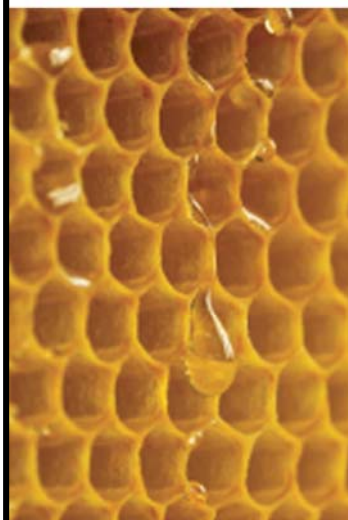




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The Manitoba Beekeeper



PROVINCIAL GRAZING TOUR P.2

CHC REPORT P.3

DIRECTORS PROGRESS REPORT P.8

Honey Report p.10

BeeMaid NEW STORE WITH A NEW NAME! P.12

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW RESULTS P.13

BEEKEEPING AND TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS PROGRAM (TFWP) P.15

BEEKEEPING IN MANITOBA AND CANADA P.17

FALL Extension Report p.20

BEEKEEPERS LEND HELPING HAND P.26

A Publication Of The Manitoba Beekeepers Association

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Provincial Grazing Tour at Podolski Honey Farms

Written by Darlene H Mullen-Dudar for Ethelbert Echo

Each summer, Manitoba Forage Council, organizes a Provincial Grazing Tour, where producers from across Manitoba tour various farming operations in the Manitoba's North Parkland area. This year, they added Podolski Honey Farms to their agenda. July 21, a chartered bus and vehicles, pulled in with 68 persons to take part in the Tour. The Honorable Stan Struthers was in attendance, along with reporters, freelance writers, MA-FRI staff, and producers from across Manitoba.

Edward and Roxanne started the farm in 1954, and later their sons, Bruce and Robert joined. They were all on hand to guide the Tour, explaining how they started with just 9 hives and have had as many as 5500 hives in peak years. Bruce provided very interesting information as to the importance of bees in providing the pollination services to farmers, as well as, what is involved in getting that delicious honey, nature's natural sweetener, from the field to your kitchen. Podolski Honey Farms produce all natural honey, marketing creamed honey, buckwheat honey, white honey, and liquid honey.



There are many connections between the methods used by producers to manage their land and honey production. The bees forage from the flowing crops, such as canola, forages, such as clover, wild plants, fruit trees



and pasture flowers, and then bring the nectar and pollen to their hives. Pollen is the protein that baby bees need for proper growth and development. It is therefore very important that these types of flowering plants be as natural as possible, and left to bloom as much as possible. Grazing practices are extremely crucial, whereby, allowing plants to flower and not be overgrazed, gives the bees a constant food source. Also, limiting the use of herbicides, applying them a proper distance away from the bee yards, and also applying them at proper times of the day.

The producers on the tour found it very informative, learning the history behind the farm, as well as the connection between honey bees and crop pollination, wintering bees, and all the challenges of being a honey producer. An added bonus on this Tour, was that the honey extraction process had just got underway, so they were able to witness how the honey is removed from the honey frame, cleaned and bottled.

Thanks to Pam Iwanchysko of the Manitoba Forage Council for organizing the tour, and to the agri-business sponsors, Manitoba Growing Forward, Sundog Solar and Agriculture Supplies, Powerflex Fence, Central Testing Laboratory Ltd., Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, Parkland Crop Diversification Foundation, Northstar Seed Ltd., Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Kane Veterinary Supplies Ltd.



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2010 HONEY HOUSE PRICE

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association 2010 Recommended Honey House Price

\$2.50 per pound

\$5.51 per kilogram

(in customer supplied containers).



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

Manitoba Beekeepers Lend Helping Hand to Neighbour

Earl Dueck, health update

As most of you may have heard that on Aug 10th, Earl had a stroke. During the medical examination and testing, a hole in his heart was believed to be the cause. At this time healing is coming along quickly and Earl is expected to make a full recovery in 6 to 9 months. To achieve full recovery; he is to keep his stress level low, he is to work on regaining short term memory and it is very important to keep his body healthy; not increase blood pressure or cholesterol levels. He is walking for exercise and slowly returning to the honey house and doing small jobs. Earl has stated that the medication at times will make him nauseous, we are looking into what can be done to alleviate this problem.

At this time we are asking that when communicating with Earl to please refrain from giving him any news or medical advice that may cause him to become stressed or upset. We have visited the Heart and Stroke clinic in Brandon and have seen professionals who have been extremely helpful and who have been working with Earl to achieve this speedy recovery. Everyone at Brandon RHA were wonderful, staff and roommates, Dr's and even the food was good.

We are extremely grateful to Wendy and Randy Bancescu (our Oak Lake neighbours) who responded quickly to a call for help; driving Earl to Virden Hospital and ensuring that everything was taken care of. We cannot imagine what would have happened without your speedy response and kindness, we are forever thankful.

Regarding the honey production, we were blessed by the wonderful beekeeper friends that Earl has made over the years. The stroke took place on Aug 10th, by Aug 12 Bill Bygarsky and his wife Val had contacted fellow beekeepers and put a plan together of how to best salvage our honey crop. During the next weeks we watched as approx. 35 people consisting of; beekeepers and their employees along with family, friends and acquaintances came together. It was amazing to see how swiftly this awesome team of men who have never worked together could take down yards of full honey boxes and have them extracted and the honey in drums so quickly. They completed in one week what would have taken our small production team of Earl and Raina two months to complete.

We are totally blown away by the generosity and kindness of the beekeepers and Earl's brother Wes Dueck, without all the help I would have been totally lost. This years honey crop would have been totally wasted and I have no idea how that would have effected Earls recovery.



We have many people to thank; calls wishing us well and people who prayed for us, family who came out to Oak Lake to help work and bring us wonderful food, beekeepers and workers, yard worker, honey extractors, truck drivers. Workers and family came from; Brandon, Kemny, Cromer, Hecla, Kleefeld, Grunthal, Steinbach, Dufresne just to name a few.

