THE MANITOBA BEEKEEPER

Manitoba Co-op Reaches 75!

MBA 108 Annual Convention , February 28 - March 1, 2014, In Winnipeg

Picture by Pierre Faure

Growing Assurance - Food Safety On-Farm Program launched!

www.manitobabee.org

Keeping The Cluster cool	p.2
Minister Meeting	p.3
National Honey Report	p.5
Growing Assurance Food safety	p.6
Neonic policy formed	p.12
Food Knowledge Conference	p.13
2014 MBA Convention	p.14
Honey Show Results	p.17
Pollination Report	p.20
2013 AGM Report	p.24
Classifieds	p.25
Manitoba Coop 75 years old	p.27

Bees work together to keep cluster cool

Dec 12, 2013

Research published today in the Royal Society journal *Interface* has shed some light on how swarming bees **stay warm in the cold and avoid getting too hot.**

Swarming is an essential part of honeybee behaviour. When a fertilized queen leaves the hive she takes a swarm of bees with her to start a new colony. Up to 20000 bees might accompany a newly fertilised queen bee on her quest. These bees usually form a cluster and cling to each other for several days whilst scouts leave to search for a new home to relocate to. The bees, exposed to the outside temperature, are at risk of getting too cold but in their tightly packed cluster they may also become too hot.

Clusters of bees seem to act as one autonomous body to these changing temperatures. Whilst each bee only has information from its own local environment the cluster as a whole responds cooperatively to maintain a temperature inside of within a few degrees of 35°C. Researchers from MIT set about designing a mathematical model which would explain how clusters of bees can respond cooperatively without a central controller.

Bee clusters have two major parts. Around the outside of the cluster the bees are densely packed together forming a mantle, whilst within the core of the cluster the bees are more sparsely packed. When air temperature is cool the mantle becomes more densely packed and the cluster contracts, keeping the heat within. In high ambient temperatures the cluster expands and the mantle spreads out to prevent over heating in the core.

Most models used to describe this thermoregulation process rely on individual bees knowing their location and the size of the cluster. More recent models work on the assumption that bees in the cluster can only know the temperatures at their locations. But these models are unable to explain why the cluster collectively reacts to stay warm in low temperatures.

The model created by researchers led by Samuel Ocko uses the idea that cold bees prefer to huddle densely and hot bees like to be more sparsely packed. Cold bees attempt to push themselves towards higher temperatures which creates what the team call a 'behavioural pressure'. The bees seek to minimise this pressure by changing their packing. Using a series of equations the team have found that minimising behavioural pressure local bee packing mathematically relates both to local temperature and outside temperature. Their model suggests that bees respond to their local conditions and move accordingly and that this causes variations in packing which can propagate information about ambient air temperature throughout the cluster.

With this method bees can share information across the cluster to work together to maintain constant temperatures in the swarm. The model shows bees' extraordinary ability to act as a collective. The team suggest that in the cluster individuals can work so closely because 'the difference between the individual and the collective is nearly non-existent'.

Read more at: http://phys.org/news/2013-12-bees-cluster-cool.html#jCp

Minister meeting sought

By Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

Your Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) Executive is seeking a meeting date with Min Ron Kostychyn, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and rural Development (MAFRD) to discuss three important topics.

A request was sent at the end of December, asking for a time to meet, in January or February 2014, with the Ag Minister to discuss last years' budget cuts for the beekeeping industry, plus seek his help on two Federal issues.

MBA wants to know what led to budget cuts for the Apiary Inspection Program and The Honey Bee Diagnostic lab, as these are two important services for an industry reeling from the highest winter losses in our history. In 2004, the province came to MBA with an inspection program cost recovery proposal, and to maintain its' integrity and consistency, MBA agreed to cost share (70%govt, 30% industry) with the province, and our partner Manitoba Forage Seed Association. For the past few years MBA budgeted $12,000 to cost recovery. It appears government proposes MBA take over the inspection program. MBA is extremely disappointed MAFRD chose to cut apiary inspection funding for 2013, and would like to understand how cuts to essentially a cost shared program with industry could be taken without prior consultation with their 9 year partners.

For the second issue, MBA responded to the *Risk Assessment on the Importation of Honey Bee Packages from the United States* report, which indicated no change in the honey bee disease and pest hazards, adamantly disagreeing with many parts of it. MBA hopes they can reach an agreement with CFIA to allow an exemption for Manitoba to import packages from California (similar to Queen Bee exemption already in place for all of Canada) for the 2014 crop year. Without sufficient package bees, producers' ability to maintain economic efficiencies in their business will be in jeopardy. MBA may need to call upon the Minister once again to send this message to the Federal Government.

The third issue concerns access to Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW). There are serious problems the TFW Agriculture Stream, as producers are having difficulty obtaining timely work permit approvals, especially from Philippines, necessary to secure their workforce for the 2014 crop year. In addition, the 4-year in Canada, and 4 year away from Canada (4 n 4) rule creates a huge problem for producers, as many trained staff will not be allowed back into the country for 4 years. Producers invested time and money and built their business with the aid of the TFW's. Thus MBA desires the Minister to carry the need for the Federal Government to provide worker flexibility for our industry.

PRESIDENTS REPORT
Winter, 2014

Allan Campbell

" No Report at this time."

Upcoming Events for 2013/2014

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

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.

CHC Report

Winter 2014
By Bryan Ash, CHC Director

" No Report at this time".

