AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"
www.nswaa.com.au

Volume 13 Number 5
September-October 2020

Inside:

Letter to Minister Littleproud & his Response Pg10
American Foulbrood - What You Must do in NSW Pg 31
Honey Bee Venom Destroys Breast Cancer Cells Pg 37

Cover:

Canola Fields, Harden NSW
Photograph: Brad Schafferius

AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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CONTENTS

Executive & Industry Contacts	Page 4	NSWAA Grant Application for	
President's Report	Page 5	Bushfire Industry Recovery Package	Page 23
NSWAA Executive Responsibilities	Page 6	Technical Specialist, Honey Bees Report	Page 27
NSWAA Honour Roll	Page 8	Hivekeeper up for Award	Page 29
Letter to Minister Littleproud	Page 10	American Foulbrood - What You Must do in NSW	Page 31
Tocal Virtual Field Day	Page 11	AFB Awareness Month	Page 32
Response from Minister Littleproud	Page 12	Bee Biosecurity Officer Report	Page 34
10,000 Trees for Bees	Page 16	Honey Bee Venom Destroyed Breast Cancer Cells	Page 37
Steritech Update	Page 22	Friends of AHBIC	Page 42
		AHBIC Update	Page 43
		Beekeeper Journals / Advertisers	Page 46

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Email: steve@cunialbeekeeping.com.au
Neil Bingley 101 Woodfield Rd SUTTON NSW 2620 Mob: 0428 487 105 Email: beez101@bigpond.net.au
Ray Hull PO Box 36 Kootingal NSW 2340 Mob: 0407 469 176 Email: hullshoneyfarm@outlook.com
Brian Woolfe 18 Dumaresq St GLEN INNES NSW 2370 Mob: 0429 032 019 Email: woolfe@exemail.com.au
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presidents Report

The season has just started and we already have had the trifecta. Bee kill from agriculture sprays, serious biosecurity event in the Riverina which DPI are following up and a dumping event where the beekeeper refused to move bees to allow the farmer to use a gateway into his paddock. DPI issued a notice for the beekeeper to move the bees within 7 days. My thoughts are that the bees should have been moved within 48 hours.

Crop Life have been updating BeeConnect. When it is more user friendly hopefully it will be widely advertised in the agricultural community so that farmers and not just beekeepers will use the App. If a chemical spray has had an adverse effect on your bees please inform **EPA on 131 555** with as much detail as possible. Many beekeepers do not inform EPA on chemical issues so according to EPA there is no issue.

A lot of beekeepers use roadside verges as a bee site which is not normally a problem if common sense is used. However, if one is approached by a land owner that there is an issue with the bees being there – then do the responsible thing and move the bees.

I saw my first swarm in August from bees that did not go to almonds. This season is proving to be a swarming one – especially in the southern part of the state. The germination of Paterson's Curse is the best for many years.

Beekeepers did a good job with moving bees into and out of almonds. I have heard no reports of bees being left at service stations etc. I am aware of at least one beekeeper going through the border check point during daylight without the bees being netted. This does the industry a disservice. Some almond growers were slow to have the bees removed from the orchard when pollination had clearly finished.

The launch of the single desk for public bee sites (BPASS) was conducted at the Lockwood business. Thank you to Vikki and co for providing a venue for this milestone. Ray Hull represented the Association. From reports Ray was not on TV but more importantly did manage to get to talk to Hon Adam Marshall for 15 minutes. Ray spoke about the benefits of BPASS and also that the industry is looking forward to the outcomes of the Queen Bee Improvement program. Ray thank you for stepping up.

BPASS is not perfect – despite numerous attempts I cannot see available bee sites. I can see my permits and monies owing etc. Nick and his software team are working on this. I am sure Nick will email around when it is sorted. The BYTE portal is also lacking information which I am sure will be filled by DPI as we near registration tim

This season shows promise for those in the southern half of the state. May prospects for all beekeepers continue to improve.

Stephen Targett
President

NSW AA Executive Resposibilities

Stephen Targett NSWAA President	**Steve Cunial** NSWAA Vice President	**Neil Bingley** NSWAA Executive Councillor	**Brian Woolfe** NSWAA Executive Councillor	**Ray Hull** NSWAA Executive Councillor	**Bianca Giggins** NSW DPI Advisor
AHBIC Diseases & Quarantine Committee State Conference Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC)	Sponsorships & Trade Show	AHBIC Resources Committee State Resources	Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC) State Advisory Group (SAG)	Honeyland	AHBIC Education Committee

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29 June 2020

Sent via email Minister.Littleproud@awe.gov.au
david.littleproud.mp@aph.gov.au

Hon David Littleproud
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600

Dear Minister Littleproud

RE: Onshore Biosecurity Levy

I write on behalf of the Plant Industry Members of Plant Health Australia to express our disappointment at the decision not to proceed with the Onshore Biosecurity levy as announced by your Department on 20 May 2020.

All the Plant Industries (listed below), who are members of Plant Health Australia and signatories to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD), have shown their commitment to their industry biosecurity roles and responsibilities and to Australian's Biosecurity system in general.

Many of the industries have been partners with Government in responding to a range of exotic pest incidents and committed grower resources through the EPPR or PHA Levy to fund their share of responding to the costs of these incidents.

What is most frustrating is that on many occasions the 'risk creators' are not paying anything towards exotic outbreaks. Many plant industries have been involved in responses to outbreaks of Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs (BMSB). The entry of BMSB into Australia has been in general cargo and containers that are bringing in furniture, equipment and other products that have no linkages to the plant sector. Yet it is the plant sectors, along with Federal, State and Territory Governments, who are paying to eradicate the outbreaks.

To give perspective at the magnitude of the costs involved, for the two BMSB detections in Western Australia and NSW in the 2018/19 year, the cost shared response plan costed $207,000 in WA and $123,589 in NSW. This cost is only what was incurred in the response plans and does not include a much larger "true" cost of the eradication response which encompasses the lead agency and all other affected parties' normal commitments/non shared costs as well as flow on effects/consequential losses. Similarly, the Khapra beetle response plan in South Australia from 2016-2018, cost $1,412,594 which was shared between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and industry.

As you are aware, the plant industry sectors contribute $33[1] billion in farm gate production to the economy and provide food, fibre and foliage for the nation. We also contribute $27[1] billion to export revenues, and as seen during the current COVID-19 crisis have been considered 'essential services' and are critical to the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the nation.
The plant industry sectors are not the 'risk creator' yet pay for the eradication of risks created by importers to the industry, while the 'risk creators' – the importers and/or container owners/operators - are not paying any share of the eradication costs.

[1] Australian Bureau of Statistics 7121.0 Australian Commodities 2017-18 Statistics.

