

THE MANITOBA BEEKEEPER

Meet The Beekeeper	p.2
Presidents Report	p.4
National Honey Report	p.5
Pollination Report	p.6
Reduce the Risk to Pollinators	p.7
Growing Forward 2	p.9
CHC Report	p.10
CAPA on Winter Losses	p.11
Honey Show Report	p. 16
Honey Show Results	p.17
Pest Management Facts	p.20
Classifieds	p.26

"Meet The Manitoba Beekeeper"

Lecomb Apiaries



Andy Lecocq

Dan Lecocq

Dan and Andy Lecocq
Lecomb Apiaries

Our honey business started in 2004, my dad (Andy) was looking at retiring from his job as a power engineer and wanted to keep busy doing something with the great outdoors.

I have always been fascinated by honeybees and would visit the exhibits and farmer's market when they were in town or near by. My wife suggested that I go and have a look at the Honeybee show and see what is involved in starting beekeeping.

I spoke with Charles Polcyn (President of the Red River Apiarist) at the Honey Show and was given a wealth of information but also a very good suggestion to enroll in the Beekeeping course at the University of Manitoba and see if it was something that we really wanted to invest in.

My dad and I took the course and figured we would give it a shot, we purchased 4 nucs between the two of us in the spring of 2004.

We were very fortunate as Rhéal Lafrenière had his bees very close to ours and was mentoring us in the first couple of years beekeeping. I am sure we asked a million questions but Rhéal as everybody knows is always willing to help out!

The following year we jumped in with both feet as we thought that since we are on site we should be running more colonies, we ordered 50 nucs for the spring.

With the big jump in colonies coming our way a very busy winter was ahead of us building supers, frames,

lids bottom boards and purchasing equipment for extracting and a tandem trailer.

The next couple of years we ran around 70 colonies, got in as a member at the Manitoba Cooperative, this was imperative as storage of drums and extracting in my garage proved to be a little difficult in the city of Winnipeg.

I remember sitting on the perimeter Hwy until dark in the late fall so the neighbors wouldn't see the trailer full of supers and a few thousand bees that I was unloading in my garage.

In 2007 my brother-in-law decided to give beekeeping a go and being he lived in the country we decided to set up an extracting line in his shop, as neighbors were a little further away.

With this new set up at my brother-in-law's and my enthusiasm I decided that we would double our operation to 150 hives! This proved to be **a very challenging year** with a very wet summer, 2-wheel drive truck and a 33-frame extractor. Needless to say I changed two out of the three that following year purchasing a 4 wheel drive pick up and going to an Beekeeping auction and taking home a 60 frame Dadent horizontal extractor with a Silver Queen Uncapper.

This made extracting a lot easier and less time consuming probably cut our extracting time in half!



The unfortunate thing is running 150 hives, holding a full time day job, a young family at home and coaching soccer and Ringette proved to be a little over whelming even with the newer equipment.

The following year we suffered some higher winter losses and decided to go back to a manageable 75 hives.

Since 2008 my dad and I have run between 65 to 90 colonies, learning something new every year and making a point of improving our operation to be more efficient.

Beekeeping has been great for my dad and I as we are busy in our family lives at home, this has given us time to spend together and enjoy each others company.

We have many other things we do outside of beekeeping, this past summer we enjoyed a family trip to Europe, travel with the family is very important to us and we try to do a trip of some type every few years. Squeezing in a fishing trip or two is always in the cards!



We love keeping bees, they are fascinating social creatures that produce one of the best honeys in the world and I am very proud to be able to sell such a high quality food. I have met a lot of beekeepers/honey producers and many other people involved in this industry.

This has been a great experience for my dad and I as we had no previous knowledge of the industry, many but not all honey producers are generation farmers, this is something I hope to keep in the family for many more years!

I just need to convince my girls that the bee sting is really not that bad!!

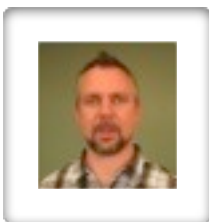
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Fall, 2013

Allan Campbell



"No Report at this time."

Upcoming Events for 2013/2014

MBA Annual Meeting, Neepawa,
Wednesday 13 November 2013

**2014 Manitoba Beekeepers Annual
Convention and Symposium**,
Winnipeg , Friday 28 Feb to Sat 1 March.

**Alberta Honey Producers
AGM**, November 14, 2013 at the Marriott
Edmonton at River Cree Resort,
Edmonton, Alberta

**North American Beekeeping
Conference and Trade show**, The Baton
Rouge River Center, Baton Rouge,
Louisiana, January 7 -11,2014

**BCA/CHC/CAPA IPM
Workshop**, January 27-31,
2013, Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton,
Alberta

CHC Annual Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2014
The CHC Annual Meeting will be
held the week of January 28-31,
2014 in the Fantasyland Hotel in
Edmonton. More details will be
posted on the web-site.

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NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 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)

CALIFORNIA

Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.72	
Cotton	Extra Light Amber	\$1.84	- \$1.87
Orange	White	\$2.10	

DAKOTAS

Alfalfa	White	\$2.01	
Basswood	White	\$2.11	
Canola	White	\$2.11	
Clover	White	\$2.01	- \$2.11
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.91	- \$2.01
Tallow	Extra Light Amber	\$2.27	
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.55	

FLORIDA

Avocado	Light Amber	\$2.40	
Gallberry	Extra Light Amber	\$1.65	- \$2.00
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00	- \$2.10
Palmetto	Extra Light Amber	\$1.65	- \$2.00
Palmetto	Light Amber	\$1.90	

LOUISIANA

Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.55	- \$1.70
Wildflowers	Light Amber	\$1.75	

MISSISSIPPI

Wildflowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.91	
Wildflowers	Light Amber	\$1.70	- \$1.77

