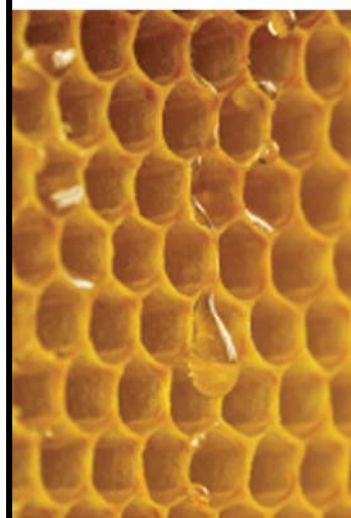




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# The Manitoba Beekeeper



Volume 4 issue 2

Spring 2010



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**A Publication Of The Manitoba Beekeepers Association**

[www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org)

Photo by Pierre Faure



## Symposium Crowd Entertained

Jim Campbell, Secretary MBA



A record 125 producers attended the annual Manitoba Beekeepers' Association Symposium held recently in Brandon.

For the 104<sup>th</sup> MBA Symposium, attendees gathered at the Canad Inns Keystone Centre, in Brandon, Manitoba. The featured speaker was Randy Oliver, Grass Valley, California. In an Entertaining, yet though provoking way, Randy hit hard the typical myths of beekeeping in the past.



Randy noted, "We can no longer keep bees the way our fathers did". "The last 40 years has seen changes in the hive environment

and the plant nutrition", he continued, "that will mean we have to pay closer attention to how things work in nature if our bees are to survive". Throughout his presentation, new ways to survive with all the economic and environmental pressures were revealed. This included many practical application tips such as ensuring sufficient nurse bees being available in spring queen mating nucs.

In other areas of the packed program, Dr. Medhat Nasr, Edmonton, emphasized the need to monitor our colonies closely. In this way, producers will be able to determine the proper approach in managing their bee. Meanwhile, Alison Van Alten, Guelph, spoke of optimism in the potential for Thymol treatments, plus the new gel formulation of Formic cur-

rently being evaluated by PMRA. Also, Heather Clay, Calgary, spoke of the many projects requiring resources within Canadian Honey Council, including the current situation of the On Farm Food Safety manual. Our own local producers, Murray Lewis, Allan Campbell, and Bill Lockhart, provided practical tips for preparing for and producing nuclear colonies.

The Award Banquet saw over 90 people gather for a sumptuous roast pork supper. During this time, silent auction items were displayed. Thanks to the many sponsors, people were able to bid on things such as an Olympic T-shirt, antique honey tin, spice package, as well as beekeeping tools. After Rhéal Lafreniere provided a tribute from personal experiences, Murray Lewis presented

Doug McRory with a Honorary Life Membership in MBA. Doug McRory, recently retired apiarist, Guelph, and formerly provincial apiarist in Manitoba from 1968-1972, was also a MBA board member in 1976. Lorne Peters and Ron Rudiak capitalized on the Olympic "Gold" theme and called upon Beekeeping leaders to join in singing "Oh Canada". Afterwards they detailed industry activities, and called upon Murray Lewis to present Jim Campbell with the "Bee Hive Award". Jim was a director of MBA in 1983, 88 and 1992, and RRAA rep on that board continuously since 1993.



MBA appreciates the contributions of the Symposium Sponsors, who helped make this year's event as successful as it was. ( List on page 3)



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Jim Campbell, Earl Dueck, Rhéal Lafrenière,  
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**Chair – Bruce Podolsky,**  
Bryan Ash, Murray Lewis

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**Chair – Bill Lockhart,**  
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## Pollination:

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## CHC REPORT

by Bryan Ash



CHC Report, April 9, 2010

In early April I was appointed CHC Representative, replacing Bruce Podolski who stepped down due to other commitments. Thank-you Bruce, for the commitment put forth during your time as CHC Rep. To date, I have been involved in one conference call as CHC Rep. In this call the 2010 CHC priority projects were discussed.

One of the first priorities is to complete the CBISQT manual. This involves a review of the current manual and addressing NARs, confirming the version for final technical review, conducting the technical review, preparing the final version in English, translation into French, printing and put on-line in both languages.

Another priority is import protocol review and recommendations/stakeholder meeting. April 14 will be the first meeting in regards to organizing the stakeholders meeting.

Hive health is also one of CHC's priorities for the year. The screening program for new mite control products is progressing with satellite trials being planned for SK, MB and ON. Alberta will focus on screening new synthetic miticides and the other three provinces focusing on more organic miticides. CHC is also looking to complete the Hive Health Manual / Beekeeper Handbook. In addition, hive health also involves the National Bee Breeding Program. This involves the International Bee Breeders Symposium, national bee breeders stakeholder meeting and development of queen selection protocols.