The plant industry sector feels strongly that they are being disadvantaged in this process and understood that a proportionate Onshore Biosecurity Levy would be placed on the 'risk creator' and help cover the costs of the eradication programs.

We believe in the principle that Biosecurity is a 'shared responsibility' – one that is proposed, propagated and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, but feel that plant industries are carrying an unfair burden of responsibility while others have a nil share. The Onshore Biosecurity Levy was a means of ensuring that there was a greater sharing of the responsibility and the proportionate share of the costs and risks.

Given that the Federal Government has decided not to proceed with the Onshore Biosecurity Levy, we urge that it reviews and reconsiders the current situation to ensure a mechanism be considered in the near future, where the 'risk creator' bares a fair proportion of the cost of any future incursions that they create, and that the plant sector is not burdened with unrelated and unnecessary additional biosecurity costs.

Representatives of the Plant Industry Members would be pleased to discuss this situation and work towards a more equitable solution. We look forward to hearing from you with a proposed approach.

Yours faithfully

Peter Vaughan

Peter Vaughan
Chair, Plant Industry Forum of Plant Health Australia

On behalf of the following Plant Industry Member of Plant Health Australia:

The Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
Deputy Leader of the Nationals
Federal Member for Maranoa

Ref: MC20-009510

31 JUL 2020

Mr Peter Vaughan
Chair
Plant Industry Forum of Plant Health Australia
PO Box 7129
BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153

Via email: peter.vaughan@greenlifeindustry.com.au

Dear Mr Vaughan

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 June 2020 on behalf of Plant Health Australia's Plant Industry Forum concerning the Australian Government's decision to no longer proceed with the Onshore Biosecurity Levy. I appreciate the time you have taken to bring this matter to my attention.

The government remains committed to a strong biosecurity system with around $850 million being made available for biosecurity programs in 2019-20, an increase of approximately 40 per cent from 2012-13. This commitment recognises the importance of biosecurity in protecting regional jobs, growing our agricultural exports and preserving our environment and lifestyle from the impact of pests and diseases. In recognition of ongoing biosecurity threats, the government has made several recent funding announcements including $11.4 million over four years from 2019-20 and $2.4 million per year ongoing from 2023-24 for Accelerating Horticulture Market Access.

The government continues to support the implementation of the intergovernmental response to the 2016-17 independent review of the capacity of the national biosecurity system (Craik review) and its underpinning Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity. This includes

- investing $25.2 million to establish a Biosecurity Innovation Program
- investing $36.5 million to establish a national biosecurity data and analytics platform
- finalising the National Biosecurity Statement, following consultation with stakeholders, which presents a shared vision for Australia's biosecurity
- the establishment of a Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer
- reviewing current biosecurity expenditure across governments and working to value the national biosecurity system, through the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
- the establishment of a standalone biosecurity website

- adopting a systematic process for identifying and planning for national priority pests and diseases.

With respect to the levy, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's co-design process with industry highlighted that a viable, equitable levy could not be implemented, without significant regulatory impacts on industry and proposed levy payers. The department also considered the ongoing impacts of drought, bushfires and COVID-19 on the Australian economy and the rapidly changing trade environment. The levy may have resulted in increased costs of agricultural inputs such as fertiliser, chemicals and machinery as levy payers may have chosen to pass the costs on.

Importers contribute to the costs of managing biosecurity through cost recovery of biosecurity inspections, risk assessments of imports and other activities. To reflect the changing risk profile, four cost recovery charges on importers were increased from 1 January 2020. These changes included contributions towards the cost of import pest and disease risk mitigation planning and increased analytics and intelligence activities.

In response to the increasing threat posed by brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), the department has strengthened biosecurity measures for importers both offshore and at the border to minimise the risk to Australia. High risk cargo, such as motor vehicles and heavy machinery, and cargo from high risk countries are required to be treated for BMSB through an approved treatment provider. The cost of these increased treatments is paid for by the importer.

Your public support of, and advocacy for Australia's biosecurity is appreciated. I understand that my office has offered, should you be interested, to organise for departmental officers to attend a future meeting of the Plant Industry Forum of Plant Health Australia to discuss this and related matters.

Thank you again for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP

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BEECHWORTH HONEY

10,000 Trees for Bees

Beechworth Honey alongside Beechworth Urban Landcare & Sustainability (BULS) are excited to announce a partnership to plant 10,000 trees.

Over the next 3 years, together they will plant trees to sustain bees and native pollinators, regenerate public and private land and capture carbon through the powerful role of trees in combating climate change.

The trees will be planted around Beechworth and surrounding areas in north east Victoria with regular opportunities for the local community to join in the planting.

"We are thrilled to announce our partnership with BULS. **10,000 Trees for Bees** is a project that combines what we are passionate about. Nature, bees and communities working together with a common purpose", said Jodie Goldsworthy, Director of Beechworth Honey.

"BULS applauds Beechworth Honey for taking this initiative to promote biodiversity and reforestation while contributing to bee habitat and a healthier planet. BULS shares these goals and is excited to deliver such a major project for our community", said Dr Helen Robinson, President of BULS.

As a member of 1% for the Planet, Beechworth Honey gives 1% of the sales revenue from their Bee Cause range of honey to not-for-profit partners. The company is providing funding to Landcare for the **10,000 Trees for Bees** project through BULS.

Tree planting is underway as part of our newest project, the Beechworth Honey Bee Arboretum. As part of Beechworth Honey's commitment to planting 10,000 Trees for Bees over the next 3 years, they are creating a specialist patch of pollinator-friendly Australian trees and shrubs. This Bee Arboretum is situated about 4 kms to the west of Beechworth on a dedicated 6 hectare (15 acre) plot of land secured for its purpose. It will contain about 40 species of native plants that are chosen to best support bees and pollinators and will contain around 3000 trees and shrubs when fully planted.

Beechworth Honey hope that the Bee Arboretum will:

1. Showcase a specialist native plant collection planned and planted specifically to support a diversity of pollinators by ensuring that there is year round flowering.
2. Educate people about the nutritional needs of pollinators and encourage pollinator-friendly plantings. The aim is to have a number of species always flowering.
3. As our climate changes, many insects that normally undergo a diapause (period of suspended development due to winter) are having their natural cycles disrupted. Beechworth Honey have noticed that honey bees are more active over the winter than ever before due to warmer seasons. They are needing more stores of nectar and pollen as their normal hibernation is disrupted. The Bee Arboretum will have a collection of native plants for bees or insects that are active through winter – some of which are plantings that would normally not grow in the north eastern Victorian area but whose growth can be tested as our climate changes. With climate change Beechworth Honey believes that it will be important to think differently about plantings.
4. Plant the seeds and grow a site that sparks the interest of current and future generations about the need for more research into bees, native pollinators and native flora and how they adapt in various climates. The Bee Arboretum will be a site for future data collection and maybe new careers and futures in science.
5. Connect and join native flora corridors – filling in the gaps for birds & pollinators to safely traverse the landscape.

