

## National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP) steering committee

### Bee Biosecurity Officers

Bee Biosecurity Officers continue to actively raise awareness of the Code of Practice (the Code) to support beekeepers maintain healthy beehives and manage outbreaks of American foulbrood (AFB). BBOs also continue to encourage commercial and non-commercial beekeepers as well as other bee enthusiasts to complete the free *Biosecurity for Beekeepers* online course which has been developed to explain the importance of biosecurity, and provide information on the main pest threats to bees, including how to check hives for signs of pests and diseases. The BBO network has welcomed Samantha Grund as the new SA BBO and Dave Schlipalius as the new QLD BBO filling in for Rebecca Laws while she's on maternity leave.

For more information about your Bee Biosecurity Officer visit: [Bee Biosecurity Officers | Plant Health Australia](#)

### National Sugar Shake Campaign

The Committee continues the discussion regarding the possible roll-out of an annual national Sugar Shake Campaign, targeted for the month of April. Several states already promote a sugar shake awareness month as a means of encouraging beekeepers to complete one of the two hive inspections outlined in the Code of Practice. The Committee will continue discussions to determine if a national Sugar Shake campaign can be implemented in coming years.

For more information on the biosecurity program and the Code of Practice visit: [National Bee Biosecurity Program | Plant Health Australia](#)

### Honey Culture Testing and qPCR tests for American Foulbrood

The Committee discussed the use of the HCT and qPCR for detection of American Foulbrood and agreed that honey packers can request either of these tests to assist comply with market requirements. HCT is considered to be the standard test for AFB, but if the honey packer requests a qPCR test is undertaken, then the beekeeper will need to meet this requirement.

The Committee confirmed that state governments can accept either the HCT or qPCR test as an acceptable method as outlined in the Code section 10.2 b which states, "*any other method approved by the relevant state and territory authority*". It is recommended the beekeeper contacts their state agency to confirm test requirements for movement interstate.

If further information is required on understanding AFB results from honey tests and the requirements outlined in the Code, contact your relevant state government department of agriculture or your Bee Biosecurity Officer.

## The Committee

The Committee includes representatives from the Australian Government, the state and territory government, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), and Plant Health Australia (PHA). It was formed to oversee and support Bee Biosecurity Officers, as well as providing guidance and support for jurisdictional implementation and industry assistance with The Honey Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice.