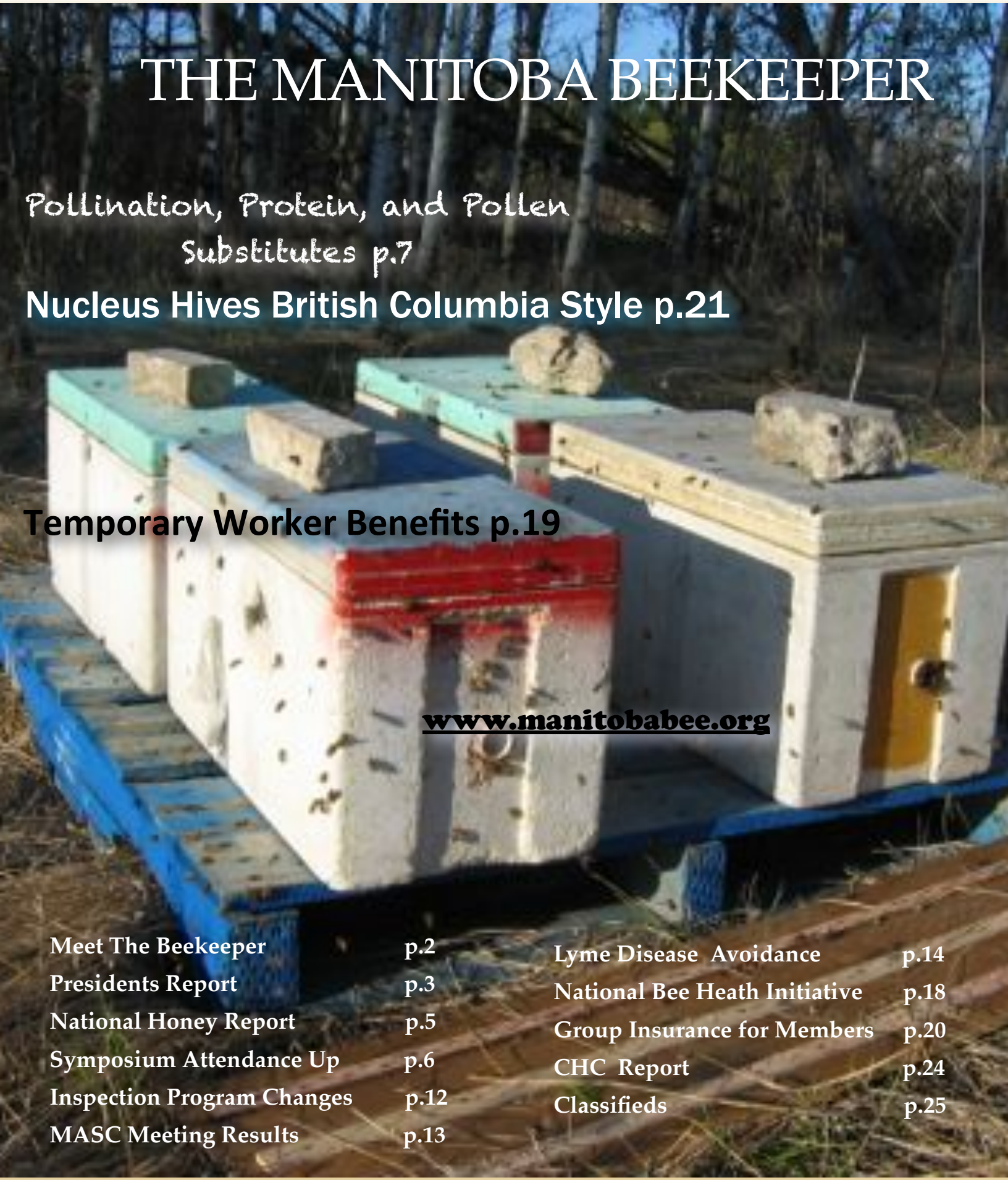
THE MANITOBA BEEKEEPER



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www.manitobabee.org

"Meet The Manitoba Beekeeper"

Paul and Anita Gregory

Our beekeeping started way back in the 70's with myself and brother Lee wanting to escape the city life and work at a rural lifestyle with good neighbors and life-long friends. We both had previous apiculture experience, Lee inspecting bees with Don Dixon's department and myself working under Cam Jay and his grad students which included waking the bees up at 5:00 in the morning, taking pictures of all the brood frames and receiving many stings.

In 1979, we bought a small outfit in Fisher Branch and expanded to 700 hives from the 50 hives , which we had managed while attending university. Out first year's spring was similar to this year with snow drifts still high in April. High interest rates at over 20% per annum plagued our expansion efforts and with honey prices lower than the previous years, however we were able to make the payments due to my working in the oil patch for three winters.

About this time, our very first hired hand introduced me to his sister, Anita. We started dating and soon we were hitched! Every beekeeper needs a good side kick - Anita is a beekeeper's dream with many years of managing in the honey house, building thousands of honey frames, teaching Home Economics full time, raising great kids, enjoying beekeeping junkets in New Zealand and the USA and of course keeping us healthy by x/c skiing over several hundred km every winter together.

Along the way, our farm expanded into forage seed production, using our honeybees to pollinate the trefoil fields and our leafcutter bees to pollinate the alfalfa seed fields. Honeybees were important, but having a diversified farm with many other assets helped when the "great honey depression" happened in the eighties and nineties. We witnessed approximately 40% of our industry going under and loosing many friends - including some MBA directors. For years, there were auction sales where a beekeeper could pick up really nice drawn supers for $10. Many supers were simply rendered down for the value of the beeswax. This is why, today, I am very active in KAP and participate in Ag meetings wherever possible, wearing the hat of a commercial beekeeper.

With the border closing in the late 80's, we did

realize that our wintering management had to be perfect and we did well, selling many nucs every spring until the Apistan resistant mites came along about 10 years ago. Having extra bees to sell every spring is tougher now, possibly due to a higher virus load, Nosema apis and residual chemicals in the brood frames. We have been

sourcing our breeding stock from Russian stock from Ontario, Rob Curry bees and Saskatraz stock and breeding our own Interlake stock (you could call them "Peguis Pointers"). Our colony losses the last two winters have averaged under 12%, albeit with many weaker hives coming out of the building now. Currently we are managing 1400 colonies, raising queens and custom pollinating for our contracted birdsfoot trefoil growers. Our son Campbell, is in Agriculture at U of M and we hope to expand down the road pending his involvement. He has seen the financials and knows beekeeping can be a good lifestyle...

As an advocate for keeping the border closed to package bees, I know there are very good arguments of allowing mainland package bees to be allowed into Canada. With the majority of provinces against this change and knowing that simply; a queen cell, a frame of brood, a frame of honey and $20 of feed will give you a $200 colony in eight months, we can keep the beekeeping sector vibrant and healthy by raising our own bees.

I currently represent Manitoba on the National Program Advisory Committee where I help develop policy for Canada's safety net program. It looks like all farmers will have a very tough time to access any ad hoc funding going forward, but there will be significant dollars for value added opportunities, oversea trade shows and health initiatives. Funding is there, but we will have to work for it.

Our integrated farm split up several years ago and we now manage the seed marketing and honeybees. The seed business is very interesting and I have experienced sitting on the executive of an international seed trade group.

My take on neonicotinoid seed coatings is that we better have plan B (ie: a safer insecticide) before rocking the boat too much. In talking with American seed technologists, there are some companies putting out poor quality coated seed which creates more"dust off" than necessary! Also, vacuum assist seed planters are in dire need of modification...

Our seed company, Interlake Forage Seeds Ltd., is a leader in the organic forage seed trade and I enjoy being part of this industry. In many senses, sustainable agriculture, is being lead by organic farm leaders.

To conclude our story Agriculture has been good to us. We live in exciting times, we have to embrace change to survive and I am honored to know the many good beekeepers in this province.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Spring, 2014

Allan Campbell

I was invited to present witness testimony in Ottawa on behalf of our association to the Canadian Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on February 11, 2014.with regard to it's order of reference dealing with the importance of bees and bee health in the production of honey, food and seed in Canada. I provided the senators with our unique provincial outlook on the state of bee numbers and overall decline in colony heath. The proceedings of the hearing can be seen online if you search Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

I very much enjoyed the opportunity to host Dr. Jamie Ellis and Randy Oliver of www.scientificbeekeeping.com for dinner on Thursday February 27th after picking them up at the airport when they arrived for our 108th Annual Convention & symposium.
It's not everyday you get that you get to spend a private evening with some of the brightest minds in the bee research community.
Both men went on to present very engaging talks on a wide variety of topics from bee nutrition and practical aspects of maintaining bee heath to effects of hybridized African/ European bees and impacts of small hive beetles. I personally enjoyed the talk given by Jamie Ellis on Honey Bees as supper organisms, it really changed the way I approach my bees now. Jamie also kept us all laughing and very entertained at the Friday night banquet. There was also very important talks given on serious risks from Lyme disease carrying ticks are in Manitoba and the effects of Lyme. I would like to especially thank Ron Rudiak, Lorn Peters and Merv Malyon for sharing their personal experiences with all in attendance. More information on Lyme disease in Manitoba can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/health/lyme/

On a disappointing note, we have been told by CFIA that they intent to uphold the prohibition to import of honeybee packages from the United States. We are told the final risk assessment will be posted on the internet and that we will be informed when that occurs. They go on to say that they are open to discussion from stakeholders' I will have more on this at the story evolves.