After soil preparation being completed in July, so far around 1500 trees and shrubs have been planted in the Bee Arboretum over winter. Coupled with the great work of partners, the Beechworth Urban Landcare & Sustainability Group, who are planting trees donated by BWH, all across our district, both groups are working towards the goal of 10,000 trees for bees. Beechworth Honey has also been approached by Trust for Nature to use the Bee Arboretum to conduct an annual bird count. Data gathered will demonstrate the benefit of the plantings for birds. Beechworth Honey are looking forward to seeing the science demonstrate just how beneficial trees are to attracting more birds in addition to being helpful for bees as the trees grow. The Bee Arboretum will help to demonstrate the coexistence of all the various species reliant on nativeflora.
Jodie concluded that, "10,000 Trees for Bees speaks to everything we love at Beechworth Honey; nature and bees and communities working together with a common purpose."

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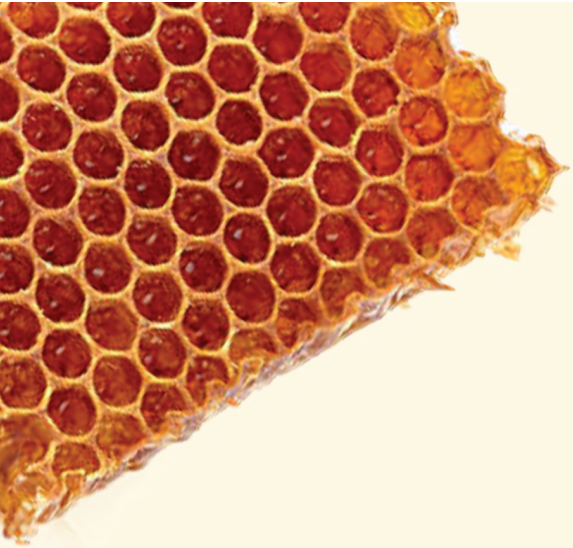
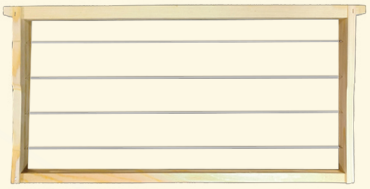
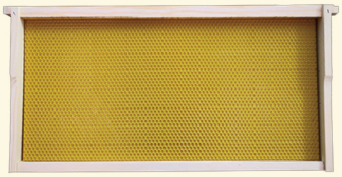


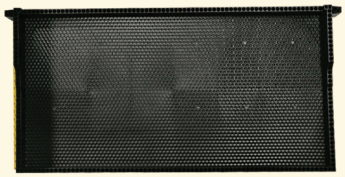
Bee Frames - Wood and Plastic



Wood Frame Full Depth
Assembled With Wire



Wood Frame Full Depth
With Plastic Foundation
(Not waxed)



Plastic Frame Full Depth

Plastic Beehive

Plastic Beehive with 10 Frames

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Monday, August 03, 2020

Dear Beekeepers,

Steritech's Queensland facility have been providing irradiation services for Australia's beekeeping industry for almost 20 years. We are very proud to offer this much needed service for beekeeping equipment and will continue to provide this service into the future.

We continually review our regulatory, safety and operating costs at Steritech. As these are necessary to provide a service that meets our customer needs and ensures compliance with both government regulations and licensing requirements.

Whilst we always strive to reduce the impact of inflationary pressures on our customers, regular reviews of our pricing structure remain necessary.

Over the past 20 years Steritech's Queensland facility has significantly discounted treatments for beekeepers and unfortunately, we are unable to maintain discounts at this level. Please be ensured that our beekeeping customers continue to be highly valued and are an important part of the services we provide, and that the beekeeping industry have still maintained a significant price discount when compared to our standard treatment charges.

Please be advised that, effective 1st July 2020, the price for treating beehives through Steritech's Queensland facility, is outlined in the below table:

BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT – F'2021		
Per Unit	**10kGy**	**15kGy**
F/P (Full Pallet)	**$360**	**$540**
H/P (Half Pallet)	**$190**	**$290**

All prices exclude GST

We are understanding that price increases are always difficult and as such, the above F'2021 treatment price will be held for the next 2 years. We greatly appreciate both your understanding; your continued support and we always assure you of our best intentions.

Please do not hesitate to contact Glenn Robertson on (07) 3385 8400, should you have any further queries, or concerns in relation to any of the above.

Kind Regards,

Glenn Robertson

Qld General Manager
Steritech Pty Ltd

NSWAA Grant Application for the Bushfire Industry Recovery Package

The executive put together a package that has some short term gains and also some long term benefits for the industry. One over riding factor for the application was that we had to have matching industry contributions. To that end we submitted a six part submission plus Project Management. Tim Burfitt helped with the submission. The submission was submitted by the University of Sydney on behalf of the industry. This application was put together in less than six weeks to meet the deadline set by the government.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who I contacted for this application. Everybody went out of their way to provide the information requested in a timely manner. A special thanks to Tim Burfitt and Professor Dee Carter from University of Sydney who spent many, many hours on the submission. Fortunately we were able to use some of the Agrifutures project monies as in kind.

The grant monies we requested totalled **$1,942,629** and the in kind contribution was $2,051,550. With a total project value of **$3,994,179.**

Branch One of the application was for DPI to conduct an audit of all NSW government owned land for suitability for being a bee site. Monies requested: $116,000 with $53,000 in kind from DPI.
Rationale: DPI have the mapping expertise and access to state maps and satellite imagery which speeds up the project. Project length: 12 months.

Branch Two: Establishing Pollinator Friendly Plants (Wheen Bee Foundation)
This will also include remote sensing of hives for four beekeepers with training and equipment. Money requested: $184,000 In kind from Wheen Bee Foundation $245,000
Rationale: Wheen Bee Foundation influence in ground planting organisations such as Landcare, etc. Getting multi species planting guides out for the many eco biodiversity regions we have will aid bees in the long term. Wheen Bee Foundation provided over $400,000 of in kind contribution. Project Length: 3 years.

Branch Three: Upskilling Beekeepers (TOCAL)
50% subsidized courses for beekeepers. Money requested: $28,000. In kind from beekeepers of $55,000, Wheen Bee Foundation $238,000. This includes 50% cost of course and also provision of hives for training and also assisting TOCAL with queen breeding courses.
Rationale: Should be obvious. Project length: 2 years.