Bryan Ash



Manitoba Beekeeper's Association  
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The deadline for all entries for the Summer 2010 issue  
will be June 21st , 2010. Don't miss it! MBA Newsletter  
Editor Dan Lecocq : e-mail [dnlecocq@shaw.ca](mailto:dnlecocq@shaw.ca)

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Honey Laundering Bust Highlights Sticky  
Problem

April 7, 2010

**Andrew Schneider** Senior Public Health Correspondent

AOL NewsAOL News

(April 6) -- Honey typically conjures benign images of Winnie the Pooh with his paw stuck in the pot. But in recent years, it's made federal investigators think of smuggling rings and international intrigue. And as their latest bust underscores, despite their efforts, it may be all but impossible to keep the tainted Chinese honey at the center of the problem off U.S. store selves. The arrest occurred last week at Los Angeles International Airport, where federal officials nabbed Hung Ta Fan as he deplaned from Taiwan.

Federal investigators are trying to crack down on illegally-imported Chinese honey, for financial and safety reasons. Here, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement inspector gathers samples of Chinese honey at a Tacoma, Wash., customs' warehouse

Fan, also known to his U.S. clients as "Michael Fan," was arrested for allegedly conspiring to illegally import honey that was deliberately mislabeled to avoid U.S. anti-dumping duties, according to statements in the criminal charges filed by Patrick Fitzgerald, U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Gary Hartwig, special agent in charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation in Chicago.

Fan is the president of Blue Action Enterprise Inc., a California-based honey import company, and also heads several similar companies, including 7 Tiger Enterprises Inc., Honey World Enterprise Inc. and Kashaka USA Inc., the court papers said. The charges against him allege his involvement in 96 shipments of Chinese honey falsely declared as originating in South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

Or, to put the accusations in layman's terms: Fan was honey laundering.

He's also just one of scores of people on both sides of the Pacific playing the name-change game with what adds up to millions of pounds of honey. Their schemes involve an intricate shuffle of shipping papers and labels meant to conceal the origin of honey transported in green-painted 55-gallon drums or 250-gallon plastic carboys -- thereby avoiding stiff taxes and added safety analysis.

But bees are bees, you might be thinking. So why is the government paying so much attention to the honey the Chinese produce?

The answers are money and safety.

The money is in the form of the protective tariffs or taxes placed on foreign products that intentionally undercut domestic prices. It was in 2001 that the U.S. Commerce Department imposed honey taxes against China, whose extremely low-cost honey was flooding the market and threatening the survival of U.S. beekeepers.

The levies can be stiff. For an example, last year, the tariff on most South American honey entering the U.S. was an

added 2.2 cents a pound. But in the few cases where the honey was actually labeled as Chinese in origin, it soared to \$1.44 or more. That could amount to a \$1,700 to \$4,000 charge, depending on the size of the shipment, and offers an obvious incentive to falsify where the honey really came from.

Then there are the health issues.

In 2001 and 2002, Chinese bee colonies were hit by a tsunami of disease that quickly destroyed much of the country's honey production. The Chinese beekeepers turned to an animal antibiotic produced in India -- chloramphenicol -- to treat the illnesses ravaging their beehives. The antibiotic soon began showing up in honey shipped to the U.S. and Canada.

The Food and Drug Administration bans all animal medication from food products sold in this country and has issued alerts three times about the antibiotics found in Chinese honey. The last came in 2007, when Florida food detectives found two other antibiotics -- iprofloxacin and Enrofloxacin -- in honey and blended honey syrup from China.

Most people can eat the tainted honey without serious complications. However, a small percentage of the public with sensitivities to the drugs can become horribly ill. The illegal additive has continued to be found in honey arriving at U.S. ports this year.

While both the ICE and the FDA had ordered extra vigilance toward Chinese honey, many agents admit they have the resources to inspect only an insignificant percentage of the imported honey.

Some small U.S. honey packagers are left worrying about the safety of the plastic bears and jugs of honey that fill store shelves. Many pay for costly tests to detect the illegal antibiotics, but because of elaborate dodges, including ultrafiltration, used by some smugglers to mask the contaminants, the results of the costly analysis are often inconclusive.

Other suppliers, including some of the largest in the country, likely know the honey they buy comes from Chinese bees, even though the paperwork says it originated in Australia, New Zealand, India or another country presumed safe. As one federal investigator explained: When these companies are paying \$1 less a pound than prevailing prices, it's difficult not to be aware that the honey's bogus.

The charges against Fan stem from an ongoing investigation of the honey importing practices of Alfred L. Wolff Inc., an enormous national food distributor, federal officials said. The inquiry into that Chicago-based company began with the May 2008 arrest of two Wolff employees on federal conspiracy charges stemming from the alleged importation of millions of dollars of falsely labeled Chinese honey.

"Anyone who breaks our nation's customs laws seeks an unfair financial advantage over law-abiding competitors," said John Morton, the Department of Homeland Security's assistant secretary for ICE.

"ICE will not tolerate products being illegally imported into the U.S. marketplace. We aggressively investigate those who thwart the laws and regulations that are put in place to protect U.S. businesses and the American public."

ICE, some state investigators and members of various honey industry associations continue to look into honey and honey products from China being shipped though ports in California, Washington, Texas and some East Coast locations.

If convicted, Fan could receive a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.