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NATIONAL HONEY REPORT

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 - #12 Issued Monthly December 18, 2013

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 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)

ARKANSAS			
Soybeans	Light Amber	$1.90	
CALIFORNIA			
Alfalfa	White	$2.11	
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	$1.95	- $2.11
Alfalfa	Light Amber	$1.75	- $1.80
Cotton	Extra Light Amber	$2.00	
Cotton	Light Amber	$2.00	
Clover	White	$1.95	- $2.11
Clover	Extra Light Amber	$1.95	- $2.15
Orange	White	$1.95	
Orange	Extra Light Amber	$1.95	
Valley	Light Amber	$1.73	
DAKOTAS			
Buckwheat	Dark	$1.55	
Basswood	White	$2.11	
Clover	White	$1.95	- $2.11
Clover	Extra Light Amber	$1.95	- $2.11
Clover	Light Amber	$1.85	
Western	White	$2.11	
Western	Extra Light Amber	$2.11	
Clover	White	$2.00	
Clover	Light Amber	$1.90	
NEW JESERY			
Brazil Pepper	Light Amber	$1.58	
Clover	Light Amber	$1.80	
TEXAS			
Buckwheat	White	$2.05	
Buckwheat	Light Amber	$2.11	
Clover	White	$2.05	
Western	Extra Light Amber	$2.11	
WASHINGTON			
Buckwheat	Light Amber	$2.15	
WISCONSIN			
Clover	White	$2.35	
WYOMING			
Alfalfa	Light Amber	$2.11	
Clover	Light Amber	$1.80	

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. Cent per pound.

Clover	White	$2.11

Group Insurance for Members

By Jim Campbell, Secretary

Since 2006, producers had an option to secure group liability insurance coverage from The Co-operators Insurance Company, who prepared a package for individual Manitoba producers with coverage of $2,000,000 for Bodily Injury and Property Damage. The premiums are $45.00 per year, and are payable to MBA.

Larger Commercial operations may already have comprehensive liability coverage through a "Farm" type insurance, however this may be more appropriate for beekeepers who have smaller operations where bees are located in their yard, and where neighbours may be close by, yet it is still available to all members. It especially covers those involved in public promotions of bees and honey. The MBA Membership Application Form for 2014 is now modified to include a line for Insurance Option. To review some of the benefits, look at www.manitobabee.org and go to Bees-Protection section, where there is a page on Insurance-Liability.

Anyone interested in subscribing to this insurance is encouraged to forward $45.00 premiums to: MBA c/o Box 192 Baldur MB R0K 0B0. MBA will handle future renewal billings.

Growing Assurance - Food Safety On-Farm

DESCRIPTION

- This program provides funds to help adopt assurance systems and best management practices at the farm related to food safety, biosecurity, plant and animal health, traceability and animal health.

WHO QUALIFIES (Eligible applicants include):

- individual and incorporated agriculture producers
- Applicants must have an *AccessManitoba* client Id number. Please review Privacy Notice and Client Consent Information (see below) prior to filling out the application online or through a MAFRD GO office.
- Applicants must ensure their projects are in accordance with applicable federal and provincial acts, regulations and environmental directives.
- Failure to comply with any of the former could result in an applicant being deemed ineligible.
- To be eligible for most programming, applicants will have had to implement a national on-farm food safety program for their respective commodity. For commodities where programs do not exist, there may be other requirements as outlined for specific programming.

WHO QUALIFIES (Eligible applicants include):

- If you have received funding for the same or similar activity in the past from a previous program you are not eligible for further funding for that particular activity.
- If you applied for, but did not receive the maximum amount allowed for a previous food safety claim through a former Agricultural Framework Policy or a Growing Forward program, you may be eligible for any remaining funds up to the maximum category cap, based on the current cost share ratios.
- If you have received funding under the Growing Assurance . Food Safety On-Farm program but have not reached the category cap, you are eligible to apply for any remaining funds up to the maximum category cap.
- Category caps are the maximum program payment per applicant over the five year life of Growing Forward 2.

General Restrictions

- Once your application for any of these programs is approved and you have received your letter of approval from MAFRD, there are some restrictions that apply to funding for every program:
  - You must complete the project within the time stated in your approval letter.
  - You must submit all expense claims to MAFRD by the deadline stated in your approval letter.
  - Once your project is approved by MAFRD, you cannot sell or exchange any capital items or facility upgrades you bought under the program for **at least two years after the purchase date.**

Application Deadline

- Applications are approved on a first come, first served basis until the program is fully subscribed. Application intakes and deadlines for future years will be outlined in annually updated versions of the Growing Assurance Adoption Catalogue which becomes available in or around April of each year for the life of the Growing Forward 2 Program.

Application Approval Process

- Applications are reviewed and approved by MAFRD. Representatives from MAFRD, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada or any other Government agency or Department may be consulted to ensure that the applicant is legally operating in Manitoba and any funding requests meet all eligibility requirements.

