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The Manitoba

Volume 5 issue 2

Spring 2011

Beekeeper



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A Publication Of The Manitoba Beekeepers Association

www.manitobabee.org

Photo by Jim Campbell



Beekeepers Acts of Kindness Appreciated

Earl Dueck, MBA Director



“Overwhelmed but not surprised” is the phrase to describe the many events that transpired this past summer (2010) after I was “set on my heels” by a stroke. Beekeepers from different regions of the province willingly came to the aid of me and my family. The beekeeping industry is filled with wonderful and caring people! I will be forever grateful for your generosity and acts of kindness in helping harvest my Honey crop, and getting the bees ready for winter, at my Oak Lake beekeeping operation!



In addition to those taking immediate action, there were many others who expressed their willingness to help, yet found, that as there were enough people already volunteering, they could not help at the time. Several others called, having found out about my stroke later, and indicated if they had known about the situation earlier, would have been willing to help as well. Thank you everyone for your acts of kindness! Although sometimes we are hesitant to tell others about our health problems, a big thank you for all the well wishes that were sent my way! These were all greatly appreciated as I worked at regaining my strength!

Thanks to my wife, Val, for preparing an initial appreciation article, for the fall 2010 Manitoba Beekeeper, listing some beekeepers, their helpers, and non beekeepers that gave of their time and resources to help initially. And yet, there were others who volunteered to help later on, for fall preparations, after the article was published. I wanted to prepare a more comprehensive list. (Please accept my apology if I've missed your name, as I tried to remember all of you).



A BIG THANK YOU (in no particular order) TO:

- * Merv Malyon (and crew Chris, Brett, Nicholas)
- * Borden Patricia (and crew)
- * Herb Isaac
- * Bev Clark
- * Bill and Valerie Bygarski
- * Roman Bygarski
- * Con Isaac
- * Jeff and Shauna Paulson
- * Roger Toews
- * Ted and Joanne Turnbull
- * Lorne Peter
- * Larry Peters
- * Mel Dueck
- * Will Clark
- * Wes and Jerlene Dueck
- * Todd Yakimishen
- * Ryan Yakimishen
- * Hilliard Yakimishen
- * Scott Lockie
- * Rheal Lafreniere
- * David Osterman
- * Matt Dueck
- * Bill Lockhart
- * Tom and Braden Lockhart
- * Murray Lewis
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For Sale: AUSTRALIAN AND HAWAIIAN QUEENS available mid April through mid May. Shipping from Toronto to major centres. For pricing, shipping and ordering information, contact Peter Mewett at 613-395-3225 or visit us online at www.earlyqueenarrivals.com. Special price reduction on orders of 200 or more Australian queens.

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For sale: good 3 or 4 frame nucs with 2011 queens ready in May, also 1 Stainless Steel 70 frame extractor. for more information please call Jake at 793-4949 or email at jake@prairietruss.ca

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For Sale: Strong 4 frame Nucs with new young laying queens. Can also accommodate to make 3 or 5 frame Nucs as well. for more info call: Chris Argiriou at 296-4848

For Sale : Manitoba Raised Queen Bees for sale in Spring 2011. Mated Queens (available late-May) Under 60 ordered: \$22.50 each, Over 60 ordered: \$20.00 each EXTRA: All Mated Queens will be clipped and marked. Virgin Queens. \$7 each (available mid to late May) EXTRA: 4% extra for expected infertility rate. Cells. \$3 each (available mid-May) EXTRA: 4% extra for expected survival rate. BONUS: If you order over \$600 worth of Queens, which can include any combination of Mated, Virgins, and Cells and you will receive FREE DELIVERY anywhere in Manitoba. Call/Text: (204) 721-0271 email: dan_can2003@hotmail.com Location: Treesbank, Manitoba. Serving: The Province of Manitoba

For Sale: 4 frame Nucs and also will sell frames of brood. Please call Roger ph: 434-6918 or 392-0410

For Sale: Queen cells & mated queens from the Hygienic and Productive lines are available in June 2011. We'll give a reduced price for any big quantity orders. For pricing please contact Rod at (204)372-6149

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Chair – Earl Dueck

Jim Campbell , Rhéal Lafrenière,
David Ostermann

Nomination:

Chair – Murray Lewis ,

Bryan Ash, Bill Lockhart, Jake Maendel

Pests & Pest Management:

Chair – Bill Lockhart, Terry Karaz,

Richard Schau, Murray Lewis

Pollination:

Chair – , Chris Rempel

Bryan Ash, Bruce Podolsky ,
David Ostermann.

Promotion/ Education:

Chair – Jake Maendel,

Jim Campbell, Earl Dueck, Gilles Maguet, Richard
Schau, Rhéal Lafrenière.

Resolution:

Chair – Chris Rempel

Bryan Ash, Bruce Podolsky ,

Research:

Chair - Bill Lockhart,

Rhéal Lafrenière, Murray Lewis, Gilles Maguet,
(Dr. Rob Currie).

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Chair – Bill Lockhart,

Jake Maendel , Earl Dueck ,Terry Karaz

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Bill Lockhart, Terry Karaz , Bruce Podolsky,

Pests and Pest Management:

Chair – Bill Lockhart,

Murray Lewis,Terry Karaz, Richard Schau

Convention/AGM Committee:

Chair – Murray Lewis, Bruce Podolsky , Rhéal

Lafrenière , Jim Campbell David Ostermann,

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Rempel , Bill Lockhart , Rhéal Lafrenière, Jim
Campbell

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Earl Dueck and , David Ostermann, Chris Rempel

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Bryan Ash, Allen Campbell , Chris Rempel
Rhéal Lafrenière

KAP:

Chair - Allan Campbell,

Earl Dueck, Gilles Maguet, Jim Campbell

Food Safety:

Chair—Bryan Ash,

Bruce Podolsky, Gilles Maguet

Formic Acid use continued



Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

Beekeepers will be able to breathe a sigh of relief with recent news about continued availability of formic acid.

Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), in a communiqué at the end of March, confirmed continued use, in Canada, of liquid formic acid 65%, as sold by Medivet Pharmaceuticals, Alberta. PMRA have approved the continued use and sale of Formic Acid 65% for treatment of varroa mites and tracheal mites in honey bee colonies. This news arrives in time for producers to get ready for spring pest treatments.

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) has been monitoring progress of the application over the past few months. At a previous meeting, MBA directors approved covering the application fee if required, as producers had been requesting continued use of 65% liquid formic acid. There was concern the PMRA review of interim use of Formic may lead to it being discontinued later this year.

MBA appreciates the help of Robyn Underwood, former U of M student, who took a lead role to approve continued use of Formic. The application was in support of, and to ensure that, ongoing MBA sponsored over-wintered bee treatment research at U of M could be continued. MBA extends their Thank You to Robyn for helping all beekeepers across Canada, until such time as PMRA completes their full review.

Research Report

Bill Lockhart



At last years annual meeting members supported a resolution to seek Emergency Use Registration (EUR) for Apivar for 2011-2012 provided that it had not received a full registration. Currently MBA is seeking updated progress reports so proper action can be taken. The current EUR expires in 2011.

Plans for the varroa mite control evaluation trails are being finalized. The purpose of the research is not only to evaluate the products but possibly change the method of use to make the product more efficient under our conditions. Some of the products being considered for trials are Hopguard, Oxalic and Formic Acid and Thimol (there are several delivery methods for Thimol). One Thimol Product that we would like to test is Apiguard it is the Thimol Gel Product that Randy Oliver spoke about at the convention in March.

The number of trails that can be included may be limited by the number of hives available at the University of Manitoba. To overcome this or if we would like to test additional products the MBA may be seeking donations of hives from producers.

The MBA is planning to hold this years Field Day at the U of M. This would give producers the opportunity to see how the first phase of the trails are being carried out.

In addition plans are being developed to include an Integrated Pest Management Workshop to be held in conjunction with the field day.

Manitoba Beekeeper's Association
2011 Executive and Directors



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Subscription Information:

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

Please mail your cheque payable to:
The Manitoba Beekeepers Association.

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

**The deadline for all entries for the Summer 2011 issue
will be June 21st , 2011. 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."

Over-Winter Bee Mortality
Insurance Introduced

Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) is introducing a new Safety Net feature for Manitoba Bee-keepers during spring-summer 2011.



After several years of considering the request for Over-winter Honey Bee Mortality Insurance, MASC is now able to respond to Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. The introduction of the Bee Mortality Insurance has been assured a place in the current Manitoba Gov-ernment budget announced April 12. The purpose of this program will be to insure colonies over-wintered in Manitoba against non-manageable "abnormal wintering losses" including weather related losses, as well as diseases or pests, where there are no ade-quate means of control.

Since considerable losses have taken place during the past few winters, there is a deductible level of 30% for the insurance program introduction. That means a payout could occur whenever losses exceed this level. One is to remember that this is an Insur-ance Program, and not a compensation program, and thus it could be considered similar to your farm, house, or outbuilding insurance whereby payouts happen should a disaster strike.

For convenience of producers, see the MASC insert included with this newsletter issue. For the new pro-gram, producers have until August 31, to apply. Contact your nearest MASC office for application forms.

Information with which to make informed decisions is an important tool for producers, their agencies and the government in trying to stay competitive in an increasingly uncertain world. The ability to under-stand where we are now — and indeed where we have come from — allows better informed ap-proaches to face tomorrow's challenges. Participation by producers in the 2011 Census of Agriculture will also allow them to give a local as well as national voice to their present situation, informing Canadians of the crucial role the diverse agricultural sector plays in shaping our national picture.

The Census of Agriculture, the backbone of Canada's agricultural statistics program, identifies trends and reflects issues, opportunities and challenges within the agricultural community. Questions cover topics such as land use, crops, livestock, agricultural labour, machinery and equipment, farm finances and land management practices. The depth of coverage allows the census to be the definitive source of information on the agricultural sector, giving voice to farmers' situations.

On May 10, 2011, add your voice to those of Can-ada's beekeepers by counting yourself in on the Cen-sus of Agriculture. Fill out your questionnaire on pa-per and mail it back in the prepaid envelope or take advantage of the internet application which automati-cally adds totals and skips you through the parts of the questionnaire that you indicate don't apply to your operation.

For more information on the 2011 Census of Agricul-ture visit the website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/ca-ra2011/index-eng.htm> or contact Erik Dorff by tele- phone at 613-951-2818 or by e-mail at erik.dorff@statcan.gc.ca

The 2011 Census of Agriculture and the beekeeping

by Erik Dorff, Census of Agriculture

Bees have long been known for the sweet honey that they produce, but as they struggle against parasites and other challenges that have been decimating their numbers, people have started to pay attention to the important role the insects play in crop pollination.

On May 10, 2011, farm operators — including beekeepers — will be asked to update Canada's definitive national agricultural profile by completing the 2011 Census of Agriculture questionnaire.

For those in the beekeeping sector — whether for honey or for pollination — completing their census forms is now more important than ever before because of increasing competitive challenges, environmental stresses and pest infestations.

The Census of Agriculture will provide farmers, their organizations, and everyone interested in the future of Canadian farming with solid information to quantify the agricultural situation and help make informed decisions. Though the direct questions about bees are only a small portion of the census questionnaire, the critical role beekeepers play in providing pollination services for a number of agricultural commodities makes their participation particularly important.