## The 57th Annual Beaverlodge Beekeepers' Field Day

will be held on Friday June 25, 2010 at the Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Research Farm in Beaverlodge, Alberta, Canada.

The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will include outdoor demonstrations as well as talks from professionals on the latest findings in bee research. Our guest speaker this year is Dr. Tom Webster of Kentucky State University. Also in attendance will be Provincial Apiculturalists and representatives of the Honey Council, the Alberta Beekeepers' and the Alberta Honey Producers' Cooperative.

Don't miss the FREE noon BBQ sponsored by honey industry members.

For more information contact Dr. Steve Pernal at: [Steve.Pernal@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Steve.Pernal@agr.gc.ca)

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Regards,

Wendy Walter  
Apiculture Lab Research Assistant  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
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## Vice Presidents' Report

.by Murray Lewis



Wow! Where has all the time gone? Just seems like we finished moving our bees into the wintering building (all be it late), and now it is time to take them out again. I always find this time of year very stressful. What are the losses going to be? Do I need to look for bees, or will I have some for sale? I think you all know what I mean.

This year we made out very well, with low losses and a high percentage of the hives with wall-to-wall bees. I have heard some others did not fare as well with losses in the 70 to 80% range. Who knows? What did we do right? What was the difference from other years? Really I don't know, maybe it was luck or maybe it was just my turn to get it right. Trust me, we have had our share of losses in the past.

What a great Symposium this year! I was pleased to see such a good turnout, and from the comments that I heard from people, they seemed to enjoy the high caliber speakers. I think a big thank you needs to go to Rheel and David for all the work they put in. These conventions don't happen by themselves. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for future sessions, the board would love to hear from you.

Last night I watched The Nature of Things. I think this was the second show on bees and I don't think researchers are any closer to putting a finger on the cause of CCD. The part that really made me think was the shot of the Ninety year old beekeeper, who had lost 50% of his yard, when he was overcome with emotion. I know the feeling of hopelessness when you go into a yard and find many dead hives, with the ones that are left being very weak, keep your head up things always seem to have a way of working out. Thankfully, Canadian Honey Council is spearheading an extension to the emergency use registration of Apivar for 2010/11. Producers need all the tools we can get.

I wish you all a good productive honey season, with increasing honey prices. We deserve to be rewarded for our hard work! Hope to see you at the June Field Day.

2010 Symposium A  
great success!!



1. Barb Campbell, (volunteer, on left), Jim Campbell (MBA Secretary), and Hilary Stewart (MBA Treasurer) kept things moving at the Symposium.

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS** - **THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MBA MEMBERS ONLY**

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL - \$30.00 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BEE CULTURE - \$53.00 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SPEEDY BEE - \$28.00 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

High Levels of Miticides and Agrochemicals in

North American Apiaries: Implications for Honey

Bee Health

Christopher A. Mullin1\*, Maryann Frazier1, James L. Frazier1, Sara Ashcraft1, Roger Simonds2, Dennis vanEngelsdorp3, Jeffery S. Pettis4

1 Department of Entomology, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, United States of America, 2 National Science Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Marketing Service, Gastonia, North Carolina, United States of America, 3 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, United States of America, 4 Bee Research Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, Maryland, United States of America

Abstract

**Background:** Recent declines in honey bees for crop pollination threaten fruit, nut, vegetable and seed production in the United States. A broad survey of pesticide residues was conducted on samples from migratory and other beekeepers across 23 states, one Canadian province and several agricultural cropping systems during the 2007–08 growing seasons.

**Methodology/Principal Findings:** We have used LC/MS-MS and GC/MS to analyze bees and hive matrices for pesticide residues utilizing a modified QuEChERS method. We have found 121 different pesticides and metabolites within 887 wax, pollen, bee and associated hive samples. Almost 60% of the 259 wax and 350 pollen samples contained at least one systemic pesticide, and over 47% had both in-hive acaricides fluvalinate and coumaphos, and chlorothalonil, a widely-used fungicide. In bee pollen were found chlorothalonil at levels up to 99 ppm and the insecticides aldicarb, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos and imidacloprid, fungicides boscalid, captan and myclobutanil, and herbicide pendimethalin at 1 ppm levels. Almost all comb and foundation wax samples (98%) were contaminated with up to 204 and 94 ppm, respectively, of fluvalinate and coumaphos, and lower amounts of amitraz degradates and chlorothalonil, with an average of 6 pesticide detections per sample and a high of 39. There were fewer pesticides found in adults and brood except for those linked with bee kills by permethrin (20 ppm) and fipronil (3.1 ppm).

**Conclusions/Significance:** The 98 pesticides and metabolites detected in mixtures up to 214 ppm in bee pollen alone represents a remarkably high level for toxicants in the brood and adult food of this primary pollinator. This represents over half of the maximum individual pesticide incidences ever reported for apiaries. While exposure to many of these neurotoxicants elicits acute and sublethal reductions in honey bee fitness, the effects of these materials in combinations and their direct association with CCD or declining bee health remains to be determined.

