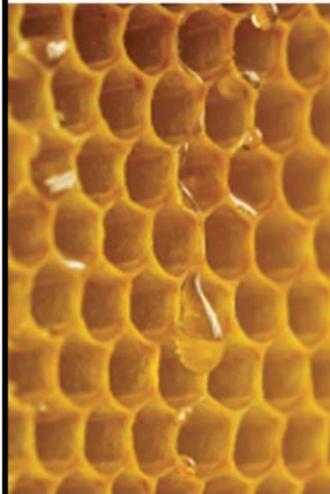


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The Manitoba Beekeeper



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Front cover picture Rodrigo Ortega, with Zelda, demonstrates a Bee Beard at the Fisher Branch Field Day

A Publication Of The Manitoba Beekeepers Association

www.manitobabee.org

Almost Dry for Field Day

By Jim Campbell

With the warm sunshine overhead, a cool breeze from the South, and a host of friends, those attending the festivities gathered at outdoor dinner tables, anxiously awaiting a picnic lunch.

About 55 people journeyed to Interlake Forage Seeds Ltd, Fisher Branch Manitoba on June 26 to enjoy the annual Beekeepers' Field Day and Picnic. To begin the afternoons' activities, the group was treated to a "Pork on a bun" style meal. As people gathered at picnic tables strategically placed adjacent to a huge alfalfa field, one couldn't help but observe that even though there were a number of younger folks present, ages of attendees ranged from about 6 weeks to over 80 years.

Our hosts, Paul and Anita Gregory along with their daughter Kalyn, introduced the facilities and farmhands necessary to run their forage seed and honey production operation of about 1000 colonies of bees. Gregory's have recently replaced their Honey Building. Wiser of Balmoral, a couple of years ago, erected the new structure.

During the facility tour, Paul explained how he integrated various tools and methods gleaned from others, in order to design an efficient, yet effective workflow.



Paul Gregory explains his equipment set up.

. He also noted the need to keep the people area workspace cool while exhausting heat into the honey drying room. In addition, placement of equipment to reduce noise in the work area wasn't easy to accom-

plish. In another area of the facility, Paul's helpers were busy explaining the design features of their new hive-top feeders under construction.



Guests enjoy the new feeder design.

At the "Conversation Corner", the group received inspection program updates plus special projects underway from David Ostermann. We also heard some comments on U of M research activities from Dr. Rob Currie.



Evelyn Gulay, with Rodrigo Ortega (Bee Beard) and Kalyn Gregory.

In addition, Jim Campbell provided an overview of recent Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, and Canadian Honey Council activities. In addition, a thank you to Rodrigo Ortega, bee foreman, for his demonstration of the Bee Beard just prior to the tour. This session provides a good venue for Q & A time. About midway through this session however, guests could hear the rain pelting on the roof. As each headed for home, it was amazing just how heavy the downpour became.

Special Thanks to our hosts Paul and Anita Gregory and to sponsors Wizer, Manitoba Honey Cooperative Honey Producers Ltd., and Lewis & Sons.



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For Sale: Equipment for approximately 100 colonies. 400 Supers and Brood Chambers. Tops, Bottoms, Inner Covers, Excluders, and empty Supers. 120 frame Cowan Extractor and Cowan Uncapper. Ford F350 1 ton truck with power tailgate. Co-op Honey Contract available.
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2010 HONEY HOUSE PRICE

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association 2010 Recommended Honey House Price

\$2.50 per pound

\$5.51 per kilogram

(in customer supplied containers).



Floral Specific or Specialty Honey may be at premium above base rate.

2010 MBA Committees

Newsletter:

Chair – Ron Rudiak,
Jim Campbell, Earl Dueck, Rhéal Lafrenière,
David Ostermann

Nomination:

Chair – Bruce Podolsky,
Bryan Ash, Murray Lewis

Pests & Pest Management:

Chair – Bill Lockhart,
Mark Nichol, Steve Olnick and Ron Rudiak,

Pollination:

Chair – Mark Nichol,
Bryan Ash, Calvin Grysiuk, Bruce Podolsky ,
David Ostermann.

Promotion:

Chair – Jake Maendel,
Jim Campbell, Earl Dueck, Ron Rudiak
Rhéal Lafrenière, Marc Nichol.

Resolution:

Chair – Mark Nichol,
Bryan Ash, Bruce Podolsky ,Chris Rempel

Research:

Chair - Bill Lockhart,
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Ron Rudiak, (Dr. Rob Currie).

Safety Nets:

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Pests and Pest Management:

Chair – Bill Lockhart,
Mark Nichol, Calvin Grysiuk, Ron Rudiak

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Bruce Podolsky , Rhéal Lafrenière , Jim Campbell
David Ostermann,

Fee/Levy & Structure Committee:

**Co-Chair - Todd Yakimishen / Mark
Nichol ,Chris Rempel ,** Bill Lockhart ,
Rhéal Lafrenière, Jim Campbell

Financial Committee:

Chair - Mark Nichol, Jim Campbell
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Foreign worker:

Chair-Bruce Podolsky
Bryan Ash, Allen Campbell , Chris Rempel
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CHC REPORT

by Bryan Ash



CHC Manitoba Beekeeper Report

Canadian Honey Council is applying for funding to the federal AgriFlexibility program to conduct a review of the existing protocol for importation of package bees into Canada from the USA and other countries. We hope to hear funding approval by early fall.

CHC will be having the upcoming annual general meeting in Galveston, Texas combined with the American Beekeeper Federation, American Honey Producers Association, and the Organization of Mexican Beekeepers in January, 2011. CHC membership and benefits committee had looked at the pros and cons and decided to accept the invitation to join the meeting.

The CFIA has cancelled their scheduled review of our C-BISQT program because the provincial food safety reps and other team participants want more time. The CFIA has advised us that they will begin the re-review in December 2010 and plan to have a face to face meeting with us in March 2011. At the face to face meeting they will probably have comments that may need answers and possibly more industry work. The process could take to at least June 2011.

Mann Lake Ltd has taken out \$2500 amber level sponsorship for 2010

CHC website hits have increased to 4500 unique visitors every month. Of these, half are to the School Kits part of the site, by teachers. She is also contacted by students directly regarding their honey bee projects and one student group is raising money for Save Our Bees.