Over half a million colonies of honeybees were reported on the 2006 Census of Agriculture. Although all provinces reported honeybees, more than seven out of every 10 colonies (71.5%) were located in the Prairie provinces and most were found in Alberta, the province with the largest acreage of forage seed in Canada.

The 2006 Census featured an improved and enlarged section on beekeeping that captured information on both honey bees and other bees used exclusively for pollination — principally leaf-cutter bees. For 2011 this added depth continues to be reflected in the questionnaire.

Bees used exclusively for pollination are found almost entirely in the three Prairie provinces, with 96.8% of the 399,968 gallons of other pollinating bees reported. Saskatchewan has over half (55.6%) of the leaf-cutter bees in Canada.

The beekeeping sector faces a number of pressing issues. Mite infestations in honeybee populations and the difficulties they cause are of particular concern. The mites are one factor believed to be contributing to elevated overwintering losses on Canadian commercial beekeeping operations.



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Sunflowers and Pollinators

Chris Rempel, Pollination Committee Chair



The pollination committee has once again corresponded with the National Sunflower Association of Canada (NSAC) to provide awareness of the important relationship honeybees have with their crops, as well as the difficulties experienced by beekeeper's hives working on and near sunflowers.

Although a similar communiqué was distributed during 2010, your Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) board determined the information remains valid for 2011 season. This action was taken last month, or earlier in the year, hopefully providing more timely recommendations, well in advance of spray season. MBA express their appreciation to David Ostermann, Pollination Apiarist, working in conjunction with John Gavaloski, Entomologist, and Anastasia Kubinec, Oil-seed Specialist, to develop the communiqué which outlines the benefits associated with timely insecticide application plus the need for

more pollinator friendly insecticide options for Sunflower pest control solutions.

This joint effort is aimed at strengthening the relationship Sunflower Growers and Honey Producers desire in their quest for high quality confectionary seed production, while providing safe foraging for a fall honey flow. MBA originally began contacting the NSAC in February 2009. The Sunflower Growers acknowledged MBA's concerns in past correspondence, and indicated including the recommendations for pollinator protection in their upcoming publication.

A honey of a day!
Miel Labonté Inc

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MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION

2011 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



NAME: _____ COMPANY NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF COLONIES EXPECTED TO BE OPERATED IN 2011 _____

Deadline for membership payment – March 31, 2011

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”.

KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

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

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

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

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS - THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MBA MEMBERS ONLY

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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

Honey & Cinnamon

According to Ayurvedic medicine, a mixture of Honey and Cinnamon can be beneficial to many ailments and diseases such as:

HEART DISEASES - Make a paste of honey and cinnamon powder, spread it on bread or crackers instead of jelly and jam and eat it regularly for breakfast. This **can** help to reduce the cholesterol in the arteries and maybe reduce future heart attacks.

UPSET STOMACH - Honey taken with cinnamon powder **may** relieve stomachache.

GAS - According to studies done in India & Japan, honey, taken together with cinnamon powder **can** relieve the stomach gas.

ARTHRITIS - Mix one part honey to two parts luke-warm water and add a teaspoon of cinnamon powder. Make a paste and massage slowly onto the itching area of the body. It has been found that the pain **can** recede within a minute or two.

BLADDER INFECTIONS - Stir two tablespoons of cinnamon powder and one teaspoon of honey in a glass of lukewarm water and ingest. This **can** destroy the bacteria in the bladder that cause infection.

COLDS - Those suffering from common or severe colds should take one tablespoon lukewarm honey mixed with 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon powder daily for 3 days. This **may** help with most chronic coughs, colds, as well as, clear the sinuses.

TOOTHACHE- Make a paste of one teaspoon of cinnamon powder and five teaspoons of honey and apply to the aching tooth. This **may** be applied 3 times a day until the tooth stops aching.

Where everything went as planned, check at 4 weeks from the day the 2 boxes were united. Both upper and lower boxes should be full of bees and about 6 frames of brood. At this time you need to decide whether to leave the bees for another 6-10 days (i.e. if weather is cool), or whether the top box should be removed and taken to another bee yard about 5 km away to avoid bees back drifting.

Should the boxes not be filled with bees, reverse the inner cover to create a top entrance. This permits drones to leave the colony to fly; otherwise the queen excluder traps them inside.

If the boxes are left together for too long, the bees may become overcrowded, with the risk that both boxes of bees may swarm. Remember, bees are being produced at about 4000 per day at this time in your hive. To put this in perspective, about 4000 bees is about one 2-pound package of bees, every second day in your two-story hive.

The next step is **mandatory!** As soon as the boxes are separated, a second box **MUST** be added to each. Otherwise, you will crowd the bees, and they will swarm! As stated before, move the new two-story hive to another location.

This method has proven to be a win-win situation, as it doesn’t cost any money (i.e. for a new queen), you make use of the equipment you already have, and it takes very little time and effort. The best part is, colonies you save reward you with a honey crop!

What I’ve discovered, in my many years as a keeper of bees, is that we as beekeepers are likely making mistakes that brought about the weak colony situation. Although often it is hard to admit, beekeepers must acknowledge the fact that bees never do something wrong, or make a mistake. That’s why I say, “Give ‘em a chance”!





Give 'em a Chance (or Making Hive Splits)

By Ted Schuneman

After a long winter, beekeepers are anxious to see how their bees survived. Sometimes we find the boxes loaded with bees. Other times we find very few bees, and this begs the question "What is to be done next?"