And as a poignant reminder of how this CFIA decision continues to put our re-supply chain in jeopardy in case of major losses, on the same day that we received notice from CFISA through CAPA, we received more bad news on the supply of replacement hives this spring. We were expecting to receive an average of 6 loads of New Zealand packages per week, but as the package bee industry from overseas is contingent on so many factors that make it uncertain and they have run into a shortfall. Arataki NZ has run into capacity issues in regard to the availability of bees and infrastructure and are expecting a net reduction of about 25% supply.
As the winter is passing into spring (At least on the calendar) I am hoping for a good year for our beekeepers. While visiting with other beekeepers at the convention I am happy to say that most people I spoke with thought their bees had gone into autumn in good shape with low mite loads and large populations of young healthy bees to get them through winter. Some had already peeked inside some hives and happy with what they had seen. A springtime convention always has me looking forward, Best wishes to you all in the upcoming season.

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

Federal Market News Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
STOP 0238
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-720- 2175 FAX: 202-720-0547

Website: www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf

Number XXXIV - #3 **Issued Monthly** **March 14, 2014**

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBURARY, 2014
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)

DAKOTA				
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	$2.01		
Canola	Extra Light Amber	$2.01		
Clover	White	$2.11		
Clover	Extra Light Amber	$2.01	-	$2.11
Sunflower	Extra Light Amber	$2.11		
FLORIDA				
Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	$1.55	-	$1.77
Wildflower	White	$2.00		
IDAHO				
Western	Light Amber	$2.11		
MONTANA				
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	$2.04	-	$2.05
Clover	White	$2.11		
NEW JERSEY				
Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	$1.58		
TEXAS				
Western	Extra Light Amber	$2.11		
ORAGON				
Wildflower	Amber	$1.70		
WISCONSIN				
Clover	Light Amber	$2.35		
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	$2.35		

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.

Clover	White	$2.09	-	$2.12

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

ARGENTINA				
Mixed Flower	White	$1.76	-	$1.80
Mixed Flower	Extra Light	$1.74	-	$1.80
BRAZIL				
ORGANIC	Light Amber	$1.70	-	$1.75
INDIA				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	$1.35		
VIETNAM				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	$1.33	-	$1.35
UKRAINE				
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	$1.34		

Temporary Worker Benefits

By Jim Campbell, MBA secretary

Beekeepers will be pleased to hear how they can help their temporary workers obtain health coverage and a driver's license benefits while in Manitoba.

Thanks to investigations from the Smiths of St Andrews, **Manitoba Health coverage** is available for Temporary Foreign Workers. As of last spring (2013) the Manitoba government announced that **temporary foreign workers are eligible to be covered by Manitoba Health starting when they arrive in Manitoba**. This means the employer no longer has to purchase private health coverage for them. The office is **Insured Benefits Branch, Manitoba Health**, 300 Carlton Street Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9 **Phone** 204-786-7101 or 1-800-392-1207
The website http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/mbcard.html indicates a PDF registration form is available.

Those close to Winnipeg could actually go to the office, however registration can be done by mail. The registrant will probably need their passport, temporary work permit and possibly a letter from their employer stating the time frame they will be employed. In the past it was only those who had work visas for a year or longer could be covered, but the government announcement last spring removed the 1-year requirement.
Regarding obtaining a **drivers license** for temporary Workers, there is an option for that. A **"Student Exemption Letter"** should be applied for at an **Autopac** office within the first 3 months a temporary foreign worker is in Manitoba. Their foreign license or International Driver's license will cover them for the first 3 months but after that they would not be considered a legal driver in Manitoba without the exemption letter carried together with their license. There is no cost for it. To apply they will again need their passport, work visa and a letter from their employer. Some AutoPac offices may be unfamiliar with this so advise the broker to please call the "Broker Enquiry Unit" for information on the requirements to qualify for the student authorization letter. At one office, the employer had to argue with the staff the first time they took one of their employees but the next time there was no problem.

Symposium Attendance Up

By Jim Campbell, Education Committee

The Beekeepers Symposium at the end of February saw attendance up from previous years.

At the 108th Annual Convention and Symposium, held February 28 - March 1, 2014, at Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo Park, Winnipeg, registration peaked at 108 participants. Attendance was up from the typical level of about 90 people.

Both keynote speakers drew captive audiences as information was shared about their respective beekeeping activities. Similarly the producer panel providing suggestions on how to reduce the risk of contacting Lyme disease stimulated lots of discussion.

Attendees were overheard voicing encouraging comments about the various sessions. In addition, several felt the venue provided ample space for the Tradeshow vendors and the Meeting participants.

Some were wishing a summary of the presentations could be available for future reference.

Randy Oliver, in his typical California style, dealt with several topics focused on closely monitoring the food needs of the hive. Supplemental feeding, even done in the rain, ensured the population continued healthy and strong. This management technique could be a tool for any beekeeper to apply. Randy also provided information to increase the knowledge and skills of the audience by walking through intricacies of keeping bees over the course of a year. He later provided practical tools beekeepers could use to help their bees as he referenced one of his web sites ScientificBeekeeping.Com.

James Ellis, University of Florida, provided insight into some of the environmental and agricultural impacts beekeepers needed to be aware of. Jamie covered the situation of the small hive beetle in Florida, and described ways to control this pest. In a similar vain, he covered the current spreading of the African Hybridized Honey Bee in USA. At a later talk, he reported on the impacts of Pesticides on Honey Bees. As usual, questions after the talks helped clarify options and ideas for practical applications.

Session chairs voiced appreciation to the many sponsors, identified on the program sheet, including Growing Forward 2, contributing to the symposium success.

Pollination, Protein, and Pollen Substitutes
Submitted by Les Eccles

There is no question that pollination services are the driving force behind beekeeping's essential contribution to the agri-food industry. Since 2011 the number of colonies sent into pollination has risen nearly 77%. Although in 2013 there was a slight decrease in the number of colonies sent to pollination due to high winter mortally reducing the number of colonies available. The demand however has never been higher, and is expected to steadily increase as more Crown Land is granted to blueberry growers, and more cranberry bogs are established. When concerns arise over the continuing losses of honey bee colonies available for pollination, it is often overlooked that there is also a continual increase in demand for pollination services which amplifies the pressure on beekeepers to increase the number of colonies available to provide pollination. Colony health challenges have made the ability for beekeepers to reduce overwintering losses and annually increase colony numbers in order to meet the demand for pollination increasingly difficult. Providing pollination demand is needed not only to optimize fruit and vegetable production and quality, it is also essential to ensure the biosecurity of Canada's beekeeping industry, by ensuring that there are sufficient colonies available to provide pollination in Canada; and preventing the argument to open the border to migratory colonies from the United States to fulfill unmet pollination.

Pollination services create unique conditions and stresses on colonies that need to be considered and examined as a completely different form of beekeeping. Stresses caused by extensive transportation, pests and diseases, pesticide exposure and nutrient deficiencies rearrange the dynamics of how beekeepers providing pollination need to manage colony health. In 2011, the OBA Tech Transfer Program began a project to investigate management of honey bee colonies used for pollination service and how to improve the management colony nutrition and pest and diseases.

When giving consideration to colony nutrition, we often limit management to ensuring sufficient sugar/ carbohydrates are available to a colony. One of the most important aspects of honey bee nutrition that is often overlooked is pollen/protein that can affect most parts of a colony's ability to function, from raising brood, queen rearing to foraging behaviour. Nutrient deficiency can be caused by low quality pollen which contains less than 21% protein and missing the necessary 9 amino acids that contribute to complete dietary protein for honey bees. It can also be caused by over exertion by honey bees foraging for low quantity and quality pollen reward.

Varroa will also affect the ability for honey bees to process and store protein in their bodies. Honey bees store protein as a molecule called vitellogenin in their bodies. This protein aids in most functions honey bees perform and how the colony is able to communicate. Research from the USDA has shown that infestations of varroa affect the ability of honey bees to develop and store protein to become "fat bees". This is crucial especially in overwintering bees that need to have the maximum amount of body stores available to make it through the winter months before colony reproduction begins in the spring. This is another important reason to ensure varroa is controlled well before the last winter bees hatch from brood in the fall.

