

BEEKEEPING IN TARANAKI PROVINCE . . .

kamahi, and rata. Under favourable conditions boxthorn will also yield a surplus. When the weather has been dry the leaves of the boxthorn will fall; then a good downpour of rain will start a new growth, the flowers of which will often yield nectar heavily. The maximum that has been recorded from this source is 17lb. in 1 day during a late autumn flow. The honey is easy to extract, but has an unusual amount of moisture to be evaporated out. It granulates very smooth and makes an excellent starter. The colour is water white and the flavour is very acidic and inferior to that of clover honey. One season a beekeeper extracted 15 tons of this honey in May. Spring nectar is very limited in the pasture areas. A little is gathered from tree lucerne, willow, and barberry. The dandelion and scotch thistle, which were so common in Taranaki years ago, are now of little importance as nectar sources. Northern Taranaki honeys usually have a little more colour, but the flavours are excellent. The occurrence of buttercup, pennyroyal, and ragwort is negligible.

Honey Crop Returns

Honey producing in Taranaki is a somewhat precarious occupation. Seasonal returns fluctuate from very near total failure to occasional bumper crops. Failures are usually due to too much rain with low temperatures and on some occasions drying winds, especially near the coast. Men with many years of experience seem to have got about Dominion-average returns fairly consistently, but the less experienced do well to get 2 tons of honey per 100 hives. Taranaki may not be

a high-production area for honey, but one redeeming feature is that the high-quality product will always sell.

Markets

Taranaki beekeepers can dispose of practically all their honey on the local market. Darker honeys from outside districts could not compete with the high-quality local product.

Boundaries

Almost every larger town in the province is the headquarters of a commercial beekeeper, but the apiaries are distributed over all the good clover pastures in the province. To avoid overstocking some areas and bypassing others beekeepers have by mutual agreement defined their boundaries so that each could establish apiaries in the territory nearest to his headquarters.

Foul-brood Situation

In the early days of beekeeping American foul-brood disease (*Bacillus larvae*) had got such a hold that 90 per cent. of apiaries were infected and it required a united effort by beekeepers to get it under control. Now the disease has been so effectively dealt with that only about 1 per cent. of the total hives have been infected each year. There are large areas in south Taranaki that have been completely free from foul-brood for the last 15 years and it is hoped that the vigilance of beekeepers will keep them so.

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Bursaries for Agricultural and Scientific Study

THE Public Service Commission offers annually on behalf of a number of Government Departments a limited number of bursaries for competition among boys and girls leaving post-primary schools. The bursaries provide for full-time university study as a preliminary to professional careers in science or agricultural science with the Departments of Agriculture and Scientific and Industrial Research and the Air Department (meteorological office).

Under this scheme the Department of Agriculture selects bursars for careers in two main fields, extension work and research. For extension work (B.Ag.Sc. degree) ultimate appointment will be as Instructor in Agriculture with the Department's Extension Division.

The main job of the Instructor in Agriculture is to keep in close touch with the farmers in his district and pass on to them the latest advice and information, more generally in relation to pastures, crops, and general farm management.

Research Work

In research work graduates with B.Sc. degree (and some with B.Ag.Sc.) are employed with either the Animal Research Division or the Extension Division. In the first division work is mainly on the investigation of animal disease at the Wallaceville Animal Research Station and on breeding, nutrition, and general management at the Ruakura Animal Research Station. In the Extension Division employment is mainly with the Rukuhia Soil Research Station, which works on problems of soil fertility and the maintenance and improvement of pastures and crops.

While at university bursars have their tuition fees and text books paid for and receive a cash allowance of £70 for the university year. This is increased by £40 if a bursar has to board away from home.

The entrance standard is high. Applications will be considered only from boys or girls who have passed the Special Bursary Examination or the University Entrance Scholarship examination.

Additional bursaries are offered under a separate scheme for cadets wishing to become Horticultural or Apiary Instructors.

Full details may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 3004, Wellington.

RENEWALS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO "JOURNAL"

Renewals of subscriptions to "The New Zealand Journal of Agriculture" should be paid to the nearest office of the Department of Agriculture. Subscribers can ensure continuity of delivery by paying their subscriptions as soon as possible after receiving their renewal notices and at least 1 month before the old subscription expires. When payment is made the renewal notice should accompany the subscription to ensure that the correct details are recorded.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS FOR JULY

Station	Height of station above M.S.L. (ft.)	Air temperatures in degrees (Fahrenheit)				Rainfall in inches				Bright sunshine hours	
		Approx. mean	Difference from normal	Absolute maximum and minimum		Total fall	No. of days of rain	Difference from normal	Maximum fall		
				Maximum	Minimum				Amount		Date
Kerikeri	201	52.4	+ 2.4	67.0	32.5	1.47	15		0.67	13	
Auckland	160	51.4	- 0.1	62.4	38.5	1.57	11	- 4.11	0.50	13	155.1
Tauranga	10	49.3	+ 0.9	62.9	31.2	3.96	9	- 1.10	2.14	1	171.3
Ruakura	131	46.4	- 0.4	62.0	23.3	2.39	9	- 2.45	0.56	13	145.6
Rotorua	980	45.9	+ 1.3	61.0	26.0	2.47	8	- 2.51	1.15	1	149.2
Gisborne	12	49.0	+ 1.4	65.6	33.9	7.18	17	+ 2.85	4.75	1	122.9
New Plymouth ..	160	49.0	+ 0.4	60.5	33.5	2.66	12	- 3.66	0.59	8	137.8
Napier	5	48.0	+ 1.2	64.9	28.1	3.07	11	- 0.48	2.27	1	152.1
Talhape	2157	41.2	- 0.2	57.0	26.6	3.38	12	+ 0.31	0.84	15	
Wanganui	72	47.3	+ 0.5	63.0	30.2	3.91	12	+ 0.65	1.33	14	139.4
Palmerston North	110	46.0	+ 0.5	61.8	25.2	2.46	14	- 0.65	0.66	14	126.4
Waingawa	350	44.2	+ 0.1	61.5	23.6	3.34	14	- 0.78	0.69	24	120.0
Wellington	415	46.6	+ 0.3	57.8	32.6	6.26	14	+ 1.17	3.25	14	92.1
Nelson	24	45.4	+ 0.1	59.2	28.8	1.70	7	- 1.73	0.80	8	178.1
Blenheim	12	45.2	+ 0.7	62.7	24.9	1.70	5	- 1.03	1.12	14	187.0
Hokitika	12	44.2	+ 0.5	60.8	26.0	10.99	13	+ 2.28	4.02	23	112.4
Hamner Springs ..	1225	39.1	- 1.0	61.6	15.0	4.99	12	+ 0.73	0.95	14	120.9
Christchurch ..	22	43.2	+ 1.0	64.0	25.4	2.64	12	- 0.02	0.82	14	116.6
Ashburton	323	40.8	+ 0.7	63.0	21.4	1.86	12	- 0.79	0.80	14	115.0
Timaru	56	41.6	+ 0.3	56.2	22.2	1.82	4	+ 0.09	0.67	23	118.0
Alexandra	520	38.1	- 2.2	59.0	22.0	0.40	9	- 0.25	0.11	16	115.1
Tairā	80	42.0	+ 1.0	64.4	20.4	1.38	15	- 0.75	0.28	16	86.3
Invercargill ..	32	42.6	+ 1.9	56.0	22.0	2.40	21	- 0.60	0.23	12	78.3