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The Manitoba Beekeeper



FIELD DAY AT THE RESEARCH CENTRE P.2

Day Of The Honey Bee P.3

Extention Report P.8

Honey Report p.10

Honey Bee Losses P. 12

Beemaid Scholarships P. 18

CHC Report P.19

Growing Forward Food safety Project P. 20

WATER WOES!! P. 24

Beemaid Supports Research P. 25

A Publication Of The Manitoba Beekeepers Association

www.manitobabee.org

Photo by Jim Campbell

Cover Picture: Dr Rob Currie getting ready to open one of the Research Hives for guests.

Field Day 2011 at Research Centre

Jim Campbell, Promotion Committee

The 2011 Beekeepers Field Day took place about 15 minutes South of Winnipeg, under cloudy skies, and saw about 60 people gather at the new Research Centre.

On Wednesday 22 June, Beekeepers, families, Philippine visitors and summer beekeeping staff, gathered indoors at the Bruce D Campbell Farm & Food Research Centre, Glenlea, Manitoba for the information session starting off the Field Day events. The Research Centre is part of the University of Manitoba facility, and is the new home for the current Honey Bee research project sponsored in part by MBA.



Froilan Pacris, Abayomi Adebiyi, and Dennis de Guzman.

Bee Maid joined the group and updated members with information on their current activities. This session was conducted by Karen Miles and Guy Chartier, and provided a good opportunity for the various groups within our industry to make efficient use of producers' time.

Following the catered lunch, from Danny's Whole Hog, the group moved back into the multipurpose room. The new light, bright room was filled to capacity. MBA started off the session by updating producers on the various communiqués sent on their behalf. An important letter was directed to PMRA,

as per direction from the AGM. Producers were happy to hear Apivar has received emergency use approval for one more year. MBA is also communicating with the Minister regarding last winters' losses.

Dr. Currie reported on the Varroa Control Evaluation project, noting the treatments he is using. He noted the differences in treatment methods and procedures, as the project gains momentum.



Healthy Brood confirms benefit of irradiating combs to eliminate virus and pests as part of research project.

Under MAFRI reports, David Ostermann stressed the concern for Bee Lab results indicating a high level of nosema this year. In a later report, Rhéal Lafrenière spoke of the importance of the Winter Loss Survey, and the benefits of having quality national data to analyze. He also noted the Flood Compensation Program, which covered lost colonies as well as transportation costs for moving bees out of the flood areas.

After the information sessions, the group walked outside to the research hives. Dr. Currie showed some of the progress to date, and the group appeared pleased to have been able to have enough dry weather to take the tour. All were impressed with the benefit of irradiated combs. As well, Manitobans welcomed the opportunity to show our Philippine visitors current varroa treatments.

The group expressed appreciation to Bee Maid and Murray Lewis Enterprises, for their contribution to the success of the day!

Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Thus, we will be able to provide more control options for use in integrated pest management.

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

Bee Maid Honey is proudly owned by Canadian Beekeepers.

For further information, please contact:

Guy Chartier CEO Bee Maid Honey Limited. Phone: (204) 786 8977 Ext 234 E-Mail: guychartier@beemaid.com

CLASSIFIED ADS



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.
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For Sale: new quad winter wraps complete with bungy cords – no plywood needed. Each : \$50 depending on size needed . The wraps are used all winter or in the spring after colonies are out of the barn - the feeders are kept warm under the wrap. Also used honey drums in good condition : \$18 ea. ; overwintered nucs with 2011 Minnesota hygienic queens- please enquire for pricing. Fisher Branch , MB 1-800-990-1390



Manitoba Beekeepers Association

105th Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 16 November 2011
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



2011 MBA Committees

Newsletter:

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).

Safety Nets:

Chair – Bill Lockhart,

Jake Maendel, Earl Dueck, Terry Karaz

Stock Replacement:

Chair – Bryan Ash,

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,

Fee/Levy & Structure Committee:

Co-Chair -Jake Maendel, Terry Karaz, Chris
Rempel, Bill Lockhart, Rhéal Lafrenière, Jim
Campbell

Financial Committee:

Chair - Bill Lockhart, Jim Campbell
Earl Dueck and, David Ostermann, Chris Rempel

Foreign worker:

Chair-Bruce Podolsky

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

Day of Honey Bee Celebrated

Jim Campbell, Promotion Committee



Celebrations took place at the Forks Market, to honour of the Honey Bee, on May 29.

For the second year in a row, a day of recognizing the benefit of Honey Bee pollination for the foods we eat was held at the Forks Market, Winnipeg, Manitoba. For the special event on Sunday, the theme “*Great Foods...pollinated by the Honey Bee*” was selected.

The promotion featured a table decorated with a Spring Garden theme, and laden with various foods, typically found in backyard, community and market gardens. Plants, such as Cantaloupe, Cucumber, Pumpkin, Watermelon, and Zucchini, depend on insects to transfer pollen from the male to the female flower, in order to be productive. Meanwhile, Almonds, Apples, Blueberries, Buckwheat, Cherries, Cranberries, Raspberries, Strawberries and Tomatoes rely on insects for more abundant crops.



