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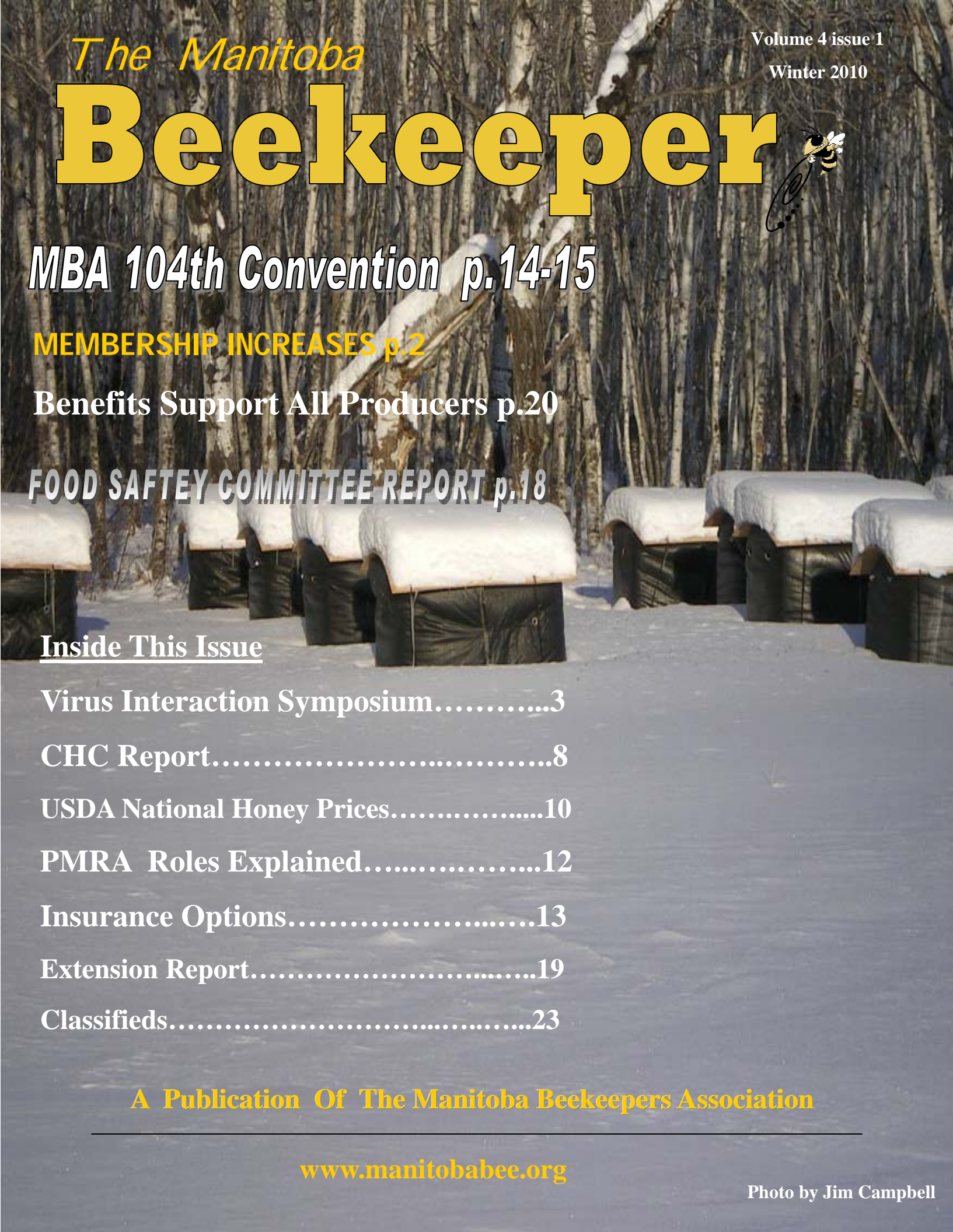
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The Manitoba

Beekeeper



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Winter 2010

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A Publication Of The Manitoba Beekeepers Association

www.manitobabee.org

Photo by Jim Campbell

Steady Membership Increases in 2009

Jim Campbell, for MBA Fee/Levy Committee

Membership in the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) increased steadily throughout 2009 following a series of invoices and reminders to producers.

The Honey Producers Administration Fee Regulation **56/2009** became law 6 March 2009. The Regulation is under the authority of the Manitoba Honey Marketing Plan Regulation, Manitoba Regulation **244/87R**. This Plan was, in turn, developed under the Farm Products Marketing Act, CCSM **cF47**. The Plan was implemented in 1992, and initially MBA encouraged volunteer membership. However, rising costs of operations and in response to resolutions from the 2007 Annual Meeting, MBA directors took action to extend membership to additional Honey Producers across Manitoba.



