



MEDIA RELEASE
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Agricultural organisations join to promote bee safety

Aerial and ground sprayers can protect bees from unintended exposure to agrichemicals, by following some simple rules. Responsible use of products is the driver for releasing the bee responsible campaign by Agcarm, NZ Aviation in Agriculture, and Rural Contractors New Zealand today.

"Bees are extremely good pollinators of crops, so contribute substantially to New Zealand's multi-billion dollar agricultural economy," says Agcarm chief executive Mark Ross.

He adds that agrichemicals are vital for ensuring the security of our food supply and, when used responsibly, "pose no threat to our bee population." But "we must remain vigilant and address any potential risks to our bees."

The campaign is being promoted during September to coincide with Bee Aware Month as well as the peak sale of agrichemicals. "Although the message is always relevant," says Ross.

"It's important for manufacturers' of agrichemicals to have clear label statements regarding safety precautions for their products, including describing how to protect our pollinators – like our members do," adds Ross.

Rural Contractors New Zealand chief executive Roger Parton emphasizes the importance of adequate training for people applying agrichemicals.

"Correct application is as important as using the correct agrichemical," says Parton. He advises using registered chemical applicators for spraying to ensure the safety of bees and people.

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Note to editor: The campaign materials can be found on the [Agcarm website](#).

About Agcarm

Agcarm is the industry association which represents crop protection, animal health and rural supplier businesses. Agcarm members distribute and sell the majority of veterinary medicines and

crop protection products in New Zealand. Agcarm members promote responsible use of products right through the product life cycle, from research to disposal.

Agcarm is also a positive voice for its members and lobbies for a progressive regulatory environment.

About NZ Agricultural Aviation Association

The NZ Agricultural Aviation Association (NZAAA) was founded in 1949. Agricultural aviation means the use of aircraft in the application of agrichemicals and fertilisers in agriculture, forestry and horticulture. Typically agricultural aircraft are also used in fire-fighting operations.

NZAAA exists to ensure the sustainability of Agricultural Aviation in NZ by:

- Developing and advocating best practice in both flight safety and environmental safety.
- Promoting professionalism and profitable business.
- Facilitating adoption of best practice programmes by members and stakeholders.
- Engaging in research opportunities.

About Rural Contractors New Zealand

Rural Contractors New Zealand is the national association representing the rural contracting industry, many of whom are agrichemical applicators. A Registered Chemical Applicator accreditation scheme for those applying agrichemicals is provided. Details of the accreditation scheme are at www.ruralcontractors.org.nz

Mark Ross, Agcarm: 04 499 4225; 027 442 9965