

Biosecurity and project updates



Summary

- Varroa destructor update
- Varroa Jacobsoni update
- Red Dwarf Honeybee update
- Tools to assist you with crop protection
- SARP Review
- Export MRL App
- Leadership and Development Project



Varroa mite response

- Detected June 2022 - Newcastle NSW
- Melons affected industry under the response - pollination dependent
- 19th September 2023 - NMG made decision to shift focus of response from eradication to management
- Reasons
 - Clear varroa more widespread and for longer than first thought
 - Could no longer trace all infected properties
- The response has moved into a Transition to Management phase - 12 month period to prepare industry for ongoing management of varroa as an endemic pest and to slow the spread
- T2M
 - Training - webinars and face to face (8 shared between NT and SA) - manage varroa and maintain healthy beehives
 - Varroa Development officers in all states (8 shared between NT and SA) - extend best management practice guidelines
 - National Pollination industry coordinator - gather information and concerns from pollination dependent industries



Varroa mite response

What this means for the melon industry

- The total cost of the response including attempt at eradication and transition to management upper limit of \$100m
- Melons liable for approximately \$1.03m
- What can you do?
 - Ensure your beekeepers are keeping up to date with the most up to date management information and movement restrictions
 - AHBIC National Transition to Management update - Tuesday 30th April (630pm - 8pm NT time)



Varroa Jacobsoni

- 19 February 2024, a single *Varroa jacobsoni* mite found in a sentinel beehive at the Port of Brisbane.
- More *Varroa jacobsoni* were found in a feral Asian honey bee nest nearby. This feral nest was destroyed. Testing showed this was a new, exotic incursion of Asian honey bee. None of these bees had exotic bee viruses.
- Haven't been traced but assumed come from Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands or PNG
- Asian honey bees are the natural host for *Varroa jacobsoni*.
- *Varroa jacobsoni* doesn't usually breed on EHB but has been known to host shift hence the concern
- A movement control order (MCO) was issued on 26 February 2024 to stop the movement of any varroa mite carrier (apiary equipment, unprocessed honey, beeswax, live bees) into, within, or out of the restricted area - 10km radius around port of Brisbane until 26 May
- Surveillance is continuing - no more found
- Webinar



Red Dwarf Honeybee in WA

- Detected in Burrup Peninsula March 2023 at port
- As of April 30 bee colonies detected - all confined to industrial area on Burrup peninsula
- Also detected euvarroa mite - ectoparasite
- Reason RDHB is considered a pest
 - RDHB competes with EHB and robs other bee hives
 - It can carry parasitic mites and may also be a host for diseases that affect European honey bee
- At this stage aim is to eradicate - in discussion
- If response plan is agreed to then there will likely be a cost to the melon industry as we are an affected industry

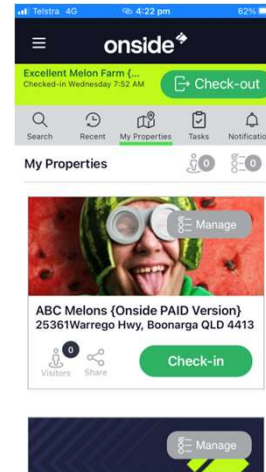


Biosecurity Tools/Resources



Know your risks and be prepared

- **Biosecurity Planner template - poster**
 - Visitors and staff - vehicles/clothing/footwear
 - Machinery and equipment - come clean/go clean
 - Waste and Weeds - hosts
 - Inputs - seeds/seedlings/compost
 - Deliveries - to shed/bins washed and disinfected
- **Pest ID Posters**
- **Ute guide**
- Biosecurity Gate Signs
- Electronic templates for visitor registers and machinery wash registers
- Biosecurity ute kits
- Checklist for consultants travelling between farms
- Fact sheets
- www.melonsaustralia.org.au



Strategic Agrichemical Review Extended

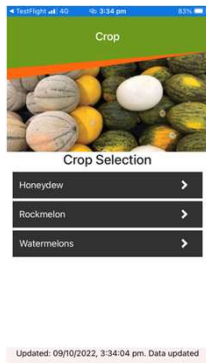
- Melon industry SARP report assists in directing ongoing efforts to ensure the availability of and access to effective chemical controls for the industry, to address needs and gaps.
- Your input is therefore **very** important.
- Still need more input from melon industry!

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Export Market MRL App



Melon Training and Leadership Program

- 3 year program (2023-2025)
- Providing training and development opportunities for Australian Melon Industry
- Emerging through to established leaders
- Online and face to face intensive courses
- Heavily supported (levy payer - \$400, other industry members 50% co - payment)
- Assist in your business your community and your industry



Courses Available

- Moshie Lean Leaders (online) - \$4,000
- AICD Foundations of Directorship Courses (online) - \$3,099
- AICD Company Directors Course (online/residential) - \$12,000
- Melbourne Business School Leadership Program (online) - \$2,950
- Marcus Oldham Leadership Program (residential) - \$3,300
- Australian Rural Leadership Program TRAIL (residential) - \$10,450

- More information available on website/enews
- Expression of Interest Forms available from me /website
- [Graduate Interviews](#)



Thankyou

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