By the time the Fee Regulation came in to effect, about 90 producers already renewed memberships for 2009. In addition, another group of about 10 joined voluntarily, as they became aware of industry changes, and the need to support the national organization activities. An initial information package, in early April, plus subsequent correspondence and invoices, drew an additional 61 new members. Membership currently stands at 162 producers, for an increase of about 67%. Several producers appreciated invoices, as this was a more convenient vehicle for their business.

However, there are still producers who have not submitted their fees, despite reminder notices. Although the board expected some disgruntled producers, evidence showed both Alberta and Saskatchewan had few cases needing intervention after introducing their Commissions around March of 2006. Communication with many identified factors such as address changes, unsold honey, lost invoice, mistrust of government, as well as hurts from MBA actions as far back as the early 80's, caused reluctance to comply. Although the non-compliant list gets smaller as time goes by, a resolution at the MBA November Annual Meeting encouraged directors to continue with the process of compliance by working closely with the Farm Products Marketing Council. As part of the process, MBA set aside a non-budgeted contingency fund to cover costs of legal council.

Despite the contingency fund option, MBA continues the "soft sell" approach in its' correspondence of 7 December inviting the dozen or so non-compliant producers, many of whom were formerly "paid up" members of MBA, to request an appeal hearing with the MBA Board. The appeal process is publicly available in Part 5 of the Farm Products Marketing Act CSSM cF47. For details of appeals see <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/cssm/f047e.php>. Also check out "Links" page of www.beekeepingmanitoba.com or the bulletin page of www.manitobabee.org. In the meantime, MBA is encouraging members to contact neighbours to support compliance. MBA will await results of the latest correspondence.



CLASSIFIED ADS



Help Wanted: St. Andrews, MB. Experienced apiarists; Mid April - mid September. \$12.15 per hour. Driver's licence required. Contact Marg's Honey at 204-254-4509 or rmsmith2@mts.net

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Contact Meadowlark Honey Ltd, tfehr@mts.net

2009 HONEY HOUSE PRICE

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association 2009 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,
Rhéal Lafrenière, Murray Lewis,
Ron Rudiak, (Dr. Rob Currie).

Safety Nets:

Chair – Bill Lockhart,
Jake Maendel , Earl Dueck



Bee Imports:

Chair – Bryan Ash,
Bill Lockhart, Mark Nichol, Bruce Podolsky,

Pests and Pest Management:

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

Convention/AGM Committee:

Chair – Todd Yakimishen, Murray Lewis
Bruce Podolsky , Rhéal Lafrenière , Jim Campbell
David Ostermann,

Fee/Levy & Structure Committee:

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

Financial Committee:

Chair - Mark Nichol,
Earl Dueck and Bill Lockhart

Foreign worker:

Chair-Bruce Podolsky
Bryan Ash, Allen Campbell , Chris Remple
Rhéal Lafrenière

KAP:

Chair - Allen Campbell,
Earl Dueck, Rhéal Lafreniere

Food Safety:

Chair—Bryan Ash,
Bruce Podolsky, Todd Yakimishen

Bee – Virus Interaction Symposium

By Rhéal Lafrenière, MAFRI Provincial Apiarists



A new or emerging issue can be thought of an issue that has recently occurred or has yet to occur. Either way it generally requires an adjustment of how we look at the issue and whether we have the resources to begin to deal with it. An example of a new or emerging issue in beekeeping is the relationship between the varroa mites (*Varroa destructor*) and honey bee viruses. The way we look at virus host interactions is quickly evolving as the techniques use to study viruses and the epidemiology of viral diseases continue to become more sophisticated at revealing the complexity of these living/non-living entities.

The field of bee virus research is quickly becoming the hottest field of research associated with the collapsing of honey bee populations around the world. As an emerging issue bee viruses have been link to a number of disorders affecting honey bees, including the infamous Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). A better understanding of the association between occurrence of virus in honey bee colonies and its interaction with other stressors in the hive is fundamental to unraveling the causes behind the mysterious colony losses.

On October 18, 2009, I had the great fortune to chair a symposium on Bee – Virus Interactions at the Joint Entomological Society of Canada and Manitoba Annual Meeting held at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba. With the financial assistance of the Sustainable Development Initiative Fund from Manitoba Conservation and the New and Emerging Issues Speaker Program under Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, we were able to pull together a phenomenal collection of speakers in the field of virus host interactions. In addition to Suresh Desai presentation on “*Inhibition of deformed wing virus (DWV) replication in honey bees by RNA interference*”, the symposium included the leading bee virologists from the Middle East, Europe and North America.

For example, Dr. Ilan Sela, Professor Emeritus at the Virus Laboratory at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Rehovot, Israel was one of the principle authors in the discovery of Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV). Dr. Sela’s presentation “*Association Of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) With Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV): RNAi Approach To Control IAPV And A Possible Role For Viral Integration*” explored the association between IAPV and CCD and the recent breakthroughs in RNAi-silencing of IAPV infection by feeding bees with double-stranded RNA.