Bryan Ash 

Manitoba Beekeeper's Association 2010 Executive and Directors



Executive

President-Todd Yakimishen (2010)
Box 67, Ashville, MB, R0L 0A0
(Res.) 548-4060, (Cell) 648-5064, (Fax) 548-4219
e-mail ohpltd@mts.net

Vice President-Murray Lewis (2012)
Box 316, Austin, MB, R0H 0C0
(Res) 637-2596
e-mail: lfarms@mts.net

CHC Delegate-Bryan Ash (2010)
Box 635, Gilbert Plains, MB, R0L 0X0
(Res.) 548-2019, (Bus.) 548-2036, (Fax) 548-2112
e-mail: flash@mts.net

KAP Delegate-Allan Campbell (2012)
RR5 Comp 31 Dauphin, MB, R7N 2T8
(Res.) 638-6515,
e-mail: durstonhoneyfarms@hotmail.com

Executive Member-Chris Rempel (2011)
Box 358, Austin, MB, R0H 0C0
(Res.) 637-2397, (Cell) 872-0159
e-mail: cdrempe@mts.net

Non-Voting Appointees

Secretary/RRAA-Jim Campbell
Box 234, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
(Res) 467-5246
e-mail: mbasecretary@mts.net

Treasurer-Hilary Stewart
Box 192 Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0
(Res) 535-2167 (Bus) 535-2324 (Fax 535-2138)
e-mail: manitobabeekeepers@mts.net

Subscription Information:

The Manitoba Beekeeper is published quarterly (January, April, July and October) by the Manitoba Beekeepers Association (MBA). Subscriptions are a benefit of the MBA membership. Annual membership is \$200.00 plus .40 per colony to a maximum of 1000 colonies. An annual Associate Membership (non- voting), is available to out of province beekeepers and other interested individuals for \$60.00. This option is not available to Manitoba Beekeepers with more than 50 colonies.

Please mail your cheque payable to:
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Hilary Stewart
Box 192, Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0

Directors

Bruce Podolsky (2010)
Box 1, Ethelbert, MB, R0L 0T0
(Res.) 742-3555, (Cell) 672-0036
e-mail: podolski_honey@inetlink.ca

Bill Lockhart (2011)
Box 111, Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0, (Res.) 535-2377
e-mail: willlkr@msn.com

Jake Maendel (2011)
Box 936, Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0
(Res.) 467-9597, (Fax) 467-9602, e-mail: jake@prairietruss.ca

Ron Rudiak (2010)
Box 1448, Steinbach, MB, R5G 1N2
(Res.) 326-3763, (Fax) 326-3763
e-mail: manbeekr@mts.net

Calvin Grysiuk (2012).
83 Acheson Dr. Wpg, MB R2Y 2E8 (Res) 831-7838
e-mail acgrysiuk@shaw.ca

Marc Nichol (2012) Box 461, MacGregor, MB, R0H 0R0
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e-mail: nicholhoney@yahoo.ca

Earl Dueck (2011) Box 1292, Steinbach, MB,
R5G 1N1 (Res) 326-1001, (Bus) 855-3165
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Provincial Apiculture Office

Rhéal Lafrenière, Provincial Apiarist
204-545 University Cres., Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6
(Bus) 945-4825, (Fax) 945-4327, (Cell) 791-0124
e-mail: rheal.lafreniere@gov.mb.ca

David Ostermann, Extension Apiarist
204-545 University Cres., Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6
(Bus) 945-3861, (Fax) 945-4327
e-mail david.ostermann@gov.mb.ca

**"For more articles and information visit the MBA web
at www.manitobabee.org "**

**The deadline for all entries for the Fall 2010 issue will be
September 21st, 2010. Don't miss it! MBA Newsletter
Editor Dan Lecocq : e-mail dnlecocq@shaw.ca**

**"Articles published in THE MANITOBA BEEKEEPER
are the opinions of the Authors and are generally printed
as received. They do not necessarily express the opinions
of the Manitoba Beekeepers Association."**

Honey Producer Registration Order Enacted

Fee/Levy Committee report

After reviewing and discussing the MBA Registration Regulation wording and timing, the Registration Order is now in place!

As of Tuesday 29 June 2010, the Honey Producers Registration Order, or Manitoba Regulation 85/2010 became law. The Regulation is made under the Farm Products Marketing Act (chapter F47) and is supplementary to the Manitoba Honey Marketing Plan Regulation, Manitoba Regulation 244/87R. This Plan, which outlined administrative procedures for MBA, was originally put into place in 1992. Since that time, MBA has encouraged volunteer registration, in order to become a Designated Representative, and thus entitled to be a voting member. In keeping consistent with other commodity groups reporting to the Manitoba Farm Products Marketing Council (MFPMC), MBA directors took action to add to its' regulations under the Act.

The Registration Order is needed at this time as others under the Farm Products Marketing Act have been updating their procedures during the past few years. Although MBA has been abiding by its' own regulations, Registration was not being consistently followed, especially by several of the recent members. The current Registration form was developed and introduced by MBA in April of 2003, at a time where membership was still voluntary. Part of that overall process was aimed at qualifying who could act as voting members. The 2003 process clarified how groups, companies, and partnerships needed to nominate someone to act on the owners' behalf.



Regulation 85/2010 defines the act of registration for producers who gather honey within Manitoba. In addition it provides for every producer with 50 or more colonies to forward information requested, to MBA. This is a similar approach to that taken by other commodity groups in Manitoba, who report to the FPMC. There could be some additional work for MBA to review its' current Registration Form, as perhaps the Membership Application Form and Registration Form could be integrated. This may not however, be practical, as the Application form offers newsletter subscription benefits.

MBA will soon be developing a roll out plan to provide producers with information on the new regulation. In the meantime, if you would like to have, or look, at a copy of the new Registration Order, go to <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regspdf/f047-085.10.pdf>



Is Outfitting a Honey House on Your “Honey, Do” List?

By Mary Moss

Has your apiary grown and your honey production increased to the point where you're ready to sell honey commercially? If so, then you're probably looking at the prospect of putting together a honey house. Some beekeepers may just want a small “honey room;” others may go all out and construct an entire building divided up for the various stages of processing honey and honeybee by-products. Why go to all of that trouble, you ask? Why

not just set aside a corner of the garage and have at it? The answer is: anytime you engage in the process of handling and processing an edible item for human consumption and sell it to other people, certain sanitary regulations must be met. Your honey house will have to pass inspection by the Food Safety Division of the Oregon Department of Agriculture in order to be certified. If you aren't certified, you shouldn't be selling honey commercially. There are many real and potential consequences awaiting those who ignore this policy.

