THE MANITOBA BEEKEEPER

LATE SPRING!!!

Many outdoor colonies still under 3 feet of snow on April 7, 2013.

www.manitobabee.org

Meet The Manitoba Beekeeper

Approximately 180 registered MBA members in the province of Manitoba. We are one of the biggest honey producers in Canada and have some of the highest quality of honey in the world.We often see names or hear of producers in our industry but never really get to know them. I will try to invite honey producers of all ranges from 100 hives to 5000 hives from our province to give us insight on their lives as Manitoba honey producers.

In our first edition of the " Meet The Beekeeper" I would like to introduce Ian Steppler of Steppler Farms in the Miami region of the province. I really appreciate Ian for taking the time to do the article.

In everyone's business carer there are events that happen that define the business and the person running it. As Ian Steppler, co owner of Steppler Farms and acting manager of the farm's apiary, reflects on his farming operation, a few very distinctive events come to mind that shaped his farm and his life in general.

The original farm was started in 1922 when Ian's grandfather settled on top of the Pembina Escarpment just west of Miami MB. Ian's father carried on with the farm in 1970 expanding the grain and cattle farm and raising a family of four boys. As all the boys were interested in the family business, in 2008, together they formed Steppler Farms Ltd. Today they run 3000 acres of crop, calve 450 pure bred Charolais cows, and manage a 1000 hive apiary. Alongside running the farm, Ian has enjoyed 13 years of marriage with his wife Sandy and they are raising a family of five children.

Ian Steppler started beekeeping in 1999 at the age of 19 after taking the beekeeping course offered by the U of M as part of his Ag Diploma program and taught by Don Dixion and Rhéal Lafrenière. Without any previous connection to beekeeping, Ian has been hooked on honeybees since taking the course.

Starting with four hives in 1999, Ian soon managed to integrate the bee workload into his farming work schedule and transformed his beekeeping hobby into a commercial beekeeping business. Today Ian manages 800-1000 honeybee hives which consists of 35 plus bee yards spread out within the Miami – Altamont area. The honey farm hires up to five summer time employees and harvests approximately 200-250 barrels of honey annually which is contracted exclusively through BeeMaid Honey.

Right from the start Ian's beekeeping focus has been on efficiency. With the demands from the rest of the farm, Ian has had to manage the bee operation around farm priorities. This created a definite set of parameters in which to grow the bee business and helped structure a business model around efficiency and productivity.

Two of his main areas of focus were on extraction capacity and mechanical lifting. In 2007, with 600 hives Ian invested in a 60 frame Cowen extractor to help harvest the crop in a timely manner. This extractor has proven to be key to the business expansion as it provides the operation with harvest capacity of 300-400 boxes, up to 15,000 lbs in a day running on a three to four person staff. Because of the extractor Ian has purchased supporting equipment like a frame lifter to lift the full boxes of frames into the extractor and a facility lift truck to move full and empty boxes in and out and around the honey facility.

After the purchase of a skidsteer in 2005, Ian adopted a palletized management style of beekeeping and eliminated a lot of the physical work required to lift and move boxes. But the skid steer did not alleviate the most strenuous and awkward part of beekeeping - lifting heavy honey boxes off the hives during the flows.

In the fall of 2009 after an intense, heavy honey flow, Ian bought a F550 truck with a 16' deck and installed an Ezyloader 300. With this machine Ian eliminated the physical labour in lifting honey supers, and adopted the escape board method to remove the bees from the boxes. This transition from working boxes with Bee Go and blowers to a non-evasive method of clearing bees was an intrigal shift in Ian's business management and has allowed Ian and his workers to stand straight at the end of a heavy production season.

Ian has also switched all the hives over to a two hive migratory pallet arrangement and now transports everything with the use of the Ezyloader. Ian also switched his tops over to a migratory type arrangement to suit the migratory pallet arrangement, which allows for tight, neat, and quick stacking in the winter shed utilizing the limited space.

Looking forward, Ian is very optimistic about the future. Although acknowledging the extreme number of current challenges facing the industry, Ian focuses on honeybee health and progressively seeks out new ideas to help combat these problems. He is in the process of building a new honey house fully equipped with state of the art extraction facilities. It will include office space, an employee lunch room and a complete washroom and laundry facility. The hot room will double as

a beehive wintering facility and will include a high volume air exchanger and a built in cooling system. Ian works closely with his honey packer, BeeMaid Honey and is scheduled to achieve full CFIA registration of his production facilities this coming year.

It is interesting how a small distinctive event can change a man's life forever. In Ian's case, it was the after-hours beekeeping course that hooked his interest and thus transformed his life into a professional beekeeper. Finding the balance between his work and his family, Ian has used his inherent farming instinct and his ability to manage time to create a successful progressive farming operation. You can contact Ian through the Steppler Farms web page at stepplerfarms.com

National Bee Diagnostic Centre Open For Business!

The final details are complete, the technical equipment is in place, and the scientists are ready: Grande Prairie Regional College is pleased to announce that the National Bee Diagnostic Centre (NBDC) Laboratory will begin to accept samples for diagnosis on April 1, 2013.

The Centre, built at the Beaverlodge Research Farm and operated by GPRC through its Centre for Research & Innovation, is a partnership with Agriculture and AgriFood Canada and the beekeeping industry. Funding from Western Economic Diversification and the Rural Alberta Development Fund launched the project in 2011, and the building was ready for occupancy in the fall of 2012. Now, the facility is fully-equipped and prepared to receive the first samples and provide diagnostic services.

This is a state-of-the- art laboratory offering comprehensive diagnostic services to the Canadian beekeeping industry and the bee research community, says Dr. Carlos Castillo, Applied Scientist Manager for NBDC. He is anticipating enthusiastic demand for the services from the beekeeping industry in the region and beyond.

