



1 November 2022

Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – Week Ending 26/10/2022

The detection of *Varroa destructor* in Newcastle on the 22nd June 2022 has created much anxiety within the Australian beekeeping industry. In an effort to streamline our communications to our members the QBA will now offer weekly updates to our members and affiliate clubs giving insight into our current areas of focus.

We actively encourage all beekeepers to undertake varroa mite surveillance activities on managed hives and report the results (including negative results) to the Bee 123 portal. For more information on the Bee 123 portal please click [here](#).

Weekly Update 26th October 2022

Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	351
Total Hives checked	3106
Total hives reported	11492
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	253
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	94
Mites found or suspected	0

Bundaberg Pollination Event Varroa Mite Surveillance:

**Surveillance activities: alcohol wash, drone uncapping and frame inspection.*

Total Apiaries/Beekeepers tested:	8
Total Hives Inspected:	224
Total Hives Present at surveillance locations:	2413
Total No. locations/properties surveyed:	8

Key Points:

- Biosecurity Instrument Permits for movement into in Qld of beehive supers for extraction, used hives for irradiation and apiary equipment and PPE from the NSW GEZ ('Blue Zone') have been developed and are being issued.
 - Permit conditions and information have been added to the [DAF E-Hub](#)
- Permit applications to date (since 9/9/2022):
 - 36 applications received
 - 23 permits issued

- 5 not approved
 - 7 in progress
 - 1 under investigation for non-compliance (permit misunderstanding on application versus issue of permit).
- Under the current MCO you cannot move live bees including queen bees into Queensland. Permit conditions for movement of queen bees from interstate including the NSW blue zone are in final industry consultation stages. In addition to a permit, movement of queen bees from Tasmania and Victoria will require a health certificate for Braula fly.
 - Education and awareness materials have been developed for schools that own or keep bees. This supports on the ground engagement visits undertaken by Biosecurity Queensland's Bee Biosecurity Officer. This information is being distributed via the Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Schools Project (AGISP) newsletter and the varroa mite [eHub](#).
 - Practical Day demonstrations by Biosecurity Queensland's Bee Biosecurity Officer are scheduled:
 - 6 November 2022 with Ipswich and West Moreton Beekeepers at Ipswich
 - 19 November 2022 with Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers at Nerang.
 - Additional engagement activities are being investigated in conjunction with the Queensland Beekeepers Association to provide information on general hive health and encourage reporting varroa mite test results to Bee123.
 - DAF continues to meet with QBA weekly to discuss progress with prevention activities to support keeping Queensland free of varroa mite.

Upcoming Events

Practical Day demonstrations by Biosecurity Queensland's Bee Biosecurity Officer are scheduled:

- 6 November 2022 with Ipswich and West Moreton Beekeepers at Ipswich.
- 19 November 2022 with Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers at Nerang.

AHBIC

AHBIC is seeking further expressions of interest from beekeepers willing to volunteer to assist with control operations for the current Varroa biosecurity emergency.

Volunteer beekeepers have been a vital part of the varroa response, and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are not paid for their time, but travel, food and accommodation will be provided, and travel and food costs will be reimbursed.

Operations are currently being carried out at Narrabri, Coffs Harbour and the Hunter region. Volunteers are invited to select their preferred destination, but won't necessarily be deployed to their chosen location.

Please note that volunteers must be members of an AHBIC member body, so please do not share this form publicly.

Beekeepers must register their interest on the on-line form. Click [here](#) to download the on-line form.

Past Events:

The recording of AHBIC's online webinar held on 31 August 2022 can now be watched from your computer or electronic device. Please [click here](#) to watch the presentation.

The recording of the Varroa Mite Biosecurity Queensland webinar held on Tuesday 11th October is now available online and ready for beekeepers to watch at their leisure. This webinar covers topics relating to the current situation update in Queensland, reporting your surveillance results to the Bee 123 app, and applying for a permit to move honey supers, equipment for irradiation and the movement of PPE. Please [click here](#) to watch the webinar.

QBA Membership:

The Queensland Beekeepers' Association warmly welcome new members to our organisation. To complete an application for membership please visit <https://members.qbabees.org.au/join-us/>

When completing your application, please nominate your preferred branch of the QBA.

Useful Information Links:

QBA Varroa mite portal - <https://members.qbabees.org.au/QBA-Varroa-Mite-Portal>

DAF Engagement Hub - <https://daf.engagementhub.com.au/varroa-mite>

NSW DPI - <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response>

Subscribe to Biosecurity E-Alerts – [Click here](#).