Dr. Joachim Rodrigues de Miranda, research scientist with the Department of Entomology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden has over 15 published articles in referred journals and 10 addition citations in various books on virology. His presentation on “*Current State Of Honey Bee Virus Research In Europe*” looked the effects of different transmission routes on bee virus variability, virulence and evolution through Europe. He reported on the advances in sequencing new viruses, constructing synthetic full-length infectious virus DNA, developing in-vitro cultivation-purification of bee viruses, developing qualitative and quantitative virus assays, surveying for viruses, developing virological assays for genetic screening, investigating virus variability, determining virus transmission routes and rates, and constructing epidemiologically validated models for virus-induced colony collapse.

Dr. Diana Cox-Foster, professor in the Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University in University Park Pennsylvania, USA. Dr. Cox-Foster is interested in the co-evolution of insects with their pathogens and parasites and the role the insect immune system plays in this interaction. Her interests in honey bee pathology involve investigating the interactions of a parasitic mite, RNA-viruses (picorna and discistronidae viruses), and other microbes. Dr. Cox-Foster and her colleagues have growing evidence that the parasitic mites are immunosuppressing the bees and causing activation of the viruses.

(Continued on p.9)

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

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

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: cdrempel@mts.net

Non-Voting Appointees

Secretary/RRAA-Jim Campbell
Box 234, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
467-5246
e-mail: jaycam@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:
The Manitoba Beekeepers Association.

Hilary Stewart
Box 192 , Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0

Directors

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

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

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

Ron Rudiak (2008)
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
email acgrysiuk@shaw.ca

Marc Nichol (2012) Box 461, MacGregor, MB, R0H 0R0
(Res.)685-2926, (Bus) 252-2770, (Fax) 252-2129
e-mail: nicholhoney@yahoo.ca

Earl Dueck (2011) Box 1292, Steinbach, MB,
R5G 1N1 (Res) 326-1001, (Bus) 855-3165
E-mail: oaklakehoneyfarms@yahoo.ca

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 Sping 2010 issue
will be March 21st , 2010. Don't miss it!

"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."

- Establish yearly price for sale of regulated product from farm gate,
- Support annual promotions of production and sale of regulated product.
- Publish quarterly newsletter with items such as market demand, product quality traceability progress, bee stock availability, and other topics,
- Provide regulation exemption criteria at 49 or fewer colonies,
- Enforce registration process qualifying eligible directors and voting members,

Provide for the assessment and collection of fees from producers of the regulated product.

Since all of these actions are supported by your membership, MBA board has been encouraged by the steady increase in membership throughout 2009. Our total stands at 162 members for an increase of 67% over 2008. Although the non-compliant list gets smaller as time goes by, a resolution at the MBA November Annual Meeting encouraged directors to continue with the process of compliance by working closely with the Farm Products Marketing Council. As part of the process, MBA set aside a non-budgeted contingency fund to cover costs of legal council.

Despite the contingency fund option, MBA continues the “soft sell” approach in its’ correspondence of 7 December inviting the dozen or so non-compliant producers, many of whom were former paid up members of MBA, to request an appeal hearing with the MBA Board. The Board will await a response to their communiqué.

FARMING ACTION ITEMS LISTED

Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary



Premier Selenger(left to right), Ian Wishart (KAP), Min Struthers (MAFRI), and MLA Eichler receiv-
ing gifts from KAP.

Manitoba Legislators joined with farmers to hear about current issues at the recent Farmer Appreciation Day held at the Legislative Building.

In celebrating the 6th Annual Farmer Appreciation Day, Keystone Agriculture Producers treated elected officials to a “Made in Manitoba” luncheon. The event, on 2 December, in the Rotunda of the Legislative Building in Winnipeg, was based on the theme “Faces of Farmers”. It was designed to bring to the attention of legislators, the various issues and the respective action items of the agricultural sector. Listed items had faces, and those faces belonged to the many farmers and commodity groups present at the event.

Premier Selinger, Ian Wishart, Hon Struthers, and others provided greetings. Ellen Pruden, Food Development Centre, presented copies of the new cookbook “Great Tastes of Manitoba” to the guest speakers. This event was one of many celebrating KAPs’ 25th anniversary.

Six “Manitoba Regional” discussion tables were set up in the Rotunda, and following lunch, elected officials were invited to meet with farmers at each table. On each table a list of 18 action items, including some affecting honey producers (Retail Sales tax, disaster assistance, internet access, etc), stimulated interaction. Meanwhile, on behalf of the industry, informal beekeeping dialogue of MBAs’ insurance needs took place with Eichler (PC) and Nevakshonoff (NDP), as well as a brief introduction and welcome to Hon Struthers.