Branch Four: Safeguarding Honey (CRC WA). This involves coordinating the testing of NSW honey. Also upskilling NMI on the use of their new NMR machine. Analysis will be compared with testing done by Brukker in Germany (they conduct over 100,000 honey sample analysis per annum).

Honey tests to be conducted include:

- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy;
- Palynolgy;
- C4 Sugars;
- HPTLC;
- Near Infrared analysis (NIR being developed with Agrifutures monies) and
- Antioxidants.

Money requested: $142,000 In kind from CRC $245,000, Agrifutures $150,000 and beekeepers $23,000.
Rationale: NSW (and Australian) honey has a very different profile to that found in America, Asia and Europe. Having our honey in the global database will help have less false positives for adulteration. One test alone cannot determine whether honey has been adulterated. Project length: 2 years.

Branch Five: Prebiotic Honey – testing of honey for prebiotic activity. Research project by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) which includes trials.
Money Requested: $392,000. In kind: UTS $254,000, Agrifutures $154,000, University of Sydney $123,000 and beekeepers $35,000.
Rationale: Our climate is changing – hotter, more fires and more droughts. It is highly likely that honey production will decrease. This can be offset by increasing the value of honey. Using science to show that honey is a healthy food will increase the value of honey. This is important to keep beekeeping businesses viable. Project Length: 3.5 years.

Branch Six: Healthy Forests – Healthy Bees – Active Honey. Research project by University of Sydney on non leptospernum active honey. Money Requested: $679,000. In kind: $404,000 University of Sydney and beekeepers $60,000.
Rationale: Same as for Branch Five. Project length: 3.5 years.

Project Management: This is a complex application and will require a project manager to make sure each branch stays on track and to compile returns to government on a regular basis. University of Sydney are the Project Managers. NSWAA executive do not have the time or expertise to Project Manage this. Money Requested: $404,000. In kind: USYD $5,500 and beekeepers $6,000 (application preparation).

Expectations: That beekeepers will support this initiative by providing honey samples for testing and research when asked to do so. It is in our industries best interest.

The Future: I would like to see research priorities as a standing agenda item at our AGM. That way there is industry input to any submission and also the priorities can be fed to Agrifutures – NSW is over 45% of the Australian Honey industry.

Stephen Targett
President

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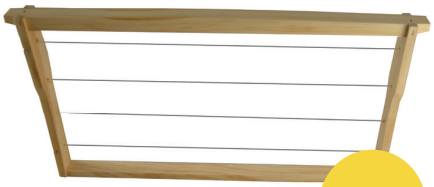

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Assembled Double Groove Frames: $1.65
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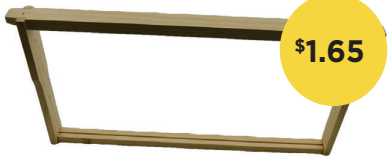

Plastic Frame Full Depth: $2.60
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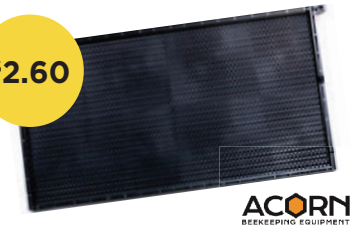

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Box Full Depth 8/10-Frames. Finger Joints, screwed, wax dipped and painted: $33.00
Minimum order quantity = 150

Box Standard Grade Finger Joint 8/10-Frames: $20.00
Minimum order quantity = 150

Box Standard Grade Rebated 8/10-Frames: $17.00
Minimum order quantity = 150

Drone Comb Frames: $2.85
Minimum order quantity = 1000

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Fungicides and their effects on honey bees

The largest migration of livestock in Australia has come and gone despite COVID border restrictions and permitting requirements. A huge thanks must go to the collaboration between AGVIC, AHBIC, Monson's Honey and Pollination, VAA, NSWAA, QBA, QLD Transport and NSW DPI and Health. From the majority of accounts, smooth shifting to and from almond pollination was the norm.

With almond bloom now finished, over 220,000 bee hives, some 6 trillion bees (give or take a few billion), have been transported to "greener pastures." In the case of the honey bee, however, "greener pastures" equates to the next mass flowering event of a crop like avocado, canola, citrus, lucerne, or native, nectar-producing trees like river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), yellow box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) or another gumtree not burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires. Australia's smallest livestock need us to communicate for their benefit on pest control activities given they fly to flowers upwards of two kilometres from their hive.

Figure 1. Honey bees and other insects pollinate 1/3s of the food we eat and do this best in environments free of pest control activities during pollination.

Even pest control agents such as fungicides, which are generally not toxic to adult bees, may have potentially harmful effects when brought back to the hive on pollen or nectar and fed to juvenile bees. Recent published research includes "Combined Toxicity of Insecticides and Fungicides Applied to California Almond Orchards to Honey Bee Larvae and Adults" by Dr. Andrea Wade and others which can be accessed for free here: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6359038/pdf/insects-10-00020.pdf

AgriFutures has also published new factsheets authored by Drs. Katja Hogendoorn and Jay Iwasaki from the University of Adelaide on fungicides and bee health in:

- almonds: www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20-061.pdf
- canola: www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20-060.pdf
- apple and pear: www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20-062.pdf

Fungicides can play a vital role in protecting plants against diseases. However, fungicides should only be used when necessary. Reducing fungicide use lessens their impacts on the environment, human and pollinator health, and the chance that diseases become resistant to fungicides. This will also reduce the grower's cost of using fungicides unnecessarily.

Ideally, when honey bees are contracted into pollination, the grower will not spray any pesticide on the crop, especially not insecticides as bees are insects. If a pesticide such as a fungicide must be sprayed, there are best practices to follow to minimise harm to honey bees.

Figure 2. A honey bee pollen forager on almond blossoms (Photo credit: Alex Russell).

Growers and spray applicators are recommended by the Almond Board of Australia to follow "Honey Bee Best Management Practices for Australian Almonds" found at www.almonds.com:

- Always read the label and follow directions for use.
- Discuss your pesticide plan with your beekeeper and agronomist well before the start of the season to select chemicals that are safe for bees while still achieving effective pest and disease control.

