



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Address: Suite 204, Level 2, 105 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Telephone: 02 9221 0911
Mailing Address: PO Box R838, Royal Exchange NSW 1225 Facsimile: 02 9221 0922
Email Address: ahbic@honeybee.org.au Website: www.honeybee.org.au
ABN 63 939 614 424

AUSTRALIAN HONEY INDUSTRY MONTHLY REVIEW

To: The Australian Honey Industry
From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director
Re: February 2009 Update

AB's Honey
Australian Honey Products
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Capilano Honey Limited
Dewar Apiaries
Honey DownUnder
H L & H M Hoskinson
I N & JE Mills
Pollination Association of WA

Saxonbee Enterprises
Spring Gully Goods Pty Ltd
Stephens, R
Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association
Tasmanian Honey Company
Walkabout Apiaries
T & M Weatherhead
Weerona Apiaries
Wescobee Limited

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer and queen bee supplier to AHBIC. We also urge beekeepers to support those packers/queen bee breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

**Does your honey buyer's or queen bee supplier's name appear on this list?
If not, then ask 'why not?'**

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR INDUSTRY!

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DULUX PAINT DEAL

We have struck a deal with Dulux to enable apiarists to obtain a significant commercial discount on paint purchased through Dulux. Details of the arrangement are as follows:

Members will be able to purchase a range of Dulux Paints from the network of Dulux Trade Stores (only) at TRADE prices by quoting the ONE Account Number namely **89965** together with their Beekeeper's Registration Number. If you don't have a registration number you can use your vehicle registration. Additionally, Dulux/AHBIC discount cards will be distributed shortly to industry members.

Please note the discount is only available at Dulux trade stores. This is a great discount for industry, but only if you use it!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AHBIC AGM will be held on Sunday 12 & Monday 13 July 2009 at the Penrith Panthers Club, Mulgoa Road, Penrith. Penrith is approximately 55 minutes west of Sydney. Accommodation is available at the Chifley (which adjoins the club). Phone: 02 4721 7700 or Email: reservations.penrith@chifleyhotels.com (be sure to say you are attending the Apiarists' Conference).

There are a large number of motels and other accommodation in the surrounding area. For details contact: Penrith Valley Visitor Information Centre on Phone: 1300 736 836 or 02 4732 7671, Website: www.penrithvalley.com.au or Email: pentour@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

2009 CONFERENCE DATES

FCAAA	Queensland Beekeepers Association	Cairns	2/3 July
	New South Wales Apiarists Association	Sydney	9/10 July
	Tasmanian Beekeepers Association		29/30 May
	WA Farmers Federation- Beekeeping Section		5/6 June
	South Australian Apiarists Association		11/12 June
	Victorian Apiarists Association		23/24 June

Honey Packers and Marketers Association			TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations			12 July
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association			End of May
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	Sydney	12/13 July	
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations	Sydney	12 July	

INVESTMENT TAX BREAK FOR AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES

The Government announced on 3 February 2009 an investment tax break for Australian businesses.

Businesses can claim an additional **30 per cent** tax deduction for eligible assets acquired from 13 December 2008 to 30 June 2009, and installed by 30 June 2010.

For eligible assets which are acquired from 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2009, a **10 per cent** deduction can be claimed where those eligible assets are installed by 31 December 2010.

A **small business** is one with turnover of \$2 million a year or less and need to spend \$1,000 or more on eligible assets.

All **other businesses** with turnover in excess of \$2 million can receive the same deduction for eligible assets costing greater than \$10,000.

Eligible assets?

Eligible assets are depreciating assets and new expenditure on existing assets used in carrying on a business.

Land and trading stock do not qualify for the deduction.

Claiming the deduction

The deduction is on top of the usual depreciation claimable for an asset.

The deduction is claimed in the income tax return in the year in which the asset is installed ready for use.

Examples

A courier company enters into a contract to acquire a delivery van costing \$40,000 on 30 April 2009. The van is delivered and ready for use on 29 June 2009. The company is entitled to claim a \$12,000 (ie \$40,000 x 30%) allowance as a tax deduction in their 2009 tax return.

The same company enters into a contract to purchase a new booking system on 30 November 2009 costing \$65,000. This system is installed in March 2010. The company is entitled to claim a \$6,500 (ie \$65,000 x 10%) allowance as a tax deduction in their 2010 tax return.

As yet, this incentive initiative has not been legislated and therefore it is not possible to analyse the provisions in detail.

Should you have any questions in relation to these tax incentives and their applicability to your business please contact your accountant or financial advisor.