**Citation:** Mullin CA, Frazier M, Frazier JL, Ashcraft S, Simonds R, et al. (2010) High Levels of Miticides and Agrochemicals in North American Apiaries: Implications for Honey Bee Health. PLoS ONE 5(3): e9754. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009754

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**Funding:** Funding was received from the Florida State Beekeepers, National Honey Board, Penn State College of Agriculture Sciences, Project Apis mellifera (PAm), Tampa Bay Beekeepers, The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and the United States Department of Agriculture Critical Issues program. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

**Competing Interests:** The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.



## MANITOBA BEEKEEPING CLUBS (update 8 April 2010)

### The Red River Apiarists' Association

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

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

For information about upcoming meetings and events, visit the web site at [www.beekeepingmanitoba.com](http://www.beekeepingmanitoba.com) or contact Charles Polcyn, RRAA President at 204-284-7064.

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

### The Brandon Area Beekeeping Association

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

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

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

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

### Important Notice to Manitoba Honey Producers

#### 2010 Membership Renewals

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

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

#### BARTEL HONEY FARMS INC

Box 156, Kleefeld MB. R0A 0V0  
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Email [nbartel@mts.net](mailto:nbartel@mts.net)

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Tel. 403 652 4441, Fax 403 652 3692

[info@medivet.ca](mailto:info@medivet.ca) , [www.medivet.ca](http://www.medivet.ca)

## More on the Growing Forward – Beekeeper Food Safety Project

By Rhéal Lafrenière



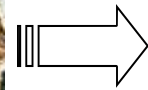
Many of you will have already heard that the Growing Forward Food Safety Program, For Farms has recently launched a program for beekeepers in Manitoba (see page 17 –18 for project Fact Sheet: “Benefits for Beekeepers”). Based on some comments we have received from producers needing help to fill out the application, it is important to note that the food safety project for beekeepers is only an interim project till the Canadian Beekeeping Industry’s Safety Quality and Traceability Program (CBISQT) has been approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). For this reason the Food Safety application form available at your local GO Centre or online does not easily recognize the uniqueness of this interim project.

For example, the funding for the beekeeping equipment project has been set at a maximum of \$1,000. This is quite different than some of the other commodity food safety projects where the funding for equipment upgrades have been up to \$5,000. Again the principal difference being that those commodities have a CFIA approved On Farm Food Safety (OFFS) program, where as the beekeepers do not.

The other difference is that the producers from the commodities that have an official OFFS program must be enrolled in the program in order to access the money. Where as until the CBISQT program is approved all Manitoba producers registered as active beekeepers with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) are eligible to participate in the interim beekeeper food safety project regardless of whether they choose to enrol in the CBISQT program in the future.

Once the CBISQT program passes CFIA’s lead technical review, the current interim project will expire and be replaced by a similar project to the other commodity food safety projects. At that time, only beekeepers enrolled in CBISQT will be able to access the additional dollars (i.e. up to \$2000 for program implementation and up to \$5,000 for additional equipment upgrades).

The only exceptions to eligibility other than non registered beekeepers are MAFRI staff and immediate family member (e.g. spouse, husband and children) or relatives that are in partnership with a MAFRI staff person. Applicants to the Food Safety Program, for Farms are eligible for up to 90 per cent of the total cost of eligible equipment. Currently, the program is available for such things as replacing non-food grade honey processing equipment and for replacing brood combs.



- Below are some of the most common questions asked regarding filling out the Growing Forward Food Safety application form:

**1. On Part A of the application form (Page 1) - Do I have a MAFRI Premises ID number? Answer:** No, check not yet assigned. This application will initiate the process of assigning your beekeeping operation with a Premises Identification number.

**2. On Part B of the application form (Page 2) – Do I have a Client Number, NAICS Number, and Project Number? Answer:** No, this is an office use only section. Please enter your beekeeper registration number along with your name but do not put that number in any of the boxes as previously suggested (i.e. leave the client No. NAICS No. & Project No. blank).

**3. Pg 3 – How many national on-farm food safety programs have you implemented? Answer-** for most beekeepers – NONE, leave blank and go to next part. Some of you may have implemented



## Update from the Pests and Pest Management Committee

RE: AGM Resolution #4

<http://manitobabee.org/bulletin/archives/ResolutionsMBAagm2009.pdf>

At both the 2008 and 2009 MBA annual meetings there were resolutions regarding insecticide use on sunflower crops. Since 2008 there have been significant steps taken that should help mitigate bee losses on sunflowers.

David Ostermann and Dr. John Gavloski with Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives have taken a lead role in making sure that both seed growers and processors have the best information with regard to controlling pests while doing the least harm to pollinators.

Dr. Gavloski published an article in the spring 2009 Sunflower Growers News letter titled “Maximizing Profits in Confection Sunflowers: Managing Seed Feeding Insects As Well As Pollinators”. In the article he urged growers to scout fields to determine if insecticides were necessary, if it was necessary to spray do it in the evening, and use an insecticide which is safer towards honey bees. The letter also emphasizes the need for good communication between growers and beekeepers. This letter can be read on the National Sunflower Association website in the spring 2009 newsletter.