Nutrient deficiency in honey bees can result in a number of symptoms: Halt to brood rearing, consumption of young larva, premature capping of larva, increased susceptibility to European Foulbrood, poor supercedure, decreased foraging behaviour and poor overwintering. The halt of brood rearing and consumption of larva is important to consider in the recovery time for a colony that reaches a nutrient deficient state. Although a colony may only be nutrient deficient for a short period of time, there is a long lasting effect from the removal of at least

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one week of brood and restart of brood rearing. It has been shown that it could take 2 weeks to a month for a colony to recover from a protein deficient state.

These factors need to be taken into consideration for colonies entering pollination services. Blueberries for instance, produce very little pollen of which only contains approximately 14% protein. Blueberry plantations are a mono crop and there are few other plants available to supplement protein for the pollination colony's diet. This results in a perfect case scenario for honey bees used for pollination to become nutrient deficient and return from pollination services in poor conditions. Beekeepers providing these services supplement colonies with protein before they are sent into pollination to reduce the impact of poor nutrition. The practice of providing pollen substitute however, had not been assessed in the field and beekeepers were still reporting symptoms of nutrient deficiency when colonies return from pollination.

Consultations with beekeepers raising concerns over the lack of recommendation and research to guide best management of colonies used for pollination, resulted in a 3 year study by the Tech Transfer Program and Ontario beekeepers to assess pollination practices, and nutritional management of honey bee colonies used for pollination services. The first year of the study in 2011 consisted of colony assessments and surveys with beekeepers to better understand what type of management was being applied by various beekeepers, and the conditions of the colonies that were used for pollination. Based on this information, 2012 resulted in a controlled pollination study to assess the use of pollen substitute at different rates to evaluate the value to colony health and economic return to the beekeeper.

The pollen substitute chosen for the 2012 study was the brand "Global Patties" (15% protein mixed), because it was the product that the majority of beekeepers were using to supplement protein in their colonies. The rates of application chosen were a low, med and high rate at 2, 3 and 5 lbs respectively; these rates were established by surveying what beekeepers were already using in the field. The objective of this study was to determine the optimal rate of pollen substitute application for colonies used for pollination services. To assess the effectiveness of the different pollen substitute rates, colonies were measured before they entered pollination and upon return from pollination for: bee population, brood, honey and pollen. A complete disease profile was also taken for varroa, nosema and tracheal mite before and after pollination service.

Surprisingly, the results from the different rates of substitute application did not show any significant difference between 2, 3 and 5 lbs on honey bee population or brood amounts, and symptoms of nutrient deficiency were highly present in colonies that returning from pollination. This indicated there where two issues present in the current use of pollen substitute: quantity of substitute and quality of the product used.

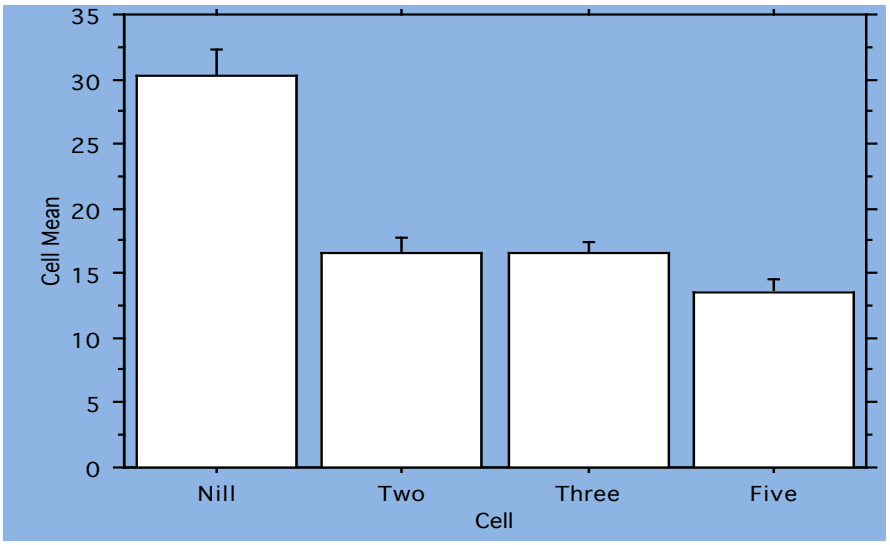

Fig. 1 – No significant difference between the application of 2, 3 or 5 lbs of Global Patty substitute. "Nill" refers to colonies that were not sent to pollination and did not receive pollen substitute.

Based on the information from 2012, the project was adjusted in 2013 to include two other pollen substitutes used by the industry that have been shown to be beneficial products to supplement protein to honey bees. Bee Pro® (15% protein mixed) has been tested by the USDA and shown to be beneficial, and a homemade substitute (11.2 protein mixed) commonly used and recommended by commercial pollination beekeepers in the United States were used in the 2013 study; along with Global Patties. Each product was applied at rates of 0, 3 and 5 lbs on a total of 180 colonies. A rate of no pollen substitute was needed as a control for the 2013 study, to show there was a measurable benefit to using protein supplements, since 2012 showed no difference in commonly used application rates. The same colony conditions were measure in 2013 as 2012.

Parts	Quantity	Ingredient	Specs	Price
8	100 lbs.	Granulated Sugar		$38.00
2	25 lbs.	Brewer's Yeast	48% protein	$39.25
1	12 lbs.	Dried Whole Egg	47-48% protein	$26.40
	5 litres	Water		
	3 cups	Veg Oil		$01.75
	3 cups	Lemon Juice		$01.25
Total	150 lbs.		11.2%	$106.65

Fig. 2 - Recipe for Homemade recipe used for pollen substitute.

The results from the 2013 trial showed a significant difference between the products used for protein supplementation. The improvement on the population of honey bees and brood upon return from pollination was significant with the use of the homemade substitute compared to Global Patties and Bee Pro. It also showed that there was no improvement on bee or brood populations compare to the control (0 lbs.) with the use of Global Patties or Bee-Pro.

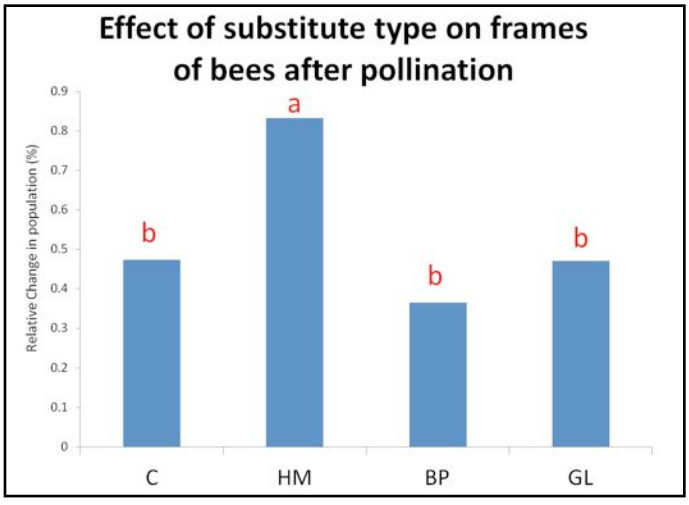

Fig 3 – Relative improvement to honey bee population between different pollen substitute types. C – Control (no substitute), HM – Homemade, BP – Bee Pro, GL – Global Patties.

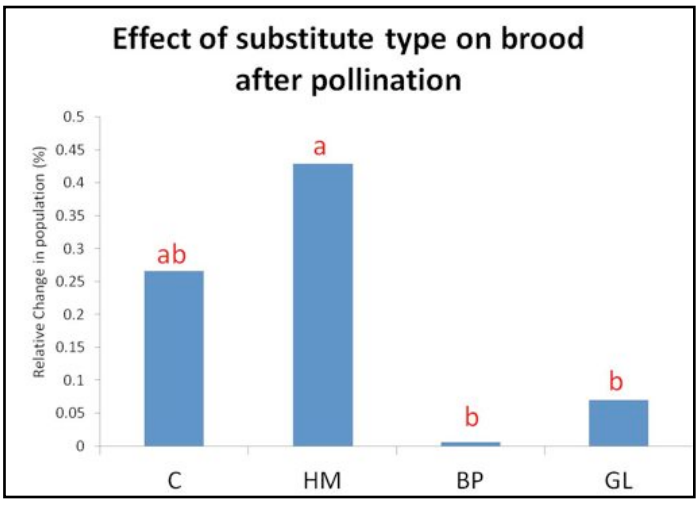

Fig 4 - Relative improvement to brood population between different pollen substitute types.

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Although there was a slight improvement with all products by using 5 lbs over 3 lbs of substitute, none of the differences were significant. Global Patties was the closest to showing a significant difference with over 90% of the time resulting in an improvement by using 5 lbs over 3 lbs.

