



WCBA RECOMMENDED POLLINATION TARRIF FOR **2020**

There are numerous factors that influence the recommended pollination tariff which are bound to differ in terms of importance as well as relevance depending on the nature of the individual beekeeping businesses.

However, the cost of pollination does not just include the costs of picking up beehives, loading them on a bakkie, driving to the orchard and unloading, and then repeating these actions in about two weeks' time, but in reverse. This is actually the easy part of pollination. Keeping bees for pollination involves yearlong management, which at some points can be very detailed.

It is Important to acquire sites with sufficient food for the bees to survive the off-season. Often bees will be moved three times a year to have access to suitable food to survive. These sites can vary year to year depending on what has been planted in the vicinity that particular year (e.g. canola). In addition, acquiring sites for transit camps during the pollination period is necessary.

Realistically, a lot of colonies have to be moved great distances from the beekeeper's base and have to be regularly fed. This costs a lot of money. Because of the long distances, more transport expenses are incurred and there is less time to work the bees due to the greater travelling time. This results in a reduction of total hives worked per worker per day. This too has a financial impact.

Due to the recent droughts and fires, a lot of bee forage has been lost, increasing the need to feed regularly for longer. This has three great impacts for the beekeepers as follows:

1. Hives have been lost in the fires (costs to replace hives and cost to replace the actual bees)
2. Because forage has been destroyed, bees are being fed extensively at a great cost
3. Due to lack of forage, bees have been moved much further away to new sites with some forage.

Many farmers fail to understand that keeping bees has a lot of similarities to stock farming, particularly the carrying capacity of the site that you are on. As little as a 15% increase in stocking rate can lead to a 50% decrease in honey production. Most pollination hives are now overstocked on sites simply due to the massive shortage of good, safe sites. Over the years this has impacted heavily on honey revenue per hive. To give an example, one hive now produces an average of only 10-13kg of honey per annum. This was not the case in the 1980's where the average production was over 25 kg per annum.

Theft and vandalism is also having a great impact on operating costs - in some cases, up to 30% of annual operating costs (According to the South African Agricultural Research Council).

The annual spring maintenance on all hives also needs to be taken into consideration. This relates to the exchanging of at least two brood frames in each hive with new wax sheets, disease inspection and control, feeding where necessary and replacing broken equipment.

Additionally, it is important to keep in mind that beekeepers normally keep a certain percentage of extra hives in reserve in case of deaths during pollination and other emergencies. Last year these reserves were insufficient and there was a shortage of bees during pollination. Due to the flowering periods of different fruits now overlapping; where beekeepers would normally be able to use the same hive on pears and then transport them to apples, beekeepers instead had to bring in separate hives for each crop, thus reducing the average amount of pollinations per hive for the year. This directly impacts the actual income per hive per year.

Each year, we are losing more and more colonies of bees due to crop protection chemicals during pollination. Often the actual losses occur two to three months after pollination when up to 30% of colonies die off from residual pesticide residues in the hive that were collected during pollination. A lot of this is known to be due to fungicides too. This has another huge financial impact on the beekeeper.

Given the forage constraint, there is also a great cost to replacing and creating extra colonies for the increasing demands of pollination as new fruits, orchards and tunnels come on line.

When one takes all of the above factors into account, as well as the normal annual increase in overheads, it resulted in a massive increase in the recommended pollination price.

As an association, we have agreed after much debate within the committee and further consultations, to limit the increase to just over 15 % for this year (2020). We must however

warn growers that the increases over the next few years are likely to be above 20% to get to a more realistic cost of pollination.

It is therefore recommended that the annual pollination price in the Western Cape be R980.00 plus vat. This is strictly for a maximum period of up to 14 days per pollination. We hope that growers will find this recommended annual pollination price reasonable given the above justification.

We also remind growers that by law they may only make use of DAFF registered beekeepers for pollination. It is a criminal offence to use non-registered beekeepers. It is also an offence to host unregistered beekeepers and/or unmarked beehives. This will (also) become part of the audit requirements of the growers and already has in some areas.

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WKBV: AANBEVOLE BESTUIWINGSTARIEWE VIR

2020

Daar is talle faktore wat `n rol speel in die bepaling van die aanbevole bestuiwingstarief, en hulle kan verskil in belangrikheid en relevansie, afhangend van die individuele byeboerse byeboer-onderneming .

Hierbenewens beteken die koste van bestuiwing nie net die koste van optel van byekorwe, oplaai op bakkie, ry na die boord en aflaai nie. Om dan ongeveer twee weke later dieselfde proses net in omgekeerde volgorde te volg. Dit is eintlik die maklike deel van bestuiwingsdiens. Boer met bye vir bestuiwingsdoeleindes behels jaarlange korfbestuur, en in sommige gevalle toegespitste aandag.

Die verkryging van geskikte staanplekke met genoeg natuurlike weiding vir die bye in die af-seisoen is van groot belang. Dit gebeur dikwels dat bye drie maal per jaar geskuif moet word ten einde in die natuur te oorleef. Hierdie staanplekke kan van jaar tot jaar wissel, afhangend van wat in `n spesifieke jaar in die omgewing gesaai (bv, canola) is. Hiermee saam is dit noodsaaklik dat deurgangskampe tydens die bestuiwingsperiode verkry word.