For more information about the program and funding applications:

- Contact your local MAFRD GO Office. or at www.manitoba.ca/agriculture

Growing Assurance – On Farm program: Apiculture

All Manitoba honey bee producers registered with Manitoba Agriculture Food, and Rural Development as active beekeepers are eligible to participate in this program. Producers must also participate in a one day Biosecurity Training Workshop prior to filing an application and complete the Honey Bee Biosecurity Self-Evaluation Checklist as part of the application to access program funding under the Growing Assurance for Farms – Apiculture program. The training workshops will be offered at various locations around the provinces (list of training workshop locations below). Pre-registration is recommended to ensure your participation at your preferred workshop location, space may be limited. As part of the pre-registration process, you will be asked if you have an Access Manitoba Identification number, which

along with your Manitoba Beekeeper Registration number and Premises Id number are all required in order to complete the application process. NB: if you want one of the pre-registration contact people to help you acquire an AccessManitoba identification number (i.e. client ID and/or Business ID numbers) you will have to grant your consent in order for your information to be entered into the AccessManitoba network. Please review the Privacy Notice and Client Consent information pages 9-11, prior to pre-registering for a workshop.

Bee Biosecurity Training Workshop	Date & time	Pre-registration Contact person	Workshop Location
Steinbach workshop	Tues, Jan 14, 2014 (9:00 am – 2 pm)	Everlito Mendoza 204-346-6080 everlito.mendoza@gov.mb.ca	Royal Canadian Legion 294 Lumber Ave, Steinbach, Manitoba 204-326-5335
Teulon workshop	Thurs, Jan 16, 2014 (9:00 am – 2 pm)	Robert Broadfoot 204-886-2696 robert.broadfoot2@gov.mb.ca	Teulon Rockwood Cent. Centre 14 Main St, Teulon, Manitoba 204-886-2858
Carman workshop	Tues, Jan 21, 2014 (9:00 am – 2 pm)	Frieda Wight 204-745-5610 frieda.wight@gov.mb.ca	Royal Canadian Legion 28 1st Street NW, Carman, Manitoba 204-745-2454
Dauphin workshop	Tues, Feb 4, 2014 (9:00 am – 2 pm)	Mary Lou Gosulak 204-622-2006 marylou.goshulak@gov.mb.ca	Super 8 Dauphin 1457 Main St. S., Hwy 10 Dauphin, Manitoba 204-638-0800
Winnipeg workshop	Thurs, Feb 6, 2014 (9:00 am – 2 pm)	Rhéal Lafrenière 204-945-4825 rheal.lafreniere@gov.mb.ca	Ag Services Complex EOC meeting room 545 University Crescent Winnipeg, Manitoba

After the producer has completed the one day Biosecurity Training Workshop and Biosecurity Checklist he/she will be invited to submit an application for program funding, which can be drop off at local GO Centres or submitted by mail using the mailing directions on the application form. The training workshops will identify, which projects are best suited to address the areas of biosecurity important for individual producer's farm. Information on how to document the impact associated with adopting those biosecurity practices will also be provided during the workshops. The following equipment and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) have been identified in support of assisting producers to incorporate on farm the National Bee Farm Level Biosecurity Standard. Applicants to the Growing Assurance Program for Farms are eligible for up to 65 percent of the total cost of the eligible equipment and GAPs.

Activity category	Practice code	Cost share ratio (Govt. : applicant)	Category cap
On-Farm program: Apiculture	10000	65:35	$2,500

Practice Code	**Equipment type or GAP (Good Agricultural Practices)**
10001	Disease and Pest Diagnostic Services: Payment on receipt of invoice of diagnostic services provided by a reputable lab such as the Provincial Bee Diagnostic Lab (Winnipeg, MB), National Honey Bee Diagnostics Centre (Beaverlodge, AB), or other diagnostic service centres approved by the Provincial Apiarist.
10002	Comb Exchange Program: Payment on proof of purchase of new foundation or frames with foundation for honey bees in exchange for dark, undamaged brood comb submitted to MacGregor Wax Works rendering plant (MacGregor, MB). Applicant is eligible to exchange up to 1000 dark, undamaged brood combs valued at $2.00/comb for the maximum rebate of $2,000 for new replacement foundation and/or frames.
10004	Irradiation of Equipment and/or Bee Feed : Payment on receipt of proof of purchase of irradiation services for sterilizing equipment or “bee feed” (e.g. pollen) from a reputable irradiation facility such as Acsion Industries (Pinawa, MB) or other irradiation facilities approved by the Provincial Apiarist. In addition to the costs associated with irradiating the equipment and/or bee feed, transportation costs are eligible for reimbursement at predetermined commercial rates (subject to change overtime).
10005	RFID Reading Equipment and Software: Payment on receipt of proof of purchase of an RFID reading equipment and software. If possible to be used with compatible commodity specific food safety and/or biosecurity equipment and software.
10006	Food Safety and/or Biosecurity Equipment and Software: Payment on receipt of proof of purchase of equipment and software for tracking, creating lots, or recording food safety and biosecurity related activities. If possible to be used with compatible RFID reading equipment and software.
10009	Microscope: Payment on receipt of proof of purchase of a dissecting and/or compound microscope. New and/or used microscopes must be purchased from a reputable supplier approved by the Provincial Apiarist.

In the case of the brood comb exchange program and the irradiation of equipment and bee feed programs, it is very important that the producer contact the cooperating facilities (i.e. MacGregor Wax Works and Acsion Industries) to make an appointment prior to delivering the equipment. Producers that do not have an appointment prior to delivery may be turned away until they have secured a delivery appointment. It is important to note that in the case of the brood comb exchange program, receipts for the delivered of brood comb will be required to be submitted along with the receipts for the purchased replacement frames and/or foundation equipment in order to qualify for the 65% rebate on total cost. If a producer access funding for comb exchange under a previous Growing Forward agreement (e.g. GF1), they would only be eligible to exchange comb under the new Growing Forward 2 (GF2) up to a combined maximum of the lesser of 1000 comb or $2000 of replacement comb and/or frames receipts. For example:

- 500 old brood combs exchanged under GF1 and 500 old brood combs exchanged under GF2 would be permitted .
- 300 old brood combs exchanged under GF1 and 800 old brood combs exchanged under GF2 would be permitted .