An observation hive with “live honey bees” continues to be a main attraction for visitors. The bees provided by Dr. Currie, University of Manitoba, drew both young and old to “have a look”. Thanks to Chris Argiriou, Brian & Sandra Smith, Duane & Deb Versluis, Jim & Barb Campbell, John & Usha



Speer, and Rhéal Lafrenière for helping with the bees. Staff provided factual and informative responses, as consumers desire to deal directly with producers generating the food used by their families. Several visitors mentioned past connections to beekeeping through their dad or grandfather, who kept bees many years ago. Visitors picked up promotional pens, pencils, and a colourful “squeeze” bees, all provided by Bee Maid.

Communication with honey producers continued at the vendor table, where Kerri Hourd along with Don, promoted Artisan Honey and Beeswax Candles. Customers scooped up the varieties of honey, whether Sunflower, Clover, Wildflower, Canola, or Buckwheat.



Guests commented on seeing the newspaper articles and hearing Charles Polcyn, Sunday morning interview, on both CBC and CJOB. Thanks to the Manitoba Government along with municipalities of St Andrews, Rockwood, and Rosser, for their proclamations for the Day of the Honey Bee. Manitoba’s promotion coincides with similar ones held in BC, AB, SK and other areas across Canada.

Manitoba Beekeeper's Association
2011 Executive and Directors



Executive

President-Murray Lewis (2012)
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Vice President-Allan Campbell (2012)
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Treasurer-Hilary Stewart
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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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e-mail david.ostermann@gov.mb.ca

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

**The deadline for all entries for the Fall 2011 issue will be
September 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.”.



Bee Maid Supports Bee Research in Canada

Western Canada's largest honey packer financially supports important bee related research.

Winnipeg, MB June 13, 2011 - Bee Maid Honey Limited believes it is important to support bee research and each year the company evaluates project proposals in the areas of apiculture or pollination research. Preference is given to the area of honey and the production of pure quality honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry.

Bee Maid Honey Limited is proud to announce that they will be contributing financial assistance to the following research projects:

Integrated Management on Nosema & Detection of Antibiotic Residues

Dr. Stephen Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,

Beaverlodge Research Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta

Nosema ceranae is an emergent world-wide pathogen, and it, in combination with Nosema apis, have been linked to wide-scale losses of colonies in Europe and North America. The researchers propose to examine effective therapeutic management for these parasites and to generate a modern antibiotic residue dataset for fumagillin, the only registered ntimicrosporidial compound for bees. Their objectives are to:

1. Develop optimal application methods and dosages for fumagillin against N. ceranae;
2. Document residues associated with different methods of fumagillin application;
3. Screen alternative therapies for Nosema spp.; and
4. Examine the seasonal phenology of N. ceranae in Canada.

The data will benefit the Canadian beekeeping industry by providing optimal treatment options to control both microsporidian species causing nosema disease without contaminating honey with unwanted residues. It will also provide for the development of modern analytical techniques for the detection of fumagillin and its degradation products, which currently do not exist.

Furthermore, this research may lead to identifying other effective therapies so as to lessen dependency on fumagillin treatments. Overall, this project is required to improve the quality of Canadian honey bee health, and to safeguard against further large-scale colony losses.

Screening Alternative Novel Miticides For Varroa Control In An Integrated Pest Management System

Dr. Medhat Nasr, Lynae Vandervalk and Dr. Lloyd Dosdall

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Alberta has 260,000 bee colonies, which produce 40% of honey produced in Canada (Stats Canada 2010). The overall purpose of this project is to provide effective new methods to control varroa mites to keep honey bees healthy. The efficacy of several new miticides with different mode of action and new chemistry will be evaluated. Miticides will be screened for effectiveness against varroa mites and evaluated for safety on honey bees under laboratory conditions. Selected safe miticides that are effective against mites will go through further testing in field trials to evaluate efficacy under field honey production conditions and determine any residues in produced honey. Produced data and results from this study for proven effective and safe miticides will be utilized for supporting registration of miticides with the Pest Management

(Continued on p.27)

Water Woes Worrisome

By Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary



Many are thinking “We’ve had enough wet weather for now, haven’t we”?

The cool wet weather caused many producers angst this spring. Several needed to add last years’ granulated

honey frames, plus fresh liquid feed, for added workload and expense. Sporadic rains interfered with adequate bee foraging on dandelion flowers. And those bees collecting early nectar used it up in short order. In addition, for some attempting early queen rearing, there was an obvious lack of Drones and Warm Weather for mating. It seemed frustrating determining how many pollen patties, and how much feed to give, just to ensure egg laying continued in an orderly fashion.

Still for others, access to spring colonies was hampered by water collecting in low spots. The unusual high water levels in many parts of Manitoba caught many by surprise, as traditional pathways and roads to hives ranged from being very soft to completely submerged.

Thanks to producers Earl Dueck and Bill Lockhart for submitting some examples of their encounters. Many producers can relate to the difficulties of beekeeping in Manitoba during this second year in a row of unusually wet weather.



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MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION

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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 _____

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\$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 _____

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

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

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

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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



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

News Release

For immediate release

Government of Canada Investing in a Honey Bee Breeding and Management Program

Sarnia, Ontario, June 28, 2011 – The Government of Canada is helping the beekeeping industry develop new strategies to respond to a decline in honey bee colony populations. Member of Parliament Patricia Davidson (Sarnia-Lambton) announced to-day on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz an investment of more than \$244,000 to the Ontario Beekeepers' Association.