In werklikheid moet baie swerms oor groot afstande van die byeboerse basis verskuif en gereeld gevoer word. Dit kos `n klomp geld. Die vervoerkoste is hoër as gevolg van lang afstande wat afgelê word en dit laat die byeboer met minder tyd om aan elke swerm te bestee. Die gevolg is `n vermindering van die totale hoeveelheid korwe per werker per dag. Ook dít het finansiële gevolge vir die byeboer.

Baie plantegroei is as gevolg van die droogtes en veldbrande oor die afgelope tyd vernietig en as gevolg hiervan moet die swerms gereeld en vir langer periodes gevoer word. Dit het drie belangrike gevolge vir die byeboer:

1. Verlies van korwe as gevolg van die veldbrande (vervangingskoste van korwe en ook swerms)
2. As gevolg van die vernietiging van natuurlike plantegroei word bye intensief en teen groot koste gevoer.
3. Bye moet baie verder verskuif word na nuwe staanplekke met voldoende byeweiding as gevolg van hierdie verlies.

Wat baie van die boere nie verstaan nie, is dat boer met bye groot ooreenkomste toon met veeboerdery, veral wat betref die drakrag van die staanplek waar die korwe is. So min as 15% toename in swermgetal per staanplek, kan lei tot 'n verlies van 50% in heuningproduksie. Die meeste bestuwingseenhede oorskrei die drakrag van staanplekke, gewoon as gevolg van die geweldige tekort aan goeie en veilige staanplekke. Dit het oor die jare geweldig negatiewe gevolge op heuningproduksie. Byvoorbeeld: Een korf produseer nou 'n gemiddeld van 10-13 kg heuning per jaar. Dit was nie die geval in die 1980's, toe die gemiddelde opbrengs per korf 25 kg per jaar was nie.

Ook diefstal en vandalisme het 'n groot impak op operasionele koste. In sommige gevalle beloop dit tot so hoog as 30% van die operasionele koste. (Volgens die South African Agriculture Research Council).

Jaarliks tydens die lenteseisoen vind daar bestuingspraktyke vir die instandhouding van alle swerms plaas. Dit behels die vervanging van twee raampies in die broeikas met raampies met nuwe wasvelle, inspeksie vir siektes en beheer, voeding van swakker swerms en vervanging van uitgediende toerusting.

Daar moet in gedagte gehou word dat byeboere gewoonlik 'n bepaalde hoeveelheid ekstra korwe in reserwe hou vir in geval van vrektes tydens bestuwing en ander noodgevallen. Verlede jaar kon hierdie reserwes nie in die aanvraag voorsien nie en was daar 'n tekort tydens bestuwing. As gevolg van die blomperiode van verskillende vrugtevariëteite wat oorvleuel het: waar byeboere normaalweg dieselfde korf vir pere kon gebruik en daarna appels, moes hulle nou ekstra korwe vir elkeen inbring, wat die gemiddelde bestuwing per korf per jaar verminder het. Dit het vanselfsprekend 'n impak op die gemiddelde inkomste per korf per jaar. Ons verloor jaarliks meer byeswerms as gevolg van bespuiting van skadelike chemikalieë tydens bestuwing. Die eintlike verliese kom eintlik twee tot drie maande na bestuwing voor, wanneer tot soveel as 30% kolonies vrek as gevolg van residu van gifstowwe wat tydens bestuwing ingebring is. 'n Groot deel hiervan het ook met fungi te doen. Dit alles het 'n bykomende finansiële impak op die byeboer.

Gegewe die beperking ten opsigte van byeweiding, vereis die vervanging en die skep van bykomende byeswerms groot uitgawes om te voldoen aan die groeiende aanvraag vir bestuwing, aangesien nuwe vrugte, boorde en tonnels býkom.

Ons as vereniging het na deeglike debat op komiteevlak en verdere konsultasie besluit om die verhoging in bestuiwingstarief tot 15% vir 2020 te beperk. Ons moet egter produsente waarsku dat die verhogings oor die volgende jare bo 20% kan wees ten einde by `n meer realistiese koste van bestuiwing uit te kom.

Dit is om hierdie redes dat R980 Plus BTW in die Wes-Kaap aanbeveel word as bestuiwingstarief. Dit is vir hoogstens 14 dae per bestuiwingseenheid. Ons vertrou dat produsente hierdie aanbevole bestuiwingstarief vir vanjaar in die lig van bostaande motivering as billik sal sien.

Ons herinner ook produsente daaraan dat hul wetlik verplig is om net byeboere wat by DAFF geregistreer is te gebruik vir bestuiwing. Dit is `n kriminele oortreding om ongeregistreerde byeboere te gebruik. Dit is ook `n kriminele oortreding om aan ongeregistreerde byeboere of ongemerkte korwe staanplek te verskaf. Dit sal (ook) in aanmerking geneem word by die ouditering van produsente, en gebeur in sommige areas alreeds.

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