I truly hope I have not missed anyone, as this experience has been overwhelming and humbling, I would like to thank; family and friends for prayers, everyone who called wishing us well and or offering to help, cards and flowers, wonderful food. Thank you to all the amazing people for; taking down yards, extracting, transporting boxes and drums, for making wonderful meals for the workers, the emails and phone calls and much more.

A BIG THANK YOU TO;

Bill and Val Bygarsky who started the communications out to the beekeepers and who worked wonderfully to bring this all together and I am told who are also great cooks and wonderful hostesses, Thank you.

Bee Yard workers; Bill and Roman Bygarsky, Wes Dueck, Merv Malyon and his crew; Chris, Brett, Nicholas and Herb Isaac and Con Isaac, Roger Toews, Lorne Peters, Mel Dueck, Bordon Patrycia and his crew.

To the Brandon extracting crew who we did not get to meet but to whom we are very thankful and amazed on how quickly you all worked together to make a wonderful team; Bev Clark, Will Clark, Jef and Shauna Paulson, Ted and Joanne Turnbull, Bill Bygarsky, Todd, Ryan and Hillier Yakimishen, Scott Lockie, Rheal Lafremiere, David Osterman.

To the Kleefeld team; Lorne and Larry Peters, Mel Dueck, Wes, Jerlene and Matt Dueck.

A special thanks to our daughters Carime and Raina, we love you and thankful to God for you.

Val

APIVAR Approved !!

Apivar has been approved by PMRA, for Emergency use from July 1, 2010 until June 30, 2011, thanks to dedicated efforts of CHC and support from other beekeeping organizations throughout Canada.

Emergency use is granted to use Apivar Pest Control Strips (3.33% amitraz) for control of varroa mites in honey bee hives in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NB, NS and PEI.



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CHC REPORT

by Bryan Ash



What a challenging season!! In the North West Area we had well over 36 inches of rain from May to September. CHC work slows down during the summer as we await notice of acceptance on funding applications, politicians to return from summer vacations, directors busy with own operations and staff holidays.

Canadian Honey Council is holding a fall meeting in Cranbrook, BC on October 19, 20 & 21st, 2010. On the agenda is a working session on the AgriFlexibility project. This is the application for funding from the federal government to host a stakeholder meeting on importation. Canadian Honey Council's CEO will be retiring so we will be working on a transition plan. Foreign workers under the Service Canada temporary foreign worker program is another hot topic and will be discussed how to best resolve the 4 year work, 6 year leave issue. The three days of meetings are jam packed with issues and topics. I'm excited as this will be the first meeting face-to-face since I was elected CHC representative for Manitoba.

Presidents' Report

.by Todd Yakimishen



“ No Report At This Time.”

Manitoba Beekeeper's Association 2010 Executive and Directors



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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.

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

**The deadline for all entries for the Winter 2011 issue will
be December 21st, 2010. Don't miss it! MBA Newsletter
Editor Dan Lecocq : e-mail dnlecocq@shaw.ca**

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

Varroa Research Application Filed

Bill Lockhart, Research Committee chair.

The Manitoba Beekeepers Association (MBA) board of directors recently approved funding for a new multi-year research project. The application for funding has been submitted to the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council (MRAC) for final approval. The Project "Varroa Mite Control Evaluation Trails" is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2011 and run through December 2013. These trials will be carried out at the University of Manitoba, under the direction of Dr. Rob Currie.

During a stakeholder meeting held in Winnipeg (January 2009), the Canadian Honey Council and its member associations identified varroa mites as the greatest threat to hive health in Canada. As part of a Hive Health Strategy, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba were identified as key provinces to work cooperatively toward the evaluation of effective mite control products. Northern Ontario would also have similar conditions to Manitoba and therefore would also be considered a good match with Manitoba for cooperative evaluation trials. The vision of "Healthy Bees-Healthy Honey" and the call for increased research (i.e. threat of varroa) funding was previously identified as a major thrust in MBA's Strategic Plan distributed to MBA members at the November 2008 Annual General Meeting.



The objective of this new research project is to conduct an evaluation trail of various varroa mite control products and techniques, which are also being investigated in other provinces, to determine the effectiveness of these products under Manitoba conditions. More importantly, the goal of this project is to work cooperatively with the other provinces to support the registration of these products in Canada by the manufacturers.

It is important to note that the majority of the products being evaluated are considered low risk for chemical residues in honey and are not a risk for long-term impact on bees.

Sources of Funding: As the sponsoring industry, MBA is proposing a funding level of \$21,200 plus some administration costs. Meanwhile Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council Inc. (MRAC) will contribute the lion's share at \$102,875.00 (which are funds supplied from the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program-CAAP). In addition, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (U of M/NSERC) are slated to contribute \$16,375.00. The overall project is slated to cost \$140,450 over the three-year duration.

Regulation Contingency established

Fee/Levy Committee

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) has taken steps to create a reserve fund for regulation contingencies.

Earlier in the year, the Manitoba Farm Products Marketing Council (MFPMC) suggested MBA begin setting aside funds earmarked for potential legal fees associated with their recent Regulation. The fund currently stands at \$10,000. In March 2009 the regulation requiring producers with 50 or more honey bee colonies operated within Manitoba, to submit fees to the organization, became law.

The suggestion to establish a reserve was loosely based on similar actions underway by other commodity groups under the jurisdiction of MFPMC. For the case of MBA however, directors remain optimistic that the majority of Manitoba producers will realize the benefit of contributing, to things like research and promotion within the industry, and comply with the legislation on a voluntary basis. To this end non-compliant producers have been receiving periodic reminder notices of overdue accounts. Under this strategy, at the end of 2009 for example, only about 14 producers remained non-compliant. The MFPMC implied other groups had good results using gentle persuasion to reduce the number of non-compliant members.