"Ensuring a more profitable and sustainable future for the bee industry will benefit farmers, industry, and the ecosystem," MP Davidson said. "This project will help farmers and the entire industry increase profitability and find ways to improve breeding while developing good management practices."

The project aims to help beekeepers secure sustainable honey harvests and provide essential pollination services to the fruit and vegetable industry.

"The partnership formed between the AAC, and Ontario Beekeepers Association will ensure beekeepers are able to manage genetics, pests and nutrition according to their business objectives," said Les Eccles, OBA Tech Transfer Program Lead Specialist. "Providing management strategies specific to the beekeepers goals will give more sustainable and consistent results."

"The funding provided through AAC will greatly advance OBA's efforts to ensure the beekeeping industry has quality and consistent honey bee stocks," said Jim Rickard, AAC Chair. "Bees are the major pollinator of food crops and it is critical that beekeepers have access to the technology they need to maintain healthy bee colonies."

Over the past four years, beekeepers in Ontario have been losing high numbers of honey bee colonies due to disease, pest resistance to treatment methods, and increased demand on honey bee colonies to provide pollination services.

Led by the universities of Guelph and Manitoba, the program will develop a breeding program that will result in honey bees that have the ability to resist pests and diseases. It will also screen new products for pest and disease control and develop best management practices relating to pollination colonies.

Beekeepers in the province of Ontario have identified these issues as priorities for the industry. Ultimately, the project will provide beekeepers with the ability to have better control of colony genetics and health in order to have consistent honey production and pollination services.

Funding for this project is being provided by the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Ontario, CAAP is delivered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC).

CAAP is a five-year (2009-2014), \$163-million national initiative that aims to help the Canadian agricultural sector adapt and remain competitive. Eligible CAAP projects could be in areas of traceability, environment, climate change, capacity development, pests and diseases, and more.

The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan, coupled with other Government of Canada programs and initiatives such as CAAP, continues to help farmers by focusing on creating jobs and strengthening the economy. Investments in new and emerging market opportunities will help build an even stronger agriculture industry and Canadian economy for the future.

For more information on CAAP, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/caap.

To learn more about AAC, please visit www.adaptcouncil.org.

For more information, media may contact:

Media Relations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
613-773-7972 ,1-866 345-7972

Nadine Armstrong
Agricultural Adaptation Council
519-822-7554

Meagan Murdoch
Director of Communications

The Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz
613-773-1059

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

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

CVO/Food Safety Knowledge Centre

Food Safety Program, for Farms

545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6

Phone: 204-945-5435

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

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

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

Rheal Lafreniere -- Business Development Specialist/Provincial Apiarist at 204-945-4825

Safety Net Committee Report

Bill Lockhart.



By now I am sure most of us have recieved the Overwinter Bee Mortality Insurance Fact sheet. It seems to me that in terms of coverage verses premium rates that the program should be a valuable tool for producers.

In May 2011 MBA wrote of our concern for producers suffering hardships from high winter losses, plus sought some type of relief until the insurance project kicks in. MBA continues to have ongoing discussions with the ministers office. In late june for example, staff confirmed that the Minister was still working on our issue, and continues discussions with Prov Ag Minister counterparts in the western provinces for their ideas on what may have caused the losses plus what options they forsee, as well as discussions with Fed Ag Min. Ritz on the possibility of using AgRecovery. The file is still active and there is not an easy answer to our request, thus discussions/investigations continue.

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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Extension Report Summer 2011

David Ostermann
Manitoba Agriculture



Spring Lab Results

There were generally lower levels of tracheal mite, and higher levels of nosema this spring. Varroa levels were similar or somewhat lower than last year. See Figs. 1-3 below.

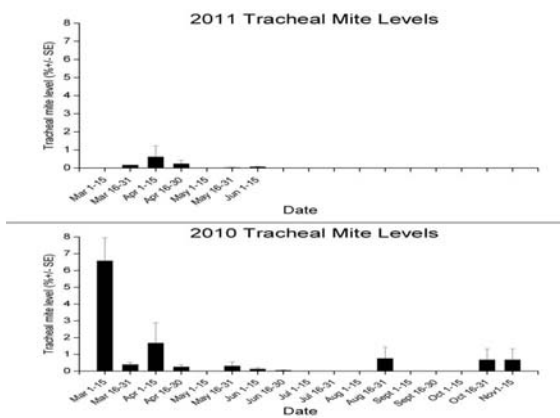


Fig 1. Tracheal mite levels this spring (2011) were lower than last year (2010). Fig shows average level per beekeeper who submitted a sample(s), grouped into 2-week periods; n=144 samples (up to June 14, 2011).

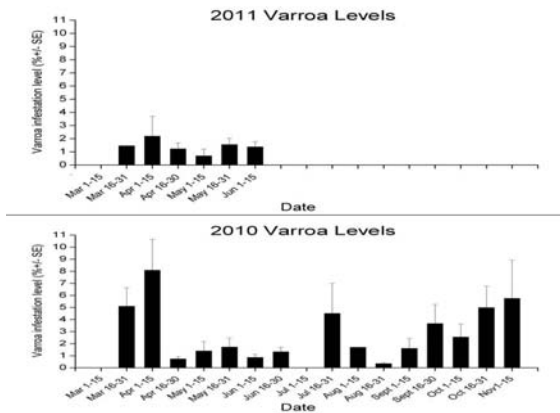


Fig 2. Varroa mite levels this spring (2011) were similar or somewhat lower than last year (2010). **Varroa increases damaging virus loads, so early varroa control and maintaining low levels is critical!** Fig shows average level per beekeeper who submitted a sample(s), grouped into 2-week periods; n=176 samples (up to June 14, 2011).