MONTANA

Alfalfa	White	\$2.10	
Clover	White	\$2.01	
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$2.06	
Spurge	Light Amber	\$1.70	

NABRASKA

Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00	
TEXAS			
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.55	- \$1.85
UTAH			
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.77	
WISCONSIN			
Clover	White	\$2.35	
Buckwheat	Amber	\$2.45	
WYOMING			
Alfalfa	White	\$2.01	

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

ARGENTINA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.54	- \$1.76
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.54	- \$1.70

BRAZIL

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.59	
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.60	- \$1.71

INDIA

Mustard	Extra Light	\$1.39	- \$1.49
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.52	
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.33	- \$1.41
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.33	- \$1.52

VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.30	- \$1.35
Mixed Flowers	Amber	\$1.35	

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST, 2013

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): Colonies are generally in good health. Despite a wetter than average spring and early summer, the District is experiencing dry conditions the latter part of the summer and rain is needed. In some areas, rain is 1-2 inches below normal. The dry conditions are not helping the supply of nectar, which is normal quite low during the summer months. Thus, honey stores are below normal and beekeepers are providing supplemental food to colonies. This will have to continue well into the fall and winter months. Current nectar sources that are providing very light amounts of nectar are goldenrod, joe pye weed, milkweed, and various other wildflowers.

ALABAMA: Weather in Alabama remained very wet for the most part. Reported honey yields were better than expected, even with all the bad weather that limited nectar gathering and kept the bees at home for a significant portion of the honey season. Many beekeepers still have honey to take off. Bees are finishing up on cotton, soybeans and some early goldenrod. Some nectar gathering is still occurring. This year many beekeepers are treating for mites as they seem to be near the economic treatment threshold. Small hive beetles (SHB) has been spotty but generally present in most yards. Almost all



Extension Calls & Varroa - This spring and fall we heard from beekeepers that varroa levels were lower than normal, with some saying the mites were even hard to find! Varroa needs honey bee brood to reproduce, and the thinking is the long difficult winter broke up brood rearing much more than normal which reduced varroa numbers significantly. If this is accurate, mother nature may have helped with the mites this year (at the expense of our colonies). Yet varroa certainly remains an ongoing concern, and this year's observations highlight the importance of regular monitoring, since every year can bring something different.

Lab Diagnostic Services - At this time and until further notice, the MAFRI Provincial Honey Bee Diagnostics Lab in Winnipeg is not processing honey bee disease samples. Honey bee samples for disease analysis can be mailed to:

National Bee Diagnostic Centre
P.O. Box 1118
1 Research Road
Beaverlodge, Alberta T0H 0C0

Phone: 1-780-357-7737
Fax: 1-780-354-8080
Email: NBDC@gprc.ab.ca

Also, a reminder that a video on how to monitor for varroa mite can be viewed on the website of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) at www.manitobabee.org (videos).

The condition of colonies going into winter seems to be generally positive according to some beekeepers. Results of honey production will be better known once survey results are compiled. In a future article we plan to report on research we're doing into the trend of chemical use (example pesticides and fungicides) in agriculture in the province over the past 10 years or so. David (204-945-3861)

Individualized Insurance Underway

By Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) is actively rolling out the Individualized Insurance feature for Manitoba's beekeepers.

At members' request, the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association board sought an improvement to the Overwinter Bee Mortality Insurance program offered by MASC. At a meeting with MASC board, at their offices in Portage la Prairie, MBA president Allan Campbell, received confirmation earlier this year that producers would see the requested change in the mortality insurance program throughout 2013.

Doug Wilcox, MASC, at the 2013 Beekeepers Symposium earlier this year, echoed bee Mortality Insurance changes. Doug announced that individualized based winter mortality bee insurance would roll out during 2013. The fact sheets discussing individual coverage for Overwinter Bee Mortality Insurance would be located in Agency offices throughout the province. These fact sheets are found on the MASC Website (www.masc.mb.ca). More importantly, a copy of the fact sheet would be included with producers' confirmation of insurance.

The change producers should note is that instead of basing the insurance on the 30% deductibility factor. The "2014 Individual Overwinter Bee Mortality Coverage Calculation" sheet would reflect producers individual success factor. The sheet could reflect values in the "Individual Survival" column such as 80% for 2011 and 78% for 2012, or whatever number producers reported to MASC.

Producers are encouraged to recognize the value of their ensuring a proper spring hive count is made and reported to MASC. This may increase producers workload to perform the evaluation of hive survivability, yet should benefit them in the long run, as this information leads to the factor called "Individual 10-year average survival rate".

Taking Steps Towards Reducing the Risk to Pollinators

This article is from the March 2013 issue of the Manitoba Corn Growers Association.



Tracey Baute - Field Crop Entomologist,
and Greg Stewart - Corn Specialist
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and
Rural Affairs

A high level of concern was raised last spring regarding bee kills and corn planting. Many growers are asking what actions they can take to help reduce the risk of bee kills this spring during planting. We will try to clarify the situation, and give the best recommendations we can provide at this time.

In the spring of 2012, coinciding with corn planting, there were approximately 200 incidences of what was likely acute poisoning of honey bees in Ontario. Representatives from the Ministry of Environment (MOE), Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), and OMAFRA investigated affected bee hives, taking bee samples for residue analysis by PMRA. Though final results have not been released, PMRA's initial lab results indicate "that pesticides used on treated corn seeds may have contributed to at least some of the 2012 spring bee losses that occurred in Ontario, however, there is still additional information being collected". It is important to note that they have found no cases of off-label use by growers. It is also important to note that, though the analysis indicates the presence of clothianidin (active ingredient in Poncho), thiamethoxam (active ingredient in Cruiser) breaks down to metabolites that include clothianidin. Virtually all corn seed sold in Ontario is treated with some form of the insecticides in question. The cases in 2012 were likely acute poisonings where bees were killed from short term exposure to lethal doses of an insecticide.