MBA developed plans to slowly begin removal of benefits to non compliant members. The first step in this process is to advise members that distribution of the Canadian Honey Council newsletter "Hivelights" could be discontinued unless fees are forthcoming. Roll out of this plan continues.

The Honey Days demonstrations entertained visitors at the show by drawing attention to the health benefits of hive products as ingredients. Cooking and Cosmetic demonstrations were conducted periodically during the three-day event, with John Russell, a trained chef, taking control at the kitchen grill.



People loved the honey cooking food samples! The "Smoothies" were tasty, and a Winnipeg Mayoralty candidate said she wished she knew about the natural cosmetics earlier.



Meanwhile, the three vendors (Hours Rudiaks Polcyns) were kept busy offering samples of products, answering visitor questions, and serving their customers.

Thanks to the many volunteers helping out, the entrants, MBA support, Bee Maid support and equipment loaners. Special appreciation to Don Dixon, Gordon Marks, and Rhéal Lafrenière for judging the competition entries.

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Fumagilin-B applications studied

William Lockhart, Safety Net Committee chair

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) is seeking information on expanded applications for Fumagilin-B.

Members of MBA have been monitoring recent industry communiqués and preliminary second year research information (CHC Hivelights 2010 Vol 23 supplement, page 12) regarding the possibility of expanding the uses and applications of a traditional nosema treatment product. Work has been underway since 2008, primarily by Steve Pernal and Adony Melathopoulos at Beaverlodge, in Alberta, to determine if treatments are possible for disinfecting *Nosema ceranae*, using alternative formulations and dosages. As well, studies are continuing for considering new application methodologies incorporating a "syrup drench" and/or "icing sugar" type process, for either spring or fall time frames. All of these elements are of interest to Manitoba producers, given the realities of our unpredictable weather situations, and our concerns for hive health, as highlighted in the MBA Strategic Plan. It is anticipated that efficacy and residue data sets would be complete through the summer/fall of 2010.

Medivet Pharmaceuticals Ltd., High River, Alberta, is the current owner of the instruction document for the nosema treatment product. To determine where the research results are heading, with the hopes that producers can maintain hive health, MBA recently requested information on Medivet's plans to expand the current Fumagilin-B label to include more application options for the product.

Ursula Da Runga, Medivet, responded "You are correct that there are studies going on how to best apply Fumagilin-B in regards to *Nosema Ceranae* for best effectiveness. The study is being conducted by Dr. Stephen Pernal at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Beaverlodge). I expect we will hear more results over this winter when they have had a chance to pull all the data and put it together. So stay tuned and as soon as we have concrete results we will be expanding the directions to include *N. ceranae*."

MBA will continue to follow up on this item after results of the efficacy and residual effect data sets are announced by Dr. Pernal over the next few months.

VICE PRESIDENTS

REPORT

Murray Lewis



Another season is coming to an end and what a memorable one it was, from beautiful spring weather to a gloomy and wet summer. We in the Austin area were fortunate because we missed a lot of the big down pours, although we did get our share of precipitation it was certainly not as devastating as many areas.

I am hearing mixed results on production with some areas good and some areas poor. We had a decent crop but feel we did not get our first round off early enough, Hives became plugged full of honey thus leaving a lot of our potential crop out in the field. We have to develop an efficient way to dry our honey so we can start knocking down hives earlier.

Hope everyone was fortunate enough to get their feeding requirements this fall. There always seems to be something to keep us on our toes; sugar shortages, mite loads, wet roads etc. With regards to the sugar shortage, funny how we cannot get sugar, meanwhile Drayton North Dakota had a surplus of it. go figure. We must keep our heads up in this business, as there is always a new challenge to overcome.

This fall I am hearing lots of reports of high mite loads. Is resistance to Apivar starting already? I sure hope not but it proves that we must sample, sample, and sample some more if we don't want to be surprised. Just because we treat does not mean the mites are gone. On a more upbeat note, the board is optimistic label expansion for Fumagilin-B may be possible. Dr. Pernal is completing his third year studies and should have efficacy and residue data to support label changes to cover *Nosema ceranae*. Your directors will continue discussions with Medivet Pharmaceuticals to offer encouragement for the possible changes

Enough ramblings from me, hope everyone had a successful year.

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
2011 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



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MEMBERSHIPS cover period from January 01 to December 31 of 2011

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

1. MEMBER – A Producer with 50 or more colonies who keeps bees in Manitoba, and who is a sole proprietor, or is the designated representative of a partnership, corporation or Hutterite colony .
\$200.00 BASIC FEE, PLUS \$0.40/COLONY (TO A MAXIMUM OF 1,000 COLONIES) \$ _____

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

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

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Honey Show
featured new additions

Jim Campbell, Honey show reporter

The recent Manitoba Honey Show attracted considerable attention with the theme "Honey- More than Just Food, Naturally".

The 2010 Manitoba Honey Show took place the weekend of 1-3 October, at the Forks Market, Winnipeg. As part of the plan to enhance and stimulate conversations with consumers, the Show featured an array of items promoting the health benefits of honey and related hive products. Colourful signage drew people's attention to this beneficial aspect of the Honey Bee.

Promotion for the show was done via a segment on CityTV's Big Breakfast, with Charles Polcyn, RRAA president, on Thursday morning 30 September. Meanwhile Shaw conducted an interview with Rhéal Lafrenière on Friday 1 October, and radio station CJOB spoke with Charles early on Saturday 2 October. Meanwhile The Forks Market featured "Honey Days" in its' October events with the Forks promotional newsletter.



The display area sprouted a new design to enable all promotional items to be arranged in the 18' x 18' floor space. With a little ingenuity, the new table setup helped with traffic flow while still providing adequate coverage for the Competition area, the Industry space, the Observation Hive, the Product area, and the newly added Health Benefit promotion display.