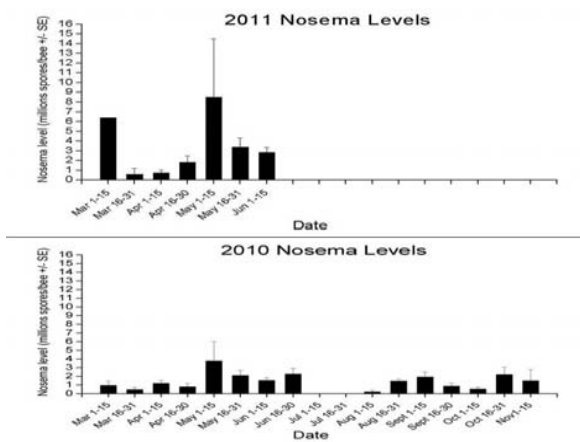


Fig 3. Nosema levels this spring (2011) were generally higher than last year (2010). Fig shows average level per beekeeper who submitted a sample(s), grouped into 2-week periods; n=199 samples (up to June 14, 2011).

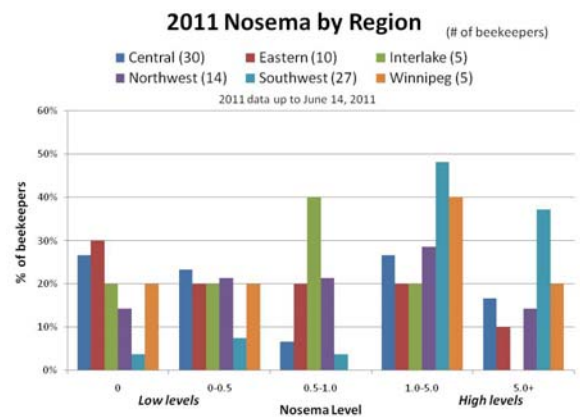


Fig 4. High levels of nosema were most common in Southwestern Manitoba this spring (2011). Fig shows average level per beekeeper who submitted a sample(s), grouped into 2-week periods; n=199 samples (up to June 14, 2011). Regional data should not be used to plan treatments in an operation.

To determine if nosema is a problem in your operation and whether treatment is necessary, it is recommended to have bees from your operation analysed. For more information contact David at 204-945-3861.

Nosema research

Species in Manitoba - Questions about nosema are fairly common these days. One question is “What kind of nosema do we have in Manitoba?” The answer is “Both”. When Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada analysed samples from all regions of Manitoba back in 2007, both species (*Nosema apis* & *Nosema ceranae*) were found in most of the samples. The “new” nosema (*N. ceranae*), as some like to call it, has been found in all regions in Manitoba and it’s been in the province since at least 1998 (i.e. for 13 years). It was probably here before 1998 but that’s the earliest we can date it back from stored bee samples. Table 1 shows when *N. ceranae* was first confirmed in each region in Manitoba.

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

*** Pg 3 – How many national on-farm food safety programs have you implemented?** Answer- for most beekeepers the answer is NONE. If you have implemented programs for other commodities you will have to identify which commodities you have implemented an OFFS program for.

*** On Part B of the application form (Page 3) – Which activity do I check?**

Answer: You only need to check box # 2 Farmers: Piloting Manitoba’s Good Agriculture Practices Program. Note the maximum amount of funding available for the interim Beekeeper Food Safety project is \$1,000.

*** On Part B of the application form (Page 5) – What planned activity do I fill out?** Answer: You ignore everything there and write in honey comb exchange or equipment exchange at the bottom where there is space to write. As a “Start Date:” enter a date that is at least two weeks from the time you sent in your application. As a “Finish Date:” enter the approximate date you plan to have submitted your receipts for the dropped off your comb or equipment and the purchased replacement equipment. An exact date is not necessary, indicating the month and year will be sufficient.

*** On Part C of the application (Page 9) – Do I have to fill out the section on Premises Identification?** Answer: Yes and proceed to fill out this section of the application – it is pretty self explanatory.

*** Where do I send my application form?**

Answer: You can submit your application to your local GO Centre or mail it to the address on the back of the application form.

*** When can I drop off the old equipment or the old brood combs to MacGregor Wax Works?** Answer: You must have received your approval package from the Growing Forward office before you drop off the equipment or brood comb frames at MacGregor Wax Works. Note: You must contact MacGregor Wax Works at 204-685-3080 to make an appointment.

- Equipment must be clean and free of all honey and wax. Producers without an appointment may be turned away.
- Keep your receipt for dropping off comb and/or equipment and submit them in with the receipts the get for the replacement equipment.