The services currently available include: Nosema Spore Counts and identification, Varroa Count, Tracheal Mite Detection, EFB detection, AFB Detection and Antibiotic Resistance determination, and Virus Detection. The NBDC encourages all clients to register themselves by contacting the laboratory directly. Customers can have their questions on sampling procedures and submissions answered before sending samples. Sampling procedures, sampling kits, submission forms, shipping options, operating hours, and fee schedules are available through the lab.This is a great moment for our region and for our College, says Don Gnatiuk, President and CEO. This is a national facility, housed right here in the Peace region where it will serve not only the local beekeeping industry but beekeepers throughout Canada. This opens the door to enormous potential for the future, including applied research in support of industry.

FEES AND SERVICES -Spring 2013

SERVICES	FEE
Nosema count	$15
Varroa mites count	$15
Nosema species identification	$25
AFB detection	$25
EFB detection	$25
AFB detection & Antibiotic Resistance	$45
Tracheal mite detection	$20
Virus detection -each-	$40
Virus detection—3 viruses	$100
Virus detection—5 viruses	$160
Virus detection—7 viruses	$220
Full Spectrum of Analysis	$300

For more information please visit our website below.

http://www.gprc.ab.ca/news/display.html?ID=511

For Diagnostic Information, Please Contact:
Dr. Carlos Castillo
Applied Scientist Manager
National Bee Diagnostic Centre
1Research Road, Beaverlodge Research Farm
P.O. Box 1118
Beaverlodge, Alberta, Canada
Phone: 780.357.7737
Fax: 780.354.8080
Email: NBDC@gprc.ab.ca

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

Federal Market News Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
STOP 0238
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-720- 2175 FAX: 202-720-0547

Website: www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf

Number XXXIII - #3 **Issued Monthly** **MARCH 12, 2013**

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBURARY, 2013
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)

ALABAMA				
Tallow	Light Amber	$1.65		
ARKANSAS				
Soybean	Extra Light Amber	$1.75		
Soybean	Amber	$1.50		
Tallow	Light Amber	$1.49		
CALIFORNIA				
Alfalfa	White	$1.80		
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	$1.50	-	$1.70
Tallow	Light Amber	$1.70	-	$1.75
COLORADO				
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	$1.85		
DAKOTAS				
Alfalfa	White	$1.95		
Buckwheat	Extra Light Amber	$1.95		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
MISSISSIPPI				
Soybean	Extra Light Amber	$1.80		
Soybean	Light Amber	$1.70		
NEBRASKA				
Clover	Light Amber	$1.85		
WISCONSIN				
Clover	White	$2.00		

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.

Canola	White	$1.86	-	$1.97
Clover	White	$1.77	-	$1.95

Urban Bee Policy Stalled

By Jim Campbell, RRAA Executive

Red River Apiarists' Association (RRAA) members signed up as delegations commenting on the City of Winnipeg's recent Urban Bee Policy recommendation.

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services (PCS) held a public session on Monday January 14, 2013 at City of Winnipeg Council Chambers. The agenda covered many items ranging from 2013 Preliminary Capital Budget to the Review of Honey Bees. Charles Polcyn, RRAA President, and Jim Campbell, RRAA MBA Rep. signed up as delegations to the meeting.

In March 2012, the City Centre Community Committee recommended to PCS that the Winnipeg Public Service (WPS) be requested to review the Exotic Animal By-law No. 3389/83 for potential changes to allow harbouring honey bees in the City of Winnipeg. With various extensions of time, the report became public in January 2013.

WPS concluded hobby bee keeping in Winnipeg not be expanded. The report explained although the practice appears quite simple, the number of health, nuisance, and property valuation concerns is quite complex. People may fear allergic reactions, may not enjoy backyard due to nuisance bees, house sale may not materialize if hives next door, potential for more buffer zones, and possible cost of enforcement were cited.

Campbell and Polcyn outlined benefits of having managed pollinators improve the appearance and productivity of backyard, neighborhood and community flower, fruit and vegetable gardens. This could outweigh potential risks for lost property sales. More populated cities such as Vancouver, New Westminster, Surry, Richmond and Burnaby don't appear to have similar concerns noted Campbell. He also indicated mosquito spraying is typically done at night when bees are inside their homes. This comment was similar to Councilor Gerbasi (Fort Rouge) earlier in the day, as she stated buffer zones are already in existence, so this is nothing new for citizens of Winnipeg.

Despite the delegation comments, PCS vote ended in a tie, thus the issue will not be forwarded to council.

2013 Beekeepers Field Day

Ash Apiaries Ltd
Gilbert Plains, MB

When:

Thursday June 20, 2013
11:00 am - 3:00pm

Location :

1.5 miles (2.4km) North of Gilbert Plains on Highway 274. West side of Highway at "MBA Field Day" sign. BBQ lunch ($10) at noon. Bring a lawn chair!!

Come see one of the bigger commercial honey producers operation in the province!

Bee Day in May

Jim Campbell, Promotion Committee

Promoting the importance of Honey Bees pollinating plants for fruits, nuts, vegetables and seeds in urban and rural areas, a day of celebration is planned for late May.

Saturday May 25, 2013 is slated to celebrate "The Day of The Honey Bee" at the Forks Market, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Based on the theme "Honey Bees – Good For Us", producers can respond to increasing concern the public has to improve plant production in family, neighbourhood, and community gardens. The promotion provides an excellent opportunity for guests to "visit with beekeepers" and learn of steps to save the bees. This often leads to a better understanding about bee-activities, bee-friendly gardening, plus agricultural practices benefiting both bees and plant systems.

This celebration follows a similar event held last year, where members of Red River Apiarists' Association hosted the promotional and marketing event on behalf of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. The event is being co-ordinated with similar ones in major cities across Canada. At past events inquisitive visitors verified the benefits of the honey bee for more than just honey, but also for their importance on the whole ecosystem.