Benefits support all producers

Jim Campbell (on behalf of MBA Fee/Levy Committee)

The Manitoba Beekeepers’ Association (MBA) has a longstanding tradition of working for all producers of Manitoba whether large or small.

MBAs’ members cover all walks of life, from producers earning their livelihood solely from honey production and marketing, to those keeping bees as a small enterprise, or even those who are casual hobbyists. To this end, MBAs’ Strategic Plan, distributed in 2008, outlined issues needing attention to support industry sustainability. The theme “Healthy Environment=Healthy Bees=Healthy Honey, sets the tone for the many opportunities and challenges all producers face.

As MBA rolled out compulsory membership, the introductory letter outlined some of its benefits. It is timely to remind all members, former or new, of the benefits of co-operating together as members, for the good of the entire industry. With this in mind, MBA is, and has been, pursuing events, projects and undertakings on your behalf, which link directly, or indirectly, to our role under the Farm Products Marketing Act. Some of these undertakings are:

- Work with national Canadian Honey Council on Market Research (market development), Healthy Bee (pest control, production), and Label (grading) issues,
- Work with groups such as Sunflower Association of Canada to support honey production, safety and quality here in Manitoba,
- Establish values for Wildlife Damage compensation for production protection,
- Working on Insurance coverage for Honey Production and Winter Loss,
- Expanding the list of Beekeeping items tax exempt.
- Working with Provincial Government and Canadian Honey Council on improving Foreign Worker availability and accessibility,
- Working to ensure healthy bee stock is available from a variety of sources,
- Administer a Cash Advance program for orderly marketing of your regulated product,
- Share Inspection Costs with Manitoba Forage Seed Association, and ensure a cross section, or representative sample, from producers are inspected.
- Establish criteria to prevent or control disease and pests that adversely impact production,
- Provide Training Workshops supporting production quantity, disease control and honey quality,
- Conduct Symposiums covering production, marketing directions and quality,
- Determine research priorities, with funding, addressing production difficulties,
- Establish protocols for quarantine and control of diseases and pests,

(Continued p.21)



PRESIDENT’S REPORT

.by Todd Yakimishen , MBA Chairperson



(No Report at this time.)

Pollination Project Ending

Jim Campbell, Secretary MBA



The two-year project studying the effect of honey bees as pollinators for Saskatoon fruit is drawing to a close.

For the past two years, Manitoba Beekeepers’ Association (MBA) has been administering a research project aimed at supporting the Manitoba Saskatoon U-Pick industry. Project support was gleaned under the Agri-Food Research & Development Initiative (ARDI IIIA) with funding through the “Federal-Provincial-Territorial Framework Agreement on Agricultural and Agri-Food Policy for the Twenty-First Century”, which is administered by Manitoba Association of Agricultural Societies. MBA members provided honey bee stock during the flowering season. Research staff made observations and collected data for the project.

At the upcoming Beekeepers Symposium, David Ostermann, Pollination Apiarist, MAFRI, will provide a synopsis of the project plan, execution, and results. Managing the project has been an example of MBA seeking new income sources which in turn can be used in part to fund its’ own research projects. Members are encouraged to attend the Brandon session to learn more about the project details.



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 2009 _____

Deadline for membership payment – June 30, 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, 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) \$ _____

BEE RESEARCH FUNDS-DONATIONS

BARRY FINGLER MEMORIAL FUND (Manitoba Beekeepers’ Association) \$ _____

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AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL - \$55.00 per year \$ _____

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Paid by: CASH _____ CHEQUE _____ **TOTAL AMOUNTS** \$ _____

I request that the above amount be deducted from my account at the Manitoba Co– operative Honey Producers Limited.

THERE’S NO “AUTOMATIC” DEDUCTION FOR PAST MEMBERS.

Applicants please signify 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

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Extension Report
Winter 2010

David Ostermann
Manitoba Agriculture
Food & Rural Initiatives



Viruses in Manitoba and the Latest Research on Bee Health

The latest research - There have been some important and interesting findings in honey bee health this year. For example, studying colonies with CCD recently, researchers in the U.S. found large amounts of unusual ribosomal RNA (rRNA) fragments in the guts of honey bees. Compared to non-CCD bees, these abnormal fragments were “conspicuously more abundant in the guts of CCD bees” and “may be a possible consequence of picorna-like viral infection” (Johnson et al. 2009).

Ribosomal fragments - The fragments are unusual and concerning since “if the bees' ribosomes are compromised, then they can't overcome exposure to pesticides, fungal infections or bacteria or inadequate nutrition because the ribosome is central to the survival of any organism” (Kaplan 2009). So the consequences seem quite severe yet varied.

Picorna-like viruses - While the fragments of ribosomal RNA in honey bees have been confirmed, there could be a number of causes for this, and the relationship between these picorna-like viruses and ribosomes is not clear. Yet it’s suspected there may be a link given these findings and since “picornavirus infection in mammals both reduces protein production and causes strings of translating polyribosomes to break down, and these idle ribosomal subunits may be more susceptible to degradation” (Johnson et al. 2009).

