTC3705A or as separate training).

“controller of premises” and “fumigant” have the same meaning as in the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001.

Notes from the NSW DPI Apiary Section

John Rhodes, Apiary Officer

NSW Department of Primary Industries, Tamworth.

Cotton and Beekeeping Industries Meeting

A meeting between representatives of the cotton and beekeeping industries, Qld DPI and NSW DPI was held at Tamworth on February 20 to discuss the development of a Best Practice Guidelines for the Management of Apiaries in Cotton Growing Areas, good progress has been made with this document with contributions from Peter Cone, Cotton Australia, and David Larsen, NSW DPI, Narrabri. Also discussed was the development of procedures for the use of honey bees for pollination of cotton crops. A number of issues were identified requiring attention before this can proceed further. Bill Weiss is to organise future meetings to continue discussions on these two subjects.

Drone Honey Bee Research

The HBRDC funded project on sperm production in drone honey bees has been completed and should be available on the RIRDC website.

Small Hive Beetle (SHB)

A new Primefact on SHB management written by Nick Annand is waiting publication. Through AHBIC, the APVMA has issued a permit for the use of diatomaceous earth inside beehives to control adult small hive beetles. Diatomaceous earth is a dry product which kills insects by mechanical means without the use of toxins and may be acceptable for use in hives by producers of organic bee products, beekeepers should check with their organic auditor on the acceptability of this product. Information on the SHB Management Primefact and on the use of diatomaceous earth should be available on the NSW DPI website under Pests and Diseases.

New sentinel hive for Port Kembla

At the beginning of March 2008 an additional sentinel hive was established at Port Kembla with the assistance of the Port Kembla Port Corporation. The hive has been placed on the Port Corporation land in very close proximity to the freight terminals. Port Kembla is undergoing some major changes to its facilities with a large increase in freight being redirected from Sydney Harbour as the harbours port facilities are being wound down. Louie Kelbert, a local beekeeper, is kindly providing the voluntary labour involved with managing and monitoring the hive. Thanks Louie.

Sugar shaking Bees

Could anybody who has done any sugar shaking of their bees over the past year please forward the results onto Nick Annand at Bathurst. If you have not done any sugar shaking of your bees but had planned on doing some, it is still not too late. Please go out and monitor some of your hives. Could all results (even if you have only done one sugar shake) be forwarded to Nick prior to the 15/5/08. This allows time to collate the results and present them at the NSWAA State conference. These results are also provided to Biosecurity Australia as another piece of evidence of our freedom from external honeybee mites. The more people involved in looking for external mites such as Varroa or Tropilaelaps, the greater the likelihood to find them quickly after an incursion and the more chance of a successful eradication attempt. If you need a 'sugar shake record' sheet please contact Nick on 6330 1210.

The sugar shake results can either be forward by post to: NSW DPI, c/o Nick Annand, PO Box 1386 Bathurst NSW 2795, **Fax to:** (02) 6332 1458 - Attn. Nick or **Email to:** nicholas.annand@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Nosema at Conference

At this year's conference NSW DPI staff will have a desk set up with a microscope for the diagnosis of Nosema. Michael Hornitzky will present his findings on the Australian distribution of *Nosema ceranae* and discuss the impact of Nosema in general at the conference. If anyone attending conference would like to have samples of their bees examined for Nosema, you will be able to do so at conference. Catch 20 plus bees from the entrance or under the lid of any hive. Preferably take samples from more than one hive. Place the bees in a small jar with metho and bring them along to conference on the Thursday or Friday. We will process the bees on the spot and show you how it is done. You will get an immediate result and you will be able to discuss any course of action that you may be considering.

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Pioneer® hybrid 46Y20 will be the first canola hybrid with the Roundup Ready® gene released from the Pioneer program in Australia.