A letter has recently been drafted by the National Sunflower Association of Canada with help from David Ostermann and Dr. Gavloski to be sent to sunflower seed processors. The letter explains that there are concerns over the health of honey bees in confectionary sunflower, it also states that honey bees can potentially increase the number and weight of sunflower seeds even in the “self-fertile” varieties.

The letter goes on to discuss four important points on how to get increased yields while protecting honey bees, they are; field scouting and applying insecticides only when necessary, apply insecticides in the evening, use bee friendly insecticides (they will not be

less destructive to the pest insects), and encourage growers to communicate with beekeepers.

MAFRI has been instrumental in initiating the registration of Matador (an insecticide which has been found to repel honey bees and is relatively safe towards visiting pollinators) for use on lygus bugs. They are also exploring the possibility of having Matador registered for banded sunflower moth and seed weevil.

In the spring of 2009 the National Sunflower Association of Canada started a crop surveillance program. A summer student was hired to among other things build a sunflower insect database. Insects would be identified and categorized as: pests, predators, parasites or pollinators. The student would also note the stage of life cycle, prevalence within the field and crop damage if any. This information was put on the sunflower growers website and updated weekly.

The crop surveillance program will continue for 2010 with the possibility of mapping technology to better illustrate the location and extent of a particular problem. This information will allow economic thresholds to be established. At both the 2008 and 2009 MBA annual meetings there were resolutions regarding insecticide use on sunflower





# Foreign Workers Drivers License Extended

Marg Smith, MBA member

Persistence in seeking a solution to the temporary foreign worker being able to drive a vehicle during their stay in Manitoba finally pays off. Temporary foreign workers can obtain an "exemption letter" so their foreign license is valid for the term of their work visa (up to 9 months).

Manitoba Public Insurance Corp. (MPI) has a policy indicating that normally for persons who stay in Manitoba for more than 3 months, it is necessary to complete the written and road tests, and obtains a Manitoba driver's license. The foreign license must be surrendered once the MB license is issued, and it is returned whenever the driver leaves Canada for their home country.

There is however, an exception to the common policy. MPI has a business rule in place that allows (full-time) foreign students to qualify for a "Student Authorization letter". This letter exempts them from the requirement to hold a Manitoba driver's license. This letter must be carried with the foreign students' valid home country driver's license.

This exception was also extended to agricultural exchange students and temporary foreign agricultural workers.

The brokers of Manitoba have previously not been involved in issuing these letters, as this is typically done at head office. Whenever a foreign worker attends a brokers' office, and the broker does not appear to be familiar with this exemption letter, advise the broker to please call the "Broker Enquiry Unit" for information on the requirements to qualify for the student authorization letter. All brokers in Manitoba have the contact information for the Unit.

The process is to have Auto Pac brokers collect and transmit to MPI, via fax, copies of the documentation required to qualify for a student authorization letter (usually the foreign license, international driving permit and their work visa). Once the documents are received, reviewed and approved, MPI will mail the student authorization letter

directly to the foreign worker. If the foreign worker applies directly at one of the 14 Auto Pac Service Centres and has all the necessary documents with them, they may be

able to walk out with the exemption letter in hand.

Thanks to Auto Pac Minister Andrew Swan, MPI Executive Director of Driver Safety & Registration Ward Keith, and Manager of Licensing Services, Carol Robson

for facilitating this provision.

If you have questions or problems with this process please let us know and we will try to help getting them resolved. For details call Rob or Marg Smith at 204-254-4509.



programs for different commodities than bees enter those that you have successfully completed.

4. On Part B of the application form (Page 3) – Which activity do I check? **Answer:** You only need to check box # 2 Farmers: Piloting Manitoba's Good Agriculture Practices Program, but realize that the maximum amount of funding available for the interim Beekeeper Food Safety project is \$1,000.

5. On Part B of the application form (Page 5) – What planned activity do I fill out? **Answer:** You ignore everything there and write in honey comb exchange or equipment exchange at the bottom where there is space to write. As a "Start Date:" enter a date that is at least a week from the time you sent in your application. As a "Finish Date:" enter the approximate date you plan to have dropped off your comb or equipment and purchased the replacement equipment -indicating the month and year will be sufficient.

6. On Part C of the application (Page 9) – Do I have to fill out the section on Premises Identification? **Answer:** Yes and proceed to fill out the application. **Note this is different that what you may have been told earlier this year.**

7. Where do I send my application form? **Answer:** Submit your application to your local GO Centre or mail it to the address on the back of the application form.

8. When can I drop off the old equipment or the old brood combs to MacGregor Wax Works? **Answer:** You must have received your approval package from the Growing Forward office approving your application before you drop off the equipment or frames to MacGregor Wax Works. **Note: You must contact MacGregor Wax Works at 204-685-3080 to make an appointment.** Equipment must be clean and free of all honey and wax. Producers without an appointment for drop off may be turned away.

