

Mānuka Honey Labelling Guidelines Work Group and Science Work Group Meeting Summary

Tuesday 10 June 2014, The Terrace Conference Centre, Wellington

Chair: Scott Gallacher (guidelines group)

In attendance: See Appendix 1

Data and Analysis

MPI presented a summary of statistical analysis completed on all the available data of honey samples.

Draft Interim Labelling Guideline

MPI presented the latest version of the interim manuka honey labelling guide.

- The guide is based on all of the statistical analysis MPI has completed, and also takes into account the discussions from the teleconference meeting on 4 June.
- MPI has moved away from the 'decisions tree' for monofloral and multifloral manuka honey, to a simplified list of general characteristics for manuka-type honey and monofloral manuka honey.
- The draft document contains the same parameters as previously, although the ranges (eg for conductivity and colour are different, reflecting the latest data).
- The draft also now includes further qualifying statements to make clear the limitations of current research and information for monofloral manuka honey, and to emphasise that these may be revised as further research becomes available.
- It also includes an explicit review date.

Work group member suggested clarifications to the document regarding:

- Honey should not be over-heated or excessively filtered
- Nutrition panel information for 20g sample
- Wording used to describe manuka/ kanuka plants and pollen
- Inclusion of words about 'typical manuka aroma and flavour'
- Activity claims

There was also some discussion on the use of manuka as the common name for manuka and kanuka plants and honey. Note this generated some discussion about the ongoing research projects that are looking at differentiating the two. There was also some discussion on the proposed level of MG.

The group talked about the opportunities for ongoing research. There are a number of areas where there is promising research to help define manuka honey, including through some of the proof of concept projects MPI has commissioned. MPI is happy to continue working with the industry and looking at opportunities for collaboration.

Research Update

Karyne Rogers presented some initial findings on work to differentiate manuka and kanuka pollen

Next steps:

- MPI's aim is to have the guideline finalised for the Apiculture Conference (24 June)
- Work group members to provide any final comments and feedback on the guideline to MPI by Friday 13 June
- MPI to set up a final teleconference for week of 16 – 20 June to talk through the final guideline prior to its release
- MPI to consider an ongoing role for a guidelines group and a science group in some form, to continue oversight of manuka honey research and finalise guidelines over coming year

Appendix 1: Attendees

Guidelines work group

Scott Gallacher (MPI) - Chair

Victor Goldsmith

John Hartnell

Steve Lyttle

Graham Cammell

Kerry Paul

Pam Flack

Lisa Winthrop (MPI)

Appologies: Moira Haddrell

Science Work Group

Peter Bray

Dr. Karyne Rogers

Dr. Mandy Suddes

Apologies: Dr. Ian Ferguson (MPI), Dr Marilyn Manley-Harris, Dr Terry Braggins, Dr Mark Goodwin