For honey processing equipment dropped off at MacGregor Wax Works, Growing Forward will send you drop off receipt once the equipment has been verified as eligible

in Winnipeg; or e-mail Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca



Continued on p.22

More on the Growing Forward – Beekeeper Food Safety Project

By Rhéal Lafrenière

The Growing Forward Food Safety Program, For Farms continues to offer it equipment rebate program to beekeepers that have not filed and application yet. Based on some comments we have received from producers needing help to fill out the application, it is important to note that the food safety project for beekeepers is only an interim project till the Canadian Beekeeping Industry’s Safety Quality and Traceability Program (CBISQT) has been approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). For this reason the Food Safety application form available at your local GO Centre or online does not easily recognize the uniqueness of this interim project.

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

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

Applicants to the Food Safety Program, for Farms are eligible for up to 90 per cent of the total cost of eligible equipment. Currently, the program is available for such things as replacing non-food grade honey processing equipment and for replacing brood combs. Once the CBISQT program passes the CFIA lead technical review, the current interim project will expire and be replaced by a similar project to the other commodity food safety projects. At that time, only beekeepers enrolled in CBISQT will be able to access the additional dollars (i.e. up to \$2000 for program implementation and up to \$5,000 for additional equipment upgrades).

At this time, the only exceptions to eligibility other than non registered beekeepers not being able to access this program are that MAFRI staff and immediate family member (e.g. spouse, husband and children) or relatives that are in partnership with a MAFRI staff person cannot apply.

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

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

Table 1. First year *Nosema ceranae* was confirmed in each region in Manitoba.

REGION	YEAR
Eastern	1998
Central	2002
Southwest	2003
Northwest	2005
Interlake	2006
Winnipeg	2006

Treatment - Dr. Steve Pernal has been studying nosema in Canada since at least 2008. His results have been published in CHC’s Hivelights magazine. In general, he’s found that **fumagillin reduces nosema disease levels, and when nosema disease is a problem, fumagillin is the best treatment option.** His and other research may eventually support a change or expansion of the current Fumagilin-B label. Currently on the label there’s no distinction between *N. apis* and *N. ceranae* and the fumagillin can only be mixed in sugar syrup. In support of his research, on June 13, 2011, Bee Maid Honey Limited announced funding to Dr. Pernal to study “Integrated Management on Nosema & Detection of Antibiotic Residues”.

Cold Vulnerability - *Nosema ceranae* is less tolerant to cold than *N. apis*. A study published in 2009 (Fries and Forsgren 2009) found that spores of *N. ceranae* were much less viable after being kept at -18C in a freezer for 1 week. On the other hand, the viability of *N. apis* spores was not reduced with this treatment. These results suggest that having boxes in cold storage over the winter should reduce the viability of *N. ceranae* spores on frames (but not *N. apis*). The apparent difference in cold tolerance of these two species is somewhat surprising since it appears *N. ceranae* is becoming more prevalent than *N. apis* in Canada.

Barrel Feeding - Back in 2007/2008, the OBA Tech-Transfer Team in Ontario found that the average number of nosema spores per bee (in the spring of 2008) was about 6 times higher in colonies that were treated the previous fall (2007) with Fumagilin-B using barrels, compared to treatment using hive top feeders. Untreated levels were about 15 times higher than treatment using hive top feeders. The reason for this difference was unclear but the Team noted that “the majority of beekeepers who barrel feed are commercial beekeepers that are more likely to be placing additional stresses on their colonies, such as moving bees for pollination, than side line and hobby beekeepers. Stress increases the prevalence of nosema infection.”

Sample Collection - Dr. Rob Currie has found that where you collect your sample from in a hive can be important when assessing the impact of nosema on colony strength. For nosema analysis, it appears **bees should be collected from the brood area in the spring, and from the entrance (e.g. from the lid) in the fall (Fig. 5).** Therefore, if sampling for nosema this fall, it is recommended to collect the bees from the lid. If sampling for varroa this fall, it is recommended to collect the bees from the brood area. Dr. Currie’s work on nosema has also given a better indication of threshold levels.

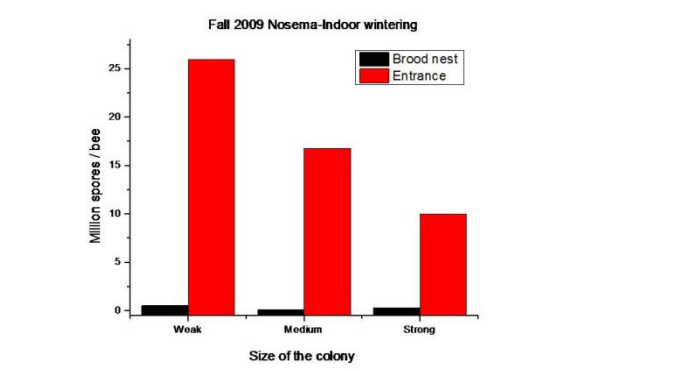


Fig 5. Fall sampling from the hive entrance (e.g. from the lid), for nosema, is better correlated with the size of the colony in the spring, compared to sampling from the brood nest. Therefore for nosema analysis in the fall, samples should be collected from the lid of the hive, not from brood frames. (Fig courtesy of Dr. Currie, U of M)
For more information contact David at 204-945-3861.

Update on Viruses in Manitoba

As reported at the annual convention and field day this year, when Suresh, Dr. Currie & Co. looked at viruses in Manitoba bees in the spring of 2009, they found mostly deformed wing virus (DWV). Levels or concentrations of the virus were highest in weak hives that had been wintered outdoors (Fig. 6). The exact reason for this is unclear but when compared to levels of the virus in weak colonies wintered indoors it’s suspected the virus may be kept at bay more easily indoors due to fewer stressors on colonies indoors.