Shirley Rudiak offers Honey Tastes to Honey Show visitor

The Honey Competition continues to be an attractive feature, using the theme "Colours of Manitoba" as a backdrop for the varied entry categories. Visitors were enamoured with the prize winning honey frames completely capped with nice white wax. Adjacent to this were several photographs depicting Beekeeping in Manitoba. Visitors were invited to select their "Viewers Choice" and place their vote into a large jar. Also nearby was a new feature depicting Honey Throughout the Year. Ken Rowes had jars of honey from Spring, Summer and Fall extracting times. The difference in colours and tastes reflected the floral sources from different times of the season. Thanks to Jonathan, Ken, Sandra, and Rheal for setting up the display, and Charles for bringing material from Bee Maid

The Observation Hive continues to draw both young and older visitors, where many hours were spent by the beekeeper volunteers, speaking of the intricacies in the life of our favourite insect. A yellow dot on the thorax of the queen stimulated interest, as well as the wasp being dragged around by the bees. Thanks to Alex Remkes, Jim Utley, Sandra Smith, David Ostermann, Janice Lupinetti and Jim Campbell for informing visitors at this station. Conversations often led guests to the beekeeping industry display, where several components of the hive were described with appropriate signage.

MANITOBA BEEKEEPING CLUBS (update October 20, 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 November 9th, 2010, (8pm) 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 "Honey, More than Just Food, Naturally" theme.

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

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

The Brandon Area Beekeeping Association

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

The meetings normally take place the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Trails West Inn, from 7:00p.m. For BABA, November 16, 2010. Topic will be winter hive monitoring and other winter "....." activities. For past topics, BABA has discussed availability of Queen cells, extended use of Apivar as a treatment for mites, effectiveness of Honey Bee Healthy, to new markets for various hive products.

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

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

Important Notice to Manitoba Honey Producers



2011 Membership Renewals

A familiar reminder for all Manitoba Honey Producers. Membership with the MBA is due as of January 1st, 2011, with payment deadline March 31st 2011.

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 increased 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.



Paid up MBA members receive a \$5.00 discount. Watch your invoice for details.



Arataki Honey Limited

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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Box 156, Kleefeld MB. R0A 0V0
Tel. 204-377-4629 Fax 204-377-4069
Email nbartel@mts.net

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info@medivet.ca , www.medivet.ca

MBA Director Progress Report for November 2010 AGM

The following is a summary of some of the activities and events your Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) directors have been discussing and actioning, on your behalf, throughout this past year.

1. Marketing and Promotion:

- Conducted a market survey in January, via MBA members assisting Canadian Honey Council to assess American honey consumer habits, attitudes and preferences, plus raise the profile of the "Pure Honey 100% Canadian" brand.
- Increased public awareness, in May, via the "Day of the Honey Bee" education, promotion and public awareness display at The Forks Market in Winnipeg. The event focused on the value of pollination and the foods we eat.
- Promoted the industry and its products, in early October, via the annual Manitoba Honey Show at The Forks market. The theme focused on the Nutritional and Health Benefits Honey Bees provide to consumers and the economy of Manitoba.
- Worked with Agriculture in the Classroom by providing Honey Producers to assist with the Made in Manitoba breakfast programs at various inner city type schools within Winnipeg, plus staffing at the annual Ag Days at Glenlea.
- Established a 2010 recommended selling price for Honey offered by producers at \$2.50/lb, with a premium suggested for floral specific honey varieties.

2. Best Management Practices (Hive Health, Honey Quality):

- Corresponded, in early 2010 with Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), and along with most other provinces, joined forces under the CHC umbrella to obtain Emergency Use Registration (EUR) of Apivar for mite control from July 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- Partnered with Canadian Honey Council, and as such, we are pleased to report an extension for Formic Acid use as a treatment for varroa mites on honey bees, has been granted by PMRA until March 2011.
- Participated on the Food Safety for Farms – Bee steering committee, which develop an action plan to address important food safety, traceability and biosecurity issues that directly affect the honey industry. In addition to developing a brood comb exchange and extracting equipment rebate program for beekeepers, the steering committee also recommended several research and demonstration projects for funding. Evaluation projects looking at contaminants in honey, pollen and wax were undertaken this summer. A U of M study looking at the effects of sterilizing comb using e-beam irradiation to control viruses was also funded this summer. Lastly, a video on varroa mite monitoring was produced to help beekeepers incorporate monitoring mite levels in their colonies to aid in the overall management of varroa mite. The funding for these projects was provided by the Food safety for Farms program.




treatment to keep your bees healthy. Leave strips inside the hive for 42 days, up to a maximum of 56 days if needed. The bees should be in continuous contact with the strips and they should be able to contact either side of each strip. If the tab on the strip doesn't allow for contact on both sides of the strip, using a nail to hang the strip between the frames can help create space on either side of the strip. In the fall or spring, if the bees are clustered in the bottom box of a double, then there need to be strips in the bottom box. If you've used the product properly and are not getting good control, please contact David at 945-3861.

Sugar Feed Calls: I received a few calls this fall about limited availability of sucrose sugar (e.g. bags and liquid syrup). Apparently there was limited availability at Manitoba supply stores and outside the province for a couple of weeks in September, but by the end of the month supplies were back to normal. It's not clear what the exact issue was, however it may have been due to inventory transitioning from last year's sugar crop to this year's. Fructose syrup was not affected.

On a related note, as most beekeepers know, the price of white, or refined, and raw sugar has increased this year particularly since spring (See CME Nymex No. 11 Sugar Futures). According to Marketwatch (Chris Kay; Sept. 29, 2010), "prices gained as importers increased purchases and on concern that global supplies would be curbed after adverse weather damaged crops in Russia and Pakistan." The article also stated that it's speculated "that mills in northeastern Brazil, the biggest producer, are accelerating sales to take advantage of higher prices." Some beekeepers have commented on the price of sugar so I thought I'd include this.

Food Safety Projects: There are a number of beekeeping-related food safety projects that are currently in the works, including a couple that I'm involved with. One is a project where beeswax from 25 Manitoba beekeepers is being tested for various residuals or contaminants. The goal is to determine the baseline levels of substances in beeswax in order to assess the risk this may pose in our hives. The samples are being processed at the University of Guelph Laboratory Services and the results will be presented confidentially next year. Thanks to all the beekeepers who participated!