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CONFERENCE SPEAKER

David Westervelt will be a guest speaker at the NSWAA 2008 Annual State Conference

I am a native Floridian born and raised in Umatilla, Florida. I became interested in beekeeping at the age 6 while working with my father in our garden. I noticed a friend of my father; who worked with him as school teacher had put bees on our land. He was working the bees that day and I wanted to know what he was doing so I walked over in shorts, shoes and no shirt and started watching him work his bees. I was hooked! From that day on he would call letting me know he was going to work his bees by our garden and I would meet him at the bee yard. By the time I turned 8 I became more active with the bees, I would help pull honey, nail equipment together, and anything else to work with the bees. I purchased my first 2 hives when I turned 10 with money I had earned that year working bees.

I kept working bees and saving money till on my 13th birthday my mother and father had to drive me to North Carolina to buy 15 hives we had found listed in the news paper that summer. It was a great deal (\$35.00 each) and I had to ride in the back of the truck with the bees all the way home to Florida (550 miles). I survived with no stings but a little cold.

Throughout high school I kept working bees and after graduating from Umatilla High School my father (John) and I started D & J Apiary. We worked 125 to 175 hives until I Joined the United States Army at 20, during 10 years in the Army I had the opportunity to work bees in; Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Costa Rica, and Peru. After retiring from the Military in 1992, along with my father retiring from school teaching we built the business to near 500 hives. That was not enough bees to support two families. I talked to our local bee inspector to see if he knew of any beekeeping jobs open. He mentioned that he was about to retire so his position was going to come open and that they had a part-time position currently open. I applied for the part time position inspecting bee until he retired. Upon his retirement I moved into his position and have been working for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ever since first as a Bee Inspector and now as an Environmental Specialist I and Researcher. During this time I have graduated from Florida State University as a Certified Public Manager.

I have worked on numerous Research projects with United States Department Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, State Universities, and other Countries; Germany, England, Canada, Africa, and Australia on *Varroa* mites, Tracheal mites, American Foulbrood disease, Small Hive beetles, Nosema, and more recently, Colony Collapse Disorder. I have received several awards for research work on honey bees from the United State Department Agriculture, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Apiary Inspectors of America, Florida State Beekeepers Association, National Honey Producers, American Beekeeper Association, and more recently the Davis Productivity award.

My love for nature goes further than just bees. I believe that it is very important for us to learn as much about the bee's needs and not just what we want them to do for us. Most of the knowledge I share on nature comes from my parents teaching me about the importance of maintaining a balance with Nature and that change is inevitable. It is not the strong that survive but the ones that are willing to expect change and move with it that will endure. This is true in today's beekeeping.

After 38 years of beekeeping I still look forward to going in to each bee hive with an open mind, eager to learn something new about bees, and hoping to continue for 38 additional years.

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CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, 22 May 2008

8.00am	Registration	
9.00am	Call to Order	Billy Weiss
	Welcome, Apologies and Remembrance Pause	
	Confirmation of 2007 Conference Minutes	
	Business Arising from the Minutes	
	Financial Statements/Show Report	Julie Lockhart
	Australia's Honeybee News	Margaret Blunden
	Branch Reports – as published	
	President's Report (BICC & Show Reports)	
	Resource Report – as published	
9.30am	FCAAA Report	Ken Gell, Federal President
10.00am	AHBIC Report <i>and</i>	Stephen Fewster, AHBIC Chairman
	Launch of Beekeepers Learning Materials	Cameron Archer
10.30am	Morning Tea	
11.00am	Varroa	David Westervelt
		Department of Agriculture, Florida
11.30am	Almond Industry Expansion – Demand for bees,	Julie Haslett, Almond Board CEO
	Projections, Market for almonds	
12.00pm	NSW Department of Primary Industries Report	
	Research & Advisory	Dr Doug Somerville
	Regulation	Mick Rankmore
12.30pm	Nominations for Executive Council	
12.45pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Small Hive Beetle	David Westervelt
		Department of Agriculture, Florida
2.30pm	Pollination of Cotton	Marvyn Keshlaf
3.00pm	National Code of Practice for Beekeeping in the	Dr Doug Somerville, NSW DPI
	Australian Environment	
3.30pm	IRDC Project Results	Dr Brad Law, Forest NSW
	Nectar Yields in Spotted Gum and Grey Iron Bark	
4.00pm	General Business	
5.00pm	Close	