- Before bloom, avoid applying insecticides with extended residual toxicity or systemic insecticides.
- Before, when spray applications are imminent, establish clear lines of communication with all involved in pollination and spraying so that each party is informed in advance of this busy season.
- During bloom, do not use pesticides with cautions on the label that read “dangerous to bees”, “highly toxic to bees,” “toxic to bees,” “residual times” or “extended residual toxicity.” Residual toxicity to bees varies significantly between pesticides and pesticide products, and their impact can last anywhere from hours to a week, or more.
- During bloom, spray fungicides only if essential and only very late afternoon, dusk or during the night, when the bees aren’t active allowing time for the chemical application to dry. Do not spray so late that the fungicide does not have time to dry before bees begin foraging the next day. Avoid tank mixing insecticides with fungicides (unless mixing with Bt).
- Thoroughly clean spray tanks to avoid remnant insecticide contaminating fungicide sprays.
- Surfactants (adjuvants) should not be added to fungicides during bloom, unless stated otherwise on the label. Most fungicides are formulated with adjuvants including wetting agents, spreaders and stickers.
- Advanced warning is mandatory for pesticide products with the statement “dangerous or toxic to bees” on the label. Give beekeepers at least 48 hours but more time is preferable. Bees can only be moved at night and under suitable environmental conditions.
- See the sections on “the flowering process” for guidelines on how to determine whether exposed pollen is present in flowers.
- Ensure bees have access to clean water and cover or remove water sources before spraying and replace with clean water immediately after chemical use.
- Do not spray hives directly with any pesticide. Ensure that the spray-rig driver turns off nozzles when near hives.
- Ensure bees are not foraging in the area to be sprayed and do not hit flying bees with spray applications as the weight of spray droplets on their wings will mean they can’t fly.
- Be sure to avoid pesticide application or spray drift to blooming weeds in or adjacent to the orchard when honey bees are present.
- Notify neighbours when bees will be in the orchard and provide your contact details so they can provide notice before intended sprays.
- After bloom, and once the hives have been removed, it is recommended to check the locations where the hives were kept for bees that may still be foraging.
- Before making insecticide applications outside of the pollination season register each spray event through the BeeConnected App to check for hives in the area and automatically alert beekeepers: www.croplife.org.au/resources/programs/beeconnected/

Remember to keep all parties informed of agricultural sprays according to the communication chain agreed upon so that beekeepers are always aware of impending applications and spray operators are fully informed of the parameters regarding materials, timing, location, climate conditions and method of application.

Figure 3. Fungicide spray application in an almond crop.

Importantly, even if the pesticide label reads "not toxic to bees," any spray application which hits a flying bee prevents the bee from flying because of the weight of spray droplets on their wings. This becomes incredibly important in winter flowering crops such as almonds where temperatures are quite cold through the day and every low wind, high temperature day is important to ensure successful pollination. If fungicides must be applied during bloom, for example, the grower or spray applicator should wait until no bees are flying near dusk or at night as temperatures drop and bees have returned to their hives for the day. This minimises fungicide spray onto bees actively flying, foraging on flowers and doing their job of pollination to ensure the grower has a viable harvest.

Fungicide spray application in any crop, if absolutely necessary, should occur near dusk or overnight at low temperatures when no bees are present on flowers to avoid changes in pollination behaviour and minimise bees bringing back fungicide to the hive which, when fed to juvenile bees could be potentially harmful. Worse yet, when fungicides on one crop mix with insecticides from another nearby crop and are combined inside a honey bee hive, the chemical combination increases the negative impact insecticides have on honey bees, known as a synergistic effect. Ideally, no spray should be applied when bees are actively foraging on a flowering crop to ensure hives are healthy and productive for the next pollination or honey production event.

Media Information

HIVEKEEPERS--AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPED SMART HIVES AND RECORD KEEPING SYSTEM FOR BEEKEEPERS IS A CONTENDER FOR MAJOR USA VENTURE CAPITAL AWARD

A unique record keeping software program for beekeepers developed by a hobby beekeeper on the Mornington Peninsula is a contender for three major awards in a current venture capital recognition and commercialisation project in the United States.

The program known as Hivekeepers has been developed over recent years by hobby beekeeper Simon Mildren who in his day job works as a fire brigade officer.

He says he developed HiveKeepers because beekeepers generally are poor record keepers about the condition and health of their bees and hives.

His HiveKeepers record keeping program has in only a few short years achieved an Australian and international user base

HiveKeepers was chosen for its research into commercialising sensor enabled smart hives as one of thirteen companies globally to participate in the Thrive AgTech Accelerator in Silicon Valley.

Simon believes it has the potential to be the solution of choice for literally hundreds of thousands of beekeepers all around the world.

HiveKeepers is one of thirteen agricultural related companies being evaluated in the AGTECH event sponsored by Thrive by SVG Ventures and Forbes the prestigious US business magazine.

The Thrive Awards being held in Silicon Valley will see the thirteen companies evaluated with the one judged the winner being granted a $US200,000 venture capital award to aid in its further development.

There are two further sections - one for the People's Choice and the second for Sustainability but neither attracts a financial benefit.

The Thrive/Forbes Award winners will be announced on September 24.

Simon Mildren says "it is a real thrill to be able to participate and to expose my HiveKeepers to a significant USA and international audience.

"It would be great to win the $US200,000 new venture capital award but I will be happy just to poll well in the People's Choice section.

"I think there is significant opportunity to further develop my HiveKeepers software and smart hives as a user friendly and first choice solution for beekeepers both commercial and hobbyist in scale to be a full hive monitoring and management platform.

"A venture capital investor would be a great next step in the further development of HiveKeepers."

For more information or interview: Simon Mildren on 0417 543 311 or simon@hivekeepers.com

Or see www.hivekeepers.com or https://www.linkedin.com/in/simonmildren/

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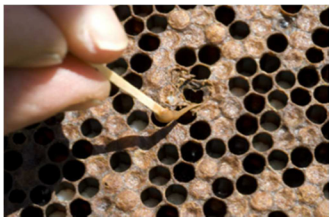
AMERICAN FOULBROOD – WHAT YOU MUST DO IN NSW

THE SITUATION

American foulbrood (AFB) is the most serious disease of honey bees in Australia. It is caused by a bacterium called *Paenibacillus larvae* which survives as spores throughout the hive and infects young larvae. AFB is always fatal, resulting in collapse of the colony.



There is no cure for AFB. Treatment with antibiotics is illegal in NSW and will not cure AFB but rather enable further spread of the disease around the state and contribute to infection of other beekeeping operations.

AFB is particularly insidious because beekeepers who practice a high standard of disease management can be impacted when other beekeepers place infected hives nearby. The effect on the beekeeper is devastating as an infected hive will die causing significant financial burden and psychological impacts on the beekeeper and their family.

WHAT YOU MUST DO

If you detect AFB in a hive then you have a General Biosecurity Duty under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 to implement the following control measures. You must not deal with AFB in any other manner.

