



THE MANITOBA BEEKEEPER

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Government Invests in Biosecurity and Food Safety for the Bee Sector. p.21

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www.manitobabee.org

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DAY OF THE HONEYBEE

MAY 31ST



The Day of the Honeybee at the Forks on May 31st, 2014 was celebrated in the far East Room adjacent to the ATM machine and opposite the men's washroom.

There were two vendors there, one from Anola and the other from Whitemouth, both selling varieties of honey they produced. Sales were slow as few people ventured to the SE corner of the Forks.

Beemaide had loaned a variety of equipment for display purposes. All the equipment was packed into the Polcyn station wagon and taken to the Forks on the 30th of May. On Saturday a number of people examined the display equipment and asked a variety of questions about the display and the Bees. The University of Manitoba Entomology Department had placed two frames of bees in Jim Campbell's beautiful display case on the 30th. The display frames were transported to the Forks Saturday morning in the Polcyn station wagon.



As you know many people viewing the bees and were either fascinated or fearful, and trying to spot the marked queen always a challenge. Many people asked a good variety of questions for the 3 members of the RRAA Executive present, Charles Polcyn, Ken Rows and John Speer that were on site.

There was much help from the Forks staff and Parking Passes were available for the vendors and RRAA staff. Visitor traffic to the display area was minimal and the vendors were quite happy to pack up and leave at closing time.

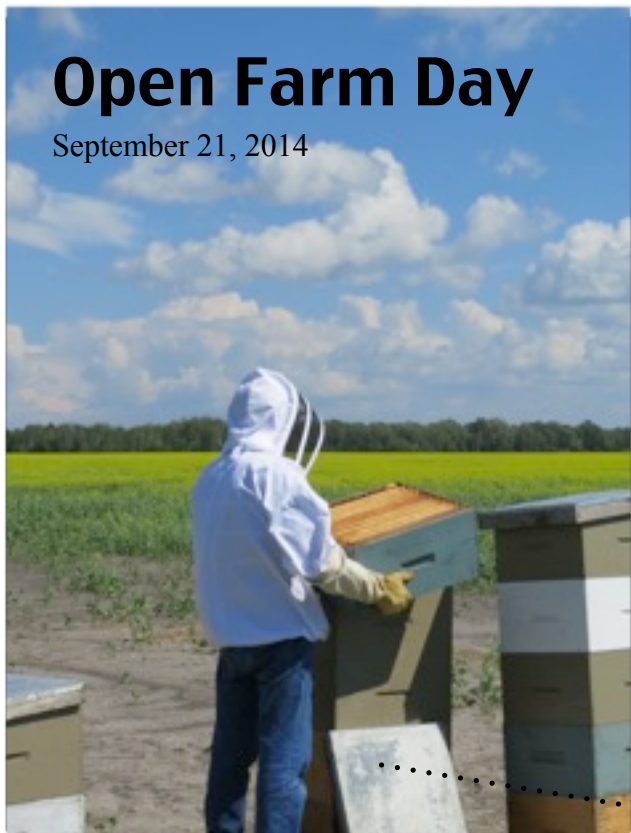
The display equipment and the bees were all packed into the station wagon and returned to their rightful owners on Monday, the 2nd of June. For us it was one of those days that was nice outside but slow in our area. However it was an opportunity for the Public to view beekeeping equipment, examine the bees and ask questions from the RRAA beekeepers present.

Charles Polcyn - RRAA 2014 President



Open Farm Day

September 21, 2014



Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural

Development would like to hear from farmers willing to open their gates to Manitobans who want to learn more about where their food comes from as part of the fifth-annual Open Farm Day. It takes place on September 21, 2014 and is organized in partnership with the Manitoba Association of Agricultural Societies (MAAS).

Open Farm Day is an opportunity for Manitobans to meet local farmers and learn more about Manitoba's agricultural industry. It's also a chance for farmers interested in direct marketing to connect with new customers.

Farms interested in participating should contact the Open Farm Day hotline at 204-821-5322 or email Karen.Walker-Tibble@gov.mb.ca.

For more information about Open Farm Day, visit www.openfarmday.ca. For more information about MAFRD, Manitoba's agriculture and agri-food industry and programs and services for producers, follow us on Twitter at @MBGovAg.