Friday, 23 May 2008

8.30am	Registration	
9.00am	HBRDC Report	Dr Denis Anderson
9.30am	B-Qual	Bill Winner
10.00am	OFFICIAL OPENING	
10.30am	Morning Tea	
11.00am	Impact of Asian Honey Bees on <i>Apis mellifera</i>	Nick Annand, NSW DPI
	(ACIAR Project)	
11.15am	Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)	David Westervelt
		Department of Agriculture, Florida
11.45am	RIRDC – Small Hive Beetle Project Report	Dr Garry Levot
12.15pm	Lunch	
	Close of Poll for Executive	
1.30pm	Presence of <i>Nosema ceranae</i> in Australia	Dr Michael Hornitzky
2.00pm	Australian Honey Survey	Julie Irish and Dr Shona Blair
2.30pm	Queen Bee Breeding Scheme	Peter Oxley, Sydney University
3.00pm	RIRDC Project on Toxic Nectars	Melanie Birchinell
3.30pm	<i>ATO Regarding Bees as trading stock</i>	
4.00pm	GENERAL BUSINESS	
4.30pm	Close	

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DINNER

Nelson Bay Diggers (RSL) Club – Friday, 23 May 2008

Pre-dinner drinks will be served from 6.30pm - Dinner begins promptly at 7.30pm

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INTERNATIONAL HONEY MARKET REPORT

The following is an excerpt from the March 10 report from Ron Phipps, CPNA International Ltd, uite 228,
100 Jericho Quadrangle, Jericho, New York 11753 USA, Tel: (516) 935-3880, Fax: (416) 935-3959,
Email: info@cpnaglobal.com

In his March 9, 2008 front page "New York Times" article, David Streitfeld writes: *Everywhere, the cost of food is rising sharply. Whether the world is in for a long period of continued increases has become one of the most urgent issues in economics. Many factors are contributing to the rise, but the biggest is runaway demand. In recent years, the worlds developing countries have been growing about 7% a year, an unusually rapid rate by historical standards. The high growth rate means hundreds of millions of people are, for the first time, getting access to the basics of life, including a better diet. That jump in demand is helping to drive up the prices of agricultural commodities.*

Rising food prices in the United States are already helping to fuel inflation reminiscent of the 1970s. The international honey market has entered a stage which many may describe as crazy. Prices are soaring weekly as a result of an international shortage of honey and the absence of Chinese honey from both the US market and possibly other major consuming countries.

In the March issue of the American Beekeepers Journal, I stated that macro-economic factors were affecting prices for the majority of commodities, including honey. Those factors are the plunge in the value of the US dollar, and soaring prices for petroleum. Since that time: 1) the US dollar has suffered a further collapse in value relative to the Euro which has now appreciated since its inception by over 200%; 2) an increase in the price of petroleum to a historic record, approaching \$110/barrel and 3) the decision by the Federal Reserve, hoping to avoid a recession, to sharply and continuously reduce interest rates which, in turn, further weakens the US dollar. The US economy is haunted by national deficits and the spectre of simultaneous recessionary and inflationary pressures.

In addition, macro-global weather patterns have led to unpredictable and shifting patterns of agricultural production. Within this context, honey prices have escalated well beyond the industry's expectations.

United States

The 2007 US honey crop was only 148 million pounds; far below normal for the fifth consecutive year. That was largely due to drought in the southwest where California suffered both its worst drought in a century and enormous wild fires that extensively destroyed tens of thousands of acres of wild sage plants and buckwheat. The colony collapse disorder compounded problems for American beekeepers in 2007.

Very importantly, the carryover of US honey has been depleted. America's largest honey producers, some of whom had held prior crops, are fully committed at prices which steadily rose month by month as the real situation in respect to both macro-economic conditions and specific supply/demand relations became clear to both American packers and producers.