- 1 old brood combs exchanged under GF1 and 999 old brood combs exchanged under GF2 would be permitted .

Applications will be received and approved on a first come first served basis keeping within allocation levels for different programming. Application will be received until December 31 of each fiscal year. All claims will have to be submitted within the fiscal year they were undertaken with a deadline of March 1 of that fiscal year. In year 1 of the program, funding for food safety projects will be restricted to the Brood Comb Exchange project, but once the CBISQT program is available other food safety projects will added to the Growing Assurance adoption catalogue.

Application and funding process

- Review the program Terms and Conditions in advance of completing your application form. Complete in full and attach all required documents. Submit your application and supporting documents to:

  Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
  PO Box 1240, 810 Phillips Street
  Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 3J9
  Email: MafriGF2@gov.mb.ca Fax: 204-239-3180

- When your application is received, MAFRD will assess your application. The assessment must be completed and you must receive a letter of approval from MAFRD, **before** you start your project. All eligible project costs must be incurred after you receive your approval letter from MAFRD outlining any specific considerations or requirements, completion date and claims submission date. All capital expenses (including installation costs) must be directly related to the program or system and must be approved in writing, in advance**,** by MAFRD.

- Your claim must be sent to MAFRD by the claim deadline noted in your approval letter.

- When you have met all the requirements and provided all information and documentation to MAFRD, your payment will be processed and sent to you.

- An audit inspection of final work may occur before or after payment is received

- Once you have received an approval letter, you may start your project. It is your responsibility to review and follow all conditions outlined in the approval letter before you complete your project.

Privacy Notice and Client Consent – Information Sharing

Privacy Notice

What is ACCESS MANITOBA?

ACCESS MANITOBA is a secure service that individuals and companies can use to access, apply and pay for business and employment programs and services in-person or online. ACCESS MANITOBA's services are in addition to, and are integrated with, the other ways that the Government of Manitoba may communicate with its clients. The purpose of ACCESS MANITOBA is to deliver a single, collaborative and co-ordinated service for individuals and companies.

Why is ACCESS MANITOBA collecting your information?

The Government of Manitoba ("Manitoba"), through Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, needs to collect and use your personal information to create a profile for you in ACCESS MANITOBA. Your profile will then be accessible by the Manitoba departments that participate in ACCESS MANITOBA to deliver programs and services you may wish to access. These are listed below as Government of Manitoba Participating Programs.

You may also use ACCESS MANITOBA to issue a Contact Me request to certain outside organizations, listed below as External Participating Programs. This is a request submitted on-line for that organization to answer any questions you may have regarding the services they offer. If you do this, certain personal information will be shared with the organization, as set out below.

Manitoba's legal authority to collect your information

The collection of your personal information to create your profile is necessary for ACCESS MANITOBA's Participating Programs to provide services and programs to you and to collaborate and co-ordinate when providing services and programs to you. Your personal information is being collected under the authority of clause 36(1)(b) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Manitoba), ("FIPPA") as it is necessary for and directly related to services and programs delivered by the Participating Programs. Manitoba limits the personal information it collects about you to the minimum amount required by such Participating Programs.

Your personal information is protected under FIPPA and, in the case of any personal health information collected for your profile, *The Personal Health Information Act* (Manitoba) (PHIA). Manitoba cannot use or disclose your information for other purposes unless you consent or Manitoba is authorized to do so by FIPPA or PHIA.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the use of my information?

If you have questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information or personal health information that you have provided to ACCESS MANITOBA, please contact the ACCESS MANITOBA Help Desk at 204-948-2377 or toll-free at 1-877-M-ACCESS (1-877-622-2377).

Client Consent – Information Sharing

Manitoba is requesting your consent for ACCESS MANITOBA to disclose to the Participating Programs the information you submit to ACCESS MANITOBA for the purpose of updating records and information required by or permitted to be filed with those Participating Programs specified below.

If you provide consent when you are creating your ACCESS MANITOBA profile, you are consenting to the collection, use and disclosure of your information by the Participating Programs based upon the services you require and to the ACCESS MANITOBA Terms of Use at https://web6.gov.mb.ca/Mbeso/shared/TermsOfUse. Please ensure you carefully review the Terms of Use before agreeing to same.

If you do not provide consent, you cannot proceed to use ACCESS MANITOBA. Please contact the appropriate Manitoba department or agency directly for alternate service delivery options, if available.

Users of ACCESS MANITOBA have an obligation to provide accurate and complete information and may be subject to penalties or fines for providing false or inaccurate information.

You may quit a session at any time before you complete your profile and if you do so, any information you have provided for your profile will not be stored on any Manitoba servers; however, your Government of Manitoba login will still exist.

Required Information

In order to use ACCESS MANITOBA, you must consent to the sharing of the following information with the ACCESS MANITOBA Government of Manitoba Participating Programs:

- Title (Dr., Miss, Mrs., Ms and Mr.)
- First Name
- Last Name
- Middle Name
- Suffix designation (Sr. or Jr.)
- Preferred Name

If you use ACCESS MANITOBA to ask an External Participating Program to answer any questions you may have regarding the services they offer through a Contact Me request*, you will be required to consent to sharing the following information from your profile with the organization:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Phone number
- E-mail address

* External Participating Programs such as the City of Winnipeg and the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba are not otherwise able to access the information contained in your profile in ACCESS MANITOBA.