If you have just a few hives and process honey solely for yourself and friends, that's a different matter. But, if you're going to extract, bottle and process your honey for commercial sale, be sure you know what's required before you start that honey house project.

In preparing this article, I nosed around the honey houses of several Oregon beekeepers and asked them what was most important to them. Did they have any “I wish I had's”? We can always learn from other people's mistakes. Bear in mind that some of their honey rooms were built prior to current regulations and common practices, so what is standard practice now may not have been so 20 years ago. In those cases, the exception of certain current requirements may be “grandfathered” into the certification process for a particular honey house.

Here's what some veteran honey producers had to say (and they all requested, anonymity, which I will honor here):

“If I had it to do over again, **“I would definitely construct a separate hot room.”**”

“**I would have put in a floor drain.”**”

“**Keeping family pets completely out of the area at all times is essential! Don't let 'em anywhere near the place, not even in the next room.”**”

“**Make sure all wood surfaces are painted with an approved food grade, oil-based washable paint.”**”

“**Don't remove (from hives) more honey supers than you can process in a day, especially if you don't have a warming room. Otherwise, you've got to use some moderate heat-generating mechanism to keep the honey from cooling down and becoming hard to extract. After frames sit overnight in a cool room, they are more difficult to deal with.”**”

“**I would have followed beekeeping catalogue honey house design suggestions for efficiency.”**”

This last comment makes a good point. Take a look at some of your catalogues for examples of honey rooms and have a look at other commercial or smaller operations, ask questions on what's working and what's not.. Bear in mind that you have several tasks (and options) to consider in processing and bottling honey, as well as dealing with the leftover Wax, including warming frames, uncapping, extracting, filtering, bottling, labeling, wax melting and salvage.



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Presidents” Report

by Todd Yakimishen



Hello everyone, I hope all is well and everybody is staying dry, here are some highlights that the MBA has been working on.

The MBA has established and submitted 2010 Hive Component and Bee rates for the Wildlife Damage Compensation program, administered through MASC.

Plus MBA (Bill Lockhart) is meeting with MASC staff to review two proposed programs for Overwintering Insurance and Summer Honey Production Insurance. Hopefully the plans will be endorsed by the MASC board and forwarded to the Treasury Board later this Fall for consideration in the Provincial Budget for 2011-12.(Page 19 for meeting update!)

Also MBA has been invited to join with Min Stan Struthers at a Business Risk Management Consultation meeting, along with several other producer groups. The purpose is to review current programs and recommend new ones, as the province prepares for a July Federal/Provincial/Territorial meeting of Agriculture Ministers.

In anticipation of Honey Producers migrating from other provinces into Manitoba, Directors, in reviewing our current legislation, concurred that all producers operating in Manitoba, with 50 or more colonies of honey bees, fall under the legislation. As such, MBA Membership Fees and Levies apply. In reviewing this matter, directors noted similar “membership” arrangements are already in place for producers operating in other provinces, such as Saskatchewan, for example.

Well, by the time everyone reads this the extractors should be in full force. Honey dripping from the cones and high prices would really put a smile on every beekeepers' face. It was great to see everyone at the field day and hope everyone has a great season.

Todd Ashley Yakimishen,
MBA Chairperson.



MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

2010 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



NAME: _____ COMPANY NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF COLONIES EXPECTED TO BE OPERATED IN 2010 _____

Deadline for membership payment – March 31, 2010

MEMBERSHIPS cover period from January 01 to December 31 of 2010

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

1. MEMBER – A Producer with 50 or more colonies who keeps bees in Manitoba, and who is a sole proprietor, or is the designated representative of a partnership, corporation or Hutterite colony .

\$200.00 BASIC FEE, PLUS \$0.40/COLONY (TO A MAXIMUM OF 1,000 COLONIES) \$ _____

2. ASSOCIATE MEMBER - A Volunteer , non voting person, with 49 or fewer honey bee colonies, out-of-province beekeeper, or non beekeeper) \$60.00 BASIC FEE \$ _____

Note : ALL PAID UP MEMBERS automatically receive The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association newsletter " The Manitoba Beekeeper" and only Manitoba residents will receive the Canadian Honey Council newsletter " Hive Lights".

KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$157.50 per year (including 5% GST) \$ _____

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CANADIAN BEE RESEARCH FUND (Canadian Honey Council) \$ _____

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BEE CULTURE - \$53.00 per year \$ _____

SPEEDY BEE - \$28.00 per year \$ _____

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THERE'S NO "AUTOMATIC" DEDUCTION FOR PAST MEMBERS.

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APPLICATION DATE: _____ APPLICANTS SIGNATURE: _____

Please return this completed application together with payment to:

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association

c/o Hilary Stewart Box 192 Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0



Press Release

Bee Maid Supports Bee Research in Canada, April 28, 2010

Bee Maid Honey Limited is proud to announce that they will be contributing financial assistance to the following research projects this coming year:

Integrated Management on Nosema & Detection of Antibiotic Residues

Dr. Stephen Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge Research Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta

Nosema ceranae is an emergent world-wide pathogen, and it, in combination with Nosema apis, have been linked to wide-scale losses of colonies in Europe and North America. We propose to examine effective therapeutic management for these parasites and to generate a modern antibiotic residue dataset for fumagillin, the only registered antimicrosporidial compound for bees. Our objectives are to: 1) Develop optimal application methods and dosages for fumagillin against N. ceranae; 2) Document residues associated with different methods of fumagillin application; 3) Screen alternative therapies for Nosema spp.; and 4) Examine the seasonal phenology of N. ceranae in Canada.

These data will benefit the Canadian beekeeping industry by providing optimal treatment options to control both microsporidian species causing nosema disease without contaminating honey with unwanted residues. It will also provide for the development of modern analytical techniques for the detection of fumagillin and its degradation products, which currently do not exist. Furthermore, this research may lead to identifying other effective therapies so as to lessen dependency on fumagillin treatments. Overall, this project is required to improve the quality of Canadian honey bee health, safeguard against further large-scale colony losses and to ensure Canada has a sustainable supply of pollinators.

And

Effects of a miticide on honeybee memory

Principal Investigator: Dave Shutler, Professor, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Honeybees are of great ecological and economic importance, but have been suffering declines worldwide. High mortality rates are often attributed to the parasitic mite, Varroa destructor. Varroa may have other indirect negative effects on honeybee longevity and productivity. For example, chemical treatments used to control Varroa may interfere with honeybees' ability to properly integrate stimuli that elicit important behaviours like foraging and mating. Research is currently underway at Acadia University, spearheaded by MSc candidate Elisabeth Frost and in collaboration with Assistant Professor Kirk Hillier, to assess effects of a common miticide on honeybee mortality, learning, and memory. Ultimately, this research will lead to standardized methods to evaluate suitability of mite treatment programs and potential sublethal effects of chemicals on honeybees. Because bees worldwide are exposed to mites and miticide stressors, results of this research will be applicable globally.