**Keep your receipt from the Waxworks for comb and turn in with your new equipment receipt. For equipment dropped off – a Growing Forward employee will verify what was dropped off and send you a receipt.**

9. When can I purchase the replacement equipment or frames?

**Answer:** once you have your approval package.

10. How do I receive reimbursement for the equipment or frames I purchased? **Answer:** Once you have the receipts, ( for both turned in equipment and new purchased equipment) and have correctly filled in the claims form sent to you with the approval package, you can submit them for payment at your local GO Centre, or send them to:

*Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives*

*CVO/Food Safety Knowledge Centre*

*Food Safety Program, for Farms*

*545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6*

Phone: 204-945-5435

**For more information about the interim Beekeeper Food Safety project, contact:**

**Dana Gardiner** -- On-Farm Food Safety Specialist at 204-391-6616 in Winnipeg; or e-mail Dana.Gardiner@gov.mb.ca

**Peter Veldhuis** -- Program Co-ordinator, Food Safety Program, for Farms at 204-945-5435 in Winnipeg; or e-mail Peter.Veldhuis@gov.mb.ca

**Rheal Lafreniere** -- Business Development Specialist/Provincial Apiarist at 204-945-4825 in Winnipeg; or e-mail Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca

## Day of Honey Bee



Everyone is invited to celebrate "The Day of The Honey Bee" at the Forks Market, Winnipeg, on Saturday 29 May 2010. Learn about "Pollination and the Foods we Eat"- the importance of the Honey Bee.





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tinue to be serious risks in Manitoba. Both can affect colony build-up, honey production, wintering success, and overall colony stress. Last year, in samples processed at the lab, levels of varroa were generally high and were higher than any prior year. This spring, Apivar is available again, and I mention this because there are reports it's more consistently effective in the spring in Manitoba. It's important to follow the instructions on the label – not doing so may result in damage to bees, ineffective varroa control, and being warned or charged by Federal Government PMRA under the Pest Control Products Act. To sample for varroa mite, we recommend collecting bees from over the brood as this appears to be the most consistently accurate method for varroa analysis. Sampling from the lid may result in finding fewer mites and may give inaccurate results. Screen-bottomboards can also be helpful but alcohol wash is still the most consistently accurate.

Early results from a U of M study this past fall and winter showed the highest levels of nosema were in the Eastern part of the province. The study continues this spring. It's not certain which Nosema species are present at this point but in a study in 2007 both *Nosema ceranae* and *Nosema apis* were found in the province with *Nosema ceranae* being more common in that study. Other studies are currently being done on nosema by AAFC, but there are indications that both species of Nosema can be reduced well with fumagillin and therefore it's recommended that fumagillin should be used to control nosema disease when necessary. For information on nosema control trials see Hivelights 2009 Vol 22 Supplement – there have been a number of inquiries about this information.

**Other research** – Other research is planned this spring by MAFRI and/or the U of M. This includes other virus work and plans to look at contaminant risks in hive products. Also, the final report on honey bee pollination of saskatoons will be included in the next newsletter. It's been said before, but we very much appreciate those who volunteer and participate in all research projects in the province - thanks! If you have any questions about this Extension Report, contact me David at 945-3861 (Winnipeg).

The Manitoba Queen Breeders' Association (MQBA)

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

The City of Winnipeg Community Services Department  
Insect Control Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE

INSECTICIDE USE PROGRAM FOR 2010

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

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

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

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

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  
Website: <http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv> Phone: 202-720- 2175 FAX: 202-720-0547  
[www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm)  
Issued Monthly

Number XXX - 2 March 15, 2010

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

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

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

|                                |               |                   |                   |        |       |                   |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|-------------------|
| Canada (Province not Reported) | Canola        | White             | \$ 1.49 - \$ 1.55 |        |       |                   |
| Argentina                      | Mixed Flowers | White             | \$ 1.42 - \$ 1.53 |        |       |                   |
| Vietnam                        | Mixed Flowers | Light Amber       | \$ 1.12 - \$ 1.19 |        |       |                   |
| Dakotas                        | Alfalfa       | White             | \$1.52 - \$1.45   | Clover | White | \$ 1.45 - \$ 1.55 |
| Brazil                         | Mixed Flowers | Extra light amber | \$1.12 - \$1.19   |        |       |                   |





How to apply for Food Safety Program, for Farms

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

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

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

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

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





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UPCOMING EVENTS 2009/2010

- June 26 Manitoba Beekeepers Field day
- June 25 Beaverlodge Field day
- October 1-3 Manitoba Honey Show, Forks Market, Winnipeg
- May 29 Day of Honey Bee promotion, Forks market, Winnipeg
- Nov 1-3 AB Beekeepers AGM, Edmonton
- Nov 5-14 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto
- Nov 17 Manitoba Beekeepers Assoc AGM, Neepawa
- Nov 18-20 OBA Convention, Guelph, On
- Nov 22-27 Canadian Western Agribition, Regina



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# Trail Cameras

## A new Tool for Beekeepers

By Pierre Faure

It's been a while since I've had any destruction in my different bee yards.

