



SELECT HARVESTS

Select Harvests Limited (ABN 87 000 721 380)

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www.selectharvests.com.au

29 June 2022

Pollination Update

Last week Varroa Mite was detected in a sentinel hive at the Port of Newcastle. Varroa Destructor is an external parasitic mite that attacks and feeds on European honeybees.

Australia is the only country/continent that does not have Varroa Mite in its European honeybee population. In countries where the Varro Mite is present, apiarists are still able to provide full pollination services to agriculture, adopting different management practices to maintain hive and bee health.

A national eradication program has been in place since the detection of Varroa Mite on bees at the Port of Townsville in June 2016.

The most recent incursions in Australia have been detected at the port and contained. The most recent detection was the Varroa Jacobsoni at the Port of Townsville in May 2019 and April 2020. There was an exclusion zone created, all hives within that area were destroyed and the incursion contained. On the 6th of August 2021, The National Management Group declared the mite had been eradicated from these incursions.

Since the detection last week at the Port of Newcastle, the NSW Department of Primary Industry and other State Government Departments of Agriculture have been working to eradicate and prevent the further spread of the mite, with the full co-operation of the industry bodies, including the Almond Board of Australia.

All beehives in NSW have been placed on a standstill. They are unable to be moved or opened without authorisation.

The Federal and State Governments, in consultation with the key industry bodies, are reviewing the establishment of a certification system similar to the process used during COVID, allowing bees to freely move between Queensland, Victoria and South Australia in order to allow apiarists to provide pollination service to agricultural crops. It is hoped this will extended to unaffected regions of NSW, once the standstill order has been lifted.

Detection and Eradication

The NSW DPI has been conducting tracing to identify hive movements. Three locations have been identified outside of a 50km emergency zone connected to the commercial operation where the mites were originally detected. One of these loads was near Dubbo, no mites were detected, however due to the high risk this load of bees was destroyed.

Another site, approximately 65km northeast of the original detection site, was inspected by NSW DPI and industry representatives, with two mites detected. In response to this low-level detection a new Infected



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Premise (IP) response has been initiated, with a new 10km eradication zone, 25km surveillance zone and 50km buffer zone determined.

Whilst it is of concern that there is a new detection, it is an extremely low-level detection and connected to the same operation. The Incident Management Team is still confident that eradication is achievable, and every effort is being made to ensure this incursion is eliminated.

The Impact on Select Harvests

- Almond orchards are 100% dependent on European bee pollination services to produce a commercial crop.
- Pollination occurs during blossom, in the last three weeks of August.
- 29% (2,734HA or 6,755 acres) of our orchards are in NSW and are currently affected by the standstill order.
- A further 11% (1,004HA or 2,480 acres) are dependent on hives located in NSW.
- A further 4% (400HA or 980 acres) are dependent on hives located in Qld.

With pollination services potentially disrupted to 44% of our orchards, we are undertaking the following mitigation strategies to support SHV's 2023 crop pollination.

- Sourcing additional hives within state borders.
- Re-allocate hives to avoid interstate movements.
- Review hive density requirements by orchard.

Managing Director Paul Thompson said "Clearly this is an extremely serious issue for Select Harvests and Australia's food security. We have every confidence that the national eradication program will contain the incursion and pollination services will be provided from NSW hives. Both the government and industry understand the need to support pollination services as they did during COVID. In the event the incursion does not get contained, it will impact Select's 2023 crop pollination."

When more information is available the company will provide an update.

This announcement has been approved by the Board of SHV.

ENDS



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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About Select Harvests:

Select Harvests Ltd (ASX:SHV) is an ASX-listed, fully integrated almond business consisting of orchards (company owned, leased, joint venture and managed), primary processing (hulling & shelling), secondary value-added processing (blanching, roasting, slicing, dicing, meal and paste) under the Renshaw & Allinga Farms industrial brands. Australia is a significant global almond producer and Select Harvests is one of Australia's largest almond companies, supplying almonds domestically and internationally, to supermarkets, health food stores, other food manufacturers, retailers and the almond trade.

The company is headquartered at Richmond, an inner eastern suburb of Melbourne, Australia, while its orchards are in North West Victoria, Southern New South Wales and South Australia. Its almond processing and value-adding facility (Carina West) is located at Wemen in North West Victoria.

For more information, visit www.selectharvests.com.au