Bee Maid considers project proposals in the area of apiculture or pollination research.

Preference is given to the area of honey, and the production of pure quality honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry. Bee Maid Honey Limited is the marketing organization owned by the Alberta Honey Producers Co-operative Limited and the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Limited. Both member-owned Cooperatives have led the beekeeping industry in their support for beekeeping research.

For further information, please contact:

Guy Chartier ,CEO

Bee Maid Honey Limited. Phone: (204) 786 8977 Ext 234

E-Mail: guychartier@beemaid.co

MANITOBA BEEKEEPING CLUBS (update 8 April 2010)

The Red River Apiarists' Association

The Red River Apiarists' Association (RRAA) is preparing for a summer break from their regular meetings. This group is designed for the hobby beekeepers in and around the city of Winnipeg, although some members have anywhere from one to several hundred Honey Bee hives.

The next regularly scheduled RRAA meeting will take place Tuesday May 11, 2010, at the River Heights Community Centre, Winnipeg. Meetings are regularly conducted the second Tuesday of most months. We will talk about queen production and preparations for the honey season. Last year, RRAA introduced several changes to promote the industry and our favourite "Honey", including a new web site, designed to interact with new and potential members. Several innovations at the MBA Honey Promotion helped educate customers with the "Pollination and the Foods We Eat" theme. Our next event will be "The Day of the Honey Bee" scheduled for May 29 at The Forks Market, Winnipeg.

For information about upcoming meetings and events, visit the web site at www.beekeepingmanitoba.com or contact Charles Polcyn, RRAA President at 204-284-7064.

WEB SITE <http://www.beekeepingmanitoba.com/>

The Brandon Area Beekeeping Association

The Brandon Area Beekeeping Association (BABA) continues to meet for informal discussions about our beekeeping industry in the Southwest area of the province. This group brings together commercial and hobby beekeepers alike.

The meetings normally take place the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Trails West Inn, from 7:00p.m. For BABA, May 18, 2010 will be a time of reviewing nuc preparation and other spring activities. For past topics, BABA has discussed availability of Queen cells, extended use of Apivar as a treatment for mites, effectiveness of Honey Bee Healthy, to new markets for various hive products.

For information on upcoming meetings, send an e-mail to: brandonareaba@gmail.com, or call some of the beekeepers in the area, such as Dan Lane at 204-728-9129, or Bill Bygarski at 204-726-4177, or Bill Lockhart at 204-535-2377, or Merv Malyon at 204-725-1479.

WEB INFO <http://brandonareabeekeepersassociation.blogspot.com/>

Important Notice to Manitoba Honey Producers



2010 Membership Renewals

A familiar reminder for all Manitoba Honey Producers. Membership with the MBA is due as of January 1st, 2010, with payment deadline March 31st 2010.

Please submit your application form to the MBA treasurer.: If you prefer to receive an invoice, please contact Hilary Stewart or email : manitobabeekeepers@mts.net

Anyone participating in the Cash Advance Program MUST be a paid up member prior to making an application, and thus you have a March 31st deadline.

Lab Fees Increase

Honey Producers are reminded that the Apiculture Diagnostic Lab fees will increase



effective 1 January 2010. The lab at Agriculture Services Centre, 205 University Crescent, Winnipeg provides analysis of honey bee samples collected by inspectors at the request of beekeepers, and samples dropped off on site, or sent in directly by beekeepers. Fees for full Varroa, Nosema and Tracheal mite analysis will be \$25.00, and \$10.00 for each of Nosema and/or Varroa analysis.



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Our Packages are shipped with our own Carniolan Cross Queens, or they can be ordered with pheromone strips, and you provide your own Queens

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Emergency Assistance for honey bee operations in USA

[Emergency Assistance for Honey bee Operations, including but not limited to, colony collapse disorder \(CCD\), earthquake, floods, hurricane, tidal surges, tornado, excessive winds, volcanic eruption and wildfires.](#)

[Long, but worth the read...](#)

The "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008" authorized up to \$50 million in a calendar year for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) to provide emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP covers losses occurring **on or after Jan. 1, 2008 and before Oct. 1, 2011** that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill. The other programs are the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE).

A national payment factor may be applied to ELAP payments if the funding availability of \$50 million is exceeded in a calendar year.

Eligible Honey bees

Eligible honeybees include bees housed in a managed hive and used for honey production, pollination or honeybee breeding. Eligible honeybees do not include wild, feral honeybees, leaf cutter bees or other bee species that are not used for producing honey, pollinating or breeding honeybees.

Eligible Honey bee Losses

ELAP covers the loss of honeybee colonies in excess of normal mortality, honeybee hives, and purchased or produced honeybee feed that was damaged and was intended as feed for eligible honeybees, including additional feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain honeybees for a short time period until additional feed becomes available.

To be eligible for ELAP payments, honeybee colony, hive and feed losses must be:

...due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition;

... incurred by an eligible honeybee producer in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred.

Eligible Adverse Weather and Loss Conditions

In order to meet eligibility requirements for ELAP benefits for honeybee colony, hive and feed losses, the losses must be due to the direct result of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including but not limited to, colony collapse disorder (CCD), earthquake, floods, hurricane, tidal surges, tornado, excessive winds, volcanic eruption and wildfires.

Eligible Producer

To be eligible for honeybee losses, the producer must meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) and have an interest and risk in an eligible honeybee colony:

...being maintained for producing honey, pollinating, or breeding bees for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition;

...that is physically located in the county where the eligible adverse weather or eligible loss condition occurred on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition;

...for which the producer had an eligible honeybee loss.

Honeybee Colony Loss Payments

ELAP compensates eligible honeybee producers for eligible honeybee colony losses that occur in excess of normal mortality because of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition during the calendar year in which benefits are requested. FSA has established a normal mortality rate for honeybee colony losses of 17.5 percent. Payments for honeybee colony losses are based on the average fair market value of honeybee colonies in the calendar year in which the loss occurs, as established by FSA. For 2008 and 2009 honeybee colony losses, FSA has established an average fair market value of \$60 per honeybee colony.