The name “picornavirus” is derived from pico meaning small, and RNA referring to the ribonucleic acid genome, so it literally means *small RNA virus*. Picorna-like viruses include deformed wing virus (DWV), Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV) (Kaplan 2009), Kashmir bee virus (KBV), and sacbrood virus (SBV) (Shen et al. 2005).

Viruses in Manitoba - Seven viruses have been found in Manitoba to date, including picorna-like viruses DWV, IAPV, KBV, and SBV (Desai et al. 2009). In U of M research involving 22 colonies, DWV was found in 17 of the

colonies (77%), IAPV was found in 12 (54%), KBV was found in 2 (9%), and SBV was found in 2 (9%). Interestingly, DWV was often found in combination with other viruses. The U of M continues to work very hard on the identification and prevalence of viruses in Manitoba.

Viruses and varroa - The link between varroa and viruses is well established and we know that varroa transmits picorna-like viruses (Shen et al. 2005). Speaking generally about the relationship between varroa and viruses, Todd et al. (2007) writes that “studies have shown that adult female mites acquire viruses from infected bees and transmit them to healthy adult bees or pupae on which the mites subsequently feed. Infection with virus during the bees’ larval or pupal stages can result in death of pupae or reduced longevity or deformation of newly emerged adults, depending on the type of virus transmitted and the amount of virus replication.”

In Manitoba the past 2 years we’ve seen a significant increase in the proportion of samples analysed at the Apicultural Diagnostics Lab with more than 1% varroa mite. This has been written about extensively in the Manitoba newsletters the past couple years.

Importance of nutrition – These recent findings and what we already know about honey bees and stress suggest a greater focus on nutrition these days, including checking on pollen stores and providing supplement or substitute as needed, may be warranted. I’m sure we’ll be learning more about these relationships in the coming months and years. For more information, see the references below or contact David at 945-3861 (Winnipeg).

References:

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Todd, J.H., J.R. De Miranda, and B.V. Ball. 2007. Incidence and molecular characterization of viruses found in dying New Zealand honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies infested with *Varroa destructor*. Apidologie, 38, 354-367.



Food Safety Committee Report

Chairman – Bryan Ash, Chair Food Safety Committee

MAFRI in conjunction with Growing Forward have a bilateral agreement to support on-farm awareness and implementation of on-farm food safety programs as well as biosecurity and traceability programs. Financial assistance is available to farmers and service providers to attain those goals. Year 1 budget for crop & live-stock is \$500,000, but by year 4 it is estimated that over \$2 million will have been directed to farmers through the program.

Growing Forward Program is designed for beekeepers to implement an on-farm food safety program. Since beekeepers have no such food safety program in place, an awareness program for year 1 will be a priority. For Year 2, once beekeepers have an on-farm food safety program (Canadian Honey Council’s CBISQT program) in place and additional funding of up to \$7,000 (\$2,000 + 5,000) per beekeeper will be available to implement the CBISQT program. The Food Safety Committee discussed developing a food safety project in Year 1 that would allow beekeepers to access \$1,000 toward the replacement of equipment known to be a risk to food safety if honey is allowed to come into direct contact with the equipment.

Steering committee discussed various projects that beekeepers could undertake with the \$1,000 Growing Forward funding. Two projects that have been submitted for approval are the following:

- * Replacement of non-food grade equipment that comes into contact with the honey (e.g. galvanized metal extractor, holding tanks, piping, etc..).
- * Replace dark comb frames with foundation and/or new frames.

It was also discussed that if there was profit generated on the salvage equipment that the money would be directed to MBA for research projects.

Steering committee also discussed various research projects that would support greater food safety on farms.

Growing Forward program also has funds available to MBA to bring in speakers for conventions or workshops as long as the presentation was on food safety.

Committee members are waiting to hear of approval for the projects. Further details will be announced publicly upon approval.





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.



Queens and Packages Bees for the Canadian Climate

We will continue to provide Carniolan Cross Queens to our Canadian customers in the spring of 2010. These Queens are the daughters of pure Carniolan queens, open mated with an increasingly Carniolan drone population. During the spring of 2009 some of our customers experienced unacceptable queen problems. The cause was determined to be due to Nosema, which came about as a result of “fumagilin” not being available to the Beekeepers of NZ. That situation has since been rectified, and “fumagilin” will again be available. Packages that did not have queen problems have been excellent honey producers this summer.

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

Packages are available March through early May and orders are filling fast so order early for best available shipping Dates.

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CHC REPORT

by Bruce Podolski



CHC represents 7059 beekeepers in Canada operating 585,000 colonies. Our national organization was started in 1940 by beekeepers for beekeepers.