One important development in the North American honey market is the recent purchase of Billy Bee Honey Products, Canada's largest honey packer, by McCormick Company. This purchase promises to have a large and long term impact upon the North American honey market. Many take this purchase as a good omen for the entire industry since it manifests the fact that a company of the size, financial strength, marketing expertise, sophisticated scientific staff and strong presence in both the retail and industrial trades is interested to participate

in the honey industry. We believe interest in honey is growing in part because of the positive implications for the honey trade of modern scientific research and discoveries that Honey and Health Committee is encouraging and promulgating.

Uruguay

Uruguay has also suffered a reduction to 50% of a normal crop. Chilean and Uruguayan honeys are obtaining C&F prices in the range of USD1.35/lb.-USD1.50/lb.

Brazil

Brazil is becoming a more important player in the world honey market. Currently Brazil produces about 40,000MT, half of which is consumed locally and the other half exported. Because of currency considerations, Europe is viewed as the natural market for conventional Brazilian honey. America and Europe will compete on par for Brazilian organic honey. Normally Brazil's honey crop is more or less 50% light amber, 30% extra light amber and only 20% white honey. In this respect, as well as flavour profiles, Brazilian honey is the polar opposite of Argentine honey.

China

South, eastern and central China have suffered the heaviest snow and coldest weather of the past 6 decades. Transportation, electricity and heat were absent in many places for over 15 consecutive days. This severe cold spell, as noted, hit Afghanistan and the central highlands of Vietnam. Although there was concern about the impact on Chinese bees, most Chinese beekeepers have a very small number of hives which they brought into enclosures, homes, farms, etc. There are no reports of unusual losses of bees in China as China's spring crop begins in the southwest.

Conclusion

We all know how hard it is to increase prices for commodities. But this month petroleum reached \$109/barrel and gold \$995. Many packers also realize that when prices are firm: 1) all segments of an industry benefit; 2) profits for packers increase and; 3) consumer perception of value increases. The latter is an important and strategic fact that our industry needs to better understand.

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OFFICE OF THE GENE TECHNOLOGY REGULATOR

Notification of Application

Receipt of licence application from CSIRO for dealings involving intentional release of genetically modified cotton: DIR 083/2007

Application

The office of the Gene Technology regulator (OGTR) has received a licence application (DIR 083/2007) from the CSIRO for an intentional release of genetically modified (GM) cotton into the Australian environment which qualifies as a limited and controlled release under section 50A of the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (the Act).

CSIRO is seeking approval to conduct proof of concept research with up to 20 cotton lines that have been modified for enhances waterlogging tolerance. The proposed release would take place at one site in the NSW shire of Narrabri on an area of 0.1ha per season over three growing seasons between October 2008 and May 2011.

If approved, trial would involve experiments to assess the tolerance of the GM cotton plants to waterlogging stress under simulated conditions in the field. A number of measures are proposed by the applicant to restrict the spread and persistence of GMOs and their genetic material that will be considered during the assessment of the application. The GM cotton will not be used for either human or animal consumption.

Purpose of this notification

A comprehensive Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) for the application is currently being prepared. I expect this to be released for public comment and advice from a broad range of experts, agencies and authorities in **early June 2008**. The Act specifies a 30 day minimum consultation period if no significant risks to human health and safety of the environment are identified, and a 50 day minimum consultation period if significant risks are identified.

In the interim, you can obtain a copy of the application itself by contacting my Office (details below), please quote the reference number DIR 083/2007. As the application is quite lengthy, you may prefer to view a summary of the application, which is posted on our website along with this document (under 'What's New'). If you would like to receive a hard copy of the application summary, please contact us and we will post it to you.

If you have any questions about the application, or how you can provide comment, please contact OGTR at:

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601
(<http://www.ogtr.gov.au>) Telephone: 1800 181 030
Facsimile: 02 6271 4202 Email: ogtr@health.gov.au

Dr Sue Monk
Gene Technology Regulator
20 February 2008

RIRDC NEWS

14 April 2008

Beekeeper survey starts to help set industry directions

Australia wide surveys of Australian beekeepers begins today as part of a project to provide more information about the state of the industry and set future directions in industry strategy, and research and development.