Honey Bee colonies can be manipulated in the spring-time, after they have had at least three (3) days of good flying weather, or cleansing flight days. There are always some colonies that are really strong, with 8 full frames of bees, and there are some that may have bees on only 1 or 2 frames, yet appear healthy with a live queen. Without some kind of support, weak colonies will not be able to take advantage of the summer honey flow.

When weak colonies are boosted with a frame or 2 of brood and bees from a strong colony, chances are, some of the new bees will fly back to their original colony. At this time, brood on the transferred frames could get chilled and die. To prevent absconding, the colony could be moved to another bee yard however, often beekeepers underestimate the number of bees required to keep brood warm on cold April or early May nights. This could lead to weakening of the original strong colony, and prove disastrous to the boosted colony.

Although tempting, combining weak colonies merely means having a larger weak colony, plus one queen will likely be lost. Weak plus weak still equals weak. Better to aim at creating a strong colony.

A method I have successfully used is merely placing a weak, but otherwise healthy colony, on top of a strong colony of 8-10 frames of bees and brood. The key here is to save both queens by placing a queen excluder between the two boxes.

Most of the time, a weak colony has surplus food. It is

best to leave 4 frames of food and pollen, with two on each side of the box. The remaining frames are removed and replaced with empty brood frames. The top box with bees with empty brood nest is to go directly above the bottom box brood nest. If using an inner cover, close off the top entrance, or turn over the cover, in order to conserve energy in the top box.

Prior to placing the weak colony on top, spray the bees with warm 1:1 sugar syrup, containing 4-5 drops of anise per 1 litre of mixture. About 100cc is sprayed equally into the top and bottom box.

Uniting the two boxes should be done late in the day, preferable about 1 hour before dark. Bees are most tolerant in the evening and night, and they have all night to greet and lick each other. The next morning, it is business as usual, with no biting and pushing at the entrance. Acceptance and support of the upper box with the weak colony is astonishing, plus you still have both queens!



In 7-10 days, check your newly created hive. If a half box full of bees, or more, can be seen, everything is OK! Should you find only a few bees in the top box, likely the queen was not strong or healthy enough, and she has been killed. This happens in about 5% of cases. If this is the case, remove the queen excluder to permit the bottom queen to expand the brood nest into the top box. By about the middle of May, this hive should have 2 boxes full of bees and brood, and can be split at that time, if desired.



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.



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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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Choosing Select Honey Bee Stock

Rhéal Lafrenière,
MAFRI Provincial
Apiarist (BDS)



The debate over the access to imported honey bee queens has generated two schools of thought. Some think it is impossible to be profitable if we do not have access to imported queens in early spring and some who believe breeding your own queens is the only way to keep bees. However, there is a way of bridging the gap between the two groups that allow the merits of both schools of thought to create a new way of thinking about purchasing queen honey bees.

Prior to the time when the border was closed to importation of packaged bees from the United States (prior to 1987), some queen breeders in the US asked their Manitoba clients to send them queens from the best colonies. These queen breeders were using the Manitoba environment as part of their selection criteria for queens that would be marketed back to Manitobans. When the border closed that practice stopped and although it was explored with some of the new queen export suppliers, the tight import rules did not allow the transfer of queens from Canada to those countries.

During the early years of border closure the stock coming from countries like New Zealand had some good characteristics. Many of the queens were from Italian stock, which are best known for being gentle and producing brood with very little stimulation (i.e. brooding up quickly). It was not until the pressures of varroa mite took hold on bees in Manitoba that the traits of the imported stock began to demonstrate that unselected stock for the conditions the bees are living in is no longer successful.

Many of the export queen suppliers tried to address the issue by incorporating Carniolian stock into their breeding programs that are more in tune to their environment than their Italian cousins.

Although it did help address some of the issues pertaining to starvation and provisioning for winter it did not address all the issues relating to living with varroa mites under Manitoba conditions (i.e. short production season --- long winter season).

Investing in genetics is common practice in most crop and livestock systems. In beekeeping there is huge benefit for having young queens regardless of the genetics but in order for the bee population to thrive in our Manitoba environment selected stock to our conditions would simply give them an advantage.

My proposal is to work with Manitoba beekeepers that breed their own bees and involve them to produce selections that can be multiplied and sold to local beekeepers. There are two ways to get more of these genetics into the bees managed in Manitoba.

- Take queens that demonstrate those characteristics and put them into the breeding programs of major queen exports. A new breeding program will have to be developed to keep the genes pure but also taking care not to create inbreeding problems. Canadian drone mother lines would have to be maintained to try to have enough Canadian genetics in the drone population to mate with the queens with Canadian genetics.



- To have more beekeepers make late season splits in order to take full advantage of local queen breeding.



Letter Min Struthers Day of Honey Bee Text for 2011

(Faxed 21 March 2011 1:10p.m.)

21 March 2011

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



Dear Minister Struthers,

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) is writing to request our Provincial Government to proclaim Sunday 29 May 2010 as "The Day of The Honey Bee" in recognition of their importance for pollinating plants producing foods Manitobans eat.

You may recall signing a proclamation last May for our first celebration. MBA believes that was a success, with visitors being from places such as USA, UK, and Australia. Manitoba guests were pleased to learn benefits of honey bees are similar for all countries. As was done last year, MBA is joining other groups and individuals across Canada in Celebrating the Second Annual "Day of The Honey Bee". Once again, we are planning a "Pollination and the Foods We Eat" themed promotion to be held at The Forks Market, Winnipeg.

In preparation for the proclamation, similar to last years, MBA could work with your staff. In the meantime, we recognize you may have received communication from Shane Ekdahl, Saskatoon, founder of "Day of The Honey Bee", making a similar request. However, should you require additional details on our request, please feel free to contact any of our MBA Executive or Secretary Jim Campbell (204-467-5246). In the meantime, if convenient, MBA looks forward to obtaining the proclamation in mid April.