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



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 XXXI #5, June 15,2011
HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF May , 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)	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.65 - \$1.70		
Argentina	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.55 - \$1.63	Mixed Flowers	Ex. Light Amber \$1.55 - \$1.61
Brazil	Mixed Flowers	Light amber	\$1.58 - \$1.61		
Dakotas	Clover	White	\$1.65 - \$1.70		
Montana	Clover	White	\$1.60 - \$1.65		

CHC REPORT

Bryan Ash, CHC Director



CHC report (for MBA July 2011)

Canadian Honey Council continues to work on several issues facing the Canadian Industry.

CHC started out the season by supporting Emergency Use Registration (EUR) of the Mite Away Quick Strips, as this is a Formic Acid based product, with current US Drug Administration approval, thus available in USA. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs sent the application with supporting letters from CHC and Ontario Beekeepers' Association. Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) subsequently responded that EUR wasn't possible. This then led our MBA to file a letter of support for the Apivar product, which received approval for another year. The Apivar EUR ends in June 2012.

CHC also advised Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) of supporting the quarantine provisions adopted by Ontario for small hive beetle, and that there be a periodic review of those provisions. Plus, given the situation in Australia, CHC recommends CFIA adopt import restrictions for Australian bees until such time as they are able to ensure their stock is apis cerana free through inspection and containment.

For a good news item, PMRA confirmed to Medivet Pharmaceuticals, that the sale and use of liquid Formic Acid 65% is permitted in Canada, until a full review of the provisions can be completed at a later date. This works for Manitoba, as several experiments are underway with various formulations and applications for treatment against Varroa, plus our regular treatment for Trachael Mite.

CFIA announced in late May of their plan to continue monitoring for various chemical residues in Honey through samples for lab analysis. They will add Fumagillin to the list already including Amitraz and Tetracyclines.

As most know by now, CFIA was informed that an adult Small Hive Beetle, plus star larvae, was found in early Queen shipments from Hawaii. Fortunately various groups worked together quickly to develop tighter protocols. Thanks to Rhéal and David for working closely with CFIA to inspect shipments and have the queens released in a timely fashion.

CHC will hold their 2012 Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the MBA Symposium, and Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists meetings in late January 2012. This will be a good opportunity for Manitobans to get a first hand sense of what's happening across Canada.



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News



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PROGRAM

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Winnipeg Manitoba ,R3H 0T4
Tel : 204-786-8977
Fax 204-783- 8468

Bee Maid Honey Limited Awards Two Fiftieth Anniversary Scholarships

Western Canada’s largest honey packer awards Scholarships to Winnipeg, Manitoba and Qualicum Beach, British Columbia students.

Winnipeg, MB June 13, 2011 - Bee Maid Honey Limited recently awarded two \$500

scholarships to deserving students. The Bee Maid Fiftieth Anniversary Scholarship was created in 2004 to commemorate the formation of Bee Maid Honey Limited in 1954. The annual Scholarship is designed to stimulate the pursuit of excellence by rewarding outstanding achievement by the children and grandchildren of Bee Maid’s co-op members and staff as they enter post-secondary study.

Applicants were selected based on academic achievement in the previous year, evidence of community involvement and a 300-500 word essay on a topic related to agriculture.

The scholarship awards are testament to Bee Maid Honey’s commitment to its members and staff. The Scholarship committee is pleased to announce that the 2011 recipients are Jessica Penner from Winnipeg, Manitoba and Daniel van den Berg from Qualicum Beach, BC. Those interested in reading their winning essays can visit www.beemaid.com, clicking About Bee Maid and selecting Press News Archive.

Bee Maid Honey Limited looks forward to continuing the scholarship tradition for years to come.

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

Bee Maid Honey is proudly owned by Canadian Beekeepers.

For further information, please contact:

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

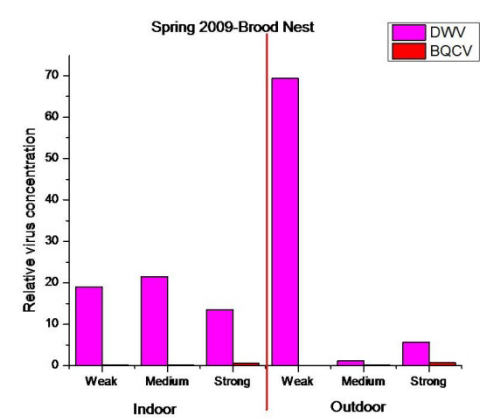


Fig 6. Relative concentration of deformed wing virus and black queen cell virus in colonies of various strength wintered indoors and outdoors. Bees collected from the brood nest in spring of 2009 in Manitoba. (Fig. courtesy of Dr. Currie, U of M)

Seven viruses have been found in Manitoba to date. These include deformed wing virus (DWV), Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV), Kashmir bee virus (KBV), sacbrood Virus (SBV), black queen cell virus, chronic bee paralysis virus (CBPV), and acute bee paralysis Virus (ABPV). Of these, DWV appears to be the biggest concern. It’s believed “the virus has likely been in North America for some time”, but there’s currently not treatment.