Self-Declared Information

If you choose to do so, you may also provide ACCESS MANITOBA with the following self-declared information which may be used to determine your eligibility to receive certain business or employment services offered by the Participating Programs, as well as for the purposes of research and planning, evaluation and accountability:

- Visible Minority Status
- Disability
- Aboriginal Ancestry
- Gender
- Social Insurance Number
- Date of Birth

Participating Programs

Government of Manitoba Participating Programs

The specific Manitoba departments who may access the information contained in your ACCESS MANITOBA profile are identified below.

- Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
- Manitoba Department of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade (including the Canada/Manitoba Business Service Centre*)
- Manitoba Department of Family Services and Consumer Affairs
- Manitoba Department of Finance
- Manitoba Department of Innovation, Energy and Mines

* The Canada/Manitoba Business Service Centre is jointly operated with Western Economic Diversification Canada

External Participating Programs

The outside organizations to which you may submit a Contact Me request, but which do not otherwise have access to your profile, are listed below:

- The City of Winnipeg
- The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

Manitoba reserves the right to add additional departments and organizations to ACCESS MANITOBA from time to time, in which case a written notice will appear on the ACCESS MANITOBA website and the above lists will be updated.

Withdrawing your Consent

If you wish to withdraw your consent to the further sharing of the information contained in your profile with the Participating Programs, you may do so by contacting the ACCESS MANITOBA Help Desk at 204-948-2377 or toll-free at 1-877-M-ACCESS (1-877-622-2377); however, you may no longer be eligible to receive services from those government departments participating in ACCESS MANITOBA.

Neonic Policy formed

By Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

Manitoba beekeepers' Association (MBA) has been monitoring the difficulties faced by Ontario and Quebec beekeepers dealing with high losses during spring corn planting season.

The Pest Management regulatory Agency has been accepting submissions on the issue, and Canadian Honey Council forwarded a response on behalf of the industry. Provinces were asked to provide support for the national position. In light of the request, MBA developed their position and submitted it to PMRA.

The following is the text of the MBA submission to PMRA, which also appears on www.manitobabee.org under "Bees-Protection" Category.

This letter confirms the support of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) for the December 12, 2013 Canadian Honey Council's Submission to Health Canada's call for comments on notice of intent NO12013-01.

MBA is a province-wide association representing about 550 Manitoba beekeepers, with over 80,000 colonies of honey bees. MBA has a long history of working collaboratively with various groups, and to this end feels it is imperative to find a resolution for the neonicotinoid issue beneficial to both seed growers and pollinator providers. We recognize seed growers could face difficulties if seed suppliers are reluctant to reduce current treatment regimes. We therefore encourage co-operation of industry, beekeepers and government to develop a sustainable solution. MBA recognizes the importance of the regulatory agency to take quick action to mitigate the ongoing impacts widespread prophylactic neonicotinoid use has on bees. We therefore encourage Pest Management Regulatory Agency to work with various industry groups to develop a process to quickly reduce neonicotinoid dependency.

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Manitobans Seek and Share Food Knowledge at Upcoming Conference

On February 28 – March 1, 2014, Manitoba's premiere food security event will once again bring together consumers, farmers, traditional harvesters and everyone in between, for two inspired days of learning and sharing. Organized by Food Matters Manitoba, the Growing Local conference welcomes over 500 Manitobans seeking out popular hands-on workshops, discussions and displays about healthy, sustainable and fair food.

“The Growing Local conference is a highlight every year for anyone interested in food,” said Kreesta Doucette, Executive Director of Food Matters Manitoba. “This is a chance to network, learn and celebrate the exciting activities that are happening in Manitoba.”

Beekeepers and honey-lovers have shared their knowledge and experience with past conference-goers with workshops like “Herbal Infused Honey”, “What’s Happening to our Bees?” and “The Basics of Beekeeping”. This year, participants will get to hear what beekeeping is like in northern Manitoba. Other workshop topics range from sustainable agriculture to healthy food skills to indigenous food traditions. In between workshops, conference-goers are treated to delicious lunches and snacks, featuring local and sustainable ingredients from Manitoba producers and processors.

“There is something at Growing Local for everyone,” said Doucette, “Whether your interest is growing food, cooking food, or looking at food issues in society, there are going to be fascinating workshops for you at this year’s conference.”

The conference will take place at the Marlborough Hotel and will feature keynote speaker Michael Moss. Moss is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of “Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us".

For more information and to register, you can visit www.foodmattersmanitoba.ca, or call 204-943-0822.

Food Matters Manitoba is a registered charity that engages Manitobans towards healthy, sustainable, and fair food for all by cultivating community food skills, carrying out public education, and forming partnerships with other community groups.

2014 Manitoba Beekeepers Association Annual Convention In Winnipeg

*Welcome to the **2014 MANITOBA BEEKEEPING ANNUAL CONVENTION** hosted at the central Canad Inns Polo Park Hotel,1405 St Matthews Ave , Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, on February 28-March 1, 2014. The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association invites all beekeepers to celebrate its 108th Annual Convention / Symposium this year.*

Convention begins **Friday 28 February 2014 at 8:30 am** with registration time before the session. Research Symposium and Tradeshow events will be held on both Friday and Saturday. Agenda details and updates are to be posted on the MBA Website. See registration form for details on convention costs and hotel information.