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MAFRD – UPDATE

David Ostermann and Rhéal Lafrenière
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

The start of the new fiscal year (i.e. April 1, 2014) initiated a number of changes in Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) Apiculture Office. In previous years, MAFRD employed inspectors to conduct annual bee inspections. In an effort to build capacity in the bee industry, MAFRD worked with industry to take over the inspection services associated with collecting and processing bee samples for disease identification for the 2014 season. The agreement was that MAFRD would retain the responsibility of enforcing *The Bee Act* in regards to regulating disease control and beekeeper registration and industry would coordinate the field inspections, collection of samples and processing of samples.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the grant to cover the cost incurred by industry to operate the inspection program was delayed. In order to mitigate delaying the inspection activities any further, MAFRD employed four Apiary Inspectors and an Apiary Inspector – Supervisor to conduct the inspection for the 2014 season. Daryl Wright (Apiary Inspector – Supervisor) ran the Inspection program for both the honey bee and the alfalfa leafcutting bees programs, as well as processed bee samples for disease analysis. It is important to note that the ultimate goal is to continue to work with industry to build the capacity to take over the operation of the Bee Disease Inspection program (a.k.a. Apiary Inspection program) in 2015.

Another significant change in the MAFRD Apiculture office is the focus of David Ostermann's activities toward pollination and horticultural entomology projects. David is involved in a number of new projects with leafcutting bees and wild bee pollinators, as well as entomological projects such as aphid monitoring in potato fields. Rhéal Lafrenière continues to be the main contact for general honey bee issues and business opportunities, whereas David focus on honey bees will primarily be in the area of pollination questions and or business opportunities.

Bee Diagnostic Lab Fees 2014

Diagnostic fees as follows:

Nosema **\$20** / Varroa **\$20** / Tracheal **\$20**

Combined Nosema, Varroa, Tracheal **\$45**

Antibiotic Resistance (AFB) **\$30**

MBA members receive \$5 discount per analysis category
Samples may be collected by inspectors at the request of beekeepers, or samples may be dropped off on site or can be sent in directly by beekeepers. Please send samples to:

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NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2014

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GR EATER 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	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85
Orange Blossom	White	\$2.09
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85

DAKOTA

Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.96	-	\$2.14
Basswood	Extra Light Amber	\$2.14		
Clover	White	\$2.11	-	\$2.15
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$2.14		
Lewstrife	Light Amber	\$1.82		
Sunflower	White	\$2.14		
Sunflower	Extra Light Amber	\$2.14		
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.75		

FLORIDA

Orange Blossom	White	\$2.05	-	\$2.20
Orange Blossom	Extra Light Amber	\$2.20		
Gallberry	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	-	\$1.95
Palmetto	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	-	\$1.95
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	-	\$2.10
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.90		

MONTANA

Clover	White	\$2.10		
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NEBRASKA

Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$2.14		
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$2.14		
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$2.14		
Sunflower	Extra Light Amber	\$2.14		

WASHINGTON

Alfalfa	Amber	\$2.00		
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WISCONSIN

Clover	White	\$2.35		
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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 Flower	White	\$1.83	-	\$2.07
Mixed Flower	Extra Light	\$1.77	-	\$2.07
Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$1.83	-	\$1.91

BRAZIL

ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.88	-	\$1.85
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.80	-	\$1.90
Mixed Flower	Extra Light	\$1.82	-	\$1.91
Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$1.79	-	\$1.82

INDIA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.49	-	\$1.56
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.37	-	\$1.52
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.32		
Mustard	White	\$1.48	-	\$1.57
Mustard	Extra Light	\$1.48	-	\$1.57

MEXICO

Mixed Flowers	White	\$2.12		
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UKRAINE

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.85	-	\$1.93
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.90		
Sunflower	White	\$1.47		
Sunflower	Extra Light	\$1.47		

URUGUAY

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.83		
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.83		

VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.36	-	\$1.38
Mixed Flowers	Amber	\$1.31		

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Honey Bee Pollination Inquiries This Spring

David Ostermann

Pollination Apiarist, MAFRD

I received a few custom pollination inquiries this spring (2014); a couple regarding hybrid canola, one on birdsfoot trefoil, and one on blueberry. Often questions on custom pollination are about fees, stocking rate, and any benefit. With a strong honey price most beekeepers are primarily concerned with bee health for honey crop and wintering success but we do get some questions on pollination. I also get calls from growers looking for colonies to put on a field and then I call beekeepers in the area to see if they're interested.

For hybrid canola I'd say there's a well developed market and system in Alberta where large seed companies contract beekeepers (honey bee and leafcutting bee) but currently not in Manitoba. According to the CSGA (November Acreage and Membership Report) for 2013, there were no inspected hybrid canola acres (0 acres) in Manitoba. Whereas in Alberta, 66,041 acres were indicated in this report. With low acres of hybrid canola in Manitoba I see/have seen this as an opportunity, but there are some challenges.

A number of years ago I contacted the companies operating in Alberta about their past experience producing hybrid canola in Manitoba. Most of these companies are large global enterprises. I heard consistently that isolation from other canola was a major issue, but also high humidity, high temperature, length of season, irrigation, low yield, overall cost, and rotational issues were also mentioned. Some of these issues are seen as significant by these companies but things can change in time, we'll see. It sounds like we may have a small number of acres in Manitoba this year.