ABARE is undertaking the survey on behalf of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's (RIRDC) Honeybee program.

The survey will explore the characteristics of honeybee businesses, production efficiency and profitability, and demographic and socioeconomic circumstances of people in the industry.

RIRDC Managing Director, Peter O'Brien and ABARE Executive Director, Phillip Glyde highlighted the importance of the survey for the honeybee industry.

'This survey will assist in the development of strategies and research and development programs to improve the long term productivity of the honeybee industry,' Dr O'Brien said.

As well as producing quality honey and honey-related goods for Australian and world markets, the industry plays an important role in agricultural production, with around 65 per cent of Australian crops dependent to some extent on honeybees for pollination.

'It is essential that apiarists are well informed and able to develop strategies to address current and future challenges,' Dr O'Brien concluded.

Mr Glyde said survey results will assist with industry benchmarking to target industry efforts to improve performance.

'It is important that we get accurate information from beekeepers about their industry so we can work cooperatively to improve its future. I strongly encourage apiarists to cooperate.'

Interviews will be conducted by phone by identified ABARE data collectors. All information provided remains confidential. Information collected will only be published or released at a regional data level and will not identify individuals or their businesses.

The survey is scheduled to begin on 14 April with survey results expected to be released in July.

For media interviews and information on the honeybee survey please contact:

ABARE – Milly Lubulwa, Survey Analysis Section,
on 02 6272 2069, mobile 0408 162 395 or email milly.lubulwa@abare.gov.au

RIRDC - Danny O'Brien, Communications Manager, on 02 6271 4175 or mobile 0438 130 445.

For general media enquiries, contact Maree Finnegan, Media Coordinator on 02 6272 2260, mobile 0417 689 567 or email mfinnegan@abare.gov.au

RECIPES

Baked Salmon with Honey Mustard

¼ cup butter, melted
3 tablespoons mustard
1 ½ tablespoons honey
¼ cup dry bread crumbs
¼ cup finely chopped pecans (optional)
4 teaspoons fresh parsley
4 fillets of salmon
Salt and pepper to taste
1 lemon for garnish

Preheat oven to 400° F (200° C). In a small bowl, stir together butter, mustard and honey.

Set aside. In another bowl, mix together bread crumbs, pecans and parsley.

Brush each salmon fillet lightly with honey mustard mixture and sprinkle the tops of the fillets with the bread crumb mixture.

Bake salmon 12-15 minutes in the preheated oven or until it flakes easily with a fork. Season with salt and pepper and garnish with a wedge of lemon.

Persimmon Honey Muffins

1 ½ cups wholemeal plain flour

1 cup plain flour
½ cup sultanas
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons bicarbonate soda
½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 large egg, lightly beaten
1 ½ tablespoons vegetable oil
¾ cup honey
1 cup ripe persimmon pulp, mashed

Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease a 12 hole muffin pan.

In a large bowl, combine all dry ingredients. In a small bowl combine all wet ingredients. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients. Gently fold together until just combined.

Spoon into muffin pan, bake for 15-18 minutes or until the tops bounce back.

Honey and Lemon Dessert Topping

1 carton (200ml) low fat yoghurt
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind or mixed peel
3 teaspoons honey

Beat ingredients well. Use as a topping on fresh fruit salad and fruit desserts, over breakfast cereals or on scones and pikelets.

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FUNDS FOR RESEARCH INTO DEATH OF BEES IN USA

Courtesy: The Financial Times - Jonathan Birchall, New York,

Häagen-Dazs, the luxury ice-cream brand, has become the first large food company to fund research into honey bee "colony collapse disorder" – the mystery syndrome blamed for the destruction of about 25 per cent of the US bee population since late 2006.

The brand, owned in the US by Nestlé, is making a \$250,000 grant to university researchers in California and Pennsylvania.