Some of our Achievements include:

- * Stronger ties with governments and allied
- * Website to communicate news, events and industry information
- * Hivelights high-quality quarterly magazine
- * On-farm food safety manual (C-BISQT)
- * Annual conferences and bee research symposia
- * International representation
- * Queen importation protocols & battery box recommendations
- * Drum standards
- * Labelling standards – Canada #1
- * Foreign workers – NOC apiary worker wage recommendations

Miticides:

- * CHC lobbied hard for Emergency Use Apivar Approved to 30/06/2010
- * Full Registration Oxalic Acid by spring 2010
- * Plans are underway for national miticide screening project

CHC is meeting the challenges of dealing with major issues. A Hive Health committee was developed following a stakeholders meeting held in Manitoba. Losses of 35% and higher are unsustainable for the Canadian beekeeper. The committee consists of Jerry Poelman is chair, Rheal Lafreniere, Medhat Nasr, Steve Pernal, Heather Clay, Albert Robertson, Alison Van Alten (nee skinner), and Merv Maylon. They have asked each province for 3 short and long term priorities. The MBA submitted the following

Top three Short Term Issues (Prioritized as follows)

1. Winter loss replacement package Bees that are healthy, affordable, treated, achievable, from Continental North America, or other areas.

Achieved by:

- a) Evaluating effectiveness of package treatment alternatives

- b) Preparing a suitable importation protocol
- c) Sourcing bee stock that is affordable, available, treated, with achievable monitoring.

2. Additional Varroa treatment options.

Achieved by:

- a) Contacting pesticide minor use coordinators for treatment options.
- b) Reviewing treatments used in other areas of the world.

3. Retaining Formic Acid treatment Options under Note to CAPCO (65% formic)

Achieved by:

- a) Confirming formic retention support from provincial organizations.
- b) Meeting with PMRA regarding retention strategies and options.

Top three Long Term Issues (Prioritized as follows)

1. Speed up Varroa resistant/tolerant Bee Stock development
2. Ensure ongoing sustainability of Bees from one year to the next,
3. Expedite marketing organization to promote the Safety and Food trace ability benefits of Canadian Honey to consumers. (i.e. to increase consumption).

Save Our Bees:

“Save our Bees” is a campaign to advance hive health information and create public awareness of pollinators. The project will raise funds to provide a forum for:

- * Education and public awareness of pollinators
- * Communication of better methods of beekeeping
- * Support for improved bee breeding
- * Promotion of good production practices
- * Advancement and training of apiculturists
- * Promotion of Pure Honey 100% Canadian

Check it out at www.saveourbees.ca
Facebook –Save Our Bees
Twitter

See you in Orlando



Press Release

November 16, 2009

Bill Bygarski, Chairman of Bee Maid Honey Limited is pleased to announce the continuation of apicultural research funding by Bee Maid Honey.

Bee Maid will consider project proposals in any area of apiculture or pollination research. Preference will be given to the area of honey, and the production of pure quality honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry.

Proposals for projects are to be submitted to Bee Maid Honey by January 31, 2010. Projects are expected to be completed within one year of funding, although renewal applications will be considered.

Bee Maid Honey Limited is the marketing arm of the Alberta Honey Producers Co-operative Limited and the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Limited. Honey produced by beekeepers in western Canada is processed and packaged at Bee Maid’s Winnipeg, MB and Spruce Grove, AB plants.

Bee Maid Honey is proudly owned by Canadian Beekeepers.

For further information and to receive an application for research, please contact:

Guy Chartier – Bee Maid Honey Limited
Phone: 204 786 8977 ext. 234 , Fax: 204-783-8468 or E-mail: guychartier@beemaid.com



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UPCOMING EVENTS 2009/2010

- Jan 12 - 16** North American Beekeepers Conference,
Orlando, Florida
- Mar 29 - Apr 3** Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, Brandon, MB
- June (Day TBA)** Manitoba Beekeepers Field day
- October 1-3** Manitoba Homecoming Honey Show, Forks
Market, Winnipeg
- November 16** MBA Annual Meeting, Neepawa, Mb

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Canada, and Europe, treat twice
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DO NOT UNWRAP THE PADS! Pin3 soaked half-pads to
comb and put it in the hive in late August. Leave the pads in until
April. Refill or put 2 new pads into the hive in April. Throw out
the pads in late May.

BENEFITS & SIDE EFFECTS: Following these instructions
will get rid of Varroa and Tracheal mites carrying viruses, reduces
Nosema and Chalkbrood, as well as the Lesser wax Moth and can
potentially deter beetles. Mites surviving treatment are sick and
will not reproduce.

FOR DETAILS, EXPLORE WWW.MITEGONE.COM:

View the free video! Download, print, and read: **The Handbook of
Formic Acid Use, Instructions** Brochure, Treatment Selection,
Almond Pollinator's Way, Other Uses of Pads, Testing, Safety,
Costs, & Scientific Evidence.