Deformed wing virus can infect workers, drones and queens, and it’s been detected in all life stages (egg, larva, pupa, and adult). Not all bees infected with DWV have deformed or shrivelled-up wings. Transmission of the virus can occur in multiple ways. Citing a number of studies, Williams et al. (2009) stated that the virus can be transmitted “horizontally” between adult bees during trophallaxis, and “vertically” through infected eggs or semen.

Varroa can also play an important role in the success of the virus. The mite can transmit DWV when feeding on bee haemolymph, can activate virus replication and also suppress bee immunity. Yang and Cox-Foster (2007) found that varroa-free bees with normal wings live up to 870 hours post emergence in a lab, while varroa-parasitized bees with normal wings live up to 495 hours, and varroa-parasitized bees with deformed wings live up to only 67 hours after emergence. Clearly the impact on longevity can be significant.

So even though the virus is able to spread without the mite, varroa can transmit the virus and the combination of varroa and DWV is especially damaging. That’s why it’s so important to keep varroa levels low throughout the year! David (ph: 204-945-3861).



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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Honey Bee Losses – Survey 2011

Rhéal Lafrenière,
MAFRI Provincial
Apiarist (BDS)



The best way to describe the honey bee losses this past winter would be “drastic” or “extreme”. For some beekeepers it was a complete disaster but for others it was one of the best winters in terms of colony losses that they have seen in years. From one drastic extreme to the other! The data used in this article comes from the Harmonized National Survey, which was conducted by Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) on behalf of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA). No personal information will be shared with CAPA (i.e. no names or addresses). The information collected from the various provinces will be used to try to determine if there are specific trends in the mortality data that may give rise to a better understanding of what are the major factors behind the losses or perhaps more importantly behind successful wintering.

Seventy-two Manitoba beekeepers replied to the national winter loss survey, which is similar to previous years. In terms of number of colonies, we usually get about 50% - 60% of the colonies represented in the survey results, but this year we are slightly down from that at approximately 48%. For this reason and the fact that the postal strike has interrupted the normal process of gathering the survey data, the estimates provided in this article must be considered preliminary. Given that these results are still preliminary and that there is a pending investigation into a compensation program for losses in a specific region, the data in this article will be presented as provincial averages and not broken down into regions. A more detailed report on regional difference will be presented in a separate article once the data is no longer considered preliminary.

That said, this year there were significant numbers of beekeepers in most regions of the province that had experienced high winter losses but the northwest region in particular appears to be reporting the high-

est losses. Many commercial beekeepers in that region are reporting that they lost 50%, 60% and 70+% of their colonies over winter. This has had a significant influence on the provincial average bee mortality calculation, which at this time is estimated to be 34%. The long-term average winter loss in Manitoba has been typically in the range of 15% - 25%, but lately it has been in and around 30% (e.g. 28% -32%). So this year’s losses would appear to be significantly higher than usual.

The colonies or nucs wintered in indoor facilities on average were reported to have lower losses than colonies or nucs wintered outdoors. Figure 1, illustrates that bee mortality losses in outdoor wintered colonies and nucs was generally higher than the calculated average bee mortality loss (i.e.34%), whereas indoor wintered colonies and nucs experienced bee mortality losses lower than 34%.

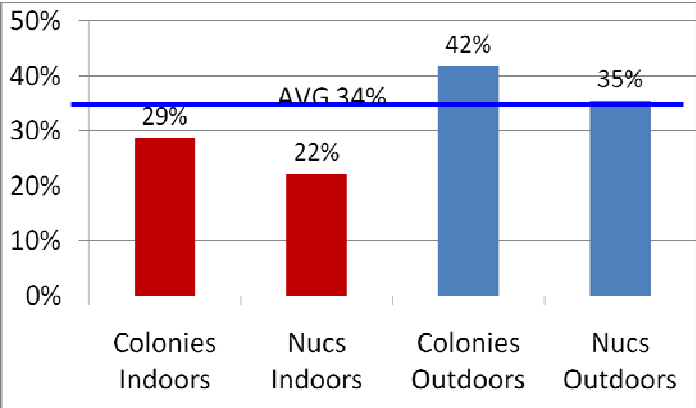


Figure 1. Average winter and spring bee mortality losses of honey bee colonies and nucs wintered indoors and outdoors.

When we compare the loss differential between indoor and outdoor wintered colonies last year, which was approximately 8% to the 14% loss differential this year, we see that the difference between indoor and outdoor wintered colonies was 1.75x higher this year than last year. (Figure 2).

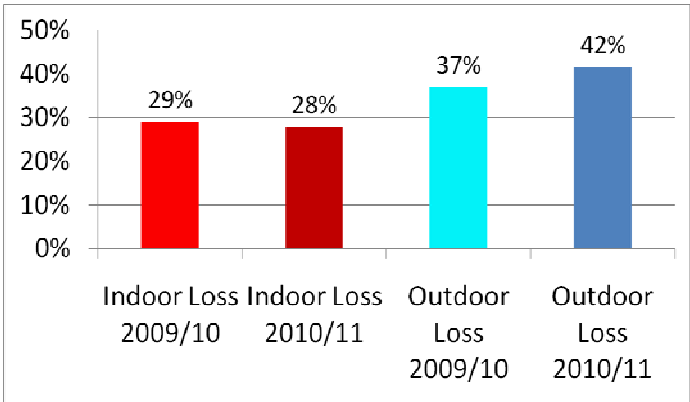


Figure 2. Average winter and spring bee mortality losses in 2009/10 and 2010/11



How to apply for Food Safety Program, for Farms

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

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

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

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

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



Benefits for Beekeepers

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

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

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

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

For example:

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

As part of the national survey, beekeepers were asked to comment on a number of management activities such as queens and feeding. For example, figure 3 outlines that 2/3 of the queens used by Manitoba beekeepers were imported and that US imported queens (i.e. Hawaii and California) represented 54% of the queens. Beekeepers were also asked what percent of queens are replaced in their operation on an annual basis and the average was calculated to be 27%.