(Continued from p.9)

Honeybee producers meeting this criteria do not have to pay a buy-in fee equal to the applicable NAP service fee or catastrophic risk protection plan fee to become eligible for ELAP payments.

2008 Exception

Due to the lateness of the Farm Bill, producers were allowed to "buy-in" to the ELAP program for 2008 by paying fees equivalent to the NAP service fee or catastrophic risk protection plan coverage fee by Sept. 16, 2008. For 2008, if a producer who is otherwise ineligible because of the purchase requirement and did not meet the buy-in deadline of Sept. 16, 2008, still may be eligible for ELAP if the producer paid the applicable fee no later than May 18, 2009, provided that the producer agreed to buy crop insurance or NAP for the next year for all of their crops, except for forage on grazing land.

2009 Exception

For 2009, the risk management protection requirement was waived for insurable crops where sales closing dates for crop insurance coverage occurred before Aug. 14, 2008, if the buy-in fee was paid by Jan. 12, 2009.

Payment Eligibility and Limitations

The amount of any ELAP payment a honeybee producer is eligible to receive may be reduced by an amount received by the producer for the same or similar loss from any other disaster assistance program.

2008 Program Year

No person, as defined and determined under the provisions in 7 CFR part 1400 in effect for 2008, may receive more than \$100,000 total in payments under ELAP, Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), combined. Also, in applying the limitation on average adjusted gross income (AGI) for 2008, an individual or entity is ineligible for payment under ELAP if the individual's or entity's average AGI for 2005, 2006 and 2007 exceeds \$2.5 million under the provisions in 7 CFR part 1400 in effect for 2008 unless 75 percent or more of their income was from farming, ranching or forestry.

2009 and Subsequent Program Years

For 2009 and subsequent program years, no person or legal entity, excluding a joint venture or general partnership, may receive directly or indirectly, more than \$100,000 total in payments under ELAP, LFP, LIP, and SURE combined. For 2009-11, the average AGI limitation relating to limits on payments for persons or legal entities, excluding joint ventures and general partnerships, with certain levels of average AGI will apply. Specifically, for 2009-11, a person or legal entity with an average adjusted gross nonfarm income, as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400 that exceeds \$500,000 will not be eligible to receive ELAP payments. Direct attribution provisions also apply to ELAP for 2009 and subsequent years. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity also will be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity.

Applying for ELAP

To apply for ELAP benefits, producers who suffered honeybee losses should submit a notice of loss to the local FSA service center that maintains the farm records for their business. To be eligible for 2008 and 2009 calendar year losses, the notice of loss must be provided to FSA by no later than May 5, 2010. To be eligible for losses that occurred in 2010 and subsequent year losses, the producer must provide a notice of loss to FSA the earlier of:

...30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or

...30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

Sign-up

In addition to submitting a notice of loss, producers must file an application for payment at local FSA service centers. ELAP sign-up began Sept. 14, 2009, for eligible honeybee losses suffered during 2008 and 2009 due to eligible adverse weather or loss conditions. For 2008 losses, sign-up ended Dec. 10, 2009, and for 2009 losses, sign-up ended Feb. 1, 2010; however, late-filed applications for 2008 and 2009 losses will be accepted through May 5, 2010. For 2010 and subsequent year losses, sign-up will end no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the honeybee loss occurred.



Floral identification of Canadian Honey and Pollen Project -

Mélissa Girard, Laval University

A two-year study has been undertaken at Laval University in Québec in cooperation with the Quebec federation for beekeepers (FAQ) to develop Canadian expertise in honey and pollen identification. Currently, there is only one person who provided honey and pollen identification service in Canada. M. Clifford Crompton worked for Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and he produced two books about palynology in Canada but he is now retired.

Unlike European honeys, Canadian honeys are not differentiated by their specific floral sources. Much of the honey sold in Canada is simply sold based on the colour of the honey and little to no reference is made to what the floral source of honey would be. Therefore, consumers have great difficulty when trying to purchase honeys from particular floral origins.

A reference collection of flowering plants will be created with the help of research centers and universities from all over Canada sending flowers to the CRSAD. However, the help from beekeepers (although optional) would be greatly appreciated. Potential flowers targeted for mono-floral honeys could be collected and sent with honey samples to the address below. Click here to download the sample submission form. Although analytical services are free beekeepers will be responsible for the shipping costs.

Procedure if you decide to collect flowers :

- Collect a full envelop (standard letter size) of freshly opened flowers from a single species.
- Seal the envelop.
- On the envelop, write down the plant species or common name, date of collection and the environment (forest, agricultural field, roadside, etc.)
- Let the envelop dry under the sun for 2-3 days (through a window)

Amount of honey or pollen to send for analysis:

- Honey: 50g
- Pollen: 175 ml -250 ml of pellets (approximately 1/2-1 cup) *

*The total amount of pollen pellets must be mixed gently in order to homogenize the content prior to taking the sample. The pollen must be dried or kept frozen until mailing.

****The identification form must be filled and sent with the sample(s). ****

Shipping address for sample(s):

Centre de recherche - services-conseils
c/o Mélissa Girard
120-A, chemin du Roy Deschambault
Québec Canada
G0A 1L0

melissa.girard.apiculture@hotmail.com

1-418-656-2131 #8876

During the project, Ms. Mélissa Girard, a M.Sc. graduate who has extensive training in both beekeeping and palynology will be in charge of the project. Thereafter, the service will continue to be offered at an affordable price through the CRSAD. In addition to the development of honey and pollen analytical services a Picture guide and identification key of the pollen grains of Canada are the main objectives of this study.

2008 and 2009 ELAP payments for honeybee colony losses will be based on 60 percent of the result of multiplying: number of honeybee colonies lost in excess of normal mortality (17.5 percent) due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition; times \$60, average fair market value per honeybee colony.

Required Documentation for Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

To be eligible for honeybee colony losses due to CCD, the honeybee producer must provide proof of honeybee colony losses because of CCD, including but not limited to the following documentation:

- ...for 2008 and 2009 calendar year losses, a **self-certification** that the loss of honeybees was because of CCD and documented by the existence of at least 3 of the 5 symptoms of CCD, as identified by FSA;
- ... for 2010 calendar year losses, third party certification that the loss of honeybees was because of the existence of at least 3 of the 5 symptoms of CCD, as identified by FSA;
- ... proof of beginning and ending inventory of honeybee colonies;
- ...proof of good management practices.