CONTROL MEASURES

Upon detection of American Foulbrood within a hive the beekeeper must:

1. Where there is a present risk of robbing from that hive (e.g. a "dead out" hive or a weak colony):	**2. Where there is no immediate risk of robbing from that hive (e.g. the hive contains a strong colony of bees):**
(a) Immediately euthanize any surviving colony in the hive; and (b) Immediately seal* the hive so that it is bee proof; and (c) Isolate the hive from the apiary; and (d) Not allow the hive or any of its components to be exposed to bees until such time as the hive and its components have been treated by gamma irradiation at a rate of 10KGy and/or full immersion in paraffin wax at not less than 160C for at least ten minutes. *the hive may be sealed at step 1(a) if killing with petrol.	(a) Euthanize any colony of bees within the hive **within 7 days or as soon as there is a risk of robbing** (whichever is sooner); and then (b) Immediately seal the hive so that it is bee proof; and (c) Isolate the hive from the apiary; and (d) Not allow the hive or any of its components or affected appliances to be exposed to bees until such time as the hive and its components have been treated by gamma irradiation at a rate of 10KGy and/or full immersion in paraffin wax at not less than 160C for at least ten minutes.

NOTIFY NSW DPI OF AFB WITHIN 1 WORKING DAY OF DETECTION BY CALLING 1800 680 244 and press option 2.

bee proof eliminating bee access to the affected appliances, hive and hive components including honey that may leak from the hive.
detection means 1) observation of symptoms that are consistent with American Foulbrood disease or 2) a positive diagnostic test for the bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae* from the NSW DPI or another laboratory that is run by an equivalent jurisdictional government or 3) a positive reading from a Vita AFB Diagnostic Test Kit.
robbing means the process by which a bee enters a hive occupied by a colony other than its own and removes material from that hive.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- If the beekeeper chooses to destroy the hive or parts thereof, they must ensure that the hive and any remnants present after destruction cannot be exposed to bees (e.g. bury the waste to a depth of at least 30cm). Acceptable destruction methods include incineration and deep burial.
- Any supers that are removed from the infected hive for honey extraction are a component of the infected hive. As such, any supers must be treated in the same way at the rest of the infected hive including being made bee proof as soon as they are removed from the hive and not exposed to bees until treated as above.
- Beekeepers who knowingly ignore disease, or who use illegal or ineffective measures to treat AFB (for example treatment with antibiotics) are in breach of their General Biosecurity Duty and are liable for regulatory action.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information visit the NSW DPI website or contact the NSW Bee Biosecurity Officers:
Rod Bourke (rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au or 0438 677 195) and Mark Page (mark.page@dpi.nsw.gov.au or 0409 299 415).

DOB-IN-A-DEAD-OUT by calling 1800 680 244 and press option 2

NSW GOVERNMENT

dpi.nsw.gov.au

October is AFB Awarenes

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AMERICAN FOULBROO
IN AUSTRALIA

NOTIFY WHERE ?

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PRIMARY
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AFB VISIT www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity-bees

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741 4790

Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW

NSW Apiarists Association Inc

STERITECH
Protecting what matters

NSBKA
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BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER REPORT

Rod Bourke - NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer
NSW Department of Primary Industries - Biosecurity NSW
Tocal Ag College, Tocal Rd Paterson NSW 2320
Ph: 02 4939 8946 Mob: 0438 677 195 Email: rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au

AFB and barrier systems

With October being AFB Awareness Month it is a good time for all beekeepers to do a self-assessment of their operation and determine how they may be able to improve their resilience to managing and quickly recovering from an AFB outbreak.

Earlier this year I was contacted by two beekeepers both suffering sizeable AFB outbreaks. Whilst these beekeepers were two completely separate operators they had a number of things in common, the most important being that they both ran very good single hive barrier systems. Another similarity was that they both believed very strongly that they were "lit up", that their AFB outbreaks were primarily caused by their bees robbing the premises, equipment or hives of another operator.

One beekeeper had over 20 hives in a load of 100 with AFB and the other had unfortunately discovered more than 80 in a load of ~140. For both these beekeepers the economic impact of this disease outbreak was significant, because hives were in the process of or had already been split and made into demarie singles for almond pollination when the disease was discovered. This infection then immediately ruled out a lot of hives which would definitely never be available for next season's pollination contracts (as they were already toast), plus with such heavy outbreaks the rest of the load would now be suspected of having AFB too.

The more of this you see the less it may frighten you, but don't get complacent and think its ok and just needs a bit of antibiotic to sort it out (for now)! Please have a legally acceptable system in place that prevents its spread within you operatio and those of others around you.

For some operators it must seem that it's now not worth running barrier systems as you still get AFB, but that is actually somewhat inaccurate. ALL beekeepers can get AFB, but only ones using a good barrier system will quickly get on top of it and STOP it from spreading any further into their operation. It is actually amazing how quickly a good barrier system stops AFB!

A lot of operators are not set up with a barrier system and as such they can never fully clean up their AFB. Unfortunately a lot of beekeepers also think that they could never change their beekeeping ways, and are not prepared to make MAJOR CHANGES and switch to the appropriate barrier system required for the situation. But for progressive beekeepers wanting to sleep better at night (not worrying so much about AFB) and insulating their business cash flows against being decimated by AFB, many have actually been bold and made the decision to change (even before getting a major AFB hit).

There are generally a few initial hurdles in learning a new system, but once they get their barrier system set up and operating smoothly they vow never to go back to the old ways, as they can see the major benefits and improved profitability obtained from having better bee biosecurity.

Both of the affected beekeepers mentioned previously are quite certain that their bees robbed out a sizeable honey source to cause these infections. The loads had been quite clean for years, previous honey culture tests were all negative for AFB and their spring and summer brood checks (both loads already had had two checks that season) were clear. There was no prior history of an AFB problem brewing in either of these apiaries and each hive had been operated as a single barrier for a very long time, so the beekeepers had not been propagating AFB by frequently swapping boxes and frames between multiple hives.

The fact is that AFB is generally spread in one of two ways, with the initial infection often caused by bees robbing unprotected honey or infected colonies (managed, neglected/unmanaged or feral) to physically bring AFB spores back home. This is either externally (on their bodies) or internally (via the ingested honey), of which a portion will ultimately end up being deposited in honey/pollen stores and fed directly to larval bees. It may be days, weeks, months or even years after that robbing event that hives consume these spores, which is

why regularly removing old brood combs is an effective method of minimizing AFB outbreaks.

Inspecting brood is very important, especially if you want to find AFB whilst still in its early stages and therefore stop its spread later from bees robbing weak or already dead hives.

The second cause is that it is physically introduced into the hive by the beekeeper adding potentially "infectious" material such as bees and brood, frames, boxes or other equipment that contains AFB spores. A lot of operations do this for years without a problem, but as soon as AFB arrives their luck has just run out and it is the start of a major problem.