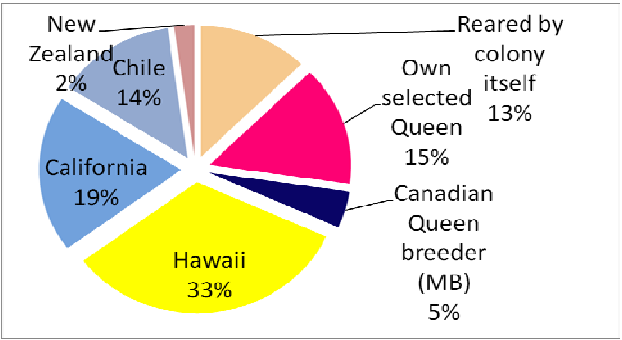


Figure 3. Queen origins used by Manitoba beekeepers in 2010.

In regards to feeding in the fall, 79% of the respondents indicated that they feed their hives individually using pails, frame feeders, or hive-top feeders. Whereas 21% indicated that they feed the bees in the Fall using barrel or

rob feeding. Figure 4, illustrates that 2/3 of the respondents indicated that they used a sucrose based feed (i.e. liquid sucrose syrup or table sugar syrup and 1/3 used a fructose based feed (i.e. high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) or honey).

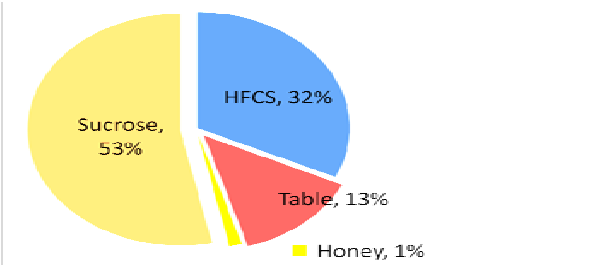


Figure 4. Type of carbohydrate feed used in Fall 2010.

The survey also asked questions about pest and disease monitoring and control activities. In regards to nosema disease, only 17% of the respondents indicated that they monitored nosema levels in the Fall, but 76% indicated that they treated for nosema. Of the respondents that indicated they treated for nosema disease in the Fall, 80% of them indicated that they used Fumagilin-B in syrup, whereas the other 20% used another method of administering the antibiotic.

(Continued on p. 15)

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In the case of varroa mite, Figure 5, illustrates that 76% of the respondents reported monitoring for varroa mite in the Fall and that 3/4 of them used the mite wash method.

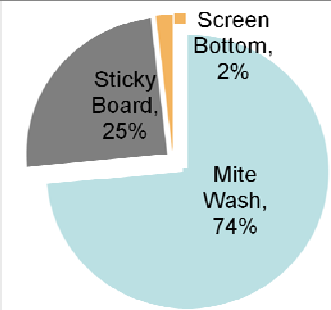


Figure 5. Varroa mite monitoring methods used in Fall 2010.

In terms of control activities for varroa mite, 93% of the respondents indicated that the treated for varroa mite in the Fall. Apivar® was the most commonly reported varroa mite control product used in Fall 2010, followed by formic acid, oxalic acid, Apistan® and CheckMite+™ (Figure 6).

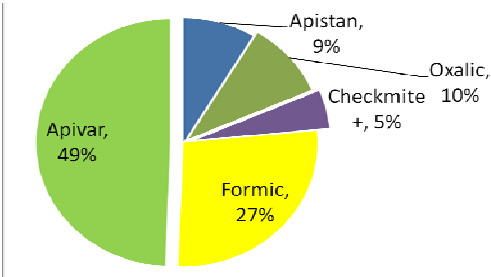


Figure 6. Varroa mite control products used in Fall 2010

Many beekeepers have reported that the colonies that survived appear to be strong. Unfortunately due to the wet cold conditions in many parts of Manitoba this spring, nuc production has been severely compromised. Overland flooding along many of the rivers and creeks this year has not only washed out roads and hampered access to beeyards but in some cases it has flooded entire beeyards and washed the colonies down stream. The Province of Manitoba has announced several compensation programs for producers affected by flooding. For more information about flood recovery programs, I encourage you to visit the following flood website <http://www.gov.mb.ca/flooding/index.html> or feel free to contact me (204) 945-4825. You may also want to contact the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) to discuss whether or not you would be eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA). For more information about DFA programs as well as helpful information on how to clean up after a flood, please visit the following website <http://www.gov.mb.ca/emo/home/dfa/index.html> or call this toll-free 1-888-267-8298 phone number.

If you have not submitted your survey yet, please do so – IT IS NOT TOO LATE.... BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO FINALIZE THE DATA A.S.A.P.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT Murray Lewis



No report at this time.



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