Many factors may have contributed to these incidences. Environmental conditions and planting practices during the 2012 planting season may play a significant role. Unfortunately, without being present in each field at the time of planting to collect data, there may never be conclusive evidence as to route(s) of exposure to bees. However, results indicate that honey bees were somehow exposed to corn seed insecticides. So how can a bee come into contact with a seed insecticide during planting?

One of the more likely routes is dust. Research from Purdue University and other jurisdictions in Europe have found evidence that dust coming from the exhaust of high pressure air-assisted corn planters contained particles of neonicotinoid (eg. Poncho or Cruiser) seed insecticides. Many factors can contribute to the contamination of the dust including abrasion of the seed from the planter lubricant (eg. talc), quality and formulation of the polymer seed coating (sticker), and rough handling of the seed bags causing chaffing of the seed coat. Planting on dry, windy days may also help to carry the "fugitive dust" greater distances. Bees can come into contact with the contaminated dust while flying across the field during planting or from the dust settling on water sources or nearby flowers that they are foraging on.

What can corn producers do to help reduce the risk of bee kills when planting? The following are actions that should help reduce the production of contaminated dust during planting, and consequently (hopefully) reduce the exposure of bees to this dust. There is no guarantee that these actions will prevent bee kills from happening during planting. Many of these are best management practices that growers should be following anyway, given they are applying pesticides when planting treated seed.

" Continued on p.8"

1. Strengthen communication with local beekeepers. Honey bees can forage up to 5km from their hives. Take an active role in finding out where the nearest hives are to your fields and let the local beekeepers know when you plan to plant. There may be steps that they can take to protect their hives during planting. Contact information for the local beekeepers' association in your area can be found on the Ontario Beekeepers' Association website at: <http://www.ontariobee.com/community/local-beekeepers-associations>
2. Time of planting. Keep in mind that during dry spring conditions, dust will travel further on windy days. If there is an opportunity to plant in the early morning or evening on windy days, when bees are less likely to be foraging, it may also help to reduce the risk of exposure.
3. Manage dandelions and other flowering weeds in and around fields, prior to planting. The warm March, followed by a very cold April of 2012 may have resulted in dandelions being the predominate flowering plant for bees to forage on during corn planting. Managing flowering weeds in and along field perimeters prior to planting may help to reduce the likelihood of bees foraging around your field at the time of planting.
4. Minimize the amount of insecticide seed treatment used. Growers planting corn on corn with moderate to high populations of corn rootworm should consider planting a Bt corn rootworm hybrid. Transgenic control has been proven to be more effective than using a high rate of seed insecticide. In addition, not every grower in the province has soil insect pest problems. It is time to get back to integrated pest management. Evaluate your fields and determine if soil pests are present at threshold levels. Even if they were in the past, it doesn't mean they are now, especially if insecticide seed treatments

have been used in the same field over multiple years. If the soil pests are not at threshold and impacting yield, a seed insecticide is not necessary. Most companies can accommodate orders for non-insecticide treated seed, as long as the orders are done well in advance. Test non-insecticide treated seed in your fields to see how they do on your farm.

5. Limit the amount of seed lubricant (eg. Talc) used at planting. The amount of lubricant needed varies by planter. There has been a tendency to err on the "safe side" for planter performance, and apply at the upper end of the label rate. Experience from some growers would suggest that in low humidity situations, little to no talc is required. Follow label recommendations. A build-up of talc on the blower exhaust indicates overuse. Take precautions to reduce the risk of inhaling talc, which can have serious health effects. Fortunately, there are promising new lubricants being developed that could greatly reduce the amount of dust produced.
6. Exhaust dust towards the center of the field. When planting the outside rounds along the perimeter of the field, blow the air in. If your planter exhausts air towards the right side, plant in a clockwise direction. This will help direct the dust into the field rather than directing the dust onto the vegetation and water sources near the field's edge.
7. Modifying planters with deflectors. Deflecting exhaust air directly at or into the ground will reduce the distance the contaminated dust is able to travel. Deflectors have been mandated in parts of Europe to reduce dust implications. In North America, deflectors need to be tested for their impact both on planter performance and on efficacy to reduce dust concerns. Stay tuned.

Again, following all of these recommendations does not guarantee that there will not be future bee kill incidences at planting. These are the best suggestions we can offer based on the information available to date. We will continue to modify these recommendations as more information is made available, and research and technology is developed to address the issue.

Growing Forward 2: Growing Assurance – On Farm program

The purpose of the program is to encourage producers to incorporate assurance programs into their regular management practices in the areas of on farm food safety, biosecurity, traceability, plant and animal health, and animal welfare. The program will also build capacity in the areas of surveillance and emergency preparedness. The overall intent for producers is to improve farm management practices, improve risk mitigation strategies, protect (or improve) market access and proactively ensure regulatory compliance.

The program will be part of a process that allows the department to meet several key goals:

1. protect the safety and security of the food supply
2. protect animal and plant health for economic and intrinsic benefit
3. advance animal welfare
4. protect trade in agricultural products
- 5) protect the public from disease that may pass directly or indirectly from animals or food

The program will allow the development of partnerships with commodities or organizations to achieve these goals. Where possible the program will utilize national programs, codes of practice and guidelines in development and implementation.

The objectives of the Growing Assurance Program for Farms are to:

- Build on the successes in Growing Forward 1.
- Effect behavioral change at the farm level that will result in improved food safety, traceability, biosecurity, plant and animal health, and animal welfare.
- Assist producers in meeting national standards, quality assurance programs and codes of practice.
- Mitigate risk factors that are significant both to industries and society at large through adoption of several key best/good management practices.
- Assist industries to implement or expand assurance programs to meet increasing market demands and therefore remain competitive.
- Phase extension and program delivery to commodity groups. It is recognized that different groups are in different levels development and individualized approaches will have to be made.
- Allow industries to develop and implement specific programs to address regional concerns, particularly in the areas of plant and animal health.
- Use projects to develop and evaluate specific issues in key program areas.(E.g. development of specific on farm assessment tools for animal welfare) Priority will be given to prevention, surveillance and emergency preparedness.