The other project is an MBA varroa mite monitoring video. The filming occurred this summer, editing will be completed later this year, and the video will be available as soon as it's completed. The video highlights the importance of monitoring for varroa, planning, and sampling methods and tools. Thanks to Merv Malyon and Donalee Jones and her crew for doing a great job! Thanks to funding provided by Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative 

HEALTH SURVEY FOR FARMERS

Safety Net Committee

Manitoba's Honey Producers have been invited to participate in a recently announced research project undertaken by the University of Manitoba.

Although this is not a typical Safety Net Committee activity, health is not only for our honey bees, it is also for our producers. The research project is called "Impact of Long-Term Health Conditions on Farmers". The plan is to have farmers aged 55 years and older, living in Manitoba; participate in a survey, which will gather data on health problems faced by aging producers. Members of Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, along with many other producer groups, are invited to complete the survey.

The study is co-coordinated by Dr. Margaret Friesen in the Department of Occupational Therapy within the School of Medical Rehabilitation at the University of Manitoba. The aim is to determine how farmer's work is impacted by changes in their health. Often farmers adapt over time to overcome any health related issues.

Nadine Tonn, a research assistant, will be looking at what kind of farming people have been doing, and their ability to do the work required. She is seeking volunteers to help with the survey, expected to run until early November.

The survey can be completed on line at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q5R9XLT. However if you want a paper copy, one can be requested by calling Friesen or Tonn at 204-977-5634 or 789-3864, or via e-mail at tonn@cc.umanitoba.ca.

Extension Report

Fall 2010

David Ostermann
Manitoba Agriculture
Food & Rural Initiatives



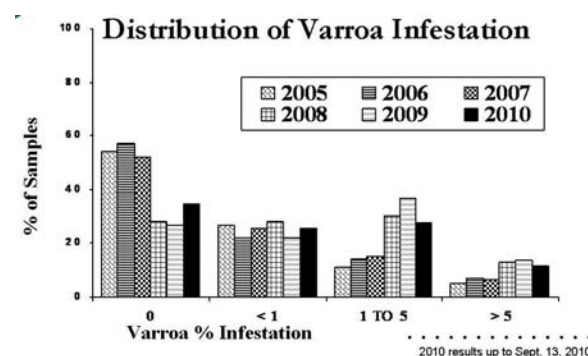
Apiary Inspection: This year (2010) MAFRI inspectors inspected 143 operations and 2,455 hives. AFB was found in 7 operations and 64 hives. This includes a new discovery of rAFB in an operation in the Southwest region of the province. This is the second operation with rAFB in this region. A number of other operations were inspected in the Southwest this fall, and no other disease was found. MAFRI staff will continue to work with the beekeepers to aggressively manage the disease, and the area will also be a focus for next year's inspection.

Oxytetracycline remains the only registered product for AFB control in the province. AFB and rAFB have the same appearance in a hive, both may be found in an operation, and diagnosis of AFB resistance to antibiotic requires laboratory analysis. If you suspect you may have rAFB, please contact David Ostermann (945-3861) at the Apiculture Diagnostics Lab in Winnipeg to arrange for rAFB testing.

Bee Sample Analysis: Levels of varroa, nosema, and tracheal mite were generally similar or lower this year compared to last. The weather in the spring was better for treating and less stressful on the bees, and this helped keep bees healthier.

Varroa levels were lower than last year, but still many samples we processed were above economic levels (Fig. 1). Varroa continues to be the number one pest concern among Manitoba beekeepers, and there are reports of significant resistance to Apistan and CheckMite. As new products become registered for varroa control, they'll be listed in MAFRI's "Recommendations for Administering Antibiotics and Acaricides to Honey Bees" which is mailed out to all registered beekeepers each year.

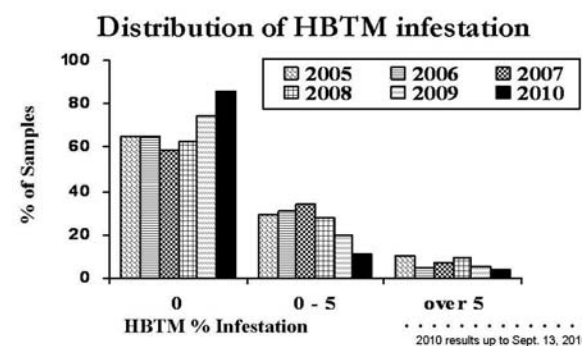
Fig. 1



Although relatively few samples had high levels of tracheal mites this year (Fig. 2), the combination of varroa and tracheal mites over the winter is especially risky, and when both are present it's important to control at least one. Formic acid use in the province appears to be increasing so this may be reducing tracheal mite levels.

Nosema levels were generally similar this year. While there's more to learn about nosema, we know that nosema can hurt colonies and that fumagillin effectively controls it. The only way to know your nosema levels is to have your bees analysed.

Fig.2



There have been quite a few questions and comments about Apivar this year. Apivar varroa control strips are available for use this fall and next spring until June 30, 2011, under Emergency registration granted by PMRA. **Do not leave strips in over the winter;** there are unconfirmed reports that doing so can result in significant colony damage or loss. To maximize varroa control, be sure to read the label. Make sure you're applying the product early enough in the season to get a full

- Partnered with the University of Manitoba, to secure funding for a three-year evaluation project for screening varroa mite control treatments. The screening trial will commence next spring and will be part of a network of screening trial being conducted in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. The goal of this project is to identify new treatment products for varroa mite control as well as to field test some of the products that are effective against varroa mite in other areas and test them under Manitoba conditions. 3.