Katti Pien of Häagen-Dazs said almost 40 per cent of the brand's flavours were dependent on bee pollination and could be threatened by CCD. Bees pollinate ingredients in about a third of the food consumed in the US.

"Ice-cream is a small part of it. The bigger issue is the food supply for the whole country," she said. Widespread bee colony collapses started appearing in the US in late 2006, with adult bees abandoning hives before the hatching of a new brood. Scientists have yet to explain the phenomenon. Theories advanced range from the introduction of new viruses or fungi to environmental factors such as genetically engineered crops or electromagnetic waves from mobile phone towers.

An estimated 1,500 to 2,000 professional US beekeepers rent out hives to growers during the blossom season for crops ranging from almonds to apples. A typical professional beekeeper operates between 2,000 and 3,000 hives and will transport bees in trucks across different states according to the season.

The industry is trying to establish whether the outbreak is a cyclical phenomenon – similar to past periods of bee die-offs – or a substantial developing threat.



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Superbee is moving!

Superbee has purchased a new factory in Forbes, NSW and will be commencing fit out of this site starting in October, with relocation of our production plant from Qld to Forbes scheduled for January 2008.

We will be able to take deliveries of honey at the Forbes site from November onwards, so if Forbes is more accessible for you, please give us a buzz to discuss delivery details.

Superbee will continue trading at our Sunshine Coast site until the end of December 07, following which all manufacturing operations will relocate to Forbes.

For those suppliers who still have empty drums at our Sunshine Coast site, please contact us ASAP to discuss retrieval arrangements for these.

The new factory is much larger than our existing site and will give us the capability to continue to expand the company. We hope that our existing suppliers (as well as some new ones!) will continue their strong support of Superbee and we look forward to a happy working relationship for many years to come!

Our new address is: Cnr Newell Hwy & Landrace St, Forbes, NSW 2871

To discuss spot sales or longer-term supply contracts, please call us on:

Ross Christiansen – Director
Chris Kath – General Manager

Mob: 0413 861 997
Mob: 0421 620 419



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AFB QUESTIONS ANSWERED.....

The following questions were raised at the BICC Meeting. Please contact me on (02) 6741 8374 during business hours if you would like to discuss this matter: Mick Rankmore, Regulatory Specialist, Apiaries – Gunnadah

Q1. Of the 102* reports of AFB between July 2006 and March 2007 what was the breakdown to individual beekeepers and or businesses?

Month	Smears	Notification by beekeeper	Detection by Regulatory Officer	Notification by Apiary Officer	Totals
July 06	3	4	1	0	8
Aug 06	10	2	1	0	13
Sept 06	15	3	0	0	18
Oct 06	9	9	1	0	19
Nov 06	11	5	0	0	16
Dec/Jan 06/07	18	3	2	0	23
Feb 07	3	4	0	0	7
March 07	5	1	3	0	9
Totals	74	31	8	0	113#

Original figure of 102 reports revised to 113 reports. 48 individual beekeepers names were recorded as reporting AFB between July 2006 and March 2007.

Q2. Of the 102 reports since conference, out of these 102 have any of those reported AFB and if so what was the total hives with AFB?

Yes, 5 beekeepers. 32 hives.

Q3. In the reporting period what was the largest compensation payment to an individual or business?

The amount of payments and the identity of beekeepers are private matters between individual beekeepers and the DPI. The total amount paid out in 2006/2007 was \$63,328.00, which exceeded the nominal annual allocation of \$50,000 for the first time. This situation was due to one unusually large payment.

Q4. Have all Apiary Inspectors appointed under the Apiaries Act 1985 been given infringement notice books?

No. The Regulatory Specialist Apiaries, The Regulatory Compliance Manager, several Senior Inspectors and other staff are currently authorised to issue infringement notices under a variety of legislation, including the Apiaries Act. These authorised officers can issue infringement notices on behalf of other inspectors if required. As more staff are trained in the infringement notice system, it is anticipated that additional staff will be authorised to issue infringement notices.