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, Rhéal Lafrenière 945-4825, or Jim Campbell at 467-5246 or mbasecretary@mts.net

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Canola and Honey Bees linked

Pollination Committee

Canola growers were reminded recently to consider honey-making friends when going in and spraying their fields.

In speaking to farmers at Ag Days in Brandon earlier this year, Angela Brackenreed, Agronomy Specialist for Canola Council of Canada, reviewed the list of problems canola growers faced during 2012. These included weed infestations in waterlogged fields, frost knocking back early-seeded crops, really hot summer, aster yellows, blackleg, and insect problems nearing spraying thresholds.
Brackenreed referenced a study using caged bees with canola and noted the difference compared to canola without bees.

The canola with honey-making friends not only had more seeds per pod (20 versus 15), it had twice the number of pods (815 versus 359).
She went on to encourage growers to seriously consider honey making friends when contemplating spraying if insect pests are not at the economic threshold, otherwise they could be throwing away money in two ways.

KAP AGM

By Jim Campbell/Earl Dueck

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) were among several commodity groups represented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Keystone Agriculture Producers (KAP) this past January.

Minister Kostyshyn commented on the optimism farmers have had despite the dry field conditions. Higher prices for commodities and land are good for some, even though others may not see it this way if in the buying mode. Various KAP members spoke on the changing landscape in their respective areas across Manitoba. Some areas are changing considerably with wind farms and oilrigs, meanwhile other areas are changing colour with more Soy acres.

The interesting dilemma for Honey Producers centers on the increasing acres for Soy Beans. Although at first blush, this may seem like a good idea, as this plant blooms after canola, spotty nectar production may give a different reality. What it also means is that canola acres are reducing, and this could impact beekeepers.

Another area for concern took place in the Resolution segment of the meeting. Although beekeepers spoke against the motion, other farm groups supported pressing their respective municipalities for spraying of roadsides to reduce the impact of weeds such as dandelion from invading their fields.

KAP are upgrading their web to include more information from farmers. With this in mind, they realized having few pictures of their members to display on the web. This led to a gathering of farmers for a photo op just before breaking for the evening program.

Unusual Losses predicted

Jim Campbell, for MBA Board

After receiving indications of unusually high outdoor winter bee losses, MBA issued a preliminary "winter loss scenario" survey, via e-mail, to its members on April 3, with a response requested by 5 April, 2013.

By Friday evening, 32 responses were received, with good representation from South West, North West, and Central areas of Manitoba with about 30% of responders in each of these areas.

Although several responses indicated their outdoor bees were either covered with snow, yards were inaccessible, or they would be checking later in the month, some preliminary trends arose.

For indoor colonies the most common response was losses close to 10%, with a few indicating 15 – 20%. One response noted loss over 50% at one site while a much smaller loss at a different site. No details were provided to explain the difference, nor the number of colonies at each site.

For outdoor colonies 47% predicted 10-25% losses, 18% were in the 25-40% range, 23.5% were in the 50-60% range, meanwhile 11.8% reported losses of 80% or more. The extremely high end losses appearing quite unusual, came as

a disappointing and discouraging surprise to several respondents.

Reasons for loss primarily reflected starvation and small fall clusters, yet some suspected a particular yard may have been affected by pesticide damage from previous year, while others predicted nosema difficulties, or mite problems. Some responses suggested drought last summer/fall resulted in pollen shortages and thus fewer new bees going into winter. Honey flows stopped in mid July in some areas.

In spite of many planning to recover losses internally, there will be a high demand for a minimum 5000 replacement packages, with an upper limit unknown until members check buried hives later this month.

David Ostermann
Pollination Apiarist, MAFRI
Spring 2013

Winter Preparation Starts in the Spring

Beekeepers have more to do with less time – more dead-outs, more hives/splits, more replacement queens, more monitoring and treating, etc. – this is the trend these days. For some this has resulted in not being able to do everything or delaying activities to later in the season. Unfortunately this can be problematic, particularly when varroa levels are allowed to increase. Higher varroa levels can not only affect honey production, but also winter colony survival.

Spring is one of the only two windows we really have to get our bees healthy, the other being fall. This may be changing with new products and options of cultural control, but spring and fall are still the critical treatment times for most producers. This is obviously well known so I don't want to harp on it. But I do want to focus on why it's so important to pay attention to varroa in both spring and fall these days and discuss how this has changed over the years.

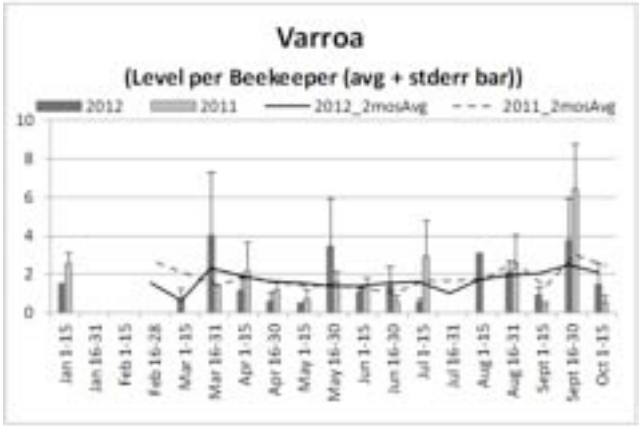

Fig. 1. Figure shows the varroa levels of samples processed in the Apiculture Diagnostics Lab in 2011 and 2012. The levels generally did not increase from 2011 to 2012, but varroa control remains a top priority.

For a quick historical perspective on varroa control products, let's focus on the 'hard synthetic' chemicals, when organic acids were less popular and there were fewer registered products. If you remember (and it seems so long ago) there was a time when 1 varroa treatment was probably adequate for up to 2 years! Remember CheckMite before resistance? Your levels were certainly high after 2 years without treatment, but your bees were probably ok. This meant you could treat spring or summer, either/or, and you didn't even necessarily have to treat the following year. Wow!! Then, as we started seeing resistance to Apistan and CheckMite, varroa levels were increasing and treatment with a product like Apivar was probably sufficient for up to 1 year. How long a product is effective depends on many factors, including treatment duration, treatment efficacy, even residual activity in the hive, among other things. So making these comparisons is not always apples to apples. But it's important to know where we've come from, to help understand where we are, and where we may be going.