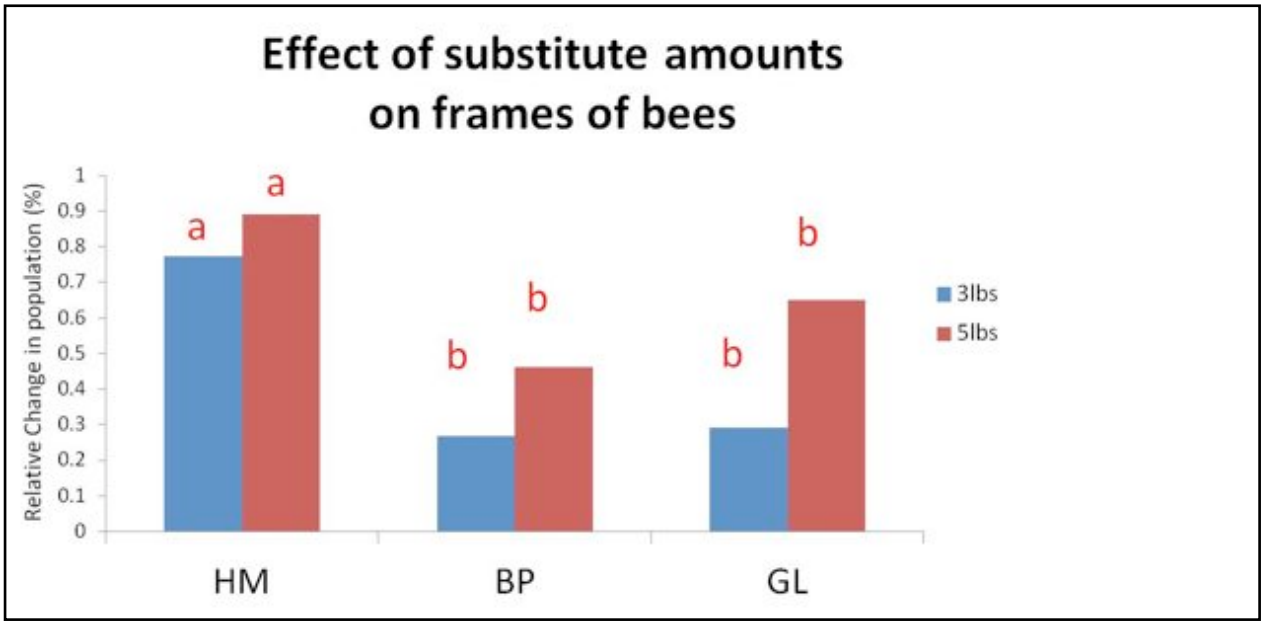


Fig. 5 – Comparison of 3 and 5 lbs of pollen on the benefit to honey bee population change

There was a difference between products in how much pollen was stored in the comb. Bee-Pro and Global Patties both showed more stored pollen in their combs compared to the Homemade substitute. This could partially explain why there is a significant improvement in colony conditions upon return from pollination with the use of the homemade substitute. If Bee-Pro and Global patties are being stored in the comb when applied instead of immediately consumed, the colony is not taking advantage of the protein supplement when they most need it during pollination services. This would result in colonies returning in a nutrient deficient state after pollination

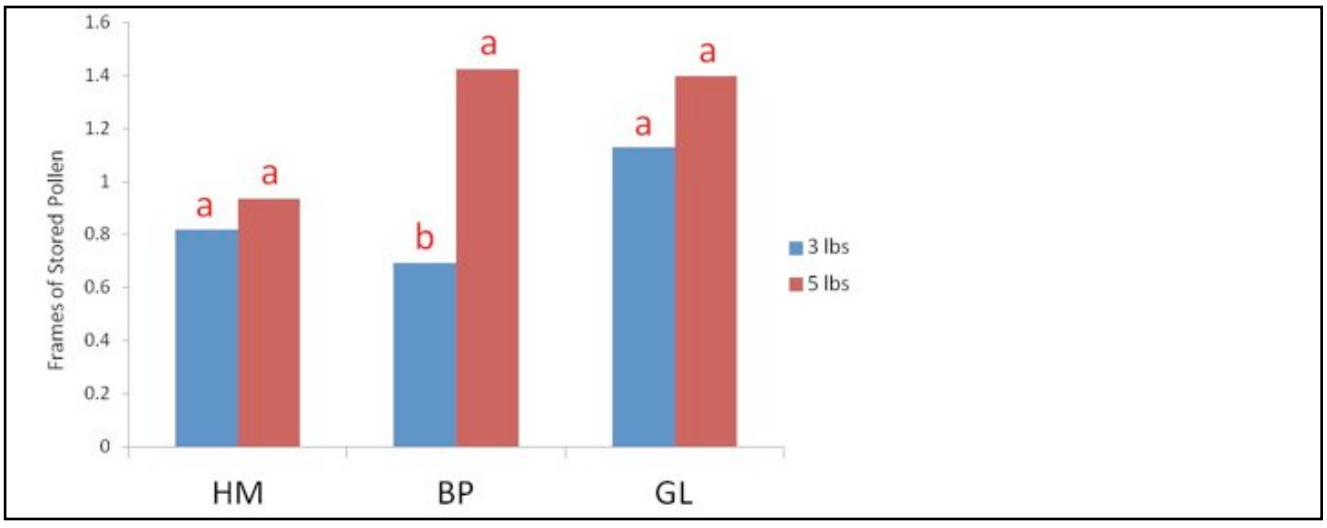
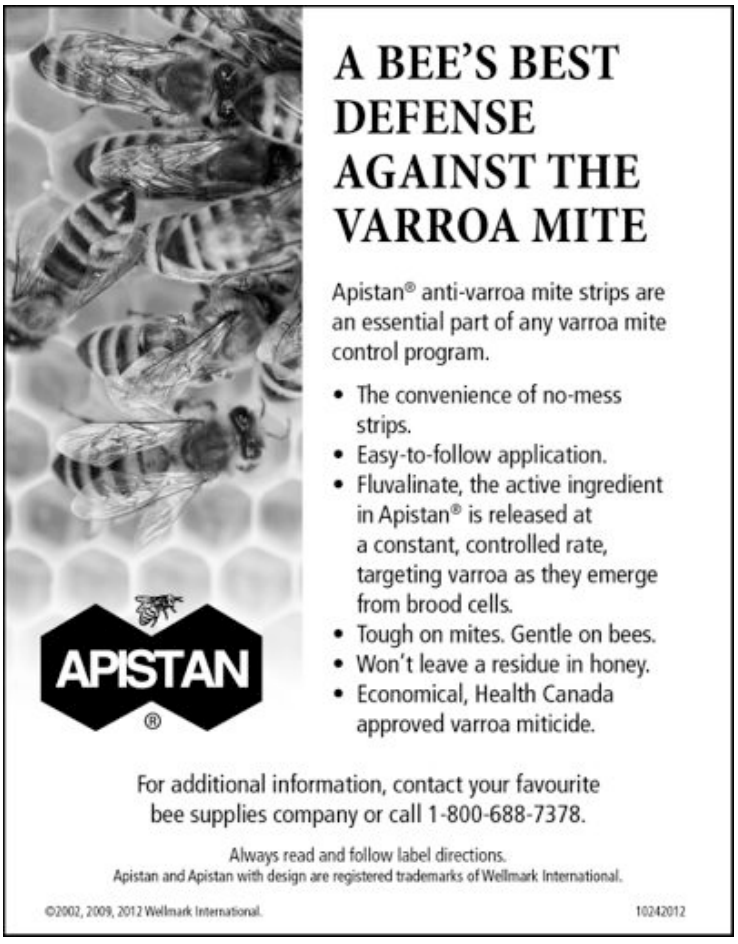


Fig. 6 – Stored pollen in comb upon return from pollination at application of 3 and 5 lbs.

The 2013 study confirmed our questions from 2012 showing that both product quality and quantity of substitute being used in the industry needed to be investigated to better understand and provide recommendations to beekeepers. Not only did the homemade substitute outperform Bee-Pro and Global Patties, the cost associated is significantly lower for the ingredients to make the homemade patties; which evens out the cost associated to labour necessary to prepare the patties. It is important for colonies to return from pollination with productive populations of bee and brood in order for beekeepers to obtain a honey crop after pollination, and make splits to increase colony numbers to ensure they have sufficient colonies to perform pollination services the following year.

The other components of this project that addresses specific management of pests and diseases and the overall development of best management practices will be published in the following OBJ editions and presented at the OBA spring meeting. If you are interested in preparing the homemade substitute and need further instruction on sourcing ingredients and preparation, please don't hesitate to contact the TTP for more information (ttp@ontariobee.com).

This project would not have been possible without the contribution of resources, support and donations to the Tech Transfer Program from Ontario beekeepers and industry. These donations allowed us to approach granting agencies that agreed to fund the remainder of the project. This project was funded in collaboration with the Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, the Agricultural Adaptation Council, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan, and the Prairie Improvement Network.