Q5. When are the statistics for AFB recorded, i.e. when the compensation claim is lodged or when it is paid?

Whenever the information is received by the Regulatory Specialist Apiaries. So, in the case of a notification of AFB by a beekeeper that results in a compensation claim, it is when that notification is received by the RSA.

Q6. Are records included in the AFB statistics when a beekeeper reports AFB but does not claim compensation?

Yes. Information about AFB is received from various sources, including phone calls, e-mail messages, Notification Report forms, lab reports, inspectors reports, notification from Apiary Officers etc. AFB statistics are compiled from the sum of this information.

Q7. When were the 400 hives of AFB at Batemans Bay recorded in the statistics?

The owner of these hives did not report them as diseased. That is why he was prosecuted for failing to notify disease. The exact number of hives that were involved was not clear at the time of the investigation, and the ownership and location of 129 diseased hives remains unresolved. However, 335 diseased hives from 4 Apiaries were destroyed in August and September 2005. That number has now been included in the statistics.

Q8. If a beekeeper reports AFB and is asked to carry out his or own inspections, what is the DPI follow up policy?

Beekeepers should be able to detect, control and eradicate AFB from their own apiaries without the need for directions from inspectors. Information may be sought from an apiary officer or inspector, and the beekeeper should seek the assistance of another beekeeper who has experience with recognising AFB if they need help.

On receiving a notification, the inspector asks the beekeeper whether they are willing and able to examine their own hives, detect AFB, and irradiate or destroy infected materials.

In particular, the beekeeper should examine all hives in the infected apiary within 2 weeks, and all other hives owned or managed by them within 6 weeks, after they first become aware of the presence of AFB. Infected hives should be marked so those hives can be readily identified for irradiation or destruction, or for inspection if required.

If the beekeeper agrees and is competent to examine their own hives and irradiate or destroy infected materials at their expense, no inspection or other regulatory action is required at this stage. This outcome is recorded and reported to the SIR and RSA. Tracing information should be obtained and followed up by the Regulatory Officer. The apiary can be considered free of AFB after two consecutive 'clean' examinations 6 to 8 weeks apart or from one season to the next.

Q9 The conference report, reported 57 apiaries confirmed with AFB. How many individual beekeepers owned the 57 apiaries? Most beekeepers own more than one apiary.

48.

Q10. Where compensation was paid did the inspectors sight diseased hives in all cases?

Policy requires that they do, and all claims that were paid were processed on that basis.

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AHBIC NEWS

Website Review

One of the first points of contact for our industry is our website. The website provides an important link to consumers, possible overseas sales and an interface with members of the public. Recognising the importance of this contact point, the industry has established a small website committee comprising Messrs Ed Planken (Chair), Keith McIlvride and Stephen Ware. A demonstration site is available to view at: www.demo.com.au/honeybee.

The committee would also welcome input of ideas from members of industry on the best ways the website can be revamped to showcase our industry and provide a valuable education and communication tool. Should you wish to have input, please email Keith McIlvride at keithm@bkeeping.net.

GM Crop Approval

Farmers in NSW have joined their Victorian counterparts and have been granted permission to grow genetically modified canola. The Primary Industries Minister, Ian Macdonald, said he had approved the commercial production of the crops following the report of the NSW Expert Committee. A ban remains in place for the commercial production of all other GM foods in NSW.

New Import Regulations for Bees into the Northern Territory

Advice has been received from Vicki Simlesa, Apiary Officer for the NT, concerning importing regulations for bees into the NT. If you have any queries regarding these new regulations, please contact Vicki Simlesa, Telephone: 08 8999 2036 or Email: vicki.simlesa@nt.gov.au.

Pollination Workshop Held in Canberra

Members of AHBIC and representatives of the horticultural industries met in Canberra on 18 and 19 March 2008. The workshop was successful and achieved a commitment to develop further strategies and priorities to enable the formation of a formal pollination industry alliance to be known as Pollination Australia. In the next edition of the newsletter we will publish details of this important development.