Specific Apiculture program initiatives will be announced after July 26th. The Technical Lead for Apiculture programming under the Growing Assurance program is Rhéal Lafrenière. For more information on Growing Forward 2 programs, please visit <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/growing-forward-2/index.html> or contact Rhéal, 204-945-4825 - Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca.

CHC Report

October 2013

By Bryan Ash, CHC

Director



Canadian Honey Council Report

Canadian Honey Council directors break from meetings from June 18th thru to August 20th. Sub groups continue to work on issues and projects. Hot topic over the summer has been Neonicotinoids. Ontario/Quebec have been campaigning to have neonicotinoids removed from the market place. Neonicotinoids are being blamed for Ontario & Quebec winter and spring losses. Western provinces have trouble with supporting a ban. We do fully support those producers who have been impacted by dust off from the corn seeding process. They should be compensated when label directions are ultimately shown to be inappropriate. More research and clearer evidence must be achieved. Neonicotinoids may be playing a role in the losses, but likely not the only to blame.

CHC has also been participating in conference calls involving CFIA, CAPA, Provincial Apiculturists working on establishing a Canada wide minimal Surveillance, Movement Control, and Disease Control regulation for Small Hive Beetle.

CHC directors have a face to face meeting in Ottawa from October 28th to October 30th. The agenda includes meeting with Stephen Page (AAFC), Hon. Mark Eyking (Liberal Ag Critic), Dr. Connie Razman (CFIA bee stock Imports/Exports), Debbie Fishbien (CFIA Honey), Matt McBain (Policy advisor to Minister Ritz), PMRA, and Maria Trainer (CropLife Canada). CHC is also trying to arrange a meeting with Service Canada.

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CAPA Statement on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2013)

Compiled by CAPA National Survey Committee and Provincial Apiarists: Claude Boucher, Les Eccles, Kristina Head, Chris Jordan, Paul Kozak, Rhéal Lafrenière, Chris Maund, Joanne Moran, Medhat Nasr, David Ostermann, Steve Pernal, Paul Van Westendorp, Geoff Wilson

In 2013, the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) National Survey committee developed a core set of questions that the Provincial Apiarists' surveys could use to report on honey bee wintering losses in their province. The following report is a summary of the reported winter losses from the provincial surveys.

Over the winter of 2012 – 2013, the average level of wintering loss of honey bee colonies (i.e. colony mortality or colonies too weak to be commercially productive) across Canada was 28.6% (Table 1). This level of winter loss represents another year of high winter loss for most Canadian beekeepers at approximately double the acceptable level, as described by beekeepers, of 15%. The level of winter loss varied between provinces and within each province.

Table 1. Gross Wintering Losses by Province, 2012/2013

Province	Number of Colonies Wintered Fall 2012	Number of Dead or Unproductive Colonies Spring 2013	Percent Wintering Loss (%)
British Columbia	46,746	8,414	18.0
Alberta	282,000	67,116	23.8
Saskatchewan	125,000	33,750	27.0
Manitoba	84,000	38,976	46.4
Ontario	96,384	36,529	37.9
Quebec	50,000	12,000	24.0
New Brunswick	9,348	3,496	37.4
Nova Scotia	19,462	3,316	17.0
Prince Edward Island	6,413	1,788	27.9
CANADA	719,353	205,385	28.6

Factors Cited by beekeepers:

Weather was seen as a major factor contributing to winter loss for many beekeepers in the Prairie Provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) as well as Quebec. The winter of 2012/2013 was long in duration and the spring weather was cold and wet in many areas creating unsuitable conditions for colonies to develop. There are concerns that the early spring across Canada in the previous year may have contributed to the early build up of varroa levels. Other concerns cited by beekeepers included nosema (Alberta and Saskatchewan), poor queen health (Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia) and weak colonies in fall (Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and Ontario). In Ontario, many beekeepers cited acute and chronic pesticide damage as a contributing factor in winter mortality. It is worth noting that although varroa is still understood to be a serious problem in beekeeping, there were fewer concerns cited by beekeepers in some regions indicating that many of the treatment options can work well when properly applied.

“ Continued on p.12”

Varroa control:

The vast majority of beekeepers in Canada are managing varroa levels at regular intervals through chemical and cultural means. The continued management of varroa in honey bee colonies is widely recognized as one of the primary goals with respect to maintaining honey bee health. Apivar®, when used properly, provided effective management of varroa infestations. Beekeepers in Canada are still regularly using organic acids as part of the rotation of chemical treatments, but continue to rely heavily on synthetic treatments. Although there are a variety of chemical options available to beekeepers, all have their advantages and disadvantages. This includes timing of treatments, pattern of use, temperature dependence and the development of resistance in varroa mite populations. The use of new methods of varroa control in an integrated pest management framework is therefore essential to the sustainability of mite control for this industry. The promotion of monitoring and using effective control options continues to be the focus of many extension and education activities promoting honey bee health. Beekeepers awareness of these principles and the adoption of best management practices that incorporate good food safety practices are regarded as the future direction for this industry.

