

Biosecurity and GIA Focus Group meeting November 2022

Member Update

MPI Honey bee collection

During the bee pathogen programme that MPI ran between 2016 and 2019, a collection of more than 130,000 honey bees was amassed. MPI have obtained consent from the beekeepers who participated to make these samples available to other apiculture researchers. MPI have also written an article on this collection for the December issue of the New Zealand Beekeeper Journal.

Colony Loss Survey

The colony loss survey has now closed for the 2022 year. The results are likely to be available from March 2023. MPI are also keen for beekeepers to continue to report large scale bee losses to MPI as these reports form an important part of NZ's passive biosecurity surveillance program.

MPI Small hive beetle surveillance

The pilot is underway for the small hive beetle surveillance project. As the traps have now been in hives for a few months now so MPI is planning to check in with the beekeepers involved in the trial shortly.

Honey Industry Strategy Update

This project kicked off in April 2022 with an on-line survey followed by regional meetings. The meetings were completed in October. The key focus of the project currently is the economic analysis. A draft report is expected to be available publicly in the first quarter of the new year.