Inspection Program Changes

By Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

In 2013 Manitoba producers noticed a major change to the customary Apiary Inspection program operated by the province. In fact, there wasn't a program! This was the result of the line item for Inspection being deleted from the provincial budget. It seems Manitoba wasn't the only province to notice this kind of change, as producers in Alberta saw the same thing happen in their province. Inspection during 2013 took on a more targeted approach, basically focusing on the small hive beetle. In addition, The Bee Diagnostic Lab was staffed by a summer student and its' use was reduced by the lack of producer submitted samples.

At the 2013 Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) annual meeting, staff from MAFRD (Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development) informed the industry of budget changes and the opportunity for industry to develop and operate their own disease surveillance program with the initial assistance of a government grant. The grant, in the amount of $51,000, is for both the Honey Bee and Leafcutting bee industries in the province, with 80% for the honey bee industry.

In early 2014, MBA Board of Directors reviewed the pros and cons of the tasks, and decided to accept this challenge given the importance and priority of both honey bee and leafcutter bee health in the province. Furthermore, with the season fast approaching, and limited availability of MBA staff to oversee and manage the day to day activities, it was decided that the work would need to be contracted out. The contract was awarded to Daryl Wright, Winnipeg, who has experience with managing a honey bee inspection program plus experience in the University bee research lab. MBA initially advised its' members of this information in emails dated February 26, 2014 and March 10, 2014.

Daryl is scheduled to head the apiary surveillance and bee diagnostic services starting this spring. At this time, it's anticipated Daryl will be able to provide bee diagnostic services around April/May. Daryl can be reached at 204-229-9343 (Winnipeg cell phone) or e-mail d.l.wright@shaw.ca. For 2014, Daryl will be able to provide varroa infestation analysis and nosema spore count in Winnipeg.

For more complex lab analysis, such as viruses, nosema species identification, etc., beekeepers can contact the National Bee Diagnostics Centre in Beaverlodge, Alberta (Phone: 780-357-7737). For Service fees and analysis options refer to Website: www.thenbdc.ca.

MAFRD staff has offered to work with the MBA and Daryl to develop a new service delivery model to replace the old Apiary Inspection program, and will help with the changes. Daryl will provide laboratory bee diagnostic services out of the Agricultural Services Complex provincial building (545 University Cr., Winnipeg). Beekeepers can be assured that producer and inspection information will be held in confidentiality as in the past. MAFRD will continue to provide a regulatory role over diseases in accordance with *The Bee Act*.

Bee Diagnostic Lab Fees 2014

Diagnostic fees as follows:
Nosema **$20** / Varroa **$20** / Trachael **$20**

Combined Nosema, Varroa, Trachael **$45**
Antibiotic Resistance (AFB) **$30**

MBA members receive $5 discount per analysis category
Samples may be collected by inspectors at the request of beekeepers, or samples may be dropped off on site or can be sent in directly by beekeepers. Please send samples to:

Apiculture Diagnostic Lab , Ag Services Center
245 University Cr
Winnipeg ,MB ,R3T 5S6

MASC Meeting results

Jim Campbell, for Safety Net Committee

MBA representatives met with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) board recently, in their Portage la Prairie headquarters, to review the over-winter Bee Mortality Insurance program, plus other MASC programs.

In reviewing their 2013 results, Paul Bonnet, indicated there were 86 Wildlife damage claims compensated at over $159,000. The number of producers in the Bee Mortality program increased from 47 to 53, indicating the desire to insure colonies from unusual losses. The level of compensation exceeded $1.9M for 2012-13. The 2013-14 program is based on individual performance, so producers are encouraged to maintain accurate records of hive survivability to keep premiums lower.

MASC confirmed the use of infrared camera technology to assist in determining activity levels in bee colonies.

In responding to board questions, Chris Rempel, MBA director from Austin, described his method of overwintering bees. Later in the discussions, Jim Campbell, MBA secretary, reminded MASC of MBA's desire for production insurance. MASC felt the uptake would be too low to embark upon this program right now. MASC uses annual meetings with their client groups to ensure they are serving industry needs with suitable insurance and loan products.

Minister Meeting Held

Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

MBA representatives met with Minister R. Kostychyn, MAFRD, and the Deputy Minister, on 18 March to discuss honey producer industry issues.

MBA confirmed they were moving ahead with the provinces offer of grant funding and were contracting out the disease surveillance and diagnostic programs for 2014.

Minister Kostychyn commented on a conversation with his Alberta counterpart and assured the group he took their concern regarding needing access to bees from USA to Federal Minister Ritz. He recognized all Canadian provinces weren't unified; yet the prairies needed help. Jake Maendel, MBA Vice-President confirmed MBAs' desire for governments understanding of the industry needs.

The Temporary Foreign Worker issue will create a situation where none of the current Nicaragua workers may return to Manitoba in 2015, as they need to stay out of Canada for 4 years. Canadian Honey Council has been working on this issue for the last few years. This will create additional training expense or a reduction in production for producers. Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Ag Deputy Minister, sought industry information on the impacts this may have. Bryan Ash, CHC Director, noted pressure to drastically reduce production without temporary staff, plus the losses due to training time. This could adversely impact the amount of honey available to packers. The group concluded, a transition time could be sought from the Federal government, so training of 1/3 staff can be done each year to minimize impacts.

Lyme Disease Avoidance

By Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

(From left to right) Lorn Peters ,Merv Malyon and Ron Rudiak talk about experiences with Lyme.

Beekeepers are experiencing cases of Lyme disease, likely due to the environment and nature of their job.

At a panel discussion session, conducted during the Beekeepers Symposium February 28-March 1, 2014, three producers related experiences attempting to have their cases dealt with by the health system. Each relayed their story of a tick bite and their search to identify the situation and obtain proper treatments. A likely treatment is Doxycycline.

Dr Rusk presented a map charting areas of Manitoba where ticks carrying Lyme disease exist. The downfall is that unless doctors report the appropriate data, people could get a false impression of the risks of contacting the disease. The ticks most likely carrying the disease are very small, and can go undetected unless a full body check is undertaken. Canlyme web suggests High Risk Areas include Wooded areas, Nature parks, Grassy fields and Beaches. For example, ticks were found in wooded areas around Anola as late as mid November.

Some may envy neighbours in USA having access to insect repellants containing Permethrin. Walmart USA web site identifies a couple of products, No. 550917979 Sawyer spray, and No. 551943103 Repellant Pump. (Note: these products are not approved by Health Canada).

One panel member recommended mowing grass at apiary sites, as one way to reduce risk. See recommendations on web at http://canlyme.com/lyme-prevention/ as referenced below:

Lyme disease is preventable. By taking the right precautions and spreading the word, you can effectively protect your family from Lyme.

Preventing infection

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid tick-infested areas whenever possible, particularly in spring and early summer when nymph ticks feed. Adult ticks are a bigger threat in fall. Ticks favour moist, shaded environments; especially leafy wooded areas and overgrown grassy habitats.

Top 5 tick habitat precautions

1. Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Tuck your pants into your socks to prevent ticks from getting inside your pants.
2. Check your clothes for ticks often. Ticks will climb upwards until they find an area of exposed skin.
3. Wear light coloured clothing to make it easier to spot ticks.
4. Walk on pathways or trails when possible staying in the middle. Avoid low-lying brush or long grass.
5. Apply insect repellent to your skin and clothing, especially at the openings such as ankle, wrist and neck.

GF2 Workshops Conducted

By Jim Campbell, Promotions Committee

Under the Growing Forward 2 (GF2) banner, a series of Biosecurity Training workshops were conducted across Manitoba this past winter.

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) used the workshops as a way of introducing the Canada-Manitoba funded program. Growing Forward 2: Growing Assurance – On Farm Program workshops were held in Brandon, Carman, Steinbach, Dauphin and Winnipeg with about 90 producers attending. The session scheduled for Teulon was impacted by a blizzard trekking across Manitoba. Fortunately, those registered were reassigned to the Winnipeg location.

Rhéal Lafrenière, Business Development Specialist with MAFRD, used these sessions as a precursor for potential applicants to the GF2 program and also as a way to introduce the voluntary National Bee Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard. In the sessions, attendees were introduced to the many elements of the newly released standard (i.e. Biosecurity Checklist), plus ways the standard could be applied by the bee industry. Under GF2, producers could access up to $2500 cost shared up to 65% for items under the category Good Agricultural Practices. This dealt with items such as Comb exchange, Disease & Pest Diagnostic services, Irradiation of Equipment/Bee Feed, etc.

In addition to the workshops, MBA were approved for funding through GF2, under the Growing Competitiveness – Agri-Extension area, for two USA speakers at the recent Symposium held February 28-March 1. Attendees appreciated hearing of the experiences and learning of new management techniques from Randy Oliver and Jamie Ellis. Several producers completed surveys after the symposium to provide feedback to the Manitoba secretariat on the effectiveness of the program.