For beekeepers running good barrier systems their main threat of catching AFB is only from the first pathway, whilst for beekeepers not running any barrier system (and keeping poor records and therefore being unable to trace the movement of equipment between hives) they are very vulnerable as they can pick up and then further spread AFB through both processes. Not using a barrier system means that you can easily propagate more AFB within your operation (and especially so if you also use antibiotics which can mask its presence), so you will always have trouble cleaning up your internal AFB problem. In some cases a previously acquired AFB infection from 20-30+ years ago could still be living and thriving within the same operation and regularly cropping up, simply because there are no processes in place to slow and contain its internal movements between hives inside the boxes/frames/equipment/bees and so can go anywhere and everywhere.

Whilst the worldwide COVID situation is tragic it has effectively illustrated just how rapidly an infection can spread, and whilst AFB is not considered nearly as infectious it can still escalate without barriers to its movement being put in place. It often takes many hundreds of thousands or more likely millions of spores initially going into a hive to cause that first infection of AFB, but once it is established within an operation (infected cells appearing routinely in different colonies) then it becomes far easier for it to spread (an infected cell can contain 2.5 BILLION AFB spores) and far more EFFORT is required to control it and eradicate it. Having a process already established within your operation to prevent it spreading (from a newly infected hive) is far better (and more profitable) than curing a widespread internal infection some time later.

So whilst these two beekeepers discovered big new infections breaking out in loads of bees they were able to very quickly eradicate the hives with the infection as they killed and burned the affected bees/brood frames, stop the risk of any further spread by irradiating all equipment associated with those hives (all boxes associated with each hive are already clearly marked in these operations) and monitor all other hives associated with the infected loads to manage slower developing infections that may show up later.

Some beekeepers like to irradiate and reuse brood frames associated with AFB hives instead of burning them. A few points here are;

1. Do not reuse frames that have been exposed to petrol (wax may absorb toxic chemicals). Hive would need to be killed by an alternate approved methods such as soapy water/freezing etc. to avoid potential contamination issues that may affect brood or hive health.
2. frames containing dead brood need to be kept in cool storage or sent for irradiation very quickly to minimise wax moth or small hive beetle infestation and damage. These frames of dead brood would then need to be cleaned up on strong hives to avoid SHB attack.
3. frames should be thoroughly inspected upon return from irradiation (when sterilized and completely safe to handle without spreading AFB spores) to remove ones showing clinical signs of AFB (infected cells and scale), to avoid a future false positive for AFB if the bees do not clean it up. Plastic foundation can be scraped back to remove most of these signs, whereas wax frames are often best used as honey frames or melted down/destroyed. Some mark top bars to identify irradiated brood frames.

You can reuse brood combs from AFB hives but these extra steps can make it uneconomical or unattractive for some beekeepers, who prefer to just burn them, whilst others routinely reuse them.

Using the single hive barrier system has enabled these operators to quickly deal with the outbreak and therefore sleep easier at night knowing that most of that AFB problem has already been eradicated and their risk of spreading it any further has been minimised.

The beekeeper contemplates his handiwork! These stacks consist of 2 boxes of bees/brood and 3 of honey from multiple (~80) sorted AFB hives and will be separated for extraction/burning and irradiation in 1-2 days. Big job, but a thorough and efficient way to process a large AFB outbreak and stop it's spread.

Beekeepers not using barrier systems have absolutely no way of establishing effective infection control in their hives (unless they go straight to a single hive barrier and work hard to contain it) and so a new infection may exist within their operation for years (or decades) and continue to pop up here and there. Randomly irradiating truckloads of honey supers has some benefit, but it is extremely costly (as opposed to irradiating just the 4-5 boxes associated with an individual AFB hive) and loses all benefit as soon as the boxes/gear start getting swapped between hives again.

There are many operators out there who run load barriers (sharing boxes within an entire load) who do full brood checks before they pull any honey, so if there is a problem they may (potentially) see it and not put that box back out again without irradiating it first. Whilst this can reduce the risk of spreading AFB slightly it is still nowhere near as effective as never sharing that box with another hive, and even more importantly when the honey is really on you are not wasting precious days on brood inspections that could instead be used on extracting and putting boxes back out onto bees again. A lot of honey can be made by being quick when it is really on, or lost because you were too slow getting back to them!

There are many who are very quick to criticise barrier systems (even though they have probably never operated a good one themselves) and say that they are "too slow" or that "you need too many boxes" etc. But for anyone who has already stared at AFB's threat to destroy their business would know, as soon as you start getting a prolonged AFB outbreak and spend days and weeks trying to control it (often it seems with little success) and nights and nights of troubled sleep worrying about it, you will wish there was a better way. There is: it's called a single hive barrier system and I would encourage all beekeepers to consider using one. For assistance in establishing one for your operation please contact me.

And for all those extra boxes the barrier system beekeepers "need"…when that big flow comes along those guys aren't rushing around madly extracting boxes from one load to frantically put on the next one…they have all the boxes already there, they are all on and able to collect that bumper honey crop (instead of missing that rare opportunity of a big honey flow) and their business is becoming far more profitable day by day.

No beekeeper is immune to catching AFB, but some beekeepers can very easily stop it in its tracks whilst others will never clear it up and it continually drags them down. Which beekeeper are you now and which do you want to be after getting a good dose of AFB? You can start a barrier system anytime (especially when your hives are already loaded with boxes). Please contact me if you need assistance with troubleshooting and especially with enabling every single extracted frame to go right back into the very same box afterwards.

HONEY BEE VENOM DESTROYED BREAST CANCER CELLS

Honeybee Venom Destroyed Breast Cancer Cells: Study

A compound in bee venom can destroy cancer cell membranes within 60 minutes

By Amy McGorry | Fox News

Venom from honeybees rapidly destroyed triple-negative breast cancer, a type of cancer that has limited treatment options, and HER2-enriched breast cancer cells, according to a study published in the journal npj Precision Oncology. Using the venom from over 300 honeybees and bumblebees in England, Ireland and Perth, Western Australia, Dr. Ciara Duffy from the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research and The University of Western Australia, tested the effect of the venom on the clinical subtypes of breast cancer, according to the news release. "The venom was extremely potent," Duffy said in the release.

The study investigated the anti-cancer properties of the venom in honeybees and melittin, the "active component of honeybee venom" according to the published study on different types of breast cancer cells.

Melittin and honeybee venom were studied for their anti-cancer properties and showed they decreased the viability of triple-negative breast cancer cells and HER2-enriched breast cancer cells, Dr.Ciara Duffy said in her study.

"We found both honeybee venom and melittin significantly, selectively and rapidly reduced the viability of triple-negative breast cancer and HER2-enriched breast cancer cells," Duffy said in the release.

Duffy explained in the release of the compound, melittin, also had positive results. "We tested a very small, positively charged peptide in honeybee venom called melittin, which we could reproduce synthetically, and found that the synthetic product mirrored the majority of the anti-cancer effects of honeybee venom."