A couple of years ago we had troubles in our yards with vandalism (see pictures below), probably people with nothing better to do than having "fun" in the dark bumping over hives in the bush.



At that time the RCMP came to investigate but didn't find anything interesting, no tire patterns in the mud around the bees, no scratches on the broken supers, and no signs of scraped paint on the boxes that could have led us back to the authors of the destruction- no clues.

Events like this generally occurred on Saturday nights just after socials in the local centennial hall. During those parties, people sometimes drink more than is reasonable and then drive around on gravel roads all night - far away from the RCMP officers who usually cruise on paved roads.

Usually, events like this take place during the summer when supers reach, in some cases, to the sky. They are then more visible from the side roads. Approaching hives in the dark, people in the cars close their windows as bees could fly into the car. Who knows ?? Then they stop the truck in front of the hives and push down the accelerator pedal to make sure the skyscrapers hives will collapse directly onto the ground.

We had that kind of problem for 4 years in a row. Most of the time we found the disaster only a few days later when a friendly neighbour phoned us after having seen the problem and realised that this was not normal

When hives are hidden in the bush, things can take more time as we check our bees every 10 to 12 days, so if the story happens the day after we check the bees it can take more than a week to find the trouble. After a week or so on the ground things are getting worse as the bees start to rob the piles of broken frames. As well the rain can start and soak everything in a short time. Usually it's a complete loss even though the honey is carried back to the neighbouring hives the equipment is completely lost.

We had a terrible streak of bad luck/incidents of vandalism for 4 years and we were never able to catch the people responsible. Since 2007 things have been better as the hive crashers have probably moved to the city for work or school.

Everything was fine until last year where we found that somebody had gone to one of our yards and stolen a couple of our brand new skunk traps, with no damage fortunately to the hives. The traps were set just beside the pallets and were not visible from anywhere, which means that the thief went to the yard on foot and took his time to check around the pallets to find the traps. This was really frustrating!



On top of that, the trap value was around \$80 each, so it was a complete loss to us. Right after that, I decided to buy a couple of trail cameras to see what was going on in my yards. We bought the trail cameras at Cabella's in (Winnipeg) for \$200 each and decided to set them on a rotating basis in various yards.

The goal was to get a picture of the thief "at work" doing his business in my yard. We bought another skunk trap that we set up in the same place, thinking that this person was attracted to the traps, a kind of a local "Davy Crockett".

We set the camera up on a tree at about 8 feet from the ground facing the hives and the trap.



## Benefits for Beekeepers

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

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

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

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

For example:

- Up to \$1,000 is available to buy new food-grade honey processing equipment (on a 90:10 cost-share basis, with the beekeeper paying 10 per cent). The new equipment must replace similar, old non-food grade equipment and the old equipment must be turned in, to a designated site. It must be obvious that the old equipment has been used recently old, unused equipment is not eligible.
- Up to \$1,000 is available for exchange of up to 500 dark, undamaged brood combs. Frames with foundation for honey bees can be dropped off at the registered rendering site. A \$2 rebate per comb is available for purchasing new wax or plastic foundation or new frames with foundation.



## Extension Report Spring 2010

David Ostermann  
Manitoba Agriculture  
Food & Rural Initiatives



Here's a summary of some extension activities and updates:

**Wintering and early spring** - Early winter reports suggest lower than normal winter losses, as of late March. This is finally good news after a few bad years in row. The nice days so far have been good for cleansing flights, pollen patties, feeding, etc. Certainly, bee nutrition is very important these days and this spring, beekeepers will be trying to keep their wintered bees as healthy as possible. According to Jake at the Co-op, the demand for pollen patties has increased noticeably the past couple years.

**rAFB** - Resistant AFB (rAFB) has been confirmed in an operation in the Southwest region of the province for the first time. The results were confirmed late last year. In the past, the disease has also been confirmed in a limited number of operations in the Northwest and Central regions. This latest find doesn't appear to be linked to the other occurrences of the disease; that is, it doesn't appear to have spread, rather it appears to have developed within the operation. MAFRI staff are working with the operation to assess and manage the disease. The general Apiary Inspection Program is scheduled to commence this spring as it has in past years.

**Queens** - Following the announcement in October 2009 of finding varroa on honey bees on the Kona side of the big island in Hawaii, there was discussion about queen shipments into Canada. Led by Dr. Medhat Nasr, Chair of the CAPA Import Committee, these discussions concluded around the time of the MBA convention in early March and queens are scheduled to be shipped to Canada this spring as scheduled.

**Replacement bees** - An updated list of "bees for sale" is posted on the MBA website ([www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org), bulletins tab). If you have bees for sale and you'd like to be added to the list, please contact David or Rheal. This list is posted on the website each year. There were reports last year of noticeably high supersedure in some packaged bees from New Zealand. Nosema disease appeared to be the main reason. Fumagillin isn't registered in NZ. Therefore, treatment may be required when feeding your packages. You can submit a sample to the Apiculture Diagnostics Lab.