Nosema:

Nosema is still considered a serious pathogen in Canada that may be influencing colony survival. In Alberta, nosema was cited as one of the major reasons for colony mortality in a few operations. In the past, nosema disease was recognized primarily as a winter disease. It has long been established that *Nosema apis* increases in severity throughout the winter months, peaking in early spring. Fumagilin treatments have been demonstrated to suppress levels of *Nosema apis*. With the discovery of *Nosema ceranae*, the seasonal relationship between nosema disease and honey bee health is less clear. Furthermore, there may be regional variations that may underlie the severity of nosema disease. Although nosema is often cited as a concern for colony health the actual virulence in colonies is not fully understood. Current strategies to address nosema disease include research projects that address the impact of the disease on the health of colonies. Novel treatment options must be developed along with programs that promote monitoring disease levels as part of the management strategy for this disease.

Pesticides:

There are still many concerns amongst beekeepers regarding the potential chronic and sub-lethal impact of pesticides and agrochemicals (particularly systemic insecticides such as neonicotinoids). Documented incidents of pesticide exposure and colony damage during the regular season in recent years (2009 to 2013) in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario have contributed to these concerns. There are concerns amongst some beekeepers, particularly in Ontario, that exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides during the regular season may lead to increased stress to colonies contributing to winterloss.

Further Work:

CAPA continues to be in close contact with scientists from various countries around the world including the U.S. working on colony losses and bee decline. Members of CAPA have also been actively monitoring the status of bee health across the country and are sharing scientific information. Researchers within CAPA are active in evaluating alternative control options for *Varroa* mites, methods of integrated pest management (IPM) for honey bees and the breeding of queen stock more tolerant of diseases and mites. In several regions of Canada workshops have been conducted to promote IPM practices to beekeepers with particular attention given to surveillance programs to monitor pests and diseases, with emphasis on *Varroa* and *Nosema* spp. Attention has also focussed on proper disease identification, winter management, rotation of treatments and discouraging off-label use.

Members of CAPA, in cooperation with the Canadian Honey Council, are also pursuing the registration of alternative products for *Varroa* control in Canada. Other areas of research that CAPA members are currently pursuing include studies of honey bee immunity, honey bee viruses, genetic expression of honey bee responses to

disease, the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides on the short and long-term health of honey bees, the biology of new and emerging bee pests and best management practices to promote the health of colonies.

Conclusion:

The mortality level for honey bee colonies over the winter of 2012/2013 was high (28.6%). This follows a year of decreased colony mortality. It should be stressed that it is important to look at the long-term, multi-year trend of winter mortality in Canada (figure 1). Although it is also important to consider variation, by region and between beekeeping operations it is clear that the level of colony mortality has been at a high level for several years.

Responses from provincial surveys indicated that weather, poor queens, weak colonies in fall, nosema and ineffective varroa control were reasons that beekeepers are suspecting for the high wintering losses. Clearly the impacts of pest, pathogens and environmental factors continue to be a challenge to commercial beekeepers across Canada. There are a variety of strategies that have been pursued to address these challenges including applied and basic research, pest and pathogens monitoring, responses to pesticide incidents through incident reports and data collection, regulatory authority to address bee pests and pathogens that may threaten the industry, advisory and extension services to beekeepers promoting best management practices. It has become obvious that the future of beekeeping will depend on a multi-factorial approach to address the risks associated with honey bee health and wintering honey bees in Canada

For more information about CAPA activities, please contact the CAPA executive:

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References:

Guzman-Novoa E., Eccles L., Calvete Y., McGowan J., Kelly P. and Correa-Benitez A. 2010. *Varroa destructor* is the main culprit for death and reduced populations of overwintered honey bees in Ontario, Canada. *Apidologie*. 4 (4): 443-451.

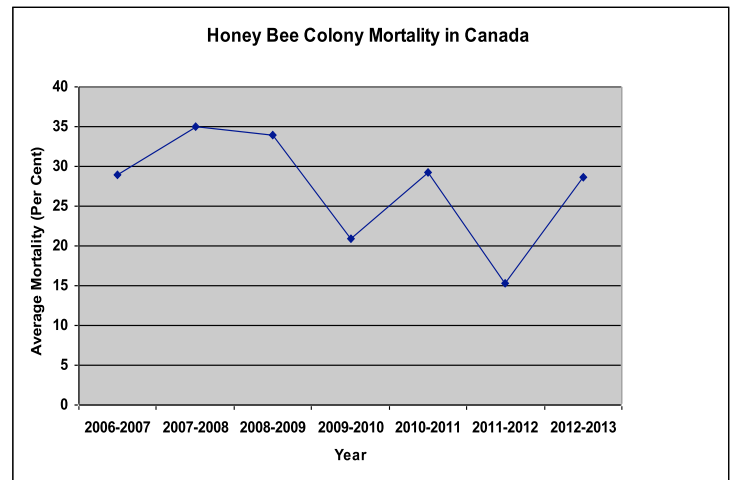


Figure 1. Average National Wintering Loss rates in Canada 2007 -2013

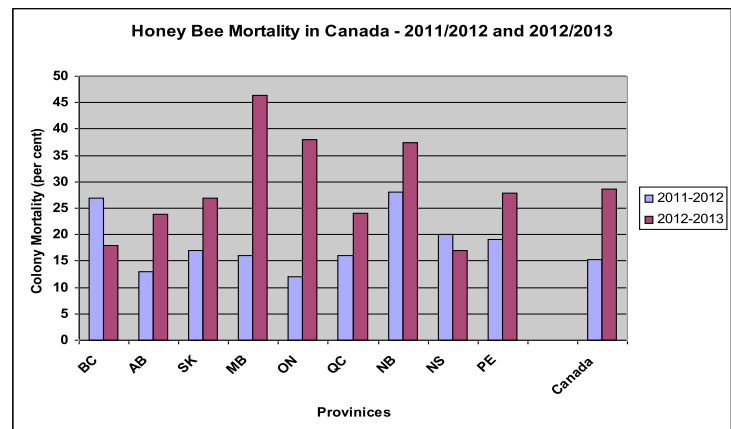


Figure 2. Average Percent Wintering Losses by Province 2011/2012 and 2012/2013



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REWARDS

Honey Show 2013 links with Culture Days

Jim Campbell, Honey show reporter

The recent Manitoba Honey Show attracted considerable visitor attention, as it became a part of the Culture Days promotion at the Forks.