Sincerely,

For Murray Lewis,
President MBA



There was no correlation between fluvalinate level and time since Apistan was last used, nor coumaphos level and time since Checkmite was last used. This indicates that the level of these miticides in beeswax does not depend on time (e.g. levels do not go down over time). This may be because they're lipophilic compounds that are absorbed by the wax and are stable (Johnson et al. 2009). Interestingly, where such substances are held by the wax, it's not clear how cocoon layers, which line the inside of brood cells, may protect bees from any harmful substances in the wax. Also, perhaps there was no correlation because the beekeeper moved frames in and/or out of these sampled hives in recent years, a normal practice that was not controlled in this study.

Thanks to all 25 beekeepers who participated in this project. Thanks to Lynda Klymochko and Olya Babashko. Thanks to the Food Safety Program for Farms, for funding.

References:

Collins et al. 2004. Performance of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) queens reared in beeswax cells impregnated with coumaphos. *Journal of Apicultural Research*. 43(3), pp. 128-134.

EPA, 2009. <http://www.epa.gov/espp/litstatus/effects/redleg-frog/iprodione/analysis.pdf>

Johnson et al. 2009. Synergistic interactions between in-hive miticides in *Apis mellifera*. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 102, pp. 474-479.

Mullin et al. 2010. High levels of miticides and agrochemicals in North American apiaries: Implications for honey bee health. *Plos One*, 5(3), pp. 1-19.

DID YOU KNOW?

The new Manitoba Hydro building in Winnipeg use approximately 600 lbs of bees wax in the tower. This is used as a type of convection for air circulation in the building. The German engineers who developed this, used beeswax because of its melting properties and environmental attributes.

DAY OF THE BEE PLANNED

Jim Campbell, Promotion Committee



To increase awareness of the importance of Honey Bees for pollinating many of the foods we eat, a special day of celebration will be set-aside in May.

Sunday May 29, 2011 is slated to celebrate The Day of The Honey Bee at the Forks Market, Winnipeg, Manitoba. This celebration follows a similar inaugural event held last year, where members of Red River Apiarists Association hosted the promotional event on behalf of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. At this event hundreds of visitors were informed about the benefits of the honey bee for more than just honey.

Once again, producers plan to capitalize on the increasing concern the public has for the disappearance of bees. This provides an excellent opportunity for visitors to "talk to a beekeeper" to express their concern and then hear of steps being taken across our continent to determine the causes. This often leads to a better understanding that producers are taking care of their bees, as we are keenly aware of their importance.

Organizers are seeking volunteers to help out at the display and/or assist with media contacts. Should anyone be able to spend an hour of two talking to visitors and help distribute information, please contact organizers Charles Polcyn at 284-7064, or Jim Campbell at 467-5246 or mbasecretary@mts.net

A substantial change in the way many Manitoba beekeepers manage bees would have to occur.

Currently breeding queens in Manitoba does not start till mid May but more commonly does not start till early June. Meanwhile many Manitoba beekeepers start replacing failing queens and making new colonies before most local queens are available. Most Manitoba beekeepers that raise their own queens do not sell queens because there has been no market and there is no market because many beekeepers feel they cannot wait for local queens to become available. The proverbial what came first the chicken or the egg scenario.

There are several things happening today that may make the timing of this initiative better than it has in the past:

- There are several countries such as Chile that would be good candidates for incorporating Canadian stock into their programs.
- The boarder to US queens is open and many of the queen exporters marketing to Canada have a good working relationship with their Canadian customers.
- We have more Manitoba beekeepers asking for and wanting to try local queens.

The biggest obstacle will be to get more Manitoba beekeepers to start to raise their own queens. Working with the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association and local queen producers, we are going to put on more queen rearing workshops and provide Manitoba beekeepers with more opportunities to purchase local queens. Some of the local bee supply outlets have expressed interest in stock local queens in their stores. This has generally not been the case. This is Phase One of an ongoing project to get more beekeepers to use selected stock in their beekeeping operations. Phase Two will involve developing pilot projects to quantify the value of using locally selected stock. Phase Three will be to look at what incentives can be implemented to encourage greater use of locally adapted bee stocks. The end goal is to promote greater self sufficiency in the management of honey bee stocks in Manitoba.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Murray Lewis



Where does the time go? The months just seem to fly by. That said, when will this winter end?

It's the last day in March and we still have at least two feet of snow in our spring bee yards. I would like to have our bees out already but not when it's this cold, they are best left inside. I am hoping that this weather will break shortly because I am tired of winter.

On the convention front I heard many positive comments. Our turn out was down from last year but it was still well attended. Any suggestions on future conventions would be greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank all the people who worked so hard to make our convention a success.

We have really not heard much yet about winter losses. The few people that I have talked to think that their losses will be higher than last year and if this winter holds on any longer losses will certainly worsen.

Wishing you all the best in the spring season hopefully we will all have lots of bees to work with!

Sincerely, The MBA board.



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2011 HONEY HOUSE PRICE


Manitoba Beekeepers' Association

2011 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.







NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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Issued Monthly

Number XXXI #2, March 15,2011
HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF February , 2011 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)	Alfalfa	White	\$1.52	Canola	White	\$1.52 - \$1.63
Argentina	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.50 - \$1.59	Mixed Flowers	Ex. Light Amber	\$1.49 - \$1.55
Brazil	Mixed Flowers	Light amber	\$1.34 - \$1.44			
Dakotas	Clover	White	\$1.60 - \$1.65			
Montana	Clover	White	\$1.60 - \$1.65			

Fluvalinate (Apistan)

Beeswax Source	Average Level in study (ppm)	Min. Level in study (ppm)	Max. Level in study (ppm)	% samples in study positive
Brood area (live hive)	0.767	Not detected	8.2	70.8%
Dead-out brood frame (storage)	0.585	Not detected	5.8	72.7%
Honey super frames (live hive or storage)	0.069	Not detected	0.68	36.4%
New foundation/frame (retail)	0.783	0.28	2.0	100%

Table 1

Coumaphos (CheckMite)

Beeswax Source	Average Level in study (ppm)	Min. Level in study (ppm)	Max. Level in study (ppm)	% samples in study positive
Brood area (live hive)	3.68	Not detected	63.0	66.7%
Dead-out brood frame (storage)	1.97	Not detected	9.8	90.9%
Honey super frames (live hive or storage)	~0.00	Not detected	<MQL	18.2%
New foundation/frame (retail)	2.00	0.81	2.8	100%

Table 2

Iprodione (Rovral - fungicide)

Beeswax Source	Average Level in study (ppm)	Min. Level in study (ppm)	Max. Level in study (ppm)	% samples in study positive
Brood area (live hive)	0.043	Not detected	0.49	37.5%
Dead-out brood frame (storage)	0.004	Not detected	0.045	36.4%
Honey super frames (live hive or storage)	0.063	Not detected	0.63	45.5%
New foundation/frame (retail)	Not detected	Not detected	Not detected	100%

Table 3

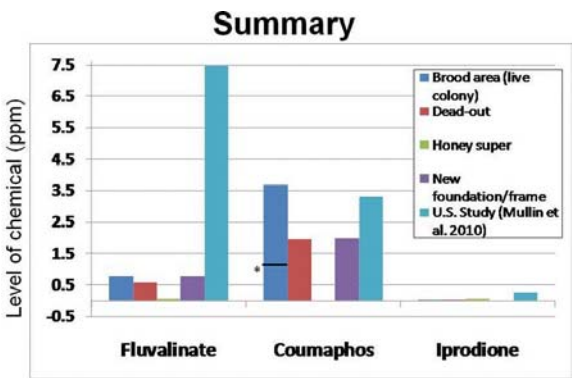


Table 4

Discussion – The discovery of chemicals in beeswax in Manitoba, although concerning, is not surprising. Beeswax has been described as the “ultimate sink from the long-term use of the miticides” and pesticides (Mullin et al. 2010).

The levels of the 3 chemicals found in Manitoba beeswax in this study (i.e. fluvalinate, coumaphos, and iprodione) appear to be relatively low, particularly compared to the more extensive U.S. study

conducted by Mullin et al. (2010). Amitraz was not detected in any of the beeswax samples from Manitoba, whereas in the U.S. study published by Mullin et al. (2010), amitraz was detected in 61.6% of beeswax samples.

Exactly what levels of chemicals are harmful to bees is unclear, and the impact of different combinations, and in different settings complicates risk assessment further. Yet it’s well documented that fluvalinate and coumaphos are commonly found in beeswax these days, and at high levels their affect on bees can be significant. Mullin et al. (2010) notes that “chronic exposures to high levels of these persistent neurotoxins elicits both acute and sublethal reductions in honey bee fitness, especially queens, and they can interact synergistically on bee mortality”. For example, at coumaphos levels of greater than 100 ppm, Collins et al. (2004) found that 50% of cells were rejected and the queens that were reared were lighter in weight as pre-emergence pupae. The significance of any possible chemical interaction of fluvalinate, coumaphos, and iprodione, as found in some Manitoba samples, is unclear. However, even at sublethal levels, when multiple chemicals exist, it’s possible that interacting or synergistic effects may lead to a toxic impact on bees (Johnson et al. 2009).

Most beekeepers have probably never heard of iprodione. Iprodione is the active ingredient in a field ag. chemical fungicide called Rovral(r). It can be applied on canola during flowering according to the label. As far as its risk to bees, the Environmental Protection Agency (2009) says “iprodione is also practically non-toxic to mammals on an acute oral exposure basis and to honey bees on an acute contact basis.” As indicated earlier however, this chemical was found in combination with fluvalinate and/or coumaphos which complicates the risk assessment.

The discovery of fluvalinate and coumaphos in the new foundation samples and the new plastic frame coating sample is also a concern. Although represented by only a small number of samples in this study (4 samples), miticides have also been found in foundation in the U.S. study (Mullin et al. 2010). They state “the uniform high levels of these miticides present in foundation is particularly disturbing, since replacement of comb is currently recommended to reduce pesticide contaminants.” As more is learned about the significance of contaminants in beeswax, and the production of foundation, there may be growing demand for more pristine hive products.

(Continued on p.20)

CHC REPORT

Bryan Ash, CHC director



Canadian Honey Council (CHC) has been very active since the January 2011 annual meeting in Galveston Texas.

During March, several members of CHC executive met with various Federal Government officials in Ottawa. The purpose of the series of meetings was so CHC could discuss a wide variety of industry issues affecting the livelihood of honey producers across Canada.

CHC first met with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to discuss foreign workers and the “Four-year Rule”. CIC indicated programs were designed to fill short immediate labour gaps and not become long term solutions. It seems high skilled positions will be exempt from the “Four-year Rule”, with both the Seasonal Agricultural Worker (SAWP) and Temporary Foreign worker program. Low skilled positions to date, will not be exempt under the temporary foreign worker program, but will be under SAWP. CHC continues to work towards full exemption. Slow foreign embassy processing times for work visas creates difficulties. CIC realizes this, yet no solution is in the horizon (lack of labour). Program abuse by employers and employees were also discussed.