According to Dr. Medhat Nasr, Alberta Provincial Apiarist, the stocking rate on hybrid canola in Alberta is about 2.5 hives/acre (range of 1.75-2.5/acre), approx. 16 frame inspected unit (bees and brood), fees around \$160 for about 4 weeks of activity. Historically hybrid canola custom pollination fees are higher than other crops.

For birdsfoot trefoil, usually the grower is smaller and independent (i.e. not a large enterprise) with a budget influenced by current price of seed, return in prior years, yield expectations, relationship, etc. These are generally similar issues a large enterprise must consider, but I'd say more "elastic" with smaller growers. The beekeeper must consider time/labour required, available colonies (related to winter loss), pesticide use, change in honey production, distance and access to yard, price of honey etc. Such consideration usually means the grower and beekeeper come to a specific agreement that works for them (i.e. what the market will bear). Going forward, recommended pollination fees, like there is for honey house honey, could be developed if industry is interested to move in this direction. There are generally less than 10,000 acres of birdsfoot trefoil in the province.

For blueberry, most production is generally toward the coasts (B.C., Ontario & east) in Canada currently. Some years ago we were contacted by a company looking for honey bee colonies to rent from Manitoba for placement on blueberry fields in northern New Brunswick in June. The company attended the annual MBA Convention tradeshow that year and I believe advertised in the industry newsletters. From beekeepers I heard concerns certainly about the significant distance their bees would need to travel (to New Brunswick) and back. Rental fees, inspection and colony strength requirements were discussed at that time, but I'm not sure of current numbers. More recently it sounds like colonies were bought out of Manitoba to ultimately be used for custom blueberry pollination out east, so we continue to be impacted to some extent by this industry.

There's no doubt that pollination by honey bees is incredibly valuable! I hope to build my understanding of wild insect pollinators on different crops as well. Natural populations of insects that visit flowers and transfer pollen are also very important and economically valuable, and minimizing impact on these bodes well for managed honey bees, and vice verse. If you have any questions please contact David (204-945-3861).



Honey bee on clover, bumble bee on strawberry, and hover fly on canola (from left to right). (Photos by David Ostermann)



MASC Changes Definitions

Jim Campbell, for Safety Net Committee

MBA representatives met with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) representatives recently, via conference call, to review the over-winter Bee Mortality Insurance program.

In reviewing their 2013-14 **winter bee mortality** results during the June Conference Call, MASC program development staff indicated significant payouts of about \$1.2 Million were incurred. The level of compensation exceeded \$1.9M for 2012-13, and thus the insurance definitions were being reconsidered.

Program staff suggested aligning colony definitions with those of Saskatchewan. They suggested recommending their board define a weak colony as 3-4 frames (vs 3-6) and a strong colony to 5 or more (vs 7 frames). Al Campbell, MBA President from Dauphin, confirmed a frame was still defined as being bees and/or brood. He also noted commercial operators would likely shake out weak colonies rather than try to make up a strong colony. Rhéal Lafreniere, MAFRD, noted still awaiting results of winter loss survey, thus couldn't compare data with MASC at this time.

As the new definitions were consistent to those in Saskatchewan, MBA felt the changes would still help the industry while enabling continuation of the insurance program. Program staff confirmed they would take the recommendations to MASC board for approval.

MEDIA RELEASE

June 20, 2014
For Immediate Release



Tom Van Arsdall TVA@pollinator.org 703.509.4746
Laurie Davies Adams LDA@pollinator.org 415.362.1137

Pollinator Week 2014 Culminates in Presidential Memorandum *Leaders across the Nation Mobilize for Pollinators*

The **White House** today announced the first comprehensive pollinator initiative ever created across the federal government. This morning **President Barack Obama** signed a **Presidential Memorandum** to bring federal actions to the pollinator issue that will provide increased collaboration, solid science, practical management, and essential research goals. The Presidential Memorandum works through coordinated efforts will increase efficiencies and effectiveness. The **Pollinator Partnership** acted as a resource to the White House for many months as the White House Executive Office brought stakeholders together and canvassed federal departments and agencies. Among the directives in the memorandum are actions increasing forage on federal lands, assessing the effects of pesticides including neonicotinoids, including native seeds in post-fire restoration, landscaping federal facilities for pollinators, educating the public about pollinators, and more. All details are at http://pollinator.org/PR_whitehouse.htm.



