#### MPI/PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

# SAMPLING CONCLUDES FOR NZ'S BIGGEST EVER **BEE STUDY**

Media release from Ministry for Primary Industries, 11 March 2019

Biosecurity New Zealand has completed sampling for the largest and most detailed study of honey bee health ever undertaken in New Zealand.

More than 60 beekeepers have participated in the Bee Pathogen Programme and had their hives tested every 6 months for 2 and a half years.

Biosecurity New Zealand senior scientist, Dr Richard Hall, says the research will provide a wealth of valuable information to the beekeeping industry.

"The Bee Pathogen Programme will help us better understand the effect that diseases, climate and apiary management practices have on colony losses and productivity," he says.

"We have completed sampling and our experts have begun carefully evaluating the huge amount of data that has been collected.

"This includes studying more than 130,000 honey bees from 300 samples taken throughout the country that are now archived in Biosecurity New Zealand's freezers.

"Once the data has been carefully evaluated it will be available to the beekeeping industry and to researchers for further analysis."

Biosecurity New Zealand is aiming to release its conclusions from the Bee Pathogen Programme in late 2019.

Dr Hall says Biosecurity New Zealand is grateful to the beekeepers who participated in the research programme and the inspectors who conducted the fieldwork.

"We are very thankful to all of the beekeepers who have participated in the programme and allowed us access to their hives for sampling."

### ALL ABOUT THE

**Biosecurity New Zealand** 

## **BEE PATHOGEN PROGRAMME**

The largest and most detailed study of honey bee health ever undertaken in New Zealand. It will help us better understand the effect that diseases, climate and apiary management practices have on colony loss and productivity.



### 132,100 Bees archived in our freezer,

2,595

16,300

diagnostic testing

15

taken from all over New Zealand, including Chatham Island, Great Barrier Island and Stewart Island

Beehive lids lifted for inspection

and sampling. Representing every

region of New Zealand. The hives

were checked each spring and autumn, over 2.5 years

Bees counted out by hand using

tweezers, in preparation for





1,693 Hours spent looking inside beehives, doing inspections, and collecting bees

51,024 Kilometres travelled between apiaries

### 652 Boxes and bottles of bees shipped from the 85 participating apiaries, back to our labs

4,235

100%

Positive feedback from beekeepers who participated in

the research programme

Diagnostic tests performed using

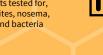
microscopy and DNA-based molecular methods



31,344 Datapoints collected representing

For more information visit: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/readiness/bee-pathogen-programme/

New Zealand Government February 2019



over 180 years of apiary data