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

2014 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PRINT INFORMATION PLEASE

NAME: _____ COMPANY NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____POSTAL CODE_____

TELEPHONE_____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF COLONIES EXPECTED TO BE OPERATED IN 2014 _____

Payment Due January 1, with Deadline for membership payment – March 31, 2014

MEMBERSHIPS cover period from January 01 to December 31 of 2014

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

1. MEMBER – A Producer who keeps 50 or more honey bee colonies 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) LEVY $_____
PLUS $0.14/COLONY (FOR 1,001 COLONIES AND GREATER) HONEY COUNCIL LEVY $_____

2. ASSOCIATE MEMBER – A Volunteer, non-voting category, for beekeepers with 49 or fewer honey bee colonies in Manitoba, or a local or out-of-province industry supporter. $60.00 BASIC FEE $ _____
NOTE: PAID-UP MEMBERS automatically receive the MBA newsletter "The Manitoba Beekeeper", and only MANITOBA RESIDENTS may receive the Canadian Honey Council's newsletter "Hive Lights".

3. INSTITUTION – A Non-Canadian individual, organization, or entity, serving as a broker or library, requesting the MBA newsletter for reference material or other use. $100 US FUNDS BASIC FEE $ _____

BEE RESEARCH FUNDS-DONATIONS

BARRY FINGLER MEMORIAL FUND (Manitoba Beekeepers' Association) $ _____
CANADIAN BEE RESEARCH FUND (Canadian Honey Council) $ _____

INSURANCE(see MBA web section Bees-Protection for details)

BEEKEEPERS LIABILITY INSURANCE (valid 5 May 2014-5 May 2015) @ $45.00 per year $ _____

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS - (THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MBA MEMBERS ONLY)

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL - $45.00 per year $ _____
BEE CULTURE - $45.00 per year $ _____
$ _____

Paid by: CASH _____ CHEQUE _____ TOTAL AMOUNT $ ═══

I request that the above amount be deducted from my account at the Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers Limited.
THERE IS NO "AUTOMATIC" DEDUCTION FOR PAST MEMBERS.
Applicants please approve deduction by initialing here. _____

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. INFORMATION MAY BE USED TO PROVIDE PRODUCTS OR SERVICES BENEFITIAL TO MEMBERS.

APPLICATION DATE: _____ APPLICANTS SIGNATURE: _____

Please return this completed application together with payment to:
Manitoba Beekeepers' Association
c/o Hilary Stewart, MBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 192 Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0

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National Bee Heath Initiative

On March 25, 2014, Canadian Honey Council (CHC) and Agriculture, Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) hosted a multi-stakeholder workshop on Bee Health in Ottawa. The workshop included key industry and government stakeholders from across the honey, horticulture, grains and oilseeds commodity sectors. Also at the table were some of the large farming association as well as CropLife Canada, which is the trade association representing the "chemical companies" developing, manufacturing and distributing pest control products. Lastly, there were representatives from all levels of governments; provincial, federal … from bureaucrats to civil servants.

The workshop was intended to launch a national discussion on bee health with a view to developing an increased understanding of the issues involved where crop agriculture and apiculture intersect and to identify activities (prioritized by the discussion) aimed at reducing risks and responding to opportunities. Unlike other national bee health strategy meeting that have occurred in the past that only involved representatives from the beekeeping industry, this workshop was aimed at engaging all agriculture sectors that impact or promote bee health. It was expected that participants would identify opportunities for collaboration on bee health issues and make specific commitments to address these issues. This workshop was/is an important step toward developing a national long term strategy for research, extension and possible regulation of bee health conservation.

"Bees are critical to both our economy and our ecosystem," said Rod Scarlett, Executive Director of the Canadian Honey Council. "That is why beekeepers, farmers, agronomists, scientists, government and other partners are working on this together. We know if we develop a national and inclusive approach, everyone will be better off. If we can't work together, everyone will lose something because so much is at stake." The demands on Canada's beekeepers are expected to continue to grow and this group of stakeholders is committed to working together to find positive outcomes for pollinator health and agricultural production. "Bees are an important part of agriculture. We are pleased with this opportunity to work with beekeepers, scientific experts and governments to promote the health of bees," said Debra Conlon, Grain Farmers of Ontario. "A commitment to a co-ordinated, comprehensive national approach to honey bee health is the right approach." [1]

The Goal of the meeting was to identify specific actions in which the group could work on to improve bee health in Canada. The discussion was organized into the following categories:

- **Bee Care and Nutrition**
  - The outcome of the Bee Care and Nutrition discussion generated actions in the area of bee nutrition research, development of honey bee management BMPs and promotion of pollinator friendly set-aside areas.
- **Bee Pests & Management** (diseases, viruses and treatments in hive)
  - The outcome of the Bee Pests and Management discussion generated actions in the area of pest control research, better use of the minor used registration program for bee pest control registrations and promoting a national coordinated pest and disease surveillance survey.
- **Pesticides** (agriculture)
  - The outcome of the Pesticides discussion generated actions in promoting better communication between growers and beekeepers and more information of the benefits and value of pollinators. The group generally supported the actions PMRA has taken to address the neonicotinoid and honey bee impact issue.
- **Agricultural Needs** (pollination, pest management)
  - The outcome of the Agriculture Needs discussion generated actions in promoting pollinator protection BMPs and surveying the adoption of farming practices that support the pollinator protection BMPs and PMRA's pollinator protection policies and regulations.

- **Environment and Surroundings**
  - The outcome of the Environment and Surroundings discussion generated actions that reinforced PMRA's role in protecting bees and the environmental through science based assessment, re-evaluations and registrations of pest control products.

It was important that Manitoba have representation at this meeting not only at the government level but also at the beekeeper. Other than representatives from CHC the only provincial beekeeper associations that sent representation to this meeting were Alberta and Québec. Although I applaud the idea behind holding a multi-stakeholder meeting, my only criticism is that in future meetings it will be important that the beekeepers voice be represented loud and clear regarding what course of action needs to take place for the protection bee health in today's agriculture. After all this was meant to be a bee health workshop, so it is important that the principal Stewarts of Bee Health, (i.e. beekeepers) need to be front and center at that discussion table.

[1] Quote from the Bee Heath Workshop , Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, March 25, 2014 – Press Release

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Temporary Worker Benefits

By Jim Campbell, MBA secretary

Beekeepers will be pleased to hear how they can help their temporary workers obtain health coverage and a driver's license benefits while in Manitoba.

Thanks to investigations from the Smiths of St Andrews, **Manitoba Health coverage** is available for Temporary Foreign Workers. As of last spring (2013) the Manitoba government announced that **temporary foreign workers are eligible to be covered by Manitoba Health starting when they arrive in Manitoba**. This means the employer no longer has to purchase private health coverage for them. The office is **Insured Benefits Branch, Manitoba Health**, 300 Carlton Street Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9 **Phone** 204-786-7101 or 1-800-392-1207
The website http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/mbcard.html indicates a PDF registration form is available.

Those close to Winnipeg could actually go to the office, however registration can be done by mail. The registrant will probably need their passport, temporary work permit and possibly a letter from their employer stating the time frame they will be employed. In the past it was only those who had work visas for a year or longer could be covered, but the government announcement last spring removed the 1-year requirement.

Regarding obtaining a **drivers license** for temporary Workers, there is an option for that. A **"Student Exemption Letter"** should be applied for at an **Autopac** office within the first 3 months a temporary foreign worker is in Manitoba. Their foreign license or International Driver's license will cover them for the first 3 months but after that they would not be considered a legal driver in Manitoba without the exemption letter carried together with their license. There is no cost for it. To apply they will again need their passport, work visa and a letter from their employer. Some AutoPac offices may be unfamiliar with this so advise the broker to please call the "Broker Enquiry Unit" for information on the requirements to qualify for the student authorization letter. At one office, the employer had to argue with the staff the first time they took one of their employees but the next time there was no problem.

Group Insurance for MBA

By Jim Campbell, Education Committee

Since 2006, beekeepers had an option to secure group liability insurance coverage from The Co-operators Insurance Company, who prepared a package for individual Manitoba producers.

Insurance summary:

a.	Bodily Injury and Property Damage	$2,000,000.
b.	Annual Aggregate on Products & Completed Operations	$2,000,000.
c.	Personal Injury	$2,000,000.
d.	Medical Expenses	$2,500

Bodily Injury and Property Damage deductible -Each Occurrence $2,500

Liability coverage may be appropriate for beekeepers who have bees located in their yard, or someone else's, or where neighbours may be close by. It covers you and any workers you have for your operation, and is available to all members of MBA and RRAA. It also covers those involved in public promotions of bees and honey. The MBA Membership Application Form for 2014 is now modified to include a line for Insurance Option. To review some of the benefits, look at www.beekeepingmanitoba.com and go Links & Resources section, where there is a page on Insurance-Liability.