(Official White House photo by Pete Souza)



For the Pollinator Partnership, the memorandum is the result of a nearly 20-year campaign to increase awareness and action for honey bees and other pollinators and marks a new dawn of wise land management across the country. The Presidential Memorandum is a first for comprehensive terrestrial conservation and for pollinators – it demonstrates real leadership on the part of the President and his science team. Importantly, President Obama is joined in supporting pollinators by the bi-partisan list of **45 governors** who have signed proclamations for **National Pollinator Week** supported by millions of constituents across the country who care about this issue. **Pollinator Partnership's Executive Director, Laurie Davies Adams**, noted "This Presidential action shows visionary leadership and offers practical measures that will help pollinators now; it is a triumph for people, plants and pollinators."

Details about the Presidential Memorandum are being shared today at a Pollinator Briefing in Washington, DC organized by the Pollinator Partnership in collaboration with the **Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus (CP2C)** headed by of **Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)** and **Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA)**, co-chairs of CP2C. The briefing features **Dr. Anne Kinsinger, US Geological Survey**, **Earl Stewart, U.S. Forest Service** and Laurie Davies Adams, discussing the Presidential Memorandum and public-private efforts to support pollinators. Adams introduced the newly-formed **Business for Bees**, a collaboration to support pollinators that brings "business know-how" to cooperative conservation and includes **Toyota North America, the Boeing Company, General Mills, Greif, Burt's Bees**, among others. See <http://pollinator.org/bizforbees.htm> for details.

Also discussed at the briefing will be the **Highways BEE Act** (www.pollinator.org/BEEAct.htm), introduced by Reps. Denham and Hastings will be discussed. The briefing will connect hundreds of Congressional staff members and help them understand and recognize the importance of pollinators to our world. They will hear first-hand about the efforts that the federal government has planned.

There will be an informational break following the Congressional Briefing featuring **Burt's Bees Lip Balm** and **Häagen Dazs** ice cream – perfect pollinated products to cap Pollinator Week in the Capitol, where the nation's leaders are responding to the needs of pollinators with comprehensive and meaningful actions.

Pollinator Week has grown exponentially in scope each year since its inception in 2007. This year, **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, and 45 governors** designated June 16-22 through proclamations—the most ever—as a week to celebrate and protect the nation's pollinating animals. A complete list and scanned versions of the proclamations are available at http://pollinator.org/npw_events.htm. “It is really satisfying to see how many individuals in every state got involved in this project,” commented **Kelly Rourke** of the **Pollinator Partnership**, who coordinated the campaign to engage states.

Pollinators, like bees, butterflies, birds and other animals, bring us one in every three bites of food and maintain our environment. Pollinators are responsible for about \$16 billion in U.S. agricultural production and world-wide human food production at \$190 billion. Pollinators form the underpinning of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but have shown disturbing signs of decline. Efforts during Pollinator Week, and indeed year-round, are working to reverse and prevent pollinator declines. **Sunny Boyd**, of the **Pollinator Partnership** remarked “Our steady drumbeat through the years has brought understanding and commitment across the country on a local as well as a national level. Pollinator Week helps to increase the discussion of all the issues, from community beekeeping regulations to the elimination of the impacts of pesticides on pollinators.”

###

ABOUT THE POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP (P2)

Established in 1997, the Pollinator Partnership is the largest 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to the health, protection, and conservation of all pollinating animals. Pollinator Partnership's actions for pollinators include education, conservation, restoration, policy, and research. P2's financial support comes through grants, gifts, memberships and donations from any interested party. Its policies are science-based, set by its board of directors, and never influenced by any donor. To make a donation, or for information on events during Pollinator Week, visit www.pollinator.org.

Notes and Reminders:

Advance Payment for Crops is available for Honey by contacting Manitoba Corn Growers at 1-877-598-5685 or 204-745-6661.

Stored Honey advance based on \$0.90/lb. See www.manitobacorn.ca



- * **Honey Days promotion, Friday to Saturday 26-28 September, 2014, at Forks Market, Winnipeg. Starts 9:00 a.m. each day**
- * **MBA Annual Meeting, Wed 12 November 2014, Neepawa United Church, Neepawa. Starts at 10:00 a.m.**
- * **Beekeepers Symposium, February 27-28, 2015, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

Bee Health Survey Samples Sought

Jim Campbell, for Research Committee

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) is working in co-operation with the National Bee Diagnostic Centre in Alberta on a National Study called *Honey Bee Health Surveillance in Canada*.

The national four-year survey is aimed at determining the profile of various Diseases, Viruses, Pests, Pathogens, Parasites and Other Environmental Factors



affecting Honey Bee Health. The purpose is initially to determine a baseline of what the disease, pest and parasite profile is, and if there are regional commonalities and differences, and ultimately, to also look at what residues are present in hives.