**AGM resolution update** - In regards to Resolution #4 from the AGM, and further direction from the MBA Pests and Pest Management Committee, Dr. John Gavloski, MAFRI provincial Entomologist, and I have been working with the National Sunflower Association of Canada on information for sunflower seed processors about pesticide risk and the value of insect pollinators. The letter has been completed, forwarded to the MBA Committee, and will be sent from the National Sunflower Association of Canada to the seed processors this spring (2010). MAFRI staff will continue to work with the MBA on this issue and others.

**Lab fees** - As of the start of calendar year 2010, the cost of Apiculture Diagnostics Lab analysis has increased. This was also announced in the last newsletter. The current fee structure is \$25 for tracheal mite, varroa mite, and nosema analysis; or \$25 for tracheal mite only; \$10 for varroa only; \$10 for nosema only. Samples may come in with inspectors in the spring or may be submitted directly to the Lab year-round. Generally, samples can be turned around more quickly when submitted directly before inspections, but we encourage either, and we encourage monitoring in general.

**Varroa and Nosema** - Varroa and nosema con-

(Continued on p.19)

At this height, it is very difficult to locate the camera as people usually look around the area at eye level, not upward in the sky.

On top of that, those cameras are very efficient in the dark and not easily visible from anybody as they use an infrared flash to take the picture. People or animals crossing in front the camera would be recorded on the memory card, and this seemed like a great idea to us.. After a week of laborious testing everything was ready for the big catch.

However at this time of the year, we also started to get trouble from a bear causing huge damage in our yards. This bear was heading everywhere depending on the honey flavour coming from inside of the hives. During the dandelion honey flow, the flavour of honey around the hives is very powerful and when you walk around your hives, you can smell it very easily.

If there is wind in the evening when bees start to ventilate the day's harvest, this flavour can be widespread miles around your yard and can be smelled by a bear miles away. That's what I think happened to us.



During one week we found damage every morning in five different yards. This bear destroyed 21 hives in a week and turned upside down another 14 hives.

We decided to get assistance from Manitoba Conservation to get rid of this problem. They came to my place and decided to set up big traps in various yards as they usually do when this kind of problem occurs.

They also decided to put in place a two car patrol in the evening moving from yard to yard, trying to catch the bugger. None of these patrols were successful and they didn't catch a bear in any of the traps. The bear was doing damage in the south when we were north and vice versa. This was really hard and I couldn't fall asleep thinking about the next morning!

During that week, I had no time to check my cameras as we were collecting broken equipment every morning and trying to save the attacked, but still alive, colonies.

After 3 days patrolling around my different yards, the rangers got discouraged and gave up. They decided to give me the authorisation to set up patrols with local hunters.

This was not difficult to put in place as many local hunters volunteered to catch that damm bear. Damage was becoming less as the nuisance bear was probably full of food.

We set up our own patrols but never got any bears either. This was really annoying! The bear took some time off during the next 2 days; it was probably resting in the bush, digesting the honey and the wax comb found in my hives.

Its last attack was in my "thief" yard, the yard with the two previously stolen skunk traps. It turned over 3 hives but didn't do too much damage. As I say, it was probably full but still willing to play with the hives.

We didn't catch him this time but found beautiful pictures of this bear on the trail camera.

This guy was huge (around 280 Lbs, an estimation of the ranger) It was a cinnamon coloured bear which is very rare to see in southern Manitoba. This animal drove me crazy during that week moving from yard to yard and traveling many miles to follow the honey flavour which was in the air around him.

This is just an example that vandalism will occur usually at night whether it travels on 4 legs or 4 wheels, and the trail camera can capture whatever takes place.







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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.

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# BEEKEEPERS FIELD DAY AND SUMMER PICNIC

June 26, near Fisher Branch, Manitoba

**Date:** On Saturday 26 June 2010, Manitoba Beekeepers' Association together with the Red River Apiarists' Association invite **all interested beekeepers** to come on out for an afternoon of food and fun.

**Lunch Time/Cost:** Arrive for Picnic Lunch being served at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Food Cost \$10.00 each. Bring your Lawn Chair, and perhaps a sun cap too! Tour to follow lunch.

**Location:** Tour to take place at Interlake Forage Seeds Ltd, near Fisher Branch, MB

**Directions:** From the junction of Hwy 17 and 68, (i.e. junction near town of Poplarfield), drive 10 miles North on Hwy 17 (toward Fisher Branch), and then turn East on Bartlett Road and drive three (3) miles to yard site. Watch for the sign "Interlake Forage Seeds" alongside Hwy 10 just before the turnoff.

**Tour:** Visit one of the larger Honey Producers in Interlake Area. Learn about the recent construction by Wizer Building, and hear why a sound absorbing ceiling is a good idea. See the benefits of hiring Foreign Workers for Honey producers. Tour to take place after lunch.

**Q&A Session:** Discussion on current beekeeping activities and events, including updates on in-progress research and non-food grade equipment replacement program.

Please arrange your own transportation to and from the tour site.

For more information, call Jim Campbell at (204) 467-5246, or Rhéal Larfenière at (204) 945-4825.



**RED RIVER APIARIST  
ASSOCIATION**