Honeybee Hive Loss Payments

Payments for honeybee hive losses are based on the average fair market value of honeybee hives in the calendar year in which the loss occurs, as established by FSA. For 2008 and 2009 honeybee hive losses, FSA has established an average fair market value of \$200 per honeybee hive. The 2008 and 2009 ELAP payments for honeybee hive losses will be based on 60 percent of the result of multiplying:

- ... number of honeybee hives lost due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, times;
- ...\$200, average fair market value per honeybee hive.

Honeybee Feed Loss Payments

Payments for honeybee feed losses are based on 60 percent of the actual cost of purchased or harvested feed that was intended as feed for honeybees and was damaged because of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition. This includes additional feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain the honeybees for a short time period until additional feed becomes available.

Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR)

To be eligible for ELAP, honeybee producers who have a risk in honey production for the purpose of producing honey for commercial use as part of a farming operation, must for every commodity on every farm in which the producer has an interest for the relevant program year:

- ...in the case of an "insurable commodity," obtain catastrophic coverage or better under a policy or plan of insurance administered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA), except this obligation will not include crop insurance pilot programs so designated by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) or forage crops intended for grazing;
- ...in the case of a "noninsurable commodity" obtain the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage by filing the required paperwork and paying the administrative fee by the applicable State application closing date, except that this requirement will not include forage on grazing land.

Producers are required to obtain a policy or plan of insurance equal to at least the catastrophic (CAT) level of coverage or have NAP coverage for each crop planted or intended to be planted for harvest on the whole farm, excluding grazing. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged," "Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher" do not have to meet this requirement.

Honeybee Exception

For 2008 and 2009, NAP coverage was not available for loss of honeybee colonies or hives. Therefore, a honeybee producer does not have to meet the risk management purchase requirement to be eligible for 2008 and 2009 honeybee losses, if the producer:

- ...does not have any other crop planted or intended to be planted for harvest on the whole farm, excluding grazing;
- ...has a risk in a honeybee pollination or breeding operation; and
- ...does not produce honey for commercial use.

(CONTINUED ON P.21)



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NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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Agriculture Market News Branch STOP 0238
Washington, DC 20250
Website: <http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv> Phone: 202-720- 2175 FAX: 202-720-0547
www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm
Issued Monthly

Number XXX #5, June 15,2010

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF May 10 , 2010 IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY—
(# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Canada (Province not Reported)	Canola	White	\$1.56 - \$1.66	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.61 - \$1.62
Argentina	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.45 - \$1.59	Mixed Flowers	Ex. Light Amber	\$1.45 - \$1.59
Brazil	Organic	Light amber	\$1.49 - \$1.53			
Dakotas	Clover	White	\$1.60 - \$1.65			

Meetings with Government in June

By William Lockhart

The Safety Net Committee continues to work for changes to industry business risk management programs.

As producers face increasing challenges in managing their business, your MBA has been working behind the scenes to seek programs that would increase benefits to its' members.

In a meeting with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) staff in late June, MBA were pleased to learn that our Over winter Bee Loss insurance request is being actioned. Draft proposals for both Honey Production and Over winter Loss were presented to the Safety Net Committee for their review and feedback earlier last month. In meeting with MASC staff, elements of the draft were explained in greater detail. MASC are prepared to recommend the Over winter program request to their board in July. Although any proposals need to ultimately go to the provincial treasury board for approval, MBA is optimistic and encouraged about the progress so far.

In another area, MBA was invited to a consultation meeting with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiative Minister Struthers in late June. MBA joined leaders from about 25 other producer groups, to review the current business risk management programs. During the consultation meeting, producers were updated by presentations on AgriStability from MAFRI staff. The consultation purpose was to provide feedback and recommendations to the minister, in preparation for the upcoming Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Agriculture Ministers meeting in July, in Saskatoon.

The Manitoba Queen Breeders' Association (MQBA)

The Manitoba Queen Breeders' Association (MQBA) is continuing their relationship with the University of Manitoba in the coming year. To build on previous successes and take advantage of new initiatives, they're happy to accept new members. New membership is \$500. For more information contact Tim at 204-564-2315 or Merv at 204-725-1479

**The City of Winnipeg Community Services Department
Insect Control Branch**

PUBLIC NOTICE

INSECTICIDE USE PROGRAM FOR 2010

The City of Winnipeg's Insect Control Branch is involved in the control of nuisance and disease carrying mosquitoes in the City of Winnipeg and up to 24 km beyond.

Some of the control methodologies that are employed will involve the use of control products including Chlorpyrifos®, Diflubenzuron®, Methoprene®, Permethrin®, and Malathion®. However, to protect bees from potential toxic effects of these control products, a 300 meter pesticide free radius will be provided around all registered honeybee and leafcutter bee colonies. Beekeepers are encouraged to participate in this program by advising the Insect Control Branch of bee locations.

The only allowable exception to this spray policy will involve the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis* (Bti), which is considered non-toxic to bees.

For further information, please call 311 or write to the **Insect Control Branch, 3 Grey St., Winnipeg, MB, R2L 1V2**. An appointment can be arranged with Insect Control staff to properly map beehive locations, ensuring appropriate buffer zones around your colonies.

Food Safety Program, for Farms

How to apply for Food Safety Program, for Farms

1. Complete an application. Application forms for this program are available at your local GO Centre or online at the Manitoba Government Growing Forward website: manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward
2. Submit your application to your local GO Centre or mail it to the address on the back of the application form. A Food Safety Program, for Farms approval package, will be sent to you. It includes a checklist of tasks that must be completed before you can make a claim for funds.
3. Drop off the old equipment or the old brood combs to the designated drop off site. Note: You must contact MacGregor Wax Works at 204-685-3080 to make an appointment. Equipment must be clean and free of all honey and wax. Producers without an appointment for drop off may be turned away.
4. MacGregor Wax Works will provide a receipt for the brood combs. For equipment rebates, receipts will be sent to you, once the equipment has been verified as eligible by the program co-ordinator.
5. Once you have the receipts, you can submit them for payment at your local GO Centre, or send them to:

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
 CVO/Food Safety Knowledge Centre
 Food Safety Program, for Farms
 545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6
 Phone: 204-945-5435
 E-mail: farmFDSfty@gov.mb.ca

Program Timing

Beekeepers' interest/use of the current program will determine the length of time it is available (up to 2013). The Food Safety Program, for Farms' goal is for all Manitoba farmers and producers to have approved, up-to-date food safety systems. Once the CBISQT program passes CFIA's lead technical review, this current comb exchange and equipment rebate program will be replaced with the approved CBISQT program. At that time, up to \$2,000 will be available to beekeepers enrolled in CBISQT for program implementation and an additional \$5,000 may be available for future food safety equipment upgrades.