Working with other groups:

- Supported collaboration between groups that resulted in a communiqué being issued by the National Sunflower Association of Canada, to Sunflower Seed Processors, recommending safe ways to use pesticides while protecting pollinators on confectionary sunflowers.
- Met and corresponded with Buckwheat Growers Association to determine how to work together to increase both buckwheat acreages and nectar content in the buckwheat varieties grown within Manitoba.
- Having a director seat on the Canadian Honey Council supports endeavours that cross all provinces. Actions here include developing new protocol so Hawaiian queens could arrive in 2010; Meeting with Federal Government to define occupational codes for apiary workers; Clarifying new Immigration policies for temporary workers, etc.

4. Working with Government:

- Developed, in concert with MAFRI Extension staff, an inspection criteria policy, permitting bypassing a yearly inspection for an operation with a disease free record. This could permit holding the line on the yearly cost recovery amount paid to MAFRI.
- Met with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation staff to review their response to MBAs' request for Over Winter Livestock Insurance Program for 2011.
- Corresponded with Min Stan Struthers, MAFRI, to identify potential for adverse impact on Honey Producers from the weather related issues (unseeded acres, flooding) facing cereal and oil seed farmers.
- Updated Wildlife Damage Compensation Values used by MASC for 2010, as well as make recommendations for new items such as Nucs to be added to the list of equipment covered for Bear Damage.
- Negotiated a fee discount for paid up MBA members when they have bee analysis completed at the Honey Bee Lab in Winnipeg.
- Met with Federal Conservative Ministers Rick Dykstra and Shelly Glover to present benefits of having temporary foreign workers helping producers and thereby contributing to the Manitoba economy and well being of our members operating farm businesses.
- Worked with our members, we helped to clarify the Foreign Worker driver's license policy to ensure that coverage was up to 9 months.



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**Minister of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Initiatives**

Room 165
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

Todd Yakimishen
President
Manitoba Beekeepers' Association
P.O. Box 234
Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0

SEP 21 2010

Dear Mr. Yakimishen:

This is in response to your letter regarding excess moisture conditions throughout Manitoba this spring and summer and the potential impact this may have on Manitoba's honey and beekeeping industry.

Regarding the Canada-Manitoba Excess Moisture Assistance Program (CMEMAP), this program was developed specifically for annual crops to assist producers restore their land for future production. Perennial crops, livestock and bees were not eligible for support under CMEMAP.

We acknowledge that excess moisture conditions are likely to have implications for the agriculture community as a whole. Therefore, we are monitoring the situation closely to determine how best to address producers' concerns, especially those who have experienced multi-year flooding.

I would encourage you to continue working with Mr. Rheel Lafreniere Business Development Specialist - Provincial Apiarist to prepare a full assessment of this year's honey crop. Rheel can be reached at (204) 945-4825 or by e-mail at Rheel.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca. Once the season has been completed we will all be in a better position to discuss impacts of weather on your industry this year.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Stan Struthers
Minister

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
Issued Monthly

Number XXX #8, September 15,2010

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF August 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)	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.59		
Argentina	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.47 - \$1.55	Mixed Flowers	Ex. Light Amber \$1.45 - \$1.58
Brazil	Organic	Light amber	\$1.49 - \$1.57		
Dakotas	Clover	White	\$1.47 - \$1.60		
Dakotas	Alfalfa	White	\$1.50—\$1.55		
Minnesota	Clover	White	\$1.55		



Manitoba Beekeepers' Association

P.O. Box 234 Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0

Phone (204) 467-5246

30 July 2010

Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Room 165, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Struthers,

This letter is to bring to your attention the potential that Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) members honey crop, and thus income, may be adversely affected by limited bee flight time during the cool spring weather, plus the reduced forage, pulse, and canola crop acres from excessive moisture in May-July 2010.

MBA is grateful you are working with the Federal government to provide relief for the agricultural industry affected by the unusual moisture problem. MBA also applauds your action with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) on this issue. Unfortunately, our members rely on nectar from some seeded acres for their honey crop income, and thus are similarly impacted by the situation. MBA has been collaborating with MASC on honey production insurance and over winter insurance however, due to provincial budget pressures, and priority delays, neither of these is in place. This leads to our current dilemma of how to address the possible honey crop failure in certain areas of the province. Neither AgriInsurance nor AgriStability programs may clearly help our producers. Preliminary indications are that the Northwest and Interlake region is most affected by lack of traditional nectar sources. This has already created additional input expense for honey producers transporting their bees several times to capture scarce nectar sources from partially seeded crops plus other volunteer flowering plants. Currently, many producers are just beginning the first phase of honey collection, and thus we have little documentation on overall crop results. To this end, MBA desires to investigate available risk reduction options with you and your staff. Although still early in the honey production season, is there a possibility Honey Producers could be incorporated into the current 2010 Canada-Manitoba Excess Moisture Assistance Program?

In preparations for anticipated resolution, MBA will continue discussions with your department on the best way to survey producers to collect honey production data, plus verify the situation and plans of our beekeeping neighbours in Saskatchewan. MBA could contact you later, as more details of our honey production situation unfold. Meanwhile, should you desire additional information on this request, please feel free to contact me, or our secretary, Jim Campbell at 467-5246.

Sincerely,

for Todd Yakimishen,

President MBA

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2010/2011

Nov 1-3 AB Beekeepers AGM, Edmonton

Nov 5-14 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto

Nov 17 Manitoba Beekeepers Assoc AGM, Neepawa
(see page 14 for details.)

Nov 18-20 OBA Convention, Guelph, On

Nov 24-27 Canadian Western Agribition, Regina

Nov 25-26, Ontario Beekeepers Convention Guelph Ontario

Jan 4-8 North American Beekeeping Conference , Galveston
Texas, USA

March 4-5 Beekeepers Symposium in Manitoba , 2011
Winnipeg, MB



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5. Hive Management through Education, Research and Information:

- Hosted an annual beekeeper convention in March, which included a Symposium that featured current research and program announcements, including international speakers such as Randy Oliver from California.
- Used the quarterly newsletter, to distribute timely information that can help beekeepers better manage their beekeeping operations including technical articles on how to use Apivar during cold temperature (strips in bee cluster), reported Winter Loss 2010 survey results, etc.
- Co-Hosted a Summer Field Day where producers can hear directly from other producers and researchers.