The 2013 Manitoba Honey Show, also called “Honey Days”, took place September 27-29, at the Forks Market, Winnipeg. It had as its theme **“Keeping Manitoba Bees Buzzing”**. The purpose continues to be based on the marketing philosophy of interacting with consumers about the benefit of honey bees for pollinating foods we eat plus providing a healthy food, educating consumers on the uses and varieties of honey products, and empowering consumers to communicate directly with local food producers.

The official kick-off of the Culture Days weekend took place Friday morning at the Forks, which drew many school groups to the market area. For other days, promotion for the show was done via news releases to various Winnipeg area papers plus the Manitoba Co-operator. The Sunday edition of Free Press had front-page photo of a girl at the bees, linking the show to Culture Days events, while the October 3 issue of Cooperator featured the history of the show.

Although the Competition area had one new participant, there were fewer honey entries than normal. This was readily offset by the enthusiasm of the volunteers who contributed to its overall success. Red River Apiarists' Association members celebrated 50 years of organizing and staffing the show on behalf of MBA. To dress up the display, RRAA provided golden colored T-Shirts emblazoned with “Manitoba Honey Show” for all volunteers and show winners. Beekeepers were easy to spot! Armand St Hilaire - Honey Show Chair, expressed thanks to Ken, David, Rhéal and Jim for helping him set up the display, Art for securing T-Shirts, and Charles for arranging industry display material loaned from Bee Maid.

Live Bees continue to intrigue all visitors. Eleven beekeeper volunteers spent hours outlining the many aspects of hive life. Thanks to staff at U of M, the white



dot on the thorax of the queen, aided viewers quest for her, and a volunteers' magnifying glass helped. Bee Station guests expressed desire for pollinators for gardens and fruit trees in Urban Winnipeg, while middle school educators sought ways to have bees brought to Class.

An Interactive Extractor Demonstration on Sunday entertained visitors by drawing attention to the industry process. Over 30 people watched and took turns cranking. At another interactive area, guests chose their favorite photo via their “Viewers Choice”. Meanwhile vendors were kept busy offering product samples, answering visitor questions, and serving customers with honey varieties and colorful hive related products.

Thanks to the many volunteers, show entrants, MBA funding, and Manitoba Honey Cooperative Ltd - Bee Maid for financial contribution, judging space, plus industry equipment loaners. Special appreciation to Marcie Smerchanski, Josh Kolesar, and David Ostermann for judging the Honey Competition, and Verna Polcyn for the Photo Competition.

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

2013 Competition Results

Class 1

Liquid Honey, White

First place: Jim Campbell
Second place: Charles Polcyn

Liquid Honey, Amber

First place: Raymond Hourd
Second place: Ken Rows

Liquid Honey, BEE-GINNER

First place: Guy & Barry Briscoe

Granulated Honey, White

First place: Ron Rudiak
Second place: Jim Campbell
Third place: Jami Worms
Third place: Raymond Hourd

Class 2

Chunk Honey

First place: Ken Rows

Comb Honey

First place: Charles Polcyn

Frame of Honey

First place: Raymond Hourd
Second place: Ken Rows
Third place: Charles Polcyn

Beesmax

First place: Raymond Hourd
Second place: Jim Campbell

Class 3

Best Taste

First place: Jami Worms
Second place: Jim Campbell



Photography

a) **Honey Bee Pollination**

First place: Jim Campbell

b) **Beekeeping in Manitoba**

First place: Jim Campbell
Second place: Ken Rows

c) **Other Bees and Insects**

First place: Jim Campbell
Second place: Ken Rows

d) **Honey – In Many Forms**

First place: Ken Rows
Second place: Jim Campbell

Champion Honey Show Exhibitor

Raymond and Donna Hourd (2013)

Honey Judges:

Marcie Smerchanski
Josh Kolesar
David Ostermann

Congratulations to all entrants!!

EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS LIST 2013

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE

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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
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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

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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
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NUMBER OF COLONIES EXPECTED TO BE OPERATED IN 2013 _____

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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 \$ _____

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Pest Management Facts

Prepared by: John Gavloski, Entomologist, Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives, john.gavloski@gov.mb.ca Phone: (204) 745-5668; Fax: (204) 745-5690

July 2012

Bees on Canola – What are the Benefits?

A close look through a canola field that is flowering will reveal many insects that have come to collect the nectar and pollen from the flowers, including many species of bees. Even if there are no bee hives near the canola field, there will likely still be honey bees in the field, sometimes at quite high levels, and at least several species of wild bees. Many species of flies will feed on the nectar as well. But is there any benefit to having these pollinators in the field? And what is at risk if insecticide applications reduce their abundance in the field? There are several benefits that honey bees and other pollinators can produce in canola, and these benefits need to be considered when deciding if and how other insects are going to be managed in canola that is flowering.

Effect on yield

The effect of pollinators on yield of canola will likely depend on the density of the pollinators in the field, the weather conditions during the blooming period of canola, and possibly the type of canola that is grown. As might be expected, the results of studies looking at the effect of bees on the yield of canola are quite variable. Research in Quebec showed an improvement in seed yield of 46% in the presence of three honey bee hives per hectare, compared with the absence of hives (Sabbahi et al. 2005). This is a fairly high density of bees that was used in the study, but does show the potential yield improvements that can exist when there is good pollination. In an earlier study on oilseed rape (*B. napus*) there was a 13% seed yield increase in plots with bees compared to those without bees, although the authors did state that oilseed rape gives good yields without insect pollination (Free & Nuttall, 1968).