The application for Growing Forward 2 funding just received Minister Ritz's signature, and now awaits contract signing. The application was prepared by Alberta Beekeepers Commission (ABC), who will be responsible for the accounting and results of the study. Dr. Carlos Castillo, Manager of the Grande Prairie Regional Colleges' National Bee Diagnostic Centre (NBDC) is heading up the data collection, analysis, and report summarization. MBA is also working with MAFRD on this survey.

Initially, the survey will seek bee samples from across Alberta and Manitoba from producers with over 100 colonies for the study duration. MBA requests producers' assistance in contributing bee samples when contacted later this year. Samples will be sought from about 40 beekeepers across Manitoba, and collected prior to any fall treatments being applied. To remain at arms' length during the survey, MBA recommended Daryl Wright, one of the Provinces' Bee Surveillance staff, to work with NBDC and Producers to collect samples and establish a process whereby NBDC could communicate directly with individuals should this be necessary.

The second year will include samples from British Columbia and Saskatchewan, as well as from Alberta and Manitoba. The third and fourth years will expand to include collections from Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces. This plan will make this the first national survey conducted with identical protocols. Some provinces have previously conducted a multi-year survey, yet there hasn't been one done for all provinces.

MBA is involved in research funding for this survey as we have been committed to the theme "Health Bees- Healthy Hives- Healthy Honey" since identifying this priority in the Strategic Plan several years back. Members have expressed concern for the health of bees and its' implications for winter survival. The past few Symposiums have responded to the concern by inviting speakers to provide some direction for the industry. This survey will merely assist in this overall quest. In addition, reports indicate Australia is now conducting a similar survey of this nature.

Specific details of the sampling requirements will be identified to those volunteering to participate. In the interim, there are three basic parts to the survey. A quarter cup of live bees, another quarter cup of alcohol preserved bees, and a third sample collected by trained staff by knocking debris from a frame.

The plan is for the survey to begin later this year, so if you are willing to become a participant, please contact Daryl directly at d.l.wright@shaw.ca NBDC will be seeking producers from all across the province.

Australian wholesaler stung with \$30,000 fine for fake honey

An Australian supplier of Mediterranean and Turkish food products has been stung with a \$30,600 fine for misrepresenting its "Victoria Honey" product, which is neither derived from bees nor made in Victoria.

The ACCC found Melbourne-based distributor Basfoods to have made misrepresentations on its product labelling and its website that suggested its "Victoria Honey" was produced by honey bees, when it was mainly comprised of sugars from plants including corn and sugar cane.

The watchdog also considered by naming and labelling its product "Victoria Honey", Basfoods had represented the product as originating from Victoria, Australia when in fact it was a product of Turkey.



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Honey Bee Losses – Survey 2013-14

Rhéal Lafrenière
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

It was starting to look like the winter of 2013-14 was going to be a repeat of the previous winter “long & cold”. The exception being that the pollen foraging conditions in the fall of 2013 were much better than fall 2012. In 2013, there was ample pollen late into the season to allow the colonies to produce the necessary “winter bees” (a.k.a. fat bees) that have a longer lifespan and capable of living beyond the winter months. These “winter bees” are necessary to allow the colony to successfully repopulate the following spring. Whereas in 2012, the early spring combined with extremely dry conditions during the summer caused a premature shutdown of pollen in the late summer, thus creating a pollen dearth at the time when “winter bees” would have normally been produced (i.e. September and October bees).

In terms of winter losses, 2013-14 appears to be a lot closer to normal than 2012-13, where average winter loss, including spring culls was calculated to be 46.4%. This winter the average winter loss including spring culls was 23.9%. This calculation was based on the sixty-three replies we received back from the mailed-out survey. In terms of number of colonies represented in the calculation, we usually get about 50 - 60% of the colonies represented in the survey results, and this year we were at 50.5%. Given the lower response from some regions, the data from Winnipeg was added to the Central region dataset and Eastern and Interlake regions were combined into one region.

Table 1 is a summary of the average losses by region as well as the differences between full hive and nucs as well as the loss incurred during winter compared to spring.

Region(s)	Full Hives	Nuc Hives	Total Hives	Winter Mortality	Spring Mortality
Central and Winnipeg	16.1%	9.0%	14.9%	9.3%	4.5%
Northwest	36.1%	26.9%	35.0%	24.1%	8.6%
Southeast and Interlake	15.1%	60.6%	17.8%	11.5%	6.9%
Southwest	17.2%	8.1%	15.8%	10.0%	7.1%
TOTAL	27.1%	20.6%	23.9%	16.5%	7.5%