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Dr. Cox-Foster's presentation on "*Unraveling The Pathogens In Honey Bees Undergoing Colony Collapse Disorder*" revealed new information on the transmission routes of the picorna-like viruses in bees, the persistence of these viruses in the bees, and the immune system of the honey bee. Her team is beginning to determine what proteins are present in the mite saliva, in order to determine how the mites are suppressing the immune reactions.

Mr. Eyal Ben-Chanoch, CEO of Beeologics Inc in Miami, Florida is the co-founder of Beeologics Inc, which is looking to develop and market solutions to control infectious disease including viral disease in honey bees. Mr. Ben-Chanoch's presentation on "*RNAi At Work In Real Life Application: Targeting Invertebrate Pests And Beneficial Organisms' Diseases*" discussed a simple and relatively inexpensive procedure to produce large quantities of dsRNA homologous to control specific diseases. "Remebee" is the product they are currently developing to control IAPV infections in honey bees. The product works by mimicking the dsRNA involved in viral replication, thereby shutting down replication within the honeybee. In field trials, the gene silencing mechanism induced by Remebee that was fed to the bees was shown to be highly effective in preventing honey bee mortality from the Israel Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV).

Dr. Martin Erlandson, research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Saskatoon Research Centre is interested in molecular markers for identification and detection of insect biological control agents and is currently studying the development of insect-specific viruses as microbial pesticides for control of insect pests of greenhouse and field crops. Dr. Erlandson's presentation on "*Viruses As Biological Control Agents For Insect Pest Control*" explored the use of viruses as control agents against insect pests to reduce agricultural dependency on chemical insecticides.

All in all, this was an excellent symposium and in addition to thanking the sponsors, I would also like to thank the Entomological Society of Canada and

Manitoba (ESC-ESM). Although the ESC-ESM meeting is primarily an academic meeting, they fully embraced the idea of inviting beekeepers to attend the symposium and a greatly reduced registration fee (i.e. \$35 vs \$365 for the entire meeting). The goal of the symposium was to bring scientists and beekeepers together and hopefully start to work together toward "practical" solution to this problem. We may not have achieved all of our goals but I think it was a good start!

To download copies of all the presentations, please visit the following website:

http://manitobabee.org/bulletin/archives/ESC_ESM_APICULTURE_SYMPOSIUM_Presentations.rtf

Beehives scattered in Okanagan crash

Last Updated: Monday, November 9, 2009 / 9:44 AM PT Comments 17 Recommend 26

CBC News

An accident in Grindrod, B.C., generated a real buzz after a semi-trailer loaded with thousands of bees flipped over, scattering hives across Highway 97A, on Monday morning.

Most of the hives ended up in a ditch and it did not appear like the bees were escaping, according to Connie Zinter, a motorist who passed the accident scene north of Kelowna on her way to work.

Police issued appeals on north Okanagan radio for help from local beekeepers to bring foggers to the scene to help crews working to clean up the mess, said Zinter. Foggers are used by beekeepers to make bees docile while moving or opening their hives.

Vernon RCMP said it appeared the driver of the truck took a corner too quickly and flipped over. No other vehicles were involved. The driver of the semi suffered minor injuries, said police.

The highway was reduced to single-lane alternating traffic at Grindrod while crews and beekeepers worked to clean up.

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**104th MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
CANAD INNS – BRANDON & KEYSTONE CENTRE
BRANDON MANITOBA
March 5 – 6 , 2010**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Registrant _____
or Corporation: _____
(include names of Corp delegates) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ **Fax:** () _____

Registration Fees: Includes lunch tickets for March 5th & 6th. Advance Registration deadline is February 15, 2010. Registration Forms post-marked later than February 15th will be charged the Full Registration rate.

Social Evening : Light Buffet awards ceremony and Research Auction (\$25 per person).

Advance Registration (before February 15, 2010)		
Member:	\$125	_____
Non-member	\$175	_____
Corporation (up to 3 delegates)	\$300	_____
Regular Registration (after February 15, 2010)		
Member:	\$150	_____
Non-member:	\$200	_____
Corporation (up to 3 delegates):	\$375	_____
Single Day Registration		\$100 _____
Social Evening – Friday, March 5, 2010		\$32 x _____
		TOTAL _____

Send registration form and payment to:
Manitoba Beekeepers' Association
P.O Box 192
Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0

Accommodations: Guest room rate for king leisure rooms (1 King sized bed) or queen deluxe rooms (2 queen sized beds) \$109 plus taxes reserved until February 4, 2010 under “ Manitoba Beekeepers” Contact Canad Inns Central Booking for reservations toll free 1-888-332-2623 or 1-204-727-1422
****Please refer to “Beekeeper Association Convention” when making reservations****