Where we are – is having to treat for varroa more frequently than in the past, while using and rotating different products. Where we may be going – nobody knows, but I suspect there will be no "silver bullet" any time soon. Instead, our ability to monitor levels, assess risk and use the right product at the right time will continue to be our best 'tool' against varroa. And this challenge for all honey producers should continue to be supportive of the price of honey!

When we hear about major winter mortality related to varroa, sometimes the beekeeper says "I wasn't able to treat in the spring but I treated in the fall", or "the hives looked good in the summer so I didn't do a fall treatment". Let's consider these scenarios.

Why a fall treatment for varroa may not save your bees – Varroa is a challenge for a number of reasons including virus promotion. Deformed wing virus (DWV) is associated with higher varroa levels, and it's believed viruses like DWV can linger and hurt bees even after varroa is controlled. Therefore, if going into the fall with higher varroa levels, even if there is ideal control with an aggressive fall treatment, the virus levels in the hive and damage to the bees may already put colonies on a course for higher winter mortality.

Why a summer assessment of colony size and honey production may not be a good indicator of health to survive winter – If a colony is strong and producing a lot of honey that says more about the current state of health than it does about its ability to survive the upcoming winter. This is because strong colonies can favour varroa development which can lead to more damage as the bee season goes on. The damage becomes more pronounced in the fall and winter after a long season of brood production and mite population growth, a reduction in brood and increase in mite phoresy, and at a time when forage is diminished, bees may be robbing and/or otherwise stressed.

Fig. 2. The bee at the centre has deformed wings which is associated with varroa mite infestation. Bees with deformed wings can be quite obvious to see, yet once you start seeing them, even a small number of bees per hive, it's likely that varroa and/or the virus are at damaging levels (Photo by D. Ostermann).

Maintaining low levels of varroa throughout the year is ideal. Nowadays this is understandably more difficult because of having to treat for varroa more frequently, while using and rotating different products. Not taking advantage of a treatment season or otherwise not staying on top of varroa in the spring, can allow levels to build up which can be risky for the rest of the season. That's why I feel winter preparation really starts in the spring!

Please note this article focuses on varroa due to it continuing to be a factor when losses are high, but there are many factors that affect winter mortality, including queen health, winter conditions, starvation, etc. If you have any questions contact David at 204-945-3861 (Winnipeg).

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Spring, 2013

Allan Campbell

Presidents Report April 2013
Allan Campbell, MBA President

What a spring! Weather hasn't been providing a relief for beekeepers, and has just caused another delay with blowing snow in the middle of April. It doesn't seem fair as we think of the early spring last year, even though we know that wasn't typical either.

Early in April directors were telling me they were getting reports over-winter losses were unusually high. This seemed strange, as my bees were still under heavy snow cover and I wasn't planning to dig into them until more snow melted. After a few phone calls however, the executive determined detailed data was required from across the province. The quickest way to get information was through the Internet. Sorry to those not letting our secretary know your e-mail address, as that was what we used for our preliminary survey. As expected, losses ranged from low to very high. (Results are elsewhere in this newsletter).

The board at their meeting on April 11 discussed the survey findings and the consensus was that more than 5000 packages are needed quickly, or producers could be affected with honey losses as well. Further analysis revealed difficulties associated with accessing New Zealand stocks. (See Bryans report elsewhere in this newsletter). The issue has been raised at the CHC level, so we will have to await their findings.

Meanwhile, directors are trying to obtain feedback on how other provinces would support a common approach to enabling bee sales within the current "zone" and permitting interprovincial movement of bees if a spring inspection verifies Manitoba is Small Hive Beetle free. Given the current snow cover, it is not clear when this will take place, or when we can expect feedback from the other western provincial beekeeping organizations.

If these issues are not enough, there is concern for adverse impacts of the new provincial budget. At the time of writing, it appears vacant positions, where an employee retires, will not be backfilled. Media articles indicate pressure from the opposition to reduce staff levels and introduce budget cuts. We know the Bee Lab vacancy still exists. Thankfully a new lab is opening at Beaverlodge. This means a bit more planning and management effort, since results could take around two weeks to complete.

Other than that, the good news is that a Field Day is planned for June 20. Hope to share upbeat news with you at that time.

Symposium Topics Timely

Jim Campbell, MBA secretary.

Topics at the recent Beekeepers' Convention and Symposium attracted a wide variety of producers. The Radisson Hotel Winnipeg Downtown, was the site for the 107th Convention and Research Symposium March 1-2, 2013. Guest speakers spoke to more than 80 people in attendance.

John Miller, Miller Honey Farms, Grackle, North Dakota, provided key insights to managing a migratory operation. He suggested 50% of what beekeepers need to know to run their business would come from outside this industry (i.e. a "Google" application tracks trucks). With the greatest demand in history for bees, beekeepers have the greatest problems. Pollination is in greater demand than honey. Varroa is a central challenge. He described several ways to manage pests and deal with Small Hive Beetle. He confirmed most bees from California and Florida, arrive in North Dakota in July.

Meanwhile, **Devan Rawn**, Ontario Beekeepers' Association Tech Transfer Team, University of Guelph, led the group through the unique dry weather and soil conditions in Ontario contributing to pesticide incidents reported in 2012 in Ontario. Various interest groups work together to qualify the situation with clothianidin treated corn seeds. The situation impacted Queen Breeders, as bees were reluctant to draw out cells. In another talk, Devan noted viable sperm count in drones increases from May to August, as he spoke of the Queen Fertility testing in Ontario.