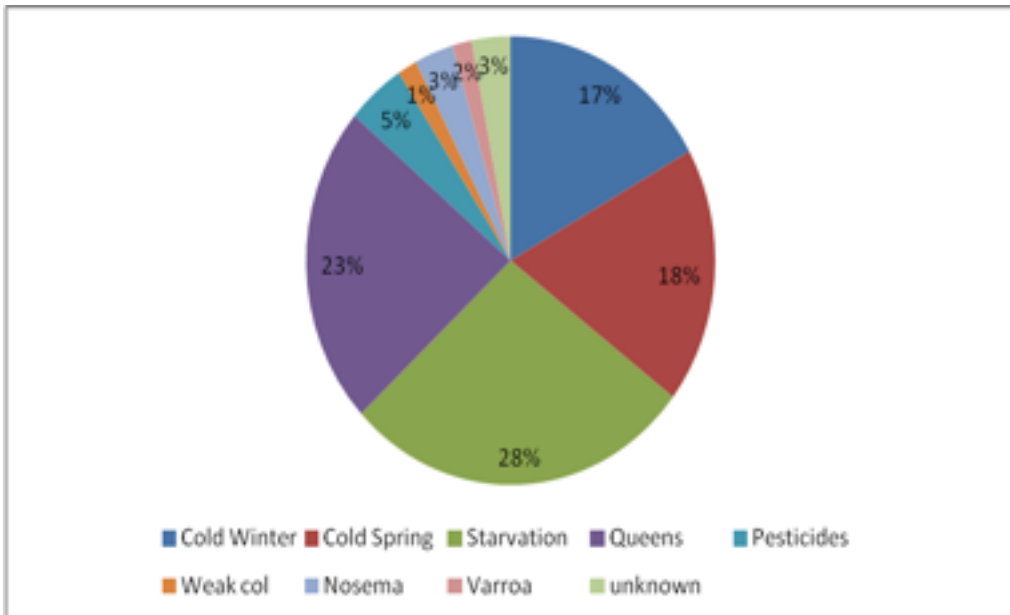
Table 1: Manitoba Average Losses – Results from Mail-out Survey 2013-14 (by Region)

In most case the average losses in nucs was lower than in full hives with the exception of the Southeast-Interlake region where one beekeeper lost 90% of the nucs put into winter, which strongly influence the results. The majority of the regions actually report losses less than 20%. The exception being the Northwest region with an average loss of 35%. There was a substantial amount of variability in all of the regions but once again the Northwest region had that highest amount of variability.

Figure 1 is a breakdown of the most commonly reported top three suspected causes contributing to the losses. In general the top three suspected causes of mortality reported by beekeepers with low losses typically identified queen problems and starvation as the leading causes of mortality. Whereas beekeepers that suffered high losses typically reported cold winter and spring as well as nosema as the leading suspected causes of the mortality.


Figure 1. Ranking of reported multiple choice suspected causes contributing to bee mortality over winter, based on percentage of frequency of response.

Outside of the survey some of the reasons for the higher losses in the Northwest region appear to be related to the high concentration of Fall aster honey in the in many of the deadouts. This honey has been reported by many beekeepers as poor feed for wintering bees on. Dr. Currie at the U of M ran a bioassay on the feed and the rate of



mortality in the Fall aster trial was almost twice as fast as the control and 100% mortality was achieved by day 7 compared to only 50% mortality in the control. Bees die in bioassays so the fact that it only took 7 days for all the bees to die does not mean that the colony would die in the same length of time, but it does mean that the rate of mortality is accelerated, which substantiates the claim that it is not a good winter feed. At the time of this article we were still waiting for the pollen analysis in the honey to identifying all of the plants associated with honey known as Fall aster.






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Manitoba Beekeepers' Association 2014

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Ag Minister Consultations

By Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

A breakfast consultation meeting was held in early July in preparation for a Federal / Provincial / Territorial Ministers of Agriculture meeting later in the month.

Over 30 people, including agriculture representatives from 20 commodity, organization, industry, and food processing groups participated in consultations with Honourable Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Development on 9 July 2014 at the Legislative Building in Winnipeg. The Minister stressed the importance and value of a consultation session. He noted the Federal /Provincial /Territorial Ministers will meet in Winnipeg from July 16-19, 2014. Meeting topics include key challenges and opportunities impacting the sector in the medium and long term, innovation and infrastructure, grain transportation, variety registration, regulatory modernization, business risk management programs, emergency management, and international strategy and trade. There is to be a discussion on current issues and opportunities such as organic development, labour, bees, animal diseases, and water management.

Mike Lesiuk, MAFRD, emphasized the need to look at what elements were working and what improvements were desired. The roundtable discussion was aimed at items including the Future of Agriculture, Innovation, Insurance and Business Risk Management (BRM) Review, Regulatory Modernization, Trade Strategies, and Varietal Registration. Attendees were to identify challenges and opportunities impacting their sector in both the medium and long term.