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States Agricultural Marketing Service Federal Market News Service
Department of Fruit and Vegetable Programs 1400 Independence Ave, SW
Agriculture Market News Branch STOP 0238
Washington, DC 20250
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www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm
Issued Monthly

Number XXIX - #11 December 15, 2009
HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF November , 2009 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)	Too few to report.					
Argentina	Mixed Flowers	White	\$ 1.49			
Vietnam	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$ 1.12 - \$ 1.14			
Dakotas	Clover	White	\$1.41 - \$1.45	Sunflower	White	\$ 1.42
Brazil	Mixed Flowers	Extra light amber	\$1.34			

The 104th Annual Convention Of The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association

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**Canad Inns-Brandon
Keystone Centre,
Salon A
March 5-6, 2010**



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Latest details on local research and extension activities*

Keynote Symposium Speakers:

- * Randy Oliver, Beekeeper, Researcher and Pollinator, Grass Valley, California, USA
- * Dr. Medhat Nasr, Alberta Provincial Apiculturist
- * Doug McRory, Retired Ontario Provincial Apiarist

Presentation Topics:

- * Varroa mite control in package
- * Viruses and Varroa mites, Breeding & Environmental influences on Varroa
- * National beekeeping exhibit : Past, Present and the Future
- * Beekeeping and rabies, Saskatoon pollination update
- * What we have to do to export Canadian honey bee genetics to Chile. And many more being added daily!!!

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PMRA Roles Explained

Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary



The 104th Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association saw a crowd, of over 40 producers, gathered to hear reports on 2009 activities.

AGM attendees in Neepawa were delighted to have a clear cool day for traveling, compared to last years' icy cold, for the 18 November meeting. After hearing about continued work on the Fee/Levy roll-out, Crop/Hive insurance, and Foreign Worker issue, producers heard from affiliated groups. On the national front, Canadian Honey Council, worked with most provinces to acquire Apivar, and noted progress on traceability manual. In the Keystone Agricultural Producers report, work on further reduction on Education School Tax on farmland was emphasized.

After a hearty lunch of hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert, producers heard about activities of two of the local beekeeping associations. Brandon Area Beekeepers' Association reported on recent discussions on bee health and availability. Meanwhile, the Red River Apiarists' Association noted "Pollination" and "Photo Competition" changes prompted discussions with visitors to the Honey Show in Winnipeg.

In the MAFRI presentation, the biggest concern for beekeepers continues to be the adverse impact of Varroa. Monitoring for disease continues at a similar pace to previous years. As a follow up to MBA actions, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) staff explained the roles of Ottawa registration activities versus Winnipeg compliance actions.



Elections, then approval of half a dozen resolutions, capped the AGM. The task for the board encourages working with others, to determine importation protocol for the future, to improve bee protection from over use of insecticides, and to continue regulation compliance.



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Insurance Options Expanded

Earl Dueck and Jim Campbell, IABI Steering Committee

Farmers in Manitoba are gearing up for a new Insurance Program that takes into account the weather impacts.



Keystone Agriculture Producers (KAP) has been successful in acquiring funding to proceed with developing a web-based weather insurance product for Manitoba farmers. KAP will be building upon the model developed in Alberta by Wild Rose Agricultural Producers and using the expertise of their consulting team. Funding has been acquired through the Private Sector Risk Management Project of the federal government.

Under the leadership of KAP, a Steering Committee has been formed to guide the Individualized Area Based Insurance (IABI) project as it rolls out in Manitoba. Manitoba Beekeepers' Association has joined with other commodity groups such as Canola, Pulse, Potato, and Sunflower on the Committee. During a conference call 16 December, the committee reviewed progress to date.

The concept is to create a flexible "on-line" insurance product that allows users to create their own insurance design, test their design's past performance, access premium pricing for their design, and purchase coverage on-line. All coverage is based on area weather and yields, with preliminary plans to initially utilize historical data from the 42 weather stations across Manitoba in the web tool. Although its logical to use Environment Canada data, weather information from a North Carolina company can guarantee more timely satellite system updates. Similarly, to generate more accurate data, there is need to integrate the system with Manitoba Agricultural Weather Program, and the WeatherBug network.

Using the platform of eWeather, a USA based firm, the web-based tool could be trialled in Canada as early as mid January 2010. Producers register onto the system, and once that is complete, look at a map of Canada, and select their area for risk evaluation. The map, similar to Google Earth, permits zeroing in on your farm site, and choosing a weather station close by. From there producers determine their risk factors and coverage levels. The new system is to provide producers with another option to supplement current insurance systems provided by groups such as Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation, and other agents.

KAP, along with the project consultant, is planning a "hands-on" demo during their January AGM in Winnipeg. Since MBA does not have an insurance tool at the present, this may be a good option. Although the current plan calls for a "summer" coverage timeframe, as more weather stations come on board, it may be possible to expand coverage through the winter, thus permitting honey producers to insure bees during this time.