In other areas, **Sam Barlin**, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and **Michael Van Wallegham**, Health Canada/ Pest management Regulatory Agency, spoke of the importance of adhering to the various industry regulations. Michael stressed sticking to approved products, as there could be adverse financial penalties for individuals, as well as denials of industry requests for emergency use registrations.

Celebrations continued Friday at the social evening where MBA honoured **Keith Lloyd** (Kathy), long time industry supporter in wax rendering, the initial beetle situation, and more recently in the comb and equipment replacement program, with a Life Membership Award. The Bee Hive Award went to **Ron Rudiak** (Shirley), in recognition of his long time service to the industry, inventing treatment devices, actively contributing as a director, plus implementing key initiatives for food safety while our CHC representative.

Bee Hive Award. (from left to right) Jim Campbell, Allan Campbell, Ron Rudiak, Shirley Rudiak, Lorne Peters.

During the research reports from **Dr Currie, Derek Micholson, and Rasoul Bahreini**, some producers were concerned about how a new product appeared to reduce varroa populations yet might adversely impact queens.

A symposium on Small Hive Beetle, by **Rhéal Lafrenière**, MAFRI, wrapped up the sessions on Saturday. The workshop provided an opportunity to

(continued on p. 14)

Life Membership Award. (From left to right) Murray Lewis, Allan Campbell, Kathy Lloyd, Keith Lloyd.

hear first hand some of the difficulties the industry is facing. Attendees looked into vials containing beetles, as well as at materials showing pictures of the various stages of the beetle lifecycle. During the workshop, pictures of SHB larva, pupa, and adult were available for all to see. As well Devan circulated several beetle traps.

MBA appreciates the contributions of our Tradeshow participants, Coffee Break sponsors, and the co-ordinating actions of David and Rhéal, for making the event successful.

Winnipeg

City of Winnipeg – Public Works Department
Insect Control Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE
INSECTICIDE USE PROGRAM FOR 2013

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®, Methoprene®, Permethrin®, Pyrocide®, 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) or *Bacillus sphaericus*, which are 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.

Bee Insurance Revisions

Safety Net Committee

Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) completed a review of items presented by representatives of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) to their board.

As part of the yearly meeting with client groups, Allan Campbell, MBA President, met with MASC board in early March, and once again expressed appreciation the Overwinter Bee Mortality (OBM) Insurance Program. Responding to member program experience feedback, Allan previously forwarded discussion items for review by staff.

During 2013 Program Review Consultations presentation, statistical results of the Winter Mortality insurance were detailed. For the 2011/12 first-year 44 producers insured 29,071 colonies for $3,047,200, by paying premiums of $95,062. For the 9 claims made, the indemnity was $347,850. For the current 2012/13-year 45 producers insured 32,839 colonies for $3,440,950, by paying premiums of $112,845. MBA suggested additional producers in Western Manitoba might desire coverage.

MBA is pleased to advise members of some important changes for 2012-13. Firstly, to assist producers acquiring replacement bees, staff will evaluate potential to pay out 50% indemnity initially, while continuing processing the claim. Secondly, staff already track mortality experience to determine coverage adjustments in the future. In addition, more examples of how insurance claims are evaluated will be placed on their web site.

In another area, MASC indicated reluctance to continue the MBA Registration reference, as several applicants were not paid up members of MBA. Although reiterating the program was requested on behalf of members, and referencing approved regulations, staff would only commit to considering the Farm Products Marketing Council reviewing applications for eligibility. It is unclear when any discussions on this item may take place over the next few months.

This beautiful limited edition of A Honey Bee Coin is available at the The Royal canadian Mint.

CHC REPORT

January, 2013

Manitoba Beekeeper CHC Report

Canadian Honey Council has been very busy and latest news items can always be found in the Hivelights magazine or on the web at www.honeycouncil.ca
The Bee Stock Replacement Committee had been very active working on a disease/pest survey. The Winnipeg Symposium recommended the committee to define Bee Health through a country wide survey. The CHC AGM in Quebec City supported the disease/pest survey unanimously. The committee worked hard preparing an agenda and funding application. A couple weeks prior to the funding application deadline a few Provincial Apiculturalist's pulled out their support for the project. The issue was all about the money, how to divide it up and what labs would see the work. The Provincial Apiculturalist's had a conference and provided a wish list of recommendations and changes. It was more or less stating they are not interested or see no benefit of such a survey. Several Provincial Apiculturalist's still see the importance of a country wide disease/pest survey. The stock replacement committee then proposed to the CHC directors that the CHC work with Grande Prairie Regional College and the Beaverlodge Research Station to develop a national bee health baseline study. The CHC directors from Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia voted against and defeated the proposal. Again comments were made that it was defeated around the sharing of funding. The big picture is it leaves Canada vulnerable to challenges from any country wishing to export stock to Canada. CFIA has told the CHC board, by not having a national disease/pest surveillance program in place; we are open to challenges from exporting countries. We need more to backup our claims of our Bee Health status.

It is the old, if you don't look you won't find scenario. It also creates another issue as producers who would like to send Canadian stock to Chile for early spring propagation will continue to see no progress as they need a better Canadian Health survey status. Chile is not accepting our current status documentation.
The Bee incident committee has been very busy as they address the bee kill/corn dust issues that developed last spring in Eastern Canada. They met in Ottawa with Crop Life and PMRA, as well as other stakeholders to communicate the needs of the beekeeping industry.
Small Hive Beetle discussions are ongoing between CFIA, CAPA, and CHC. Discussions currently are around what infected provinces have done to date. How the incidents have been reported and to who, quarantines in place on not, how inspections took place, etc. Next is talk on zoning and certification. Provinces need to decide which they support or none. Our MBA board has been discussing and feel certification is likely the best approach.

EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS LIST 2013
MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE

President: Allan Campbell (2015), RR5 Comp 31 Dauphin, MB, R7N 2T8 638-6515
E-mail: allan.campbell@durstonhoneyfarms.com (cell) 648-3340

Vice-President: Jake Maendel (2015) Box 119, Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0 (Cell) 513-0529
E-mail: jake@destinyroad.ca (Fax) 886-2215

CHC Director: Bryan Ash (2013), Box 635, Gilbert Plains, MB, R0L 0X0 (Res) 548-2019
E-mail: flash@mts.net (Bus) 548-2036 ext,1

KAP Delegate: Allan Campbell (2015), RR5 Comp 31 Dauphin, MB, R7N 2T8 638-6515
E-mail: allan.campbell@durstonhoneyfarms.com (cell) 648-3340

Executive Member: Bruce Podolsky (2013) Box 1, Ethelbert, MB, R0L 0T0 742-3555
E-mail: podolski_honey@inetlink.ca (Cell) 672-0036

DIRECTORS

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E-mail: oaklakehoneyfarms@yahoo.ca (Cell) 851-0798 (Bus) 855-3165

Pierre Faure (2014) Box 43 Notre Dame Des Lourdes MB R0G 1M0 (Res) 248-2645
E-mail: frenchbeefarm@hotmail.com

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E-mail: mfriesen.mouse@gmail.com

Terry Karaz (2015) Box 250, Gladstone, MB, R0J 0T0 385-2923
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Chris Rempel (2014), Box 358, Austin, MB, R0H 0C0 637-2397
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Richard Schau (2013) RR 5 Comp 118, Dauphin, MB R7N 2T8 638-7662 (Cell) 572-6999

Philip Waldner (2013) Box 9 Grp 19 RR1 East Selkirk, MB, R0E 0M0 (Res) 482-3511
E-mail: Philip@waldbee.com (Cell) 791-8850

NON-VOTING APPOINTEES

Secretary/RRAA: Jim Campbell, Box 234, Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0 (jaycam@mts.net) 467-5246
BABA Rep: vacant
Treasurer: Hilary Stewart, Box 192 Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0 (Res) 535-2167 (Bus) 535-2324
E-Mail: manitobabeekeepers@mts.net (Fax) 535-2138

PROVINCIAL APICULTURE OFFICE:

Provincial Apiarist: Rhéal Lafrenière, 204-545 University Cres. Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5S6 (Bus) 945-4825
E-mail: rheal.lafreniere@gov.mb.ca (Fax) 945-4327
Pollination Apiarist: David Ostermann, E-mail david.ostermann@gov.mb.ca (Bus) 945-3861

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

2013 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PRINT INFORMATION PLEASE

NAME: _____ COMPANY NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____POSTAL CODE_____

TELEPHONE_____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF COLONIES EXPECTED TO BE OPERATED IN 2013 _____

Payment Due January 1, with Deadline for membership payment – March 31, 2013

MEMBERSHIPS cover period from January 01 to December 31 of 2013

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

1. MEMBER – A Producer who keeps 50 or more honey bee colonies 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) LEVY $_____

PLUS $0.13/COLONY (FOR 1,001 COLONIES AND GREATER) HONEY COUNCIL LEVY $_____

2. ASSOCIATE MEMBER – A Volunteer, non-voting category, for beekeepers with 49 or fewer honey bee colonies in Manitoba, or a local or out-of-province industry supporter. $60.00 BASIC FEE $ _____

NOTE: PAID-UP MEMBERS automatically receive the MBA newsletter "The Manitoba Beekeeper", and only MANITOBA RESIDENTS may receive the Canadian Honey Council's newsletter "Hive Lights".

3. INSTITUTION – A Non-Canadian individual, organization, or entity, serving as a broker or library, requesting the MBA newsletter for reference material or other use. $100 US FUNDS BASIC FEE $ _____

BEE RESEARCH FUNDS-DONATIONS

BARRY FINGLER MEMORIAL FUND (Manitoba Beekeepers' Association) $ _____

CANADIAN BEE RESEARCH FUND (Canadian Honey Council) $ _____

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS - (THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MBA MEMBERS ONLY)

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL - $45.00 per year $ _____

BEE CULTURE - $45.00 per year $ _____

SPEEDY BEE - $30.00 per year $ _____

Paid by: CASH _____ CHEQUE _____ TOTAL AMOUNT $_____

I request that the above amount be deducted from my account at the Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers Limited.
THERE IS NO "AUTOMATIC" DEDUCTION FOR PAST MEMBERS.

Applicants please approve deduction 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, MBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 192 Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0

Bees in Demand for 2013

Bryan Ash, Stock Replacement Chair

Beekeepers across Manitoba could face a major shortage of colonies for honey production for the 2013 honey season.

An MBA preliminary survey in early April, confirmed several beekeepers are discovering unusually high winter losses. Many hives are covered by several feet of snow, and yet members find disappointing results when they dig them out. (Survey results found elsewhere in this newsletter). This creates a large demand, and a difficult search for bees within Manitoba.

Meanwhile heavy demand by Quebec and Ontario, to meet the blueberry pollination requests from the East Coast growers, placed unusual pressure on typical stock sources. Although Bee Outfitters, in Winnipeg, placed their usual order, only about 2600 packages were available. Additional supplies from New Zealand are not likely, as direct flights are booked and space is unavailable to bring packages into Vancouver.

With a greater demand for packaged bees, and no current supply, MBA supported a resolution to be taken to Canadian Honey Council (CHC), to investigate alternative bee sources. Since the MBA has been on this path for several years and there isn't a policy change at this time, the resolution was handled by the directors. At an April 9 conference call, CHC directors supported the resolution to find alternative sources of bees.