For more details on these programs and your eligibility, contact:

Dana Gardiner -- On-Farm Food Safety Specialist at 204-391-6616 in Winnipeg; or e-mail Dana.Gardiner@gov.mb.ca
 Peter Veldhuis -- Program Co-ordinator, Food Safety Program, for Farms at 204-945-5435 in Winnipeg; or e-mail Peter.Veldhuis@gov.mb.ca
 Rheal Lafreniere -- Business Development Specialist/Provincial Apiarist at 204-945-4825 in Winnipeg; or e-mail Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca




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UPCOMING EVENTS 2010/2011

- October 1-3 Manitoba Honey Show, Forks Market, Winnipeg
- October 21-23 Annual General Meeting for CHPA Cranbrook, BC
- Nov 1-3 AB Beekeepers AGM, Edmonton
- Nov 5-14 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto
- Nov 17 Manitoba Beekeepers Assoc AGM, Neepawa
- Nov 18-20 OBA Convention, Guelph, On
- Nov 24-27 Canadian Western Agribition, Regina
- Nov 25-26, Ontario Beekeepers Convention Guelph Ontario
- Jan 4-8 North American Beekeeping Conference, Galveston Texas, USA
- March 4-5 Beekeepers Symposium in Manitoba, 2011 Winnipeg, MB

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Honey Bee Losses – Survey 2010

Rhéal Lafrenière Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Although it is an improvement over the last three years where Manitoba beekeepers have been losing close to a third of the colonies over the winter, this year the estimated “winter loss” was only 25%. Long-term average winter loss in Manitoba has been typically in the range of 15% - 25%, so this year would appear to be on the high end of the average winter loss range. The estimates were derived from a survey conducted by Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) via e-mail as well as a mail-out to all commercial beekeepers registered with the province.

This year there appeared to be a greater amount of variation in losses with a significant number of beekeepers reporting low losses (i.e. 15% or less) and an equally significant number of beekeepers reporting high losses (i.e. 35% or higher). On the flip side, the early spring has helped to rebuild the bee populations and in some cases there was a surplus of nucs and wintered colonies available for sale this spring. Many beekeepers have reported that the colonies were stronger this spring than they have seen in years and some reported building back their colony numbers back to where they were four years ago.

Forty eight Manitoba beekeepers replied to the national winter loss survey, which is down by approx 1/3 from the normal respondents we get for our provincial surveys. In terms of number of colonies we usually get about 50% of the colonies represented in the survey results, but this year we are slightly down that at approximately 44%.

As part of the national survey, beekeepers were asked to comment on a number of management activities (i.e. feeding, pest & disease monitoring and control activities) to determine if there were any correlations between these activities and colony mortality over winter. A detailed report on these correlations will be presented in a future issue of the newsletter along with the results from the other provinces.

For now the most commonly reported responses to what were the suspected causes for the winter losses were queen problems (35%), Starvation (15%), weak colonies in the fall (14%), ineffective varroa control (13%), weather (7%), and lastly Nosema (4%). The comments under “Other” or “reasons unknown” accounted for 12% of the responses. In most cases the respondent indicated a combination of multiple problems.

Another interesting piece of information generated from the survey was that 73% of the respondents reported monitoring their colonies in the fall for varroa mite but only 17% indicated that they monitored for nosema disease. Ninety percent indicated that they treated for varroa and the majority used Apivar (53%), Mite-Away II (11%), Apistan (11%), Oxalic acid (9%), CheckMite+ (9%), and lastly Mite wipes (7%). Seventy-three percent indicated that they treated for nosema and 92% used fumagillin in syrup. The remaining 8% indicated other and in most cases did not indicate what they had used or reported using a product that is not registered for that use.

All in all, I am happy with the response we got for the survey, but I would like to encourage anyone that has not submitted their survey yet, please do so – IT IS NOT TOO LATE....

Food Safety Program, for Farms

Benefits for Beekeepers

The federal, provincial and territorial governments are investing \$1.3 billion over five years into Growing Forward programs, on a cost-share basis. Growing Forward supports a profitable agriculture sector through increased competitiveness, innovation and risk management.

The Canadian Beekeeping Industry's safety Quality and Traceability Program (CBISQT) is soon expected to be recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as the national, Canadian, on-farm food safety program for honey. While the CBISQT's safety program is still in the approval process, eligible beekeepers can apply for up to \$1,000 for equipment and good agricultural practices (GAP) through the Growing Forward Food Safety Program, for Farms.

All Manitoba producers registered as active beekeepers with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) are eligible for this program. It provides funds to set up, implement and monitor food safety, biosecurity and traceability systems on farms. It helps farmers and producers identify, reduce and manage risks and anticipate ongoing demands for increased food safety practices.

Applicants to the Food Safety Program, for Farms are eligible for up to 90 per cent of the total cost of eligible equipment. Currently, the program is available for such things as replacing old equipment and for replacing brood combs.

For example:

Up to \$1,000 is available to buy new food-grade honey processing equipment (on a 90:10 cost-share basis, with the beekeeper paying 10 per cent). The new equipment must replace similar, old non-food grade equipment and the old equipment must be turned in, to a designated site. It must be obvious that the old equipment has been used recently, old, unused equipment is not eligible.

- Up to \$1,000 is available for exchange of up to 500 dark, undamaged brood combs. Frames with foundation for honey bees can be dropped off at the registered rendering site. A \$2 rebate per comb is available for purchasing new wax or plastic foundation or new frames with foundation.

Of the pollen collected in the hive trap, a relatively small proportion was saskatoon pollen while the majority was from the genus *Viburnum* (Fig. 3). The other major pollen sources were Willow, Dandelion, Sedge, and some unknown source(s). There were a number of pollen sources available to the bees in that area, at that time of year, and they appeared to prefer the *Viburnum* source. So, floral competition may impact saskatoon flower visitation.

The activity at the hives in the orchards was decent with 24 to 115 honey bees coming into the hives per minute. The pollen collection confirmed they were into multiple sources of pollen.

Timing of placement of the hives in the orchards may have affected flower visit and pollen collection results. At least some bloom is best to attract the bees, and in both years, but particularly the second year, the bees were put out with little or no bloom in the most northern location. This less than ideal timing was mainly due to issues with weather and site access.

The yield data in this project was inconclusive. It's believed that a larger sampling may have been necessary to identify any impact on yield.