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) advised Temporary Foreign Workers are an important element in the success of the industry. Availability of temporary help is crucial to survivability thus easier access is needed. Secondly, under BRM, winter mortality insurance has been welcomed. For the future, a production insurance plan could be considered. Thirdly, under Growing Forward 2, the Competitive component (Bee Health) provided quality speakers for our industry. For the future, the application approval process needs to be speeded up plus more funding options needed.



MBA also noted the quest for livestock from California has been met with opposition from all other provinces. As well, MBA is actively collaborating with Corn and Canola groups to monitor neonics while letting PMRA do their evaluations. Although sympathizing with Ontario and Quebec, members are not seeking restrictions for Manitoba.



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MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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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.

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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** \$ _____

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Please return this completed application together with payment to:
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c/o Hilary Stewart, MBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 192 Baldur, MB, R0K 0B0

Ver dec13

Collaboration Continues

Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary



Manitoba Beekeepers' Association board continues to monitor the concern for neonicotinoids and its impacts.

The board is aware Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is conducting studies on neonic impact on honey bees. Their studies were initiated by the difficulties originally experienced in Ontario and Quebec. In Manitoba, the plan was to sample bees before, during, and after the 2014 corn-planting season. Results are pending.

In April, members of MBA met with the Manitoba Corn Growers board, in Carman, to confirm willingness to work together on this issue. Collaborations continue, and so far there have not been any issues identified to the board. Both boards await the results of PMRA investigations and analysis in Manitoba. Meanwhile Corn Growers staff are developing information material for their members and MBA has posted a Management Reminder in the last issue of Manitoba Beekeeper. Both of these communiqués emphasize the need to communicate.

Along the vein of communicating, an ad hoc meeting took place in Winnipeg, in April between MBA and Canola groups. During this meeting, the need for co-operating and collaborating was emphasized. The Canadian Canola Council has developed several videos, in co-operation with Canadian Honey Council, reflecting the benefit of the two industries working together for mutual benefit. Check videos at <http://www.canolacouncil.org/media/video-gallery/bees-and-canola/>

June 2014 Honey Report

The geo-political tensions between: 1. Ukraine and Russia, 2. Vietnam and China, and 3. Different sects within Iraq add a dimension of uncertainty to currency valuations and economic stability, which were unanticipated as 2014 began.

The Vietnamese honey crop is darker than usual. Honey that was typically 70-85mm in color is ranging 80-100 mm. Given the overall international shortage of honey, the demand on Vietnamese honey is great but supplies are tight. For each of the past 6 weeks prices in the field for Vietnamese LA and Amber honey have been rising and export prices for limited quantities are rising correspondingly. The gap for prices of white, ELA, LA and Amber honey continue to narrow. But the fundamental issue has become getting Vietnamese honey.

Recent industry meetings with a variety of US government agencies are addressing the needs to: 1) continue to be vigilant to prevent circumvention in new forms, and 2) establish reasonable tolerance levels and meaningful testing limits for honey as the international agricultural community needs to find more effective and realistic ways to protect the health of humans and the health of the crops and bees upon which human health depends. The need within an increasingly globally integrated and interdependent economy to harmonize standards, data bases, tolerance levels and testing limits and procedures is increasingly transparent. Such an imperative is mandated by the World Trade Organization and the Free Trade Agreements under negotiation. The Mythology of Ultra-Purity, like other myths, is collapsing. The need for establishing scientifically sound standards, based upon Average Daily Intake (ADI) is becoming clearer to all segments of the international honey industry including producers and packers, exporters and importers.

It remains very difficult to get 40mm and 50mm Argentine honey, and even more difficult to obtain 25mm and 34mm. As consumption is slower in July and August, the immediate focus is to secure white honey as it becomes available. This is compounded as meteorologists report the development of the El Nino in the Pacific which could affect the next Argentine, Uruguayan and Chilean crops.

At present, in the U.S. the Dakotas report the bees are in excellent condition, the soil has good moisture and clover bloom is abundant. Nonetheless, beekeepers remind us that “farmers are always optimistic in the Spring” and it is wise not to sell honey before it is in the barrel.

As I reported previously, there are problems with honey production in Eastern Europe:

“Here in Hungary and Eastern Europe the blooming period of the main honey plant (acacia) is completed. During the middle of the bloom of the acacia trees a cyclone hit with winds of 120 kilometers/hour and cool temperatures prevailed. High winds persisted for a week and the total yield of the prized acacia crop fell to only 20-30% of the average yearly crop. This occurred as well in Slovenia, Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria. As a consequence the prices of honey from eastern Europe have attained historic highs. Prior to the bloom of the acacia trees, the average yields of rape honey were between 22 and 35 lbs./hive, depending on the specific region.