Premiums are $45.00 per year, and are payable to MBA initially.
MBA will handle future renewal billings, and could hold new applications to correspond to the insurance renewal date of 3 May each year

To subscribe, forward $45.00 premium to: MBA c/o Hilary Stewart, Box 192 Baldur MB R0K 0B0

Examples from British Columbia of How Nucleus Hives Can be Made Up, Wintered and Managed

By Liz Huxter,
January 14, 2014

No matter what number of hives you manage, having nucleus colonies on hand is very useful. Nucleus hives are a smaller version of regular hives. Typically they are four or 5 frames of standard size. We prefer 5 frame nucs that are in individual boxes. They are much lighter to move and handle yet have plenty of room to service a large enough cluster to winter. They are insurance against winter loss. Nucleus hives are handy for adding to colonies that have gone queenless. Or they can provide an extra income in the spring. They are always in demand in early spring when beekeepers find they need to replace winter losses. Having an established locally bred queen and 3 or 4 frames of brood they are a much better "deal" than a package being sold at the same time. They also offer a means to increase your hives by wintering in a smaller unit that can grow to a honey producer in time for most flows. They are less expensive to feed and treat. They offer a better means to efficiently treat for varroa. For queen breeders, nucs can serve as a preliminary test of queens. As I will describe in detail next, making nucs can sync in well with other hive management practices as equalizing hives and requeening.

Now that we understand their usefulness let's have a look at pros and cons of different ways they can be made up. Basically you can think of making them up in the spring summer or fall.

Making Spring nucs dovetails nicely with swarm control and equalizing before the honey flow. Hives with too much brood well before the honey flow can be cut back by removing brood by the "topper" or 'walk away" method. Here any spare brood is shaken off and put in a spare box above a queen excluder with at least two honey / pollen frames. Then that evening or early the next morning the box with extra brood and the covering bees is taken to another site 2 km or further to make up the nucs. No queen needs to be found before taking away the brood. At this time of the season the nights are warm and the bees don't have too much trouble keeping the brood warm. Another reason nucs can be made up with the least amount of brood at this time of year is because there is still plenty of time before fall to get a well filled out unit ready for winter. Nucs can be made up with only one frame of brood (defined as having at least 60% brood coverage) and two frames covered with bees. If many nucs are needed probably the most efficient way of making up nucs is to break out all the hives in a yard. An advantage here is the brood and bees do not need to be moved. For breeders they can assess the hives as they are being "nuced out" and the best queens retained. Just be sure not to face the nuc entrance in the same direction as the hive did if the nuc is in the same position.

At this time in the spring queen cells are best to use. Drones are plentiful and the matings should be some of the best. Also using queen cells allows for a break in the brood cycle helping to control the buildup of varroa mites. If a treatment for varroa is given just when the new queen's brood is about to be capped , about 19 days after cell up, almost all the brood from the original colony will have hatched and so all the mites will be out from under the cappings. This affords greater efficiency for treatments of phoretic mites (on the bees). The oxalic acid drip method is a good choice. Randy Oliver has a wonderful article illustrating this concept and demonstrates the high efficiency for the oxalic acid drip method. (See Scientificbeekeeping.com) The nuc make up in the spring offers the most "bang for the buck" but has the drawback of managing these larger number of units for the rest of the season. One possibility to make up for these costs is getting an "extra" or "free" queen out of these units with very little detriment to the nuc's build up.

Here's the reasoning behind getting the "free" queen. The queen from the first queen cell will have laid the entire comb(s) that the bees are covering in a few days. So after the first queen has laid the available comb and there are larvae present she can be pulled and a second queen cell inserted. The brood from the first queen will be hatching in 16 to 17 days. The second queen will typically have mated and be laying eggs within 15 to 16 days. So no brood is "lost". The potential for laying more brood increases as the first queen's brood hatches and there are more bees to look after the larger amounts of brood to be laid by the second queen. The first queens can be used in the queenless nucs or for more nucs, splits or requeening. This time of the year (May/June) extra queens come in handy.

Making up nucs in the summer can sync nicely with the end of honey flow and requeening. Our honey flow typically starts in late June and stops in mid to late July. We used to have an August flow as well but the "weeds" that

provided that flow have been nearly eradicated with bio controls. So now we take a few days in early August to break out nucs in between extracting the honey.

Some advantages of making nucs up after the honey flow is the bees have "paid" for themselves and you now have an idea of their propensity to collect honey. The best queens can be kept in nucs for breeders the following year. These summer nucs are usually made by completely breaking out the entire yard of colonies. We take yards with older queens that have had a recent flow and are packed out with brood, pollen and honey. These hives are very efficient for making nucs. Nearly every frame will go into a nuc because it will have either brood, honey or pollen in large amounts. For summer nucs, we use twice as much brood and bees, 2 plus brood frames with a minimum of three frames covered by bees. Here I should be sure to emphasize these brood patches cover 50% or better of the frames and again we feed these nucs right after they are made up. In the summer we typically use queens but cells could be used if there are still plentiful drones in the hives and the nucs are made by the end of the first week of August for our area. At this time varroa treatments can be applied to the new nucs or a mite treatment could be used in the hives before the nucs are made from them.

We rarely make up nucs in the fall but a neighboring beekeeper routinely makes his nucs in late fall with a high degree of success year after year. Art Ius, of Fruitvale, British Columbia, often takes his hives into the fireweed for a summer flow. In early October he breaks them out into 6 frame nucs with new queens and moves them to their wintering location at lower elevation inside an unheated shed. Moving the 6 frame nuc boxes is far easier than moving the whole colonies and the nucs give Art nearly all new queens in double to triple the number of units. These will be his honey producers (or make up losses) the next year. Why I said nearly all new queens, Art doesn't necessarily find all the old queens. His 6 frame nuc boxes have a two inch space above the top bars to give the bees plenty of room to cluster in the fall. The clusters still have many of the old bees that will die off shortly but need space initially. He gives them a top entrance with access to outside the shed and feeds through a hole in the lid with a pop bottle starting in March. Art insulates them with 2 inch Styrofoam all around for winter (Art Ius Nuc Set Up).

Table for Nucleus Hive Make Up

	Minimums (Frames of)				Approx. # of	Use Cells		
	Brood	Bees	Honey	Pollen	Nucs per Hive	or Queens	Pros	Cons
Spring	1to 15	2	1	Partial	5 (+)*	Cells (Queens)	"free queen" potential break in brood cycle; varroa control least $ for nuc make up	Manage for entire season
Summer	2	3(+)	2	1	4	Queens (cells)	Post honey flow: bees have "paid" for themselves Hives well filled, efficient break out Save best queens Requeen whole yards easily	
Fall	0 to 2**	4 to 5	4	0.5	2 to 3	Queens	Post treating hive: queen not treated Easily move yard to winter site: smaller lighter units to move Requeen whole yards easily	Highest "cost" to make up

Always feed nucs at make up.
*Depends on hive strength @ break out
**Late in the fall there maybe very little brood.

In south central British Columbia where we winter our nucs we use two different configurations. In the warmer areas (where peaches grow successfully), we winter the 5 frame nucs in rows. Usually they have the entrances alternating east and west in "sandwiches" of 9 or more nucs side by side. (Row of Nucs in spring) These sandwiches consist of 2"

Styrofoam sheets top and bottom with a strip of foil covered bubble wrap stapled around the circumference of the "sandwich". The insulation *under* the nucs proves its worth in the spring. Nucs insulated at their base will have brood further down the frame giving rise to larger populations of bees earlier in the spring. The foil covered bubble wrap serves to deflect wind and retain radiant energy given off by the nucs. The wrap is not tightly wrapped so that moisture can escape. Under the lid, we use plastic to reduce burr comb, to keep bees in their own nucs, and to retain moisture and heat in the spring. A corner of the plastic is folded back in winter to allow moisture to escape. The sandwiches are raised 18 to 24 inches off the ground on stands of 2x4s and spent bee boxes. Stucco wire is wrapped around the base to prevent skunk predation.

In the colder areas (hardy apples grow) we stack the sandwiches on top each other for over winter and move them to single high before spring flight. (Stacked Nuc Sandwiches) These nucs all face south and have their entrances in the center at the bottom of the nuc. The foil covered bubble wrap is stapled up the backs and over the top insulation. The success of wintering nucs improves as you breed from the best of them every year. They become more winter savvy.

Picking good wintering sites is an important factor for wintering success in colder areas. South facing slopes with good wind protection are ideal. Another key factor is having the nucs all of good size going into winter, three to four frame clusters,. The shared warmth of larger clusters in winter makes for less stress for all the nucs. Another major key to improving your wintering success is to keep the best wintering nucs for further selection.

The nucs are fed in late summer and early fall so they are going into winter with about 3.5 to 4 frames of honey. In the spring, they usually don't require feeding until the first major pollen flow. Pollen patty is fed about three to four weeks before the first major pollen flow is expected. 2 plus pounds are given to the large nucs with bee clusters of 4 frames. Two to three weeks later a second round of pollen patty will be fed, a third round will be fed in years with inclement weather.