The pheromone strips didn't increase pollen foraging activity directly. In the first year there was a location interaction effect, and in the second year there was no significant difference.

Hive weight significantly increased in both years. It appears the bees were collecting nectar from other floral sources in the area. This suggests hives may be kept in a saskatoon orchard during bloom without supplemental feeding depending on what else is in the area.

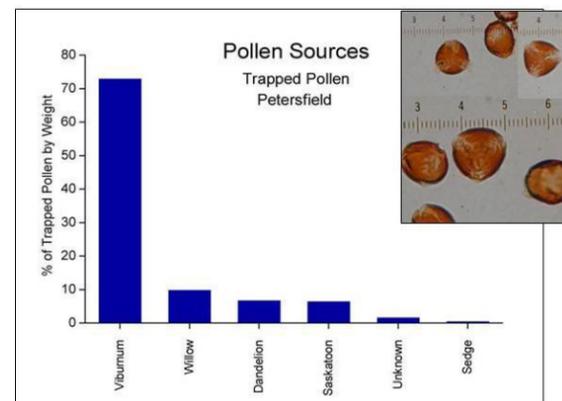


Fig. 3. Source and percentage of pollen trapped from a hive in saskatoon orchard. Inset: Saskatoon pollen images.

Future research may want to explore pollen collection and competing pollen sources more extensively. Intra- and inter-day differences in collection and activity may also be important. Larger sampling is recommended for yield data. Timing of hive placement should also be specific to at least some bloom, weather permitting.

For more information, contact David at 945-3861 (Winnipeg).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

This project was made possible due to funding from the Governments of Manitoba and Canada through the Canada-Manitoba Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative (ARDI IIIA). Thanks to Dr. Vaughn Bryant, Jim Campbell, Dr. Rob Currie, Samantha Connery, Lloyd Jensen, Bernadette Lepine, Anthony Mintenko, John Ostermann, Contech Inc. (formerly Pherotech), Charles Polcyn, Kim Ritz, John Russell, Avery Simunson, Rob & Marg Smith and Daryl Wright. Thank you for your participation and contribution!



Day Of The Honey Bee

by Jim Campbell



This year, **May 29** was the day proclaimed by Ottawa, Manitoba and many cities across Canada as The Day of The Honey Bee, using a connection with Mount Everest.

In 1953 Sir Edmund Hilary along with Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay became the first adventurers to successfully climb the highest mountain in the world. Edmund was a passionate naturalist as well as a dedicated beekeeper from New Zealand.

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) arranged for the Provincial Government to proclaim Saturday 29 May 2010 as "The Day of The Honey Bee" in recognition of their importance for pollinating plants producing foods people eat.

"Manitoba's beekeeping industry continues to make a significant contribution to the province's agricultural community and to the province's economy" said Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister Stan Struthers in his proclamation.

"To increase public awareness of the value of pollination and the linkage to the many foods we eat, MBA joined other groups and individuals across Canada in the Honey Bee Celebration" commented Charles Polcyn, Red River Apiarists' president. "For the Manitoba Celebration, MBA, the provincial honey producer organization, in conjunction with the Red River Apiarists' Association, the Winnipeg area hobby beekeeper group, and the Brandon Area Beekeepers' Association, sponsored the event".



Visitors finding flavoured honey



Min Struthers signs proclamation



Guests liked various foods on display

To honor the Honey Bee, their importance to the agricultural community, contribution to the provincial economy, environmental friendly impact, plus their contribution to our food supply, and our need to protect them, several events took place. The main focus was a table arrayed with foods from plants requiring pollination (i.e. Sunflower, Raspberry, Pumpkins, Canola (oil), Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Apples, Watermelon, Kiwi, etc). Other features included a pollination pictorial collage, an interactive display of live bees, and colorful floral specific honey and other hive products. In addition, media coverage took place on CBC Radio, City TV and an article in the Manitoba Cooperator newspaper.

Special Thanks and Appreciation to David Ostermann, Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiative, Pollination Specialist, and members of the Red River Apiarists' Association, who staffed the display, and responded to visitors questions about reducing sprays, the beekeeping industry, honey and other hive products, plus fruits, nuts and vegetables needing pollinators.

Visitors were from as far away as Australia and Europe, with some from Florida and Pennsylvania in USA, stopped by the display for a chat.



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Extension Report Summer 2010

David Ostermann
Manitoba Agriculture
Food & Rural Initiatives



The Benefits of Saskatoon Pollination with Managed Honey Bees: Final Project Summary

This is a summary of an MBA research project looking at the benefits of saskatoon pollination with honey bees. The project was conducted in 2008 and 2009. Funding was provided by the Canada-Manitoba Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative (ARDI IIIA).

FIRST YEAR (2008) - In the first year of the project, we worked with three saskatoon orchards, of Smokey variety, in the southern Interlake, Manitoba. The design was unreplicated. Each orchard received a separate treatment. Four plots, 20 metres long each, were randomly "embedded" within each orchard. Ribbons were tied to six branches in each plot, three branches per plot side. Honey bee hives were put in two of the orchards late in the evening and into the early morning on May 28, 2008 (Fig. 1). Brood pheromone was put in all the hives at one of the sites.



Fig. 1. Honey bee hives in saskatoon orchard in 2008.

SECOND YEAR (2009) - In the second year of the project, we worked with two saskatoon orchards, both Smokey variety, in the southern Interlake. Only two orchards were used in the second year (2009) due to the difficulty of finding orchards of similar size and age in relatively close proximity to each other. The treatment design was replicated at the two sites. Four plots were randomly "embedded" within each orchard. Ribbons were tied to six branches in each plot, three branches per plot side. Hives were put in the orchards late in the evening and into the early morning on May 24, 2009. Samples of pollen collected from a hive were analysed by Dr. Vaughn Bryant (Texas A & M University, Anthropology).

CONCLUSION:

The weather was a major challenge to activities in this project. Despite the weather however, the findings in this project help in the understanding of the relationship between saskatoons and honey bees, and how competition with other floral sources may be significant.

In both years, flower visits (Fig. 2) from about 0-10 honey bees per 20 metre row plot ranged, or up to 0.5 honey bees per metre. This appears to be relatively low. For blueberries, for example, 2 honey bees per metre of row is considered satisfactory (Rhodes 2006). The bees were collecting pollen, but it's unclear if nectar was collected.



Fig. 2. A honey bee flying to a saskatoon flower with saskatoon pollen in its pollen baskets.