Major Counterfeit Honey Ring Smashed

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, together with the Australian Customs Service, has been working for some time to bring about the prosecution of a group of individuals who had knowingly rebadged Chinese honey as Australian product.

This matter was first alerted to Customs a number of years ago and resulted in, first of all, a number of arrests and then working with Customs, AHBIC provided valuable information to enable the prosecution to be finalised. It serves as a timely reminder to those who seek to re-badge imported product as Australian honey.

Two companies and three people have been convicted in Australia of customs fraud and fined \$580,200 over an elaborate international import/export scam involving 1.7 million litres of honey that was shipped to the United States.

The fraud was part of a worldwide scam to circumvent anti-dumping duties imposed on Chinese honey by the US. The honey was exported from Australia to the US as an Australian-made product, but was actually from China.

Australian Customs Service investigations national manager Richard Janeczko says the investigation was lengthy and complex. "This degree of complex fraud can be challenging to detect, investigate and prosecute," he says. "Commercial fraud of this type also has potential to damage Australia's relationship with our major trading partners."

Between July 2001 and June 2002, some 28 consignments of Chinese honey were imported into Australia by CHS Enterprises Pty Ltd and JHM Trading Co in 125 shipping containers. The two companies claimed the honey was from Singapore – which does not have honeybees.

Australian Customs said the honey, packed in 200-litre drums, was relabelled as Australian product by the importer and repacked for export. It was not blended with Australian honey and it did not undergo any other form of processing.

The honey was then exported in 39 shipments to the US described as Australian product. An investigation by Customs officers found JHM Trading Co was bogus. CHS Enterprises Pty Ltd and its freight forwarder AK Unicargo International Pty Ltd were charged with 38 offences under the Customs Act 1901 and 58 offences under the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905. Also charged were Robin Hu, his then wife, Hui Min Jing, and Gordon (Pui) Lam. Jing pleaded guilty to all charges in the New South Wales Supreme Court and agreed to assist Customs with its inquiries. She was fined \$129,200.

At a subsequent Supreme Court trial, Lam and AK Unicargo were found guilty of all charges. Hu and CHS Enterprises were found guilty of charges relating to the original importation of the honey.

The court imposed fines and costs against the two men and companies totalling \$451,200.

Independent Quarantine and Biosecurity Review Launched

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke has announced details of a comprehensive, independent review into Australia's quarantine and biosecurity systems.

The Minister said he had appointed consultant and former secretary of the Department of Environment and Heritage Roger Beale AO to head the review and three other experienced panel members with specialist knowledge.

They are former Deputy Chairman of the Quarantine Export Advisory Council Andrew Inglis AM; a commissioner of the National Water Commission and former National Farmers' Federation Deputy Executive Director David Trebeck; and former Executive Director of the Australian Poultry Industries Association Jeff Fairbrother AM.

"The Rudd Labor Government is serious about delivering on this key election commitment, to ensure our biosecurity and quarantine arrangements are rigorous," Mr Burke said.

"As many people continue to feel the devastating impact of the equine influenza outbreak, we are determined to move ahead with this major review.

"Every farmer or business owner connected to our primary industries knows how important it is to protect Australia from disease.

"I have set detailed terms of reference for the review and have full confidence that the expert panel will investigate relevant issues thoroughly.

"I look forward to receiving the panel's report."

This is the first major review of quarantine and biosecurity since the former Labor Government commissioned a review by Professor Malcolm Nairn in 1995.

Mr Burke said he had asked the independent review to consider a range of issues including:

- the functions of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and Biosecurity Australia;
- the effectiveness of import and export inspection and certification;
- the scope and adequacy of the current animal and plant quarantine arrangements; and
- previous reports on Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements.

The panel is due to deliver its report and recommendations to the Minister by 31 July 2008.

The independent panel review process will run separately to the commission of inquiry into the outbreak of equine influenza being conducted by the Hon Ian Callinan AC.

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