CHC has written letters, and met with Health Canada (HC), regarding an ongoing infant botulism campaign. Lack of industry consultation, prior to the campaign taking place, was discussed, and they agreed. Also, CHC discussed the misleading information of the campaign, plus the “do not consume” symbol placed over the honey bear. HC would not guarantee the print campaign would end, but did feel any future campaigns regarding honey will include industry consultations.

CHC has been working on national job descriptions and met with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). A review of the job descriptions will take place and a wage survey by CHC and Service

Canada will take place in 2012. The need for better communication between the regional and national Service Canada offices was also discussed. Multi-year Labour Market Opinions (lmo’s) for foreign workers won’t be happening anytime soon.

Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) topics included Apivar, Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS), future products, and penalties. Apivar full registration is underway and is expected to take approximately 2 years to complete. MAQS emergency use registration (EUR) has been submitted by Ontario. PMRA strongly re-iterated the need for manufacturers to register their products before further EUR’s will be accepted for the bee industry. As of the meeting date, no Ontario manufacturer has initiated a registration process. PMRA encourages companies with new products to contact them. CHC also discussed enforcing tougher penalties against only those abusing the regulations, and not the entire industry, due to the potential negative consequences to the whole industry.

CHC also met with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) animal health. CHC thanked Amy Snow for developing new protocols to continue Hawaiian queen importation. CHC noted the importance of a continuing supply of healthy replacement bees from New Zealand, plus implications for Australian imports, due to them cancelling the Apis Ceranae surveillance program. Our industry will need to give guidance and direction for future Australian stock. There is a concern that US export certificate is good for only 30 days when a health certificate is good for 90 days. Amy noted the international standard is a 30 day export certificate, and US will not give longer certificates. Regarding a more streamlined process using electronic export certificates, there might be change in the long term, yet in the short term it will remain the same. It seems US will not accept export certificates electronically sent, then signed, and then sent back. CHC needs to work with the US queen producers to resolve this issue. For Small hive beetle (SHB) due to the quarantine Ontario put in place, and the efforts to control the outbreak, Canada is able to retain its’ status as SHB free. At this time, CFIA feels it would be most appropriate to slow the spread, so there will not be any changes to importations.



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Safety Net Report

Bill Lockhart

On February 24th Murray Lewis President and Jim Campbell MBA met with Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC). MBA was pleased to have MASC confirm that **Honey Bee Winter Mortality Insurance** would be a reality for winter 2011.

Wildlife Compensation was also discussed and compensation levels are to increase to 90% for 2011 and to 100% for 2012. The added benefit is being paid by the MB Government while the original benefits are cost shared by the Federal Government and the province.

The MBA is currently updating the beekeeping equipment value list for compensation. This is done yearly to keep values current also this year a value for a 10 pac winter wrap will be included.



**City of Winnipeg Public Works Department
Insect Control Branch**


PUBLIC NOTICE
INSECTICIDE USE PROGRAM FOR 2011

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®, Pyrethrin®, and Malathion®. However, to protect bees from potential toxic effects of these control products, a 300 metre pesticide free radius will be provided around all registered honeybee and leafcutter bee colonies. Beekeepers are encouraged to participate in this program by advising the Insect Control Branch of bee locations.

The only allowable exception to this spray policy will involve the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (Bti), 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.



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Extension Report Spring 2011

David Ostermann
Manitoba Agriculture



Baseline Levels of Miticides in Beeswax in Manitoba

Intro – Last summer (2010) beeswax samples were collected from beekeepers and retail sources in Manitoba. The samples were analysed for contaminants, including miticides and other ag. chemicals. The goal of the project was to identify contaminants in beeswax to determine baseline levels in the province and try to assess any risk to bees. It is worthwhile noting that the project wasn't conducted because of any apparent problem with honey bee colonies included in the testing, but rather because of a growing concern or perhaps curiosity about what contaminants may be in beeswax in Manitoba, especially following publication of the extensive "Miticides and Agrochemicals" study in the U.S. by Mullin et al. (2010).

Methods – Beeswax was collected from 5 beekeepers in each of 5 regions in Manitoba (NW, SW, C, INT, E) for a total of 25 beekeepers participating. Beekeepers were chosen randomly and participation was voluntary. Samples from beekeepers represented 3 categories: Brood frame (live hives) (24 samples); Dead-out frame (11 samples); and Honey super frame (11 samples). Beeswax from brood frames (live hives) were collected cells or near cells where the queen was laying. Wax was scraped to the midrib on plastic foundation and cut out completely from all-wax comb (Figure 1). Honey super samples were collected from the hive or from storage. Retail sources of 'new' (i.e. 'right off the store shelf') beeswax were also analysed (4 samples); these included new foundation wax sheets from 2 sources (3 samples) and new plastic frames with wax coating (1 sample). The latter sample was collected as

chunks of wax around or under the 'ears' of the frames. Samples were wrapped in aluminum foil and put in sterilized containers. Beekeepers were asked what products they used in the past 5 years to try to correlate levels with product use; the treatment regime was not always known and therefore not all samples were included in this analysis. The weight of each of the 50 beeswax samples was approx. 10-50 grams each. Samples were analysed for fluvalinate, coumaphos, and amitraz, as well as the following field ag. chemicals (azoxystrobin, chlorothalonil, chlorpyrifos, cyfluthrin, cyhalothrin, cypermethrin, deltamethrin, endosulfan (1,2 & sulphate), fluazifop-p-butyl, iprodione, propiconazole, pyraclostrobin, quizalofop, tepraloxymid, triallate, and trifluralin). Analysis was conducted at Laboratory Services, University of Guelph.