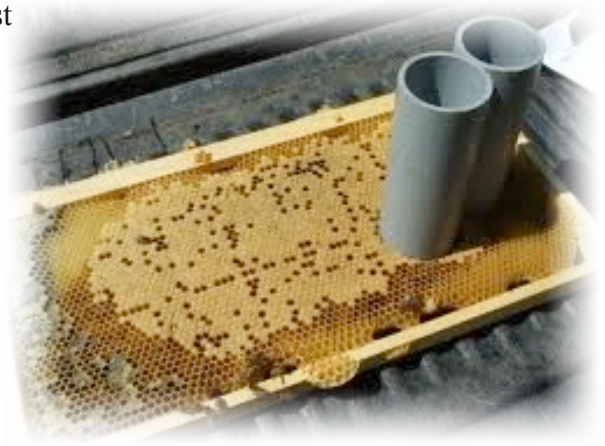
Producers will recall an AGM resolution in 2008 initiated a survey by MBA in early 2009 to determine interest in investigating alternative bee sources. The survey reflected 50 responders favoured Chile, 28 for Australia, and 36 for Continental USA. (Results in Summer 2009 MBA Newsletter). Similarly, the CHC Hive Health meeting in Winnipeg in January 2009, supported producing replacement bees from within and outside of Canada. (CHC Report Spring 2009 MBA Newsletter). Producers are also reminded that despite concerns to the contrary, Bees on Comb is NOT part of current investigations or discussions. All CHC delegates relayed the message NO BEES ON COMB.

Once alternative sources are determined, these will have to fit within CFIA protocols to be eligible, and this information will be presented to MBA directors for consideration.

The 60th Annual Beaverlodge Beekeepers' Field Day

Will be held on Friday June 21, 2013 at the Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Research Farm in Beaverlodge, Alberta, Canada.

The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will include outdoor demonstrations as well as talks from professionals on the latest findings in bee research.



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

For more information contact Dr. Steve Pernal at: Steve.Pernal@AGR.GC.CA

We look forward to seeing you all there!

MBA Committees for 2013

Convention/AGM: Chair – Philip Waldner , Jake Maendel**,** Rhéal Lafrenière, Jim Campbell, David Ostermann, .

Fee/Levy: Co-Chair-Jake Maendal, **Terry Karaz**, Chris Rempel, Rhéal Lafrenière, Jim Campbell.

Finance: Chair – Chris Rempel, Earl Dueck, Jim Campbell, David Ostermann

Foreign Worker: Chair-Bruce Podolsky, Bryan Ash, Allan Campbell, Chris Rempel, Pierre Faure, Rhéal Lafrenière.

Food Safety: Chair-Bryan Ash, Mark Friesen, Bruce Podolsky,

KAP: Chair – Allan Campbell, Earl Dueck, Jim Campbell

Newsletter: Chair – Earl Dueck, Jim Campbell, Rhéal Lafrenière, David Ostermann

Nomination: Chair – Jake Maendel, Bryan Ash, Bruce Podolsky, Pierre Faure

Pests & Pest Management: Chair – Mark Friesen, Terry Karaz, Philip Waldner

Pollination: Chair – Chris Rempel, Pierre Faure, Bruce Podolsky, David Ostermann.

Promotion/Education: Chair – Jake Maendel, Earl Dueck, Richard Schau, Jim Campbell, Rhéal Lafrenière, Jim Campbell and David Ostermann

Resolution: Chair – Chris Rempel, Bryan Ash, Bruce Podolsky

Research: Chair – Mark Friesen, Pierre Faure, Philip Waldner, Rhéal Lafrenière, (Dr. Rob Currie).

Safety Nets: Chair – Bruce Podolsky, Earl Dueck, Jake Maendel, Terry Karaz

Stock Replacement: Chair – Bryan Ash, Terry Karaz, Pierre Faure,

MAFRI UPDATE

Rhéal Lafrenière & David Ostermann
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Changes to MAFRI's Apiculture Program

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) will be undergoing some restructuring this season. One of the changes will be MAFRI's involvement in inspection services, including apiary inspection. At the time when this article was written, the Apiary inspection program did not have an allocated budget for inspection and was unable to hire any Apiary inspectors.

In its place, a grant for $51,000 was identified as funds that industry may be able to access to conduct their own inspection program. The details of how much money would be available for apiary inspection and how to apply for the grant has still not been finalized. In the interim, MAFRI staff in the Apiculture program will be limiting inspection services to providing inter-provincial movement permits, investigating the establishment of Small Hive Beetle (SHB) in the two positive operations near the US border and monitoring the success of the control strategy for antibiotic American Foulbrood (rAFB) in the two positive operations in Manitoba.

The Apiculture Diagnostics Lab has also been affected by the "MAFRI Restructure". Due to not being able to hire term staff, the Apiculture Diagnostics Lab (located at 545 University Cr. in Winnipeg) is not able to process bee samples this spring until after May 6th. At that time, there should be a student technician in place to analyse samples for nosema and/or varroa. Please call to ensure the lab is accepting samples (204-945-3861). Alternatively, the new National Bee Diagnostic Centre (NBDC) is now open for business. The NBDC is located in Beaverlodge, Alberta, and began accepting samples April 1, 2013. The NBDC offers a broad range of diagnostic services at various costs. For more information about the NBDC contact:

National Bee Diagnostic Centre
P.O. Box 1118
1 Research Road
Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0
Phone: 1-780-357-7737
Fax: 1-780-354-8080
Email: NBDC@gprc.ab.ca

Small Hive Beetle Survival in Manitoba

In consultation with the MBA Board of Directors and the following strategy for handling the current positive small hive beetle (SHB) operations in Manitoba, MAFRI is considering removing the temporary quarantine placed on the operations if this spring no SHB have been found to have survived the winter. If the spring inspection does not find any signs of SHB survival, the operation(s) will be treated similar to operations with rAFB. These operation(s) will be allowed to continue to operate in their existing area but will require"Conditional Permit to Sell" bees or hive equipment. The Conditional Permit to Sell will restrict sales to the area around the operations in question, but how far will be decided on a case by case basis.