6. Fiscal/Regulation Accountability:


- Retained a small surplus at fiscal year end, as fee income was less than predicted, meant having to defer plans to upgrade the web site, develop electronic newsletter distribution, secure additional Liability insurance, and increase research activities.
- Established a preliminary Regulation Contingency amount to be built up as a reserve fund for potential future legal action, also to respond to Manitoba Council suggestion.
- Sending reminder invoices to any producers who have not submitted fees by the March 31 regulation deadline.
- Added Regulation and other Registration material to manitobabee.org web site.
- Removed a name from the director list for self-disqualification in not fully meeting the requirements of the position. 

Bee Outfitter name introduced

by Jim Campbell

Bee Maid hosted an open house to showcase its' newly renovated bee supply outlet earlier this month.

At a special celebration on October 4th, beekeepers, staff, retired employees, and family members were invited to visit the recent upgrades at the bee store. Guests were welcomed to walk about to see the new shelving material, stocked with a variety of items producers need for their operations. The dark wood grain shelving was complimented by freshly painted walls.

For the celebration, a creatively designed cake drew many compliments from guests. The cake display featured an old time straw skep, a smoker, a bee helmet, and several other decorative pieces. Thanks to Karen Miles for carefully making the first slice as several onlookers pretended to hold their breath creating a tense moment for her. Signage depicted celebration of the opening of "Bee Outfitters" (the new name for the Supply outlet), as well as the retirement of a Saskatchewan sales employee. 



Beekeeping in Manitoba & Canada - 2010

Rhéal Lafrenière

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Another challenging year for Manitoba beekeepers! Although it started off on a good foot, with lower winter losses than the three previous years and an early spring to make up losses, for many beekeepers "the honey crop" was a big disappointment. The provincial survey for honey production has been mailed out to beekeepers, so we are still in the process of collecting information on honey yields. Preliminary results suggest that the average honey production per colony is going to be close to the long-term average of approximately 165 lbs/colony.

This story seems to be similar to what has happened across the prairies. Both Alberta and Saskatchewan had lower winter losses, followed by an early spring followed by wet cool weather that reduced the prospect for a good honey crop to average to below average. Optimism was very high at the start of the year and many beekeepers have reported increasing their colony numbers to back where they were three years ago. Unfortunately, excess moisture caused a lot of over land flooding and many acres to remain unseeded this summer. This put a lot of pressure on beekeepers to either travel (if they could) to find forage for their bees when they could or have operate higher stocking rates on the limited number of bee sites they had available to them.


On the other side of the coin, most of the eastern provinces had a very good beekeeping year. Other than Nova Scotia, the eastern provinces suffered low winter losses and all had above average honey production. At the time of writing this article Steve Pernal had just released a summary on the losses across Canada, which can be viewed in its entirety on the following website: <http://capabees.com/main/files/pdf/2010winterloss.pdf>.

Overall, honey bee losses in Canada were estimated to be approximately 20.9% and the losses in Manitoba were estimated to be 25.6%. Highest losses were reported in Nova Scotia at 41.9% but there

were also very high losses reported on Vancouver Island. Over 70% of the colonies on Vancouver Island were lost this winter and varroa mite is thought to be the main reason. It was reported that many of the beekeepers on the island were still using Apistan (fluvalinate) to control varroa mites. CheckMite+ (coumpos) or Apivar (amitraz) were generally not used on the island. Some beekeepers had been using formic acid and oxalic acid with some success but whatever was used last fall did not appear to get the mites under control.

The other bit of important news that was announced this fall was that small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) was confirmed in southern Ontario. It was first discovered on the 8th of September. At present there are several operations found to have small hive beetle, all are in Essex County close to the Michigan border. One yard and one extraction facility have been quarantined.

The apiculture program of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs is continuing to conduct surveillance for more cases of small hive beetle to determine the extent of its distribution. Although they have placed some quarantines and are monitoring the area, the question that still remains is whether or not the beetle is able to establish a regenerating population next spring.

Until now, this pest has failed to establish an endemic population in the three province that it has invaded in the past (i.e. MB, AB, and QC). That said; beetle migration into QC and perhaps ON on an annual basis may be considered similar to having an endemic population. It will therefore be very important to answer this questions this winter in order to determine whether Canada will be able to maintain its status as a country that does not have an endemic population of small hive beetle. 

this is for cost of living increases, but we are not living in the city, and the cost of living in the rural area is minimal. Many beekeepers provide furnished housing and transportation for the TFWs.

- As the TFW returns year after year, gaining experience, they receive the 2.1% annual increase. Now, here are my concerns. I hire and bring in a new TFW, and because of the increase, his starting wage is the same as the returning workers wage. I wonder why the TFWs minimum wage is NOT the same as the provincial minimum wage for Canadians? They do the same entry level job and the Canadian workers already communication skills. The second problem is the cost of living wage increase of 2.1% annually.
- There are two wage levels, the low skilled, which is \$10.00 per hour, and the beekeeper pays the travel and housing expenses, and the high skilled, which is \$12.15 per hour and the TFW pays his own travel and housing expenses. This is where it causes problems- at \$12.15, it is really cheaper to have the employee pay his own expenses. However, if you have a lot of Canadian employees, starting a TFW at \$12.15 per hour, when he does not speak English, or know anything about beekeeping, causes problems with the Canadian workers, as they view this as "not fair."
- When you first apply to Service Canada for a Labour Market Opinion, they give you an employer number. It would be beneficial to also have an employee number, and the on-line application to have auto-fill. This way all previous info would be visible, and we could just make changes, saving valuable time.

Service Canada feels beekeepers should be paying a new TFW a higher wage. They do not see the big picture - as to why this is less expensive to the bookkeepers. This is the 'catch 22' that is hurting us.