Figure 1

Results – Fluvalinate, coumaphos and iprodione were detected in the samples. The results are summarized in Tables 1-4. Amitraz was not detected in any samples in this study. In Table 4, the line with asterisk, on the brood area (live hive) coumaphos bar, shows the average level (1.1 ppm) with the highest reading (63.0 ppm) removed. The remaining levels are all below 8.0 ppm, with 20 of the 24 below 2.0 ppm.

Chemical levels were found in combinations, in the brood frame (live hive) samples, as follows: fluvalinate & coumaphos in 29.2% of samples; coumaphos & iprodione in 12.5% of samples; fluvalinate & iprodione in 4.2% of samples; fluvalinate & coumaphos & iprodione in 16.7% of samples.

For the brood frame (live hives) samples, the fluvalinate level to time since Apistan was last used correlation (r2) was calculated to be 0.0218 (n=13), while the coumaphos level to time since Checkmite was last used correlation (r2) was 0.0877 (n=16), and 0.0002 with the single highest reading (63.0 ppm) removed (n=15). No other data was collected for correlation analysis.

(Continued on p.19)

Industry Sponsors Appreciated



MBA Thanks these sponsors for contributing to a successful 105th Convention and Symposium at The Viscount Gort Conference and Trade Centre, March 2011 and through Research Auction donation plus advertising in Manitoba Beekeeper.

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Local Queen Stock Encouraged

Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

Presentations at the 105th Beekeepers Convention and Symposium echoed a common theme for Manitoba Producers seeking information on sustaining the honey industry.

The Mach 4-5, 2011 Convention and Symposium was held at the completely renovated Viscount Gort Banquet and Conference Centre in Winnipeg. The hotel now boasts a spacious area for meetings and trade shows. According to feedback from several of the more than 80 participants, the meeting rooms were conducive to comfortable seating for presentations. In addition the Tradeshow area provided lots of space for vendors and visitors alike.

In addition to regular vendors supporting the show, there were a couple of new ones. Since the Honey Bee Winter Mortality Insurance is being introduced, Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation was in attendance. As well, since Integrated Pest Management and virus information is a hot topic, staff from the Bee Lab, and U of M, were on hand to demonstrate microscopic analysis details to help producers.

Meanwhile, in the auditorium, visitors heard Randy Oliver, California, describe how Bee Nutrition is a crucial element of beekeeping. In a later talk, Randy provided a review of Varroa Management Strategies, as part of his Integrated Pest Management program. He noted results of being involved with testing several treatment products, including a formic gel that was especially easy to apply. His talk culminated in reports on his own Queen Breeding program, where he encouraged using local stock and keeping the process simple. This means breeding from the healthiest and strongest colonies, and getting rid of anything that doesn't perform.

In other presentations, Pierre Giovenazzo, Quebec, reviewed their Integrated Pest Management Program, using a variety of treatments, plus emphasizing the need to be more predictive rather than reactive. Carrying the theme of local stock further, Pierre spoke of their program verifying queens were larger, lasted longer, and laid more eggs, when they had been produced during August.

Rod Scarlett, Canadian Honey Council, reviewed the national organization efforts at developing the Food Safety, Traceability and Safety manual for the industry from its' beginning in 2006. He stressed the need to have some baseline information of pest and disease status across Canada, and thus a survey is needed. He also noted, in January 2011, establishing a Food Safety Committee, to oversee continued development of the manual.



U of M Laboratory Technologist Lynda Klymochko speaking with Irwin Harlton.



Speakers Randy Oliver and Steve Pernal



Ag In The City Promotion

Jim Campbell, Farmer Panelist

Manitoba's Honey Producing industry was included in the recent Agricultural promotion at the Forks Market in Winnipeg. Keystone Agricultural Producers, who act as the voice of Manitoba farmers, sponsored a farmer panel segment.

At the Federal Agriculture sponsored Ag in The City promotion, March 18-20, urban guests were invited to "Talk to a Farmer" on the last day. Radio personality Ace Burpee from Hot-103 interviewed members of the Farmer Panel, and later asked people from the audience for their questions. Although audience guests were asked to identify new things they learned about farming, the final questions focused on major challenges, as well as future marketing opportunities, for each of the industry sectors represented.



Farmers on the panel included Doug Chorney, KAP President (an East Selkirk forage seed grower and direct marketer for vegetables), Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary (a Stonewall honey producer with direct honey sales), Gwen Donohoe (U of M student with cattle herd at The Pas), plus Curtis Mc Rae, KAP Executive (Selkirk canola grower and KAP Land Use Committee chair). In their respective presentations, each panelist identified recent innovations plus some facts important to urban consumers .

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**BEEKEEPERS
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Beekeepers Field Day and Summer Picnic

Wednesday June 22, 2011, U of M Apiary site, Winnipeg



Date: On Wednesday 22 June 2011, Manitoba Beekeepers' Association together with the Red River Apiarists' Association invites all interested beekeepers to come out for an afternoon of food, information, and fun.

Lunch Time/Cost: Catered Picnic Lunch being served at 1:00 p.m.. Food Cost \$10.00 each. Bring a Lawn Chair, and perhaps a sun cap too! Events to begin after lunch.

Location: Meet at University of Manitoba Apiary site, at the South-East corner of the campus, near the end of Freedman Drive. To get to the site, drive to the campus, then onto University Crescent, going South. Near the end of the Crescent, turn "Left" onto Freedman, then travel East. The apiary is on the right side of Freedman, in a chain link fenced area just before the Plant Science Research buildings.

Events: Visit one of the longest operating Apiary sites in Manitoba. Learn about the recent Varroa Control Product Screening Trials, and possibly take in an Integrated Pest Management Workshop. (Workshop details not yet finalized)

Q&A Session: Discussion on current beekeeping activities and events, including updates on varroa treatment options 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.



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