A study in Australia looked at the effect that distance from an apiary can have on pod yield in canola. The number of pods/plant decreased as distance from the apiary increased (Manning & Boland, 2000). Their regression analysis predicted a pod loss of about 15.3 pods/plant over a distance of 1000 m from an apiary. This was equivalent to a 16% loss.

Reduced time in bloom

In addition to potentially enhancing yield of canola, pollinators can also contribute to uniform and early pod setting (Abrol 2007). Research in Quebec found that three honeybee colonies per hectare reduced the blooming period of Argentine canola (*B. napus*) by 3.8 days, or 17% compared to the absence of pollinators. Because of the efficient pollen transfer, the honeybees resulted in the flowers living for a shorter period of time, and also reduced the number of flowers the plant had to produce to reach its carrying capacity (Sabbahi et al., 2006).

The reduced flowering period and fewer flowers the plant needs to produce to reach its carrying capacity could have implications for disease management. For example, the risk of sclerotinia may theoretically be reduced by a shorter flowering period and fewer petals being produced. This association between increased pollination and decreased risk of sclerotinia has never been directly tested however, and there would be other factors such as weather conditions that would also factor in.

Germination of the seeds

The presence of pollinators can increase the germination of canola seed. A study from the University of Guelph found that the presence of pollinators on *B. napus* (cv. O.A.C. Triton) increased the germination of resulting seeds from 83% to 96%, compared to where pollinators were excluded from plants using either tents or sleeves (Kevan and Eisikowitch, 1990).

Spreading biological controls?

Researchers in Ontario looked at using honey bees to spread the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*, which can help reduce the level of Lygus bugs (Al Mazra'awi et al. 2006). In studies in 2002 and 2003, honey bees were used to spread the fungus into canola fields, which resulted in increased kill of Lygus bugs. The highest level of *Lygus* mortality was 56%. So this would not be a means of totally eliminating a *Lygus* population, but if the technology gets registration and is affordable it could be a means to help keep *Lygus* populations under the economic threshold. The researchers noted in their paper that “the benefits are better pollination, reduction in pest pressure of *Lygus lineolaris*, and reduced reliance on insecticides”.

What about the effect of wild bees and other pollinators?

Although honey bees can be an abundant pollinator in canola field, there are also many species of wild bees that can be present. A study in Manitoba found that 15 species of bumble bees were inadvertently captured in traps baited with a bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) attractant and placed in canola fields (Turnock et al., 2006). Many species of wild bees will live in uncultivated land, and a study by researchers from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia found that bee abundance was greatest in canola fields that had more uncultivated land within 750 m of field edges and seed set was greater in fields with higher bee abundance (Morandin & Winston, 2006). Some species of hover flies (Syrphidae) may also significantly increase seed set and yield in canola (Jauker & Wolters 2008).

Conclusions

Although canola may still produce good yields in the absence of pollinators, the impact of pollinators on maximizing yields and the economic value of this should not be ignored. Canola growers do gain from having bees pollinating canola, and this gain needs to be factored in when making management decisions in canola that may have potential negative impacts on bees. Efforts should be made to avoid using insecticides in canola when it is flowering. Should insecticide use be deemed necessary during the flowering period of canola, it is in the economic interest of canola growers, as well as apiarists, to ensure that insecticides and timing of applications are chosen to minimize losses to bees. If possible, spray as late in the day as possible, or very early in the morning, when bees will not be foraging in the canola, and communicate with nearby beekeepers so that harm to the bees can be minimized.

MBA Committees for 2013



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

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For Sale: A 1/2 horse, 3 speed, heavy duty Hodson wax spinner.
Contact Daniel Penner at 204-966-3513

For Sale: Spring 2014, approximately 180 complete hives with bees, also 75 double nuc boxes; at least 50 with 4 frame bee units. There is the possibility of the Beema contract and/or yard sites.

Contact; Bruce Smirl 1-204-822-8004 or e-mail brucesmirl@gmail.com

For Sale: (3) 1 1/2 " Viking Pumps, (2) Stainless Steel pumps, food grade easy to clean, (1) Platform scale for barrels up to 1200 lbs, neoprene apron, Valves S.S and brass, (1", 1 1/2", 2"), 316 Boardman Feeders, Hats, veils, smokers, 20t impeller for 1" Jabsco Pump and (1) Super cart, can carry up to 8 supers. Contact Paul Taillefer at 204-237-0104

ASH APIARIES LTD.

in Gilbert Plains
has the following
seasonal
employment
opportunities:

APIARY HARVESTER

Duties:

- Suppling hives
- Harvesting honey
- Cleaning honey extraction & storage equipment
- Honey extraction
- Barrel moving, preparation, filling & storage
- Manufacture, assemble, maintain hive equipment
- Bee yard maintenance

No experience required.

Start Date:

June 9/2014 - July 13/2014

End Date:

September 8th/2014 - October 27th/2014

Wage: \$10.45 - \$12.00 upon experience

Positions Available: 17

APIARY WORKER

Duties:

- Handle, feed, and care for honey colonies
- Assist in the production of nucs, queens, or replacement hives
- Recognize & report hive health issues & apply appropriate cures/controls
- Move hives
- Collect and package honey, beeswax
- Bee yard maintenance
- Manufacture, assemble & maintain hive equipment
- Operate & maintain other apiary related equipment
- Keep limited field and/or production records
- 1 year previous commercial beekeeping experience required

Start Date:

February 24/2014 - May 5/2014

End Date:

October 27/2014 - November 7/2014

Wage: \$10.75 - \$15.00 upon experience

Positions Available: 13

APIARY TECHNICIAN

Duties:

- Handle, feed, and care for honey colonies
- Co-ordinate in the production of nucs, queens, or replacement hives
- Recognize and report hive health issues & apply appropriate cures/controls
- Move hives
- Drive and maintain vehicles
- Collect and package honey, beeswax
- Bee yard maintenance
- Manufacture, assemble & maintain hive equipment
- Operate & maintain other apiary related equipment
- Keep field and/or production records
- Interact with external farm personnel
- 2 year previous commercial beekeeping experience required.