ConventionTheme:

Beekeeping in a Changing World

Full agenda and convention updates will be posted on the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association website – http://www.manitobabee.org
Go to "Convention - Symposium"

See You in Winnipeg!

2014 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr James Ellis - Associate Professor of The University Of Florida to talk about Impacts of Pesticides and Bees as Super Organisms

Randy Oliver - Commercial Beekeeper In California to talk about Learning from Bees and Supplemental Feeding Needs

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108th MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
CANAD INNS POLO PARK HOTEL
1405 ST. MATTHEWS AVE., WINNIPEG MANITOBA
February 28-March 1, 2014

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Registrant: _____

Accompanying spouse: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____

Telephone: ( ) _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Registration Fees: Includes lunch tickets for February 28 & March 1st. Advance Registration deadline is February 14, 2014. Registration Forms post-marked after February 14th will be charged the **Regular Registration rate.**

Advance Registration (before February 14, 2014)

- Member: $150 _____
- Non-member $205 _____
- Member Corporation (up to 3 delegates) $350 _____

Regular Registration (after February 14, 2014)

- Member: $175 _____
- Non-member: $230 _____
- Member Corporation (up to 3 delegates): $410 _____

Single Day Registration $115 _____

Banquet (Friday Night) ___ No of Tickets @ **$50.00 ea** @$50/ea _____

TOTAL _____

Cheque payable to: "Manitoba Beekeepers' Association" or "MBA"
Send registration form and payment to: **Manitoba Beekeepers' Association**
P.O. Box 192
Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0

Room rates: Standard Queen or Double/Double Special guest room rates are $115.00 plus taxes, only for those persons registering in advance, for the MBA Convention. A Block of rooms is available for convention attendees but only until January 27, 2014. After which time the block is released and room availability may be limited

Room Reservations: Make room reservations directly with the Canad Inns Hotel by calling 1-204-775-8791, using conference code 241737. Identify that you are attending the convention of the Manitoba Beekeepers Association.

EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS LIST 2013
MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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E-mail: mfriesen.mouse@gmail.com

Terry Karaz (2015) Box 250, Gladstone, MB, R0J 0T0 385-2923
E-mail: freddiescollection@yahoo.ca

Gary Momotiuk (2014) Box 68, Gilbert plains, MB, R0L 0X0 (Unavailable)
E-mail: gdnm@goinet.ca

Chris Rempel (2014), Box 358, Austin, MB, R0H 0C0 637-2397
E-mail: cdrempel@mts.net

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

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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

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

2014 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PRINT INFORMATION PLEASE

NAME: _____ COMPANY NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____POSTAL CODE_____

TELEPHONE_____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF COLONIES EXPECTED TO BE OPERATED IN 2014 _____

Payment Due January 1, with Deadline for membership payment – March 31, 2014

MEMBERSHIPS cover period from January 01 to December 31 of 2014

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 $0.14/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) $ _____

INSURANCE(see MBA web section Bees-Protection for details)

BEEKEEPERS LIABILITY INSURANCE (valid 5 May 2014-5 May 2015) @ $45.00 per year $ _____

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

Ver dec13

A Look at Insecticides & Fungicides on Canola in Manitoba
David Ostermann

Introduction – There's growing concern about the risk that chemicals in the field may pose to our honey bees. In this article information about insecticide and fungicide use on canola in Manitoba is presented to understand which chemicals are most commonly used, provide some historical perspective, and discuss in the context of recent research relating to these chemicals. Canola was selected due to it being the main honey crop in many parts of the province.

Prior to 2011, Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) collected such data on insured crops and this data is publically available[1]. However, not all acres are insured every year and not all insecticides or fungicides are reported for one reason or another. There are other challenge such as if there are multiple applications of a fungicide, acres are counted twice in this data. So this needs to be taken into account, and data from other sources considered.

Insecticide Data – *Seed Treatment* – It is estimated that 99% of the canola seeded in Manitoba (about 3.2 million acres annually) from 2010-2012 had a seed treatment on it[2]. There are two main seed treatment chemical formulations. Both are neonicotinoid pesticides (i.e. neonics). It is estimated that about 60% was Prosper, a Bayer CropScience product, and about 40% was Helix, a Syngenta product. According to MASC's data for canola (Argentine canola), Prosper started being reported in 2004, and Helix started being reported in 1999. So these neonics have been reported on canola for at least 10 years or so. The main active ingredient in Prosper is clothianidin, and the main active ingredient in Helix is thiamethoxam. Seed treatments are called "systemic" because they are designed to work from within the plant.

Foliar Treatment –The number of canola acres that are sprayed with insecticide (i.e. foliar treatment) each year can vary significantly (e.g. with insect outbreaks). According to MASC data for 2002-2010, insecticide was associated with about 10% of insured canola acres overall[1]. It's not clear if this number only represents foliar application. The most commonly used foliar insecticides on canola are pyrethroids (e.g. Matador, Decis) and organophosphates with chlorpyrifos as the active ingredient (e.g. Lorsban) [3]. It is estimated that these two chemical groups make up the majority of foliar insecticides on canola. No neonic products are registered as a foliar spray on canola, but there are neonic foliar registrations for potatoes and alfalfa seed.

