



MEDIA RELEASE
18 February 2015

Bee numbers keep rising

Bee numbers in New Zealand are on the rise and the crop protection industry will work with government and industry to help keep bees healthy.

The crop protection industry takes pollinator health very seriously. Agcarm is keen to work with regulators and stakeholders to encourage further bee population growth.

According to official data, there are now 546,837 managed hives in New Zealand. In 2004 there were 292,530 hives.

"The number of managed hives has nearly doubled in a decade - this is excellent news as the bee industry is vital to New Zealand agriculture," says Agcarm chief executive Graeme Peters.

A Primary Production Select Committee report released in July last year concluded that there is no evidence of colony collapse in New Zealand.

The biggest threat to New Zealand bees is the varroa mite. "Our focus needs to be on finding new ways to manage the mite, especially resistant populations," Mr Peters said.

The crop protection industry has been proactive in encouraging ways to support bee health. It provides products to control the varroa mite, educational and communication material, and a bee treatment stewardship guide.

There is no evidence that neonicotinoids are a significant contributor to bee health issues in New Zealand, but nevertheless all pesticides must be used responsibly to ensure that they do not come into contact with bees and other beneficial insects, which are important to New Zealand's economy and biodiversity.

ENDS

Agcarm is the industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Member companies are committed to ensuring that these products are used safely, effectively and sustainably.

Graeme Peters Tel: 04 499 4225 Mobile: 027 667 7400