We reproduce the following article courtesy of "About the House", The House of Representatives magazine, for the interest and education of members:

BEE PROTECTION CRUCIAL FOR FOOD SECURITY

Australia's food security could be at risk unless urgent action is taken to protect and enhance Australia's small but vital honey bee industry.

Warning that a loss of honeybees would significantly damage Australian agriculture, the House of Representatives Primary Industries Committee has proposed a range of measures to support the honey bee industry, including the establishment of a new honey bee quarantine facility and \$50 million per annum for bio-security measures and industry research.

The committee has made 25 recommendations in its new report - *More than honey* - which follows a lengthy investigation into a number of threats facing the honey bee industry, particularly an imminent incursion of a bee-killing mite called *Varroa destructor*.

This mite has already wiped out honey bee populations around the world, with devastating losses to a wide range of crops dependent on honey bees for pollination.

Many industry experts warn it's only a matter of time before Varroa arrives in Australia. As honey bees directly contribute to between four and six billion dollars worth of agricultural production, the impact could be immense, with estimates that the first year of a Varroa incursion could cost the Australian economy almost \$2 billion.

Tabling the report in parliament, committee chair Dick Adams (Member for Lyons, Tas) said the honey bee industry is vital to the future of Australian agriculture.

"Honey bees pollinate many of the crops we rely on for food. Without bees, many horticultural industries would not be viable and the nation's food security would be at risk," Mr Adams said.

Deputy chair Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW) warned "at worst, the world could run out of food within five years of the Varroa mite reaching Australia".

"It is a question of when, not if," Mr Schultz said. "Australia's physical separation from the rest of the world and strict quarantine regime has worked to protect us for a long time. But the Varroa mite has been in New Zealand for several years and it is only a matter of time before we see it here.

"This report suggests how we might best prepare for the inevitability of this threat."

According to Mr Adams, the recommendations in the report, if adopted by government, will help the honey bee industry move forward, particularly in further developing its pollination services, which are in growing demand.

"The importance of pollination in Australia is being seen more and more. The industry is starting to grow. Some beekeepers now have half honey and half pollination services, and this will continue to change and grow as more markets become available," he said.

Welcoming the report, the chairman of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council's quarantine and disease committee, Lindsay Bourke said he felt quite emotional when it was tabled, because at last someone was listening.

"It is a comprehensive, detailed examination of the industry and its crucial role in maintaining the viability of much of Australian agriculture," he said.

"Key recommendations dealing with measures to combat the introduction of the *Varroa destructor* mite are not only welcomed by the apiary industry, but should be welcomed by all Australians."

Mr Bourke said the current sentinel hive program is inadequate and would do nothing to prevent the spread of infected bees from overseas.

"If we get Varroa in the sentinel hives it means we've got it, and it's too late," he said.

“No country in the world has been able to eradicate it after it has come in. What we urgently need is a national bait hive program, so if a swarm comes in on an overseas ship it will go to the bait hives, which we then close up and put in a freezer.”

Queen bee breeder and organic honey producer from Queensland, Paula Dewar agrees that more needs to be done.

“Basically what’s happening now is that there’s no budget and no business plan. This report -if it’s taken up - can only assist the industry.”

She’s also pleased with recommendations for better product standards and labelling of honey, saying that only recently honey with chemical residue imported from China was being re-packaged and labelled “product of Australia”.

Recognising the importance of access to floral resources, the report calls for the federal government to work with state and territory governments to establish guidelines for beekeeper access to public lands and leasehold lands including national parks.

It also recommends the establishment of a national centre for honey bee and pollination industry research, training and extension.

“While we are tabling this report in the hope that its recommendations will be promptly adopted and actively pursued, there is a history of reports being shelved, or of only one or two recommendations being taken up by governments of all persuasions,” Alby Schultz told parliament.

“We do not need another review or another committee. We need action.”

THE GOODACRE AWARD - GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATIONS

The Goodacre award was created to perpetuate the memory of the late Bill Goodacre. Bill provided 35 years of meritorious service to the beekeeping industry in his employ within the NSW Department of Agriculture.

The award has historically been recognised as the peak national award bestowed upon individuals who have equally provided significant service to the Australian beekeeping industry.

Nominations can be submitted by individuals. A nomination must have six supporters who are willing to provide evidence preferably in the form of a support letter or reference on the merits of the nomination.

The person coordinating the nomination should compile a citation of the nominee’s attributes clearly providing evidence of the reasons why the nominee should receive the award.

The submissions should be written with the presumption that the committee making the decision does not have a complete prior knowledge of the nominees’ achievements.

The whole process is confidential and any persons other than the referees should not be made aware of the proposed nomination.

Referee reports should be submitted to the Goodacre award secretary. A committee of three comprising the President of the NSW Apiarists Association, Chairman of AHBIC and the Chief Apiary Officer in NSW will make the decision.