Start Date:

February 24/2014 - March 3/2014

End Date:

October 27/2014 - November 7/2014

Wage: \$11.00 - \$15.00 upon experience

Positions Available: 3

Apply by sending resume to:

Ash Apiaries Ltd.

c/o Bryan Ash

Box 297, Gilbert Plains, MB R0L 0X0

Phone 204-548-2036

Fax 204-548-2112

Email: info@ashapiaries.com

Classified request can be e-mailed to dnlecocq@shaw.ca or call Dan @ 204-797-3322.

DID YOU KNOW???

- There are approximately 7,000 beekeepers in Canada operating a total of 600,000 colonies of honeybees. The ratio of commercially operated bee colonies to those owned by hobbyists is 80:20 and the reverse is true for the number of operators i.e 20% of the beekeepers maintain 80% of the colonies.
- The prairie provinces of Alberta Saskatchewan and Manitoba are the major honey producers in Canada. Approximately 475,000 colonies are located in the prairie provinces and they produce 80% of Canada's crop.
Commercial prairie beekeepers maintain 500 – 13,000 colonies per beekeeper with average 2,000 colonies.
Pollination of hybrid canola is important in Alberta where 80,000 colonies are required for seed production.
- Canada produces 75 million pounds of honey annually. Approximately one third of the crop is from AB, one third from SK and MB, one third from rest of country. Half of all honey produced is exported, 80-90% is exported to the USA.

MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association Annual
General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 13 November 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Auditorium, Main Floor, Neepawa
United Church, 475 Mountain Ave, Neepawa,
Man. (Corner Mountain Ave and Ellen St.)

Agenda: Review the past year activities, Approve the 2012-2013 Financial Statements, Elect directors, Approve Resolutions.

Elections: Director 3 year terms expire in 2013 for: Bryan Ash, Bruce Podolsky, Rick Schau, and one year term for Philip Waldner.

Invitation: Paid Up Designated Representatives desiring to let their name stand for election is asked to contact Jake Maendel, Nominating Chair at 204-513-0529 or jake@destinyroad.ca
Similarly if you have resolutions, please forward them to cdrempel@mts.net

Mite Away Quick Strips

Healthy Bees. Healthy Planet. Introducing the 2 dose pack!

Hobbyist Beekeepers - Treat your hives with the **NEW 2 dose pack** of Mite-Away Quick Strips®

2 dose packs will be available through most beekeeping suppliers by August 2013

Mite Control with Mite Away Quick Strips® (MAQS)

Avoiding Resistance, High Pathogen Build-up & Queen Management, Canada

With MAQS beekeepers can treat at the most beneficial times because the treatment can be applied with or without honey supers on the hives. Mite resistance to the A.I. (formic acid) is not expected to occur. Timely treatment can protect both key bee populations from varroa and tracheal mites: **Summer bees** for the honey crop; and the **winter bees** that will make up the overwinter cluster. Most colonies handle treatment with *MAQS* without difficulty and the invigorated colonies surge forward; however it is a powerful, acute, transparent treatment: background colony health issues, such as queen frailty, may be exposed. See reverse.

Natural queen supersedure typically occurs in the spring or in August. The timing of a 7-day treatment with *MAQS* can be part of ensuring fit queens, as well as a tool for mite control, working with the natural, bee-identified best times. Queen cells seen pre and post treatment should be left in place, to become the young, locally raised and mated queens going forward. Alternatively, beekeepers can replace queens with the stock of their choice. Below are quick reference tools: a *Best Practices Check List and Storage & Application Options Pictogram*.

Success with MAQS®: Best Practices Check List						
Target Goals Populations/Practices	When (Canada)		Dose Options Recommended			
Varroa Level Assessment (IPM)	Monitor through the season	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol wash or sugar shake	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sticky Board	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer Bees: Honey Crop	Spring: Fresh pollen reared nurse bees present (4 weeks after 1st natural pollen) Treat: Typically May	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full dose (2 strips)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Or: 1-strip every 6 to 8 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abeille hivernantes : Hivernage	Starting mid-August Treat: sooner better than later to keep viruses down and to allow time for natural queen supersedure that may occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full dose (2 strips) <input type="checkbox"/>			
Good food reserves:	Always	Spring <input type="checkbox"/>	Summer <input type="checkbox"/>		Fall <input type="checkbox"/>	
Ventilation full width of hive:	During treatment <input type="checkbox"/>					
Brood area check:	One month after treatment <input type="checkbox"/>					
Always take the time to read and follow the label.						

Want to know more? Visit the website for the full article.

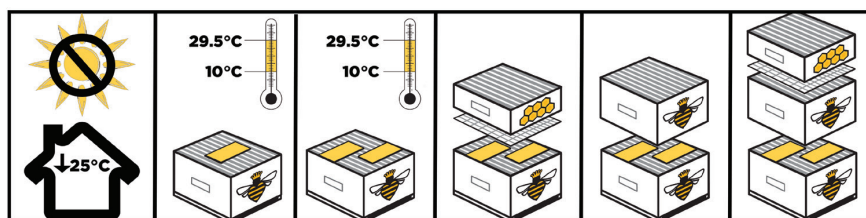
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XL

Grow your business faster with the Hummerbee XL. With a 1600 lb lift capacity and the reliable Kubota diesel engine, the Hummerbee is the perfect aid in accomplishing a wide variety of tasks. Whether you are moving beehives, unloading boxes of blueberries, or transporting bales of hay, you will do it more effeciently with the XL. A variety of options are available to help tailor the machine to meet your specific needs.

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