Duffy said the study showed melittin not only destroyed cancer cells but also reduced the cancer cells' chemical messages that enable the cancer to divide and proliferate within 20 minutes. "We found that melittin can completely destroy cancer cell membranes within 60 minutes."

"We looked at how honeybee venom and melittin affect the cancer signaling pathways, the chemical messages that are fundamental for cancer cell growth and reproduction, and we found that very quickly these signaling pathways were shut down." Duffy said in the release.

The melittin was also tested to see if it could be used in conjunction with current chemotherapy drugs. Melittin forms pores in the cancer cell membranes which could potentially help the entry of other treatments into the cancer cell, to help destroy the cancer, according to the press release.

"We found that melittin can be used with small molecules or chemotherapies, such as docetaxel, to treat highly-aggressive types of breast cancer. The combination of melittin and docetaxel was extremely efficient in reducing tumor growth in mice."

Professor Peter Klinken, Western Australia's chief scientist, said in the release, "This is an incredibly exciting observation that melittin, a major component of honeybee venom, can suppress the growth of deadly breast cancer cells, particularly triple-negative breast cancer."

Klinken also said, "It provides another wonderful example of where compounds in nature can be used to treat human diseases."

Duffy also stated the type of bee was particular to her findings. "I found that the European honeybee in Australia, Ireland and England produced almost identical effects in breast cancer compared to normal cells.

However, bumblebee venom was unable to induce cell death even at very high concentrations."

The release said future studies are needed to formally assess the best method of providing melittin, as well as maximum tolerated doses and potential toxicities.

https://www.foxnews.com/health/honeybee-venom-destroyed-breast-cancer

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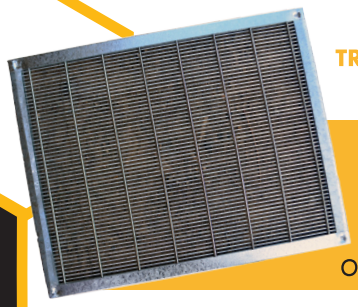

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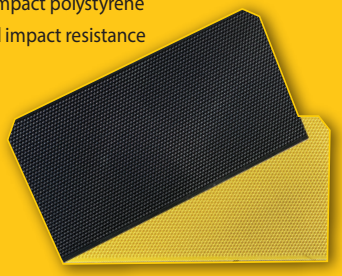

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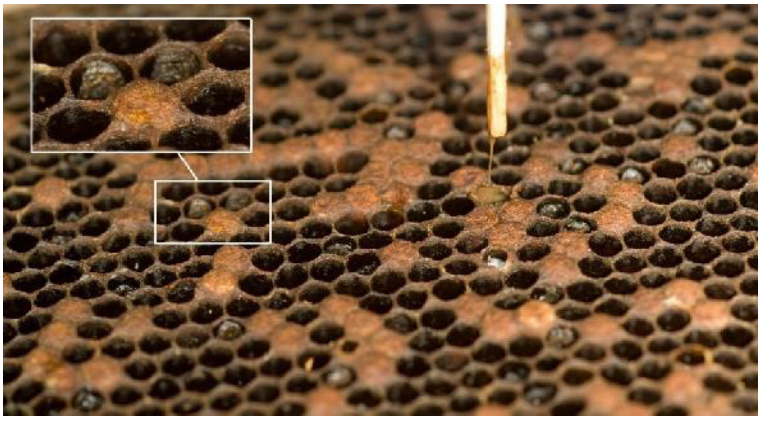

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Please contact us about any inspirational ideas you have

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STERITECH NSW
Jamie Crighton
National Business Development Manager
Tel: 02 8785 4400
Email: jcrighton@steritech.com.au

STERITECH QLD
Glenn Robertson
QLD General Manager
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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

Full newsletter available from http://honeybee.org.au

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM

Are you supporting AHBIC? There is still some confusion out there about how to support AHBIC financially. There is the mistaken belief that the honey levy, which is a statutory levy, somehow finds its way to AHBIC. This is not true. AHBIC is funded only by voluntary contributions from beekeepers, honey packers and some others who want to support the work that AHBIC does. I would like to thank those who do support AHBIC financially. You will see a list of them in this newsletter. There are a few who are also financially supporting AHBIC but don't want their name published and we respect this. Thanks also to them.

AHBIC does work on behalf of the whole industry. A lot of beekeepers who do not financially support AHBIC benefit and some even ask AHBIC to do work on their behalf. Some issues that come to mind are those wanting foreign workers and those challenging the New Zealand effort to trademark manuka.

Most State Associations are in the same boat where beekeepers benefit from their work but many are not members. The recent work that has been done to make sure that beekeepers and those associated with the almond pollination were able to get hives in and out of almonds is a classic example of how beekeepers benefitted by the work of the national working group, in particular the work done by the State Associations. Some beekeepers complained to AHBIC that they were not receiving information about border permits and when asked if they were a member of their State Association they said no as they did not want to pay the membership fees. The membership fees are a small price to pay for the amount of work that was done on their behalf to get their hives in and out of almond pollination.

So how about becoming a Friend of AHBIC and make a financial contribution and also join up with your State Association.

As you read this most hives will now have come out of the almonds. Another successful year of pollination. So when you are munching on an almond think of the bees that made this possible.

The national working group to assist in the movement of bees in and out of almond pollination has met 8 times and has been a very good initiative. It has allowed all parties i.e. beekeepers, State Associations, Government officers and brokers to come together. Thank you to all those involved and in particular Brett Harrison, from the Victorian Department, for making this possible.

After the bush fires and the drought conditions, beekeepers were concerned that they may not be able to get their hives up to strength to be able to pollinate the almonds. With support by way of sugar and protein supplements supplied by the various State Governments and the skill and tenacity of the beekeepers, the hive strength was acceptable. The number of hives required was down about 5% but this is an excellent result when you look back at the hardships the beekeepers endured.

Despite a few hiccups with Government changing permit criteria overnight, the movement of the hives across the State borders went well. The two border crossings between New South Wales and Victoria that were used, Tooleybuc and Euston, were negotiated without incident due to prior conversations with the staff involved.

With the border restrictions that have been put in place due to Covid-19, the State Associations have been doing an excellent job in making sure that beekeepers are able to move across the borders. From the Federal perspective the Agriculture Minister has been charged with developing a national agricultural policy for the movement of farmers and workers across State borders. AHBIC has been in contact with the Minister on this issue and hopefully a national policy will come out of this.

Michael Clarke has prepared a document on the response to the bush fires. It can be seen at https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20-057_digital.pdf and a summary at https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20-063.pdf This has been sent to Minister Littleproud and a meeting will be held with the Minister this coming week.

So finally, I would urge you to become a Friend of AHBIC and contribute financially if you are not already doing so.

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