In good years, the nucs can be "nuced" to get them down to a size for sale in early May. The extra bees and brood are used to make more nucs. We also winter queens in small 4way shallow boxes in a building to have extra local queens available early in the season (early March on).

Obviously there are numerous ways to winter nucleus hives successfully. Kirk Webster has a great explanation of how he winters nucs of different sizes in conditions colder than ours. (kirkwesbter.com)

Nucleus hives serve many purposes and give flexibility to any beekeeping operation. Making them up often makes other management practices easier and more efficient. Probably one of their greatest advantages is they allow for local queens to be used at any time of the season, aiding the effort to breed and use bees acclimated to local conditions and pathogens.

Bee Day in May

Jim Campbell, Promotion Committee

Promoting the importance of Honey Bees pollinating plants for fruits, nuts, vegetables and seeds in urban and rural areas, a Day of Celebration is planned for late May.

Saturday May 31, 2014 is slated to celebrate "The Day of The Honey Bee" at the Forks Market, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Based on the theme "Honey Bees – Good For Us", producers can respond to increasing concern the public has to improve plant production in family, neighbourhood, and community gardens. The promotion provides an excellent opportunity for guests to "visit with beekeepers" and learn of steps to save the bees. This often leads to a better understanding about bee-activities, bee-friendly gardening, plus agricultural practices benefiting both bees and plant systems.

At a similar celebration held last year, members of Red River Apiarists' Association hosted the promotional and marketing event on behalf of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. The event is co-ordinated with ones in major cities across Canada. At past events inquisitive visitors verified the benefits of the honey bee for more than just honey, but also for their importance on the whole ecosystem. They also discovered what plants attract bees.

Beekeeper volunteers may help out at the display and/or assist with media contacts. Anyone able to spend an hour or two talking to visitors and helping distribute information, please contact organizers Charles Polcyn at 284-7064, or Jim Campbell at 467-5246 or mbasecretary@mts.net

CHC Report

Spring 2014

By Bryan Ash, CHC Director

Canadian Honey Council continues to serve the cross-Canada industry through its' contacts in the Federal Government departments.

Rod Scarlett, CHC Executive Director, made a pitch on behalf of the industry to the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. The Committee, Chaired by Senator Percy Mockler, Nova Scotia, has been charged with investigating the importance of bees and bee health in the production of honey, food and seeds in Canada plus seeking suggestions on how to address these issues. The 7 senator committees heard from CHC back last December. Rod described the diversity and difficulty of the industry featuring Blueberry pollination in early spring on the coasts to the summer canola crops of the prairies. Rod was one of several national groups presenting to the committee.

CHC is now doing some final editing on the Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability (CBISQT) docment released in January, plus making application to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for grant funding to roll the information and training to beekeepers across Canada. One of the tasks to address is the integration of the industry Good Production Practices within the Producer manual with the National Bee Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard recently published by Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

In addition, CHC is participating in National Bee Health Workshop in Ottawa, in partnership with several groups including the Canola Council of Canada, Grain Growers of Canada, BC Blueberry Council, and Canadian Horticultural Council. The meeting aimed at ensuring all parties with a stake in bee health work together and collaborates to find positive outcomes.

Also on the Canadian front, Alberta Bee Commission and MBA are partnering in applying for Federal Funding to establish a profile of Bee diseases and pests across Canada, plus determine pesticide levels in apiary sites across Canada. This was to be a 5-year study, yet the Feds require this to be done in 4 years. This means MBA will need about $15K per year for this research. ABC and MBA will be seeking support funding from other provinces as the research program gets underway.

Canadian Honey Council

Expanding Beekeepers Tax Free Options

By Jim Campbell, Secretary MBA

Beekeepers will be glad to hear that one more tax-exempt item is now available for their use.

Purchasing unique supplies for the beekeeping industry can be complicated enough, and for several years, items dedicated to honey processing have been exempted under Manitoba Retail Sales Tax Act and its associated Regulations. The Manitoba Government published Information Bulletin No.022 outlining the Retail Sales Tax (RST) exemptions on farm implements, machinery and other items used "principally for farming" that are purchased by persons engaged in beekeeping. This document identifies items such as Honey Containers, Super Lifters, Winter Packing Paper, Bee Smokers, Honey Gates, and Pollen Traps as being exempt from MB Sales tax.

In 2009, MBA was extensively involved in expanding the list of tax-free items for beekeepers. For 2013 however, only one item has been added to the list, and that is for **Leaf Blowers.** Although this may not appear to be a big deal for producers, it does mean that government is prepared to update their list from time to time. For the latest version or to determine if your purchase meets the exempt criteria, please refer to revised bulletin on the government web site at www.manitoba.ca/finance/taxation

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: 700 NUCS, with good wintered queens ready in May 2014. These are 3 frame Nucs with enough bees to cover the brood. Orders of 100-300 Nucs are $160 ea. Orders of 300-700 Nucs are $155 ea.

Alex 204-326-8182, Cell 204-381-3866 or
alex_reich63@yahoo.ca

For Sale : 75 used supers, ($5.00 each),Wrecking 2005 F-350 4x4 – asking $4,000 OBO , Booking spring colonies – minimum 4 frames of brood – mid May - $250
Interlake Honey Producers , Fisher Branch, MB, 204-372-6920

For Sale: 60 frame S.S. radial extractor,$2500 O.B.O, 350-400 gallon, S.S dairy style holding tank $ 850 O.B.O, and S.S. frame scrapping table holds 40 frames around 5ft long, $650 O.B.O, contact John at 204-509-3520

For Sale : Strong Single Hives or Nucs for sale. Call Andy Loewen at (204) 326-1500 or email at andyloewen@hotmail.ca

For Sale: 650 feeder pails in good shape ,450 insulated telescope cal lids with metal top and top feeder hole in them and 370 empty supers, also have double hive pallets, and spring wraps for singles and single hives for sale, contact Jake at 204-513-0529

For Sale: Bogenschutz (Cook and Beals) Uncapper w. 8 ft. Conveyer. $1900.00 O.B.O

Norm 204 377 4754, cell 204 346 2798, nbartel@mymts.net

For Sale : Huge number of hive top feeders, some brand new and also older ones (from $6.00 to $15.00). 15 drums, stainless tank heavy gauge with stand and also a Cowen wax recovery system.
100 bee escape board ($8 .00 each).
Phone : 204 248 2645 only serious inquiry please.

For Sale: Spring 2014, approximately180 complete hives with bees , also 75 double nuc boxes; at least 50 with 4 frame bee units. There is the possibility of the Beemaid contract and/or yard sites.
Contact; Bruce Smirl 1-204-822-8004 or e-mail brucesmirl@gmail.com

For Sale: (3) 1 ½ " Viking Pumps, (2) Stainless Steel pumps, food grade easy to clean, (1) Platform scale for barrels up to 1200 lbs, neoprene apron, Valves S.S and brass, (1",1 1/2'",2"), 316 Boardman Feeders, Hats, veils, smokers, 20t impeller for 1" Jabsco Pump and (1) Super cart, can carry up to 8 supers.
Contact Paul Taillefer at 204-237-0104

For Sale: Clean beekeeping equipment all in excellent condition. Perfect start up for a hobbyist. $3500 for all the equipment. With the option of selling the extractor separate.
For more details contact Katherine at 204-771-3242

Wanted: Beekeeping assistant position. The Birds & The Bees Co. ltd. May 1 - Oct 15 2014. No experience required; duties include spring hive management, feeding bees, making splits, supering hives, making equipment, pulling honey, extracting honey, treating hives, winter management. Must have valid driver's license, able to work outdoors in hot weather, be capable of lifting heavy supers. Wage starting at $10.53 per hour/ 40 hours per week. Located near Ste. Rose, MB .Apply to gmaguet@inethome.ca

Classified request can be e-mailed to dnlecocq@shaw.ca or call Dan @ 204-797-3322.

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NOD NATURES OWN DESIGN CANADA

Winnipeg

City of Winnipeg – Public Works Department
Insect Control Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE INSECTICIDE USE PROGRAM FOR 2014

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®, Methoprene®, Permethrin®, Pyrocide®, and Malathion®. However, to protect bees from potential toxic effects of these control products, a 300 metre 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) or *Bacillus sphaericus*, which are 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.

Notes and Reminders:

Advance Payment for Crops is available for Honey by contacting Manitoba Corn Growers at 1-877-598-5685 or 204-745-6661. Stored Honey advance based on $0.90/lb. See www.manitobacorn.ca

*** Day of the Bee, Forks Market Sat 31 May 2014**

*** Honey Days, Forks Market Sep 26-28, 2014**

*** Annual General Meeting, Wed 12 Nov 2014**

Management Reminder:

Beekeepers are encouraged to be proactive in protecting honey bees by communicating with farmers about their crop and treatment plans, and letting them know of your plans for hive placement.

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