As a smaller producer hiring new TFW, you may be



paying much more than Service Canada recommends. You can save yourself money because you, yourself, are always working with your men, training, watching, and correcting them at all times. At a larger commercial operation, having 10 to 20 or more employees, you now rely on your other Canadians and foreign workers to train new foreign employees, and mistakes cost money. Even though there are some problems, Foreign workers have become a way of life in the rural beekeeping industry. Most beekeeping is weather dependent, and the TFW is willing and available to help as needed alongside the owner, to ensure the necessary work does get done. The first few years, my small community was upset that we were bringing TFWs, yet now, they are seen as valuable community members. These workers provide a definite economic benefit to Manitoba business owners, whether the honey producers, or other community service providers.

The Manitoba Beekeepers Association together with Canadian Honey Council will continue to negotiate with Ottawa to ensure it continues and also to make improvements to the TFWP.

Submitted by Bruce Podolsky

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

2010 Competition Results

Class 1

Liquid Honey, White

- First place: Raymond Hourd
 Second place: Jonathan Hofer
 Third place: Ken Rows
 Fourth place: Lance Waldner
 Fifth place: Charles Polcyn
 Sixth place: Earl Dueck

Liquid Honey, Amber

- First place: Ted Scheuneman
 Second place: Lance Waldner
 Third place: Jonathan Hofer
 Fourth place: Charles Polcyn
 Fifth place: Ken Rows

Liquid Honey, Dark

- First place: Jonathan Hofer
 Second place: Pierre Faure

Liquid Honey, BEE-GINNER

- First place: Jacob Hofer
 Second place: Willy Hofer

Granulated Honey, White

- First place: Ron Rudiak
 Second place: Lance Waldner
 Third place: Raymond Hourd
 Fourth place: Charles Polcyn

Class 2

Chunk Honey

- First place: Raymond Hourd

Comb Honey

- First place: Raymond Hourd
 Second place: Alex Remkes

Frame of Honey

- First place: Ted Scheuneman
 Second place: Ken Rows

Beeswax

- First place: Raymond Hourd
 Second place: Jonathan Hofer

Class 3

Best Taste

- First place: Ted Scheuneman
 Second place: Jacob Hofer
 Third place: Raymond Hourd
 Fourth place: Charles Polcyn
 Fifth place: Lance Waldner
 Sixth place: Willy Hofer

Honey Beverage

- First place: Ron Rudiak
 Second place: Ken Rows



Kerri Hourd shows off a winning Bee Wax Competition entry

Photography

a) Honey Bee Pollination

- First place: Jim Campbell

b) Beekeeping in Manitoba

- First place: Lance Waldner
 Second place: Jim Campbell
 Third place: Ken Rows

c) Other Bees and Insects

- First place: Jim Campbell

Champion Honey Show Exhibitor

Ray & Donna Hourd

Honey Judges:

Don Dixon
 Gordon Marks
 Rhéal Lafrenière

Congratulations to all entrants!!



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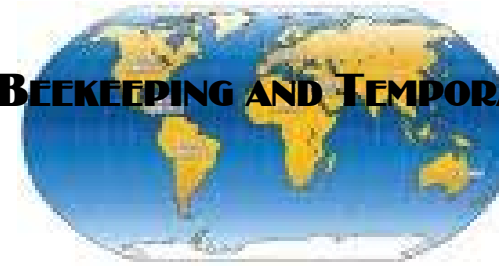
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BEEKEEPING AND TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS PROGRAM (TFWP)



Can bee keepers in rural Manitoba survive without foreign help? Podolski Honey Farms started with the Foreign Worker Program 7 years ago. As a beekeeper in rural Manitoba, I believe that this program is a benefit to our industry for many reasons. Our season is short and intense. Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) are here to make money to take back to their families, and while they are away from their country and home life, want to work as many hours in a week as possible.

There are very few Canadians available for seasonal work-they prefer full time employment. At one time, I would hire students, but they want to start immediately after school and want a week off before returning in the fall. As you know, harvest generally does not start till mid to late July and finishes in early September. Therefore, hiring students is not a viable option on many farms.

Prior to the TFWP, over half of my workforce was of aboriginal descent, often driving 45 minutes from neighbouring Reserves. A drawback with this was that on any given day, even though hiring extra people, I would often end up with 2 to 3 workers short, as some weren't as dedicated to the task. Podolski Honey Farms was at a cross roads, should it scale back to the point where it would have three to five employees or just sell out.

Generally, when hiring TFWs, they may be recommended by other beekeepers who already use the program. The first year I asked for 2 workers who could speak some English. When picking them up at the airport, the only English one of

them spoke was "hello, hello, hello," and the other, could not speak any at all. After a few weeks of stressful animated communication we determined to provide them English classes. Many producers learn some Spanish. In general workers are eager to learn, as they want to earn wages. On average a TFW can earn about 25% more, receiving the same wage, in the same amount of weeks, by working extra hours. This is crucial to beekeeping-having the work done on time. They are excellent workers, always laughing and making a days' work fun. Our operation increased the number of TFW every year since. In the past, we used about 25 employees to bring in the harvest. This year we ran 1,000 more hives with 10 foreign workers, and we reduced our employees by 6. Having the foreign workers is a huge asset.

Training a TFW may be harder than training a Canadian, because most do not understand the basic English language and more importantly, beekeeping terms. There is a common joke among beekeepers, that when you provide instructions and ask if they understand it-they will answer "yes, yes, yes, no problem," but, ask them to explain it, they stare at you blankly-meaning, they actually did not understand. Now we always take the time to ensure they explain our instructions back to us.

As I see the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, there are few problems:

1. The federal & provincial government is putting economic pressure on beekeepers by raising wages by 2.1% or more annually. This is becoming a problem, maintaining a viable beekeeping operation. They claim

(Continued on p.16)

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NOTICE!!

Manitoba Beekeepers Association

105th Annual General Meeting
 Wednesday 17 November 2010
 Starting at 10:00 a.m.

Auditorium, Neepawa United Church
 475 Mountain Avenue, Neepawa, Manitoba

Members \$40.00 each, Spouse/Guest \$20 each
 Luncheon included

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