This panel is accountable to the Australian Beekeeping Industry and as such the citation associated with any award is required to clearly reflect the depth and commitment to the beekeeping industry of the nominated person or organisation. In other words the award will not be granted to persons unless the committee is satisfied the nominee is of an extremely high calibre.

For further clarification or information on the process contact the Secretary, Dr Doug Somerville, NSW DPI, Technical Specialist Honey Bees. doug.somerville@dpi.nsw.gov.au or phone: 02 4828 6619.

NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY

2007-2008 – Summary of results

OVERVIEW

The National Residue Survey (NRS) was originally established in 1961 to measure pesticide residues in exported meat. Today, NRS has expanded to test for residues of agricultural and veterinary chemicals and environmental contaminants in 25 animal products including meat products, honey, eggs, wild caught fish and aquaculture products, 20 grains, pulses and oilseeds, and five horticultural products.

NRS operates on full cost recovery and is funded principally by levies from participating industries. The Australian Government provides funding for national and international residue commitments that provide benefits for the community, for industry and for government programmes. In 2007-2008, total expenses for NRS were \$11,537 million, out of which \$0.478 million was provided by the government. For more details see our website: www.daff.gov.au/nrs

Honey Results

During the reporting period, 226 honey samples were subject to 1,440 analyses in all, including those for antibiotics and environmental metals. All samples conformed to Australian standards.

LEVIES EXPLAINED

Overview

Australian farm businesses are world leaders in production efficiency, sustainability, product quality, innovation and the ability to supply, and respond to, market needs.

The Australian Government and the agriculture industry recognise the importance of coordination to ensure these results benefit individuals and the industry as a whole.

Effective use of primary industry levies and charges can greatly assist producers. By pooling their effort and resources, industries can work together to find solutions to priority issues.

Many of Australia's traditional primary industries strongly value the levy system and the support it provides for research and development, promotion and marketing, residue testing, plant and animal health programs.

The system has enabled established industries to maintain their standing in highly competitive world market. Smaller and emerging industries also value the benefits of industry cooperation and resource sharing.

The government's role, through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, is to liaise with industries that want a levy system and to implement an effective collection system at minimum cost.

How are levies and charges used?

Activities funded by levies and charges include R&D, marketing and promotion, plant and animal health programs and residue testing for levy paying industries. For information on these activities, access the relevant recipient body's website at: www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/levies/industry.

More information on Levies Revenue Service

For more information about the services we provide visit our website www.daff.gov.au/levies.

To order the LRS business plan and report to stakeholders call **1800 020 619**

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is calling for applications under the *Primary Industries Youth Development Fund*. The fund offers support for projects to improve the leadership and representative capacity of young people entering or involved in primary industries, particularly in the context of the challenges and opportunities in these industries as a result of a changing climate. The fund is a part of the government's *Australian Farming Future* initiative. **The grant round is now open and closes 5.00pm AEST, Monday, 2 March 2009.**

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to support activities that aim to:

- Build and share knowledge and experience
- Increase access to planning tools and resources
- Develop leadership and management skills
- Develop pathways to increase participation in primary industries
- Develop skills to contribute more effectively to government and industry decision making
- Build networks among rural, regional and remote Australians.

These activities could be conducted via workshop, seminars, conferences or industry events or through other innovative mechanisms.

The department does not use a single definition of a 'young person'. However, in assessing applications, priority will be given to activities which focus on the 18-25 age group and activities for people aged 15-30 will be considered. Applications targeting young women, young Indigenous Australians and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

For information about the *Primary Industries Youth Development Fund* grants round, or to apply, visit www.daff.gov.au/youthfund or email youthfund@daff.gov.au. You can also contact the *Australian's Farming Future* hotline on 1800 638 746

ASIAN HONEY BEE UPDATE

There was a telephone hook-up yesterday, 6 February, 2009 in which QBA President Rodney Ruge and I participated.

The weather has been wet, to say the least, in the Cairns area. There have been no cerana seen on any of the feeding stations since 22 January. There are mellifera. I could speculate that maybe the nest was flooded out but on the other hand it could be that the cerana are not foraging. The surveillance and feeding stations will still be maintained. The creeks are still flooded and the headlands around the cane areas are water logged.

Surveillance has commenced back in the Cairns town area but how long it takes will be governed by the weather.

Testing of the managed hives with acaricide strips within the RA has commenced but and will be finished as the weather permits.

Testing of the bees from IP18 revealed no mites and about 6,000 bees in the nest. Micro satellite work will now be carried out by QDPI&F and will be done soon.

We have not heard any results from the QDPI&F application for help with funding the surveillance.

Trevor Weatherhead