So what risk is posed by these insecticides? The risk of these insecticides to honey bees can certainly be high. Direct contact with the foliar treatments is usually lethal, but indirect contact depends on factors such as amount of residual insecticide activity, any repellency effect, the weather, etc. A table of the different estimated hazard ratings of foliar insecticides can be found in the "Guide to Field Crop Protection". The risk that neonic seed treatments pose to bees is a lot more complicated and controversial. Direct contact with seed treatment dust/lublicant/insecticide can certainly be lethal, but when talking about canola, it's important to note that canola is planted via air-seeder or air-drill. Issues have been identified in Canada with corn and soybean seeding where there is dusting off of the lubricant and seed treatment into the air with planters (but not air-seeders or air-drills). The bigger question is the indirect contact with neonics through the environment or plant materials (pollen, nectar) for example. On this, there's a growing understanding that the risk to our bees, the environment, etc. is not nil or zero, but whether the risk is "acceptable" or "reasonable" seems to depend on who you talk to. Also, is the risk increasing, decreasing, or staying the same? I'm not going to delve into this here, but feel free to discuss amongst yourselves.

Fungicide Data – The two main reasons to use fungicide on canola in Manitoba are Sclerotinia control and Blackleg suppression[2]. A number of fungicides are registered for each disease. Currently the three most common products for Sclerotinia control (in order of most to least popular) are believed to be Proline, Astound, and Lance, and the most common products for Blackleg suppression are Bumper (also Pivot, Propel, Tilt (same active ingredient)), Headline, and Quadris. The fungicides for Sclerotinia control are applied during flowering (bloom) of canola, while the fungicides for Blackleg suppression are applied prior to flowering. So it appears the fungicides for Sclerotinia may be a bigger concern for honey bees.

It's not clear how many acres of canola are treated with fungicide, but according to MASC data for 2002-2010, fungicide was associated with about 50% of insured canola acres overall[1]. Proline first shows up in MASC's data for insured canola in 2007, Astound in 2010, and Lance in 2004. Based on this data, Lance has been used on canola for the past 10 years, Proline for past 7 years, and Astound for the past 4 years.

So what risk is posed by these fungicides? Whereas at one time it was believed that fungicides were relatively non-consequential to honey bees, we're learning that that's not necessarily the case. It appears the risk of certain fungicides may increase when some other chemicals are involved, including varroa control chemicals. Exposure to sublethal levels of fungicides has also been found to make honey bees more vulnerable to nosema disease[4]. It has been reported that the consumption of contaminated pollen is the most likely route of exposure to fungicides for honey bees. So let's look specifically at the three most popular products for Sclerotinia control.

Lance is applied at 20 to 50% bloom, and may be applied a second time 7 to 14 days later up to full bloom if disease persists, or weather conditions are favourable for disease development[5]. Lance is a group 7 fungicide. The active ingredient is boscalid. Lance is a foliar spray. Lab research did not find an interaction between boscalid fungicide and tau-fluvalinate (Apistan), coumaphos (Checkmite), amitraz (Apivar), thymol, or any other acaricides tested[8].

Astound is applied once at 20 to 50% bloom on canola. It is considered a group 9 & 12 fungicide. Astound fungicide contains two active ingredients cyprodinil and fludioxonil. It is a foliar spray. For this article I wasn't able to find out a lot about Astound, but cyprodinil and/or fludioxonil have been described as relatively non-toxic to bees[10].

Proline fungicide is applied at 20 to 50% canola bloom, at a high rate if there's a history of heavy disease or if crop stand is dense[5]. Proline is a group 3 fungicide. The active ingredient is prothioconazole which is a triazole fungicide. Triazole fungicides inhibit sterol biosynthesis. Sterol biosynthesis inhibitors (SBI) work by inhibiting the biosynthesis of ergosterol which is a major component of the plasma membrane of certain fungi and needed for fungal growth[6]. Proline is a foliar spray, but triazole fungicides may be foliar or systemic treatment products[7]. Here's information from a study which looked at SBI type fungicides and honey bees.

Lab research has shown that a combination of exposure to SBI fungicide and the active ingredient in varroa control products can cause more honey bees to die compared to a control[8]. In one part of the study, where an SBI fungicide was used as a pre-treatment, higher bee mortality was observed with tau-fluvalinate (Apistan) or coumaphos (Checkmite), but not amitraz (Apivar) or thymol. In another part of the study, where five SBI fungicides were tested (separately) as a pre-treatment (not including the active ingredient in Proline), then exposed to one of three doses of tau-fluvalinate (Apistan), the average median mortality, at a dose of 1.0 nmol per bee, increased 1.7x (almost 2-fold), and at 10.0 nmol per bee, the increase was 21.6x (more than 20-fold). The study also noted that at the lowest dose of SBI fungicide of 0.1 nmol per bee, mortality actually decreased, with the possible explanation that the fungicide "could counter intuitively protect the bee, to some extent, from tau-fluvalinate toxicity, possibly through induction of detoxicative enzymes." These are some of the results we heard about from Dr. Marion Ellis at the 2013 MBA convention in Winnipeg.

Conclusion – The risk of insecticides and fungicides to our honey bees continues to be a growing concern. As beekeepers, when looking at an issue like this, we're reminded of the size and complexity of the agricultural production system of which we are a part (for better or worse), and there continue to be challenges that we are learning about. I'll be covering this topic in more detail at the MBA Convention Feb. 28 – Mar. 1, 2014. See you there!