The justification for this is that if there is no evidence that the beetles successfully survived the winter, why we would penalize the beekeepers further for something that is not a measurable threat. MAFRI is prepared to do a comprehensive inspection of these operations this spring to determine if the beetles were able to establish. Given past experience with SHB failing to establish in Manitoba in 2002 and 2006, it is extremely reasonable to believe that this infestation will fail to establish as well. If beetles are found, we will maintain the temporary quarantine and look to establish a SHB zone around the infected area(s).

At this time, we (MAFRI and MBA) have communicated this strategy with the western provinces (SK, AB, and BC) to determine if they would support this action and continue to permit inter-provincial movement of bees and hive equipment to or through those provinces. To date we are unsure whether Saskatchewan would support this action. We will also be proposing this strategy to the other provinces if it is supported by the western provinces. We expect that there may be some Eastern provinces that will not support inter-provincial movement from Manitoba with the proposed strategy. At this time, it was generally felt that movement West was more important to Manitoba's beekeeping industry, and having agreements to allow that to continue was a priority.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

1:00 p.m. Friday 3 May 2013
Neepawa United Church Auditorium
475 Mountain Ave, Neepawa, MB

MBA Members are invited to a Special General Meeting to review discouraging outdoor winter bee losses, factors creating an early scarcity of package bees, actions taken to source bee stocks, and then consider a plan to pursue emergency access to USA bee packages for Spring 2013.

Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary
22 April 2013

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale:1000 NUCS, with good wintered queens ready in May 2013. These are 3 frame Nucs with enough bees to cover the brood. Orders of 100-300 Nucs are $145 ea. Orders of 300-600 Nucs are $140 ea. Orders over 600 Nucs, the price is negotiable.

Alex 204 326 8182, Cell 204 381 3866 or alex_reich63@yahoo.ca

For Sale:70 frame Maxent extractor, 36 frame S.S Jones extractor
An older Maxent uncapper with stand and table in working condition
A new Stihl bee blower, 200 shallow bee boxes, Honey settling tank. Epoxy coated. Holds 5 drums , Would also sell bout 100 hives or nucs , call Dahlen barkman 378 - 2886 or Wes barkman 378 - 2778

For Sale : Huge number of hive top feeder, some brand new and also older ones (from $6.00 to $15.00). 15 drums, stainless tank heavy gauge with stand and also a Cowen wax recovery system. 100 bee escape board ($8 .00 each).
Phone : 204 248 2645 only serious inquiry please.

For Sale: 75 Frame S.S Extractor, 1000 honey Supers, 250 gallon syrup tote, 500 lids and bottom boards, 2 year old Dakota Gunness uncapper, 24 (4pack) winter wraps. 24ft x 8.5 ft Transportable insulated Honey house, all stainless steel built 2 years ago, extract on site, also a 48 ft insulated semi trailer with shelves. For more information call Toby at 204-481-0488 or email at tobydiewert@hotmail.com

For Sale: 300 Honey supers , brood chambers in excellent condition. Also have hive stands and 8 juice barrels.
Please call Rod at 204-885-3344 for more information.

For Sale: 100-135 hives,100 (4 frame nucs), Maxant 30 frame S.S. parallel extractor, Cowan uncapper, S.S. Beemaid wax melter ,Honey supers, brood chambers, 100 queen excluders, barrel cart, super cart, feeder pails and much, much more...! Please call John Turner at 204-767-2076 for more info.

For Sale: Hives, Nucs and frames of brood available this spring, contact Roger or Max at 204-434-6918 or 204-392-0410

For Sale: 150 live hives, (Queens are our own selectively bred Manitoba Queens) each with insulated tops and mite screened bottom boards with pull-out trays, 400 honey supers all with drawn comb on plastic foundation frames.
200 feeder pales @ 2.5gallons, 50 mating nucs (plywood with sliding lids) - holds 4 frames, 150 queen excluders,.
Phone: 204-755-2250 for Verne Derraugh
E-mail: derrco@highspeedcrow.ca

For Sale: Nucs, singles or doubles, Call Earl Dueck at 1-204-855-3165

For Sale : Hives in doubles and singles for spring, call Terry Karaz at 1-204-385-2923

Monitoring Neonicotinoids

Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

Directors of Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) continue to evaluate monitor the neonicotinoid situation as it unfolds across the country.

Neonicotinoid insecticides (such as clothianidin, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam) have been fingered as the cause for honey bee die-offs in various parts of the European Union (EU). Public protests pressured the European Commission to propose legislation that bans use of this treatment (on seeds of crops such as corn, soybean and canola) for two years. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in USA is also being pressured to take another look at these treatments.

In Canada, suspected impacts on bees in Ontario arose during 2012 corn planting. The combination of dry weather, light soil, late seeding, application techniques and wind appeared to expose seed coating material to bee foragers. Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) has taken a hard line on the issue by pressing chemical companies to find an alternative treatment that won't harm bees.

Dr. Maria Trainer, CropLife Canada, outlined some steps to address the situation at a recent MBA board meeting. Some seed equipment can be modified with deflectors, and there are protective steps farmers can take. Communication between beekeeper and grower is critical for reducing exposure risks. (See material on www.CropLife.ca).

The board agreed to inform members of their ongoing evaluating and monitoring of the situation. For example, the Ontario style hard line approach could force farmers to reduce canola acres, which in turn would affect beekeeper honey crops. MBA prefers to work with groups such as Manitoba Corn Growers and Manitoba Canola Growers to create amenable practices incorporating an integrated approach.

CFIA changes to accepted construction materials

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/reference/refere.shtml

Honey producers please note that the CFIA Reference Listing of Accepted Construction Materials, Packaging Materials and Non-Food Chemical Products in the future will not be maintained under Inspection Modernization. Registered/licenced food (honey) establishments will be required to obtain their own letters from manufacturers stating that their products are food grade and/or appropriate to use in a food establishment.