References:

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10 http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub360/13tab3.pdf

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2013 Annual Members Meeting

by Jim Campbell, MBA secretary

About 20 Designated reps plus guests gathered in Neepawa for the 108th Annual Meeting of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. The more than 30 attendees appreciated the favorable weather forecast for the day, so their attention could be focused on the business at hand.

President Al Campbell reported the board was working on a response to the recent Risk Assessment, as the report concluded prohibition on bee imports from USA was to continue. MBA feels some areas in the report were lacking scientific evidence. A response needs to be sent before November 24. Al further noted that with the recent Provincial budget cuts, MBA needs to consider how to achieve an appropriate inspection program for 2014.

Rhéal Lafrenière, reported his department recently changed its name to Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (MAFRD). Preliminary surveys results suggest about 74K colonies were run in 2013 with average production about 170 lb/hive. He also stated the Apiary Inspection program changed and thus staff targeted inspections and confirmed no Small Hive Beetle were found. MAFRD indicated plans to transfer provincial bee health inspection/monitoring activities to industry, via a grant of $40,800, with 2014 as a transition year. MAFRD would train staff and the bee lab would be available in 2014.

In another report, Marcie Smerchanski, PMRA, revealed five (5) Manitoba beekeepers voluntarily reported pesticide incidents. Samples were collected and Neonicotinoids were detected, including clothianidin, imidicloprid, thiamethoxam, plus other chemicals. Marcie also noted PMRA is doing a re-evaluation of neonics with the USDA.

Appreciation was extended to David Ostermann for stepping in and capturing the minutes and recording the Resolutions that appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

"Meet The Manitoba Beekeeper"

"Stay tuned for the Spring issue."

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Wanted: One experienced Apiarist wanted for up to six months; May thru October, 2014. At least 5 years experience, valid driver's license, $11.00 - $14.00 (dep. on experience). CV and References to Marg's Honey Inc, 1051 Porcher Road, St. Andrews, MB R1A 3N4, 204-254-4509 or margshoney@gmail.com

For Sale : Strong Single Hives or Nucs for sale. Call Andy Loewen at (204) 326-1500 or email at andyloewen@hotmail.ca

For Sale: 650 feeder pails in good shape ,450 insulated telescope cal lids with metal top and top feeder hole in them and 370 empty supers.
Phone: Jake at 204-513-0529

For Sale: A 1/2 horse, 3 speed, heavy duty Hodson wax spinner.

Contact Daniel Penner at 204-966-3513

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Phone : 204 248 2645 only serious inquiry please.

For Sale: Spring 2014, approximately180 complete hives with bees , also 75 double nuc boxes; at least 50 with 4 frame bee units. There is the possibility of the Beemaid contract and/or yard sites.
Contact; Bruce Smirl 1-204-822-8004 or e-mail brucesmirl@gmail.com

For Sale: (3) 1 ½ " 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

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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

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- 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

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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		Alcohol wash or sugar shake		Sticky Board	
Summer Bees: Honey Crop	Spring: Fresh pollen reared nurse bees present (4 weeks after 1st natural pollen) Treat: Typically May		Full dose (2 strips)		Or: 1-strip every 6 to 8 weeks	
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.		Full dose (2 strips)			
Good food reserves:	Always	Spring	Summer		Fall	
Ventilation full width of hive:	During treatment					
Brood area check:	One month after treatment					
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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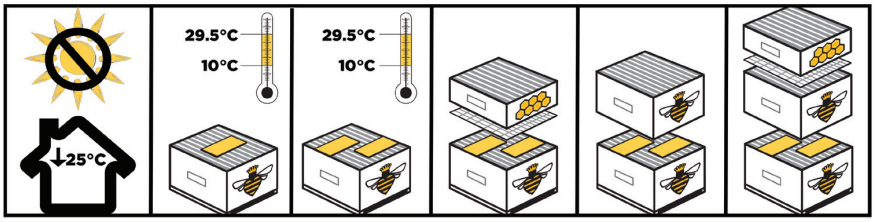
we love bees!



Manitoba Coop reaches 75 years!

By Jim Campbell, MBA secretary

Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Limited (MCHPL) celebrated a major milestone at their Annual Meeting this past December.

The MCHPL Annual General Meeting of 3 December 2013, was the scene of celebrating and honouring of many long time members of the organization, as the group celebrated its' 75 Anniversary. The special event took place at the Victoria Inn & Conference Centre in Winnipeg.

For historians, this Co-op movement began by a decision made at the 1937 Annual Meeting of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. Although many were not enthusiastic about cooperative principles, there was general recognition for the need of a central processing, packing and marketing facility. This led to the formation of a committee to investigate a Manitoba organization, and report at the January 1938 meeting. The report in 1938 recommended the formation of a Manitoba Co-operative, and thus a provisional board was appointed. At the first meeting of the provisional board on April 5, 1938, Bylaw and Charter documents were approved.

Now began the task of presenting the aims and objects of the new organization to beekeepers, and securing their "buy-in" by purchasing shares. The original objective was to raise $25,000 in share capital. Mr. John Wesley Braithwaite was tasked with meeting with beekeepers, and initially hosted 16 meetings. Thanks to much work of the early pioneers and some creativity in having share capital held by members, the Cooperative was able to rent facilities to being operations in July 1939.

The story of MCHPL and their growth, ending with the current plant at 625 Roseberry Street, Winnipeg, can be found in "Prairie Gold - The First 60 Years of the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Ltd".

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