The inventories of honey from both European beekeepers and packers are exhausted as the 2013 crop has been sold and used.”

Ron

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CHC Report

Summer 2014

By Bryan Ash, CHC
Director



The Biosecurity and Traceability manual for the Honey industry is one more step to completion. The agri-marketing project although delayed somewhat is nicely positioned for a streamlined effort to develop an educational program for beekeepers. At the Beaverlodge Alberta Field Day in June, the Federal Government announced funding of over \$340,000 to the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) to enhance food safety and biosecurity standards for beekeeping. As CHC recently updated its Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality (CBISQT) program, this investment will allow them to develop various communication, training and outreach materials that will help Canadian beekeepers access the information and tools needed to maintain high standards for food safety and bee biosecurity within their beekeeping operations. This permits CHC to proceed with translation and publication.

I am pleased to hear there have been about a third as many bee deaths during corn planting this year as compared to last. In Ontario, there have been about 137 incident reports from 41 beekeepers. Of those, there were about 90 planting and post planting reports from 39 beekeepers. It would appear that the intensity of bee deaths from the reports were substantial lower. In addition, there have been 9 incident reports submitted from Quebec and 2 from Manitoba. Testing results are still unavailable. PMRA is still working on a detailed report from last year and will add it to the website hopefully in the next couple of weeks

Work is continuing on putting actions in place for the Canadian National Bee Health workshop/roundtable. The first meeting was held in March in Ottawa, with both industry and government represented. CHC is co-chairing the sessions. The initial group agreed to continue to meet in a collaborative manner within a year.

Canadian Honey Council and Canadian Canola Council have been collaborating on Bee Health and Industry Relationships. The result is a series of videos, with the underlying theme emphasizing the need to communicate with each other for mutual benefit. Have a look at what's been put together for both consumer and farmer groups. Videos can be viewed at:

<http://www.canolacouncil.org/media/video-gallery/bees-and-canola/>

Canadian Honey Council has been requested to review a couple of Regulatory Modernization documents prepared by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The two documents are a) Draft Compliance Promotion Strategy (i.e. Program Information) and b) Draft Compliance, Control and Enforcement Framework (i.e. Inspection). Comments are to be provided by October 31, 2014

On an international level, Canadian Honey Council has joined a new Honey Bee Health Coalition, as announced by The Keystone Center, an independent, non-profit organization, in Keystone, CO, USA, on 18 June 2014. The Honey Bee Health Coalition brings together beekeepers, growers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, conservation groups, manufacturers and brands, and other key partners in Canada and USA to improve the health of honey bees and other pollinators. The Coalition is focusing on accelerating collective impact to improve honey bee health in four key areas: forage and nutrition, hive management, crop pest management, and communications, outreach and education.



Harper Government Invests in Biosecurity and Food Safety for the Bee Sector

BEAVERLODGE, ALBERTA--(Marketwired - June 20, 2014) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Member of Parliament Chris Warkentin (Peace River), on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, today attended the 61st Annual Beekeepers' Field Day at the Beaverlodge Research Farm and announced an investment of over \$340,000 to the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) to enhance food safety and biosecurity standards for beekeeping.

The CHC recently updated its Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality program, and this investment will allow them to develop various communication, training and outreach materials that will help Canadian beekeepers access the information and tools needed to maintain high standards for food safety and bee biosecurity within their beekeeping operations.

Quick Facts

- Formed in 1940 as the Canadian Beekeepers Council, the CHC assists in negotiating fair practices for labeling, grading, and marketing honey at the national level.
- Honeybees are vital for the pollination of fruit, vegetables and hybrid canola seed. The value of honeybees to pollination of crops is estimated at over \$2 billion annually.
- Canada produces 75 million pounds of honey annually, half of which is exported.
- This investment is made through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriMarketing Program, a five-year, \$341-million initiative under *Growing Forward 2*.

Quotes

"A healthy bee population means a healthy agriculture sector, and our government is pleased to support projects that safeguard our bees and contribute to a healthy ecosystem. Bees are also critical to our economy, as honey continues to be a valuable Canadian export."

- Member of Parliament Chris Warkentin

"We are extremely pleased that the Government of Canada has continued to recognize the importance of food safety and biosecurity. This grant will ensure that beekeepers across Canada will have access to information and programming that addresses consumers' growing awareness of food safety issues."

- Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, Canadian Honey Council

Emily Hogeveen, Press Secretary, Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, 613-773-1059

Media Relations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 613-773-7972, 1-866-345-7972

Read more: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/2004317#ixzz375QAO6EM>

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Bee Maid Honey Limited Awards Two Fiftieth Anniversary Scholarships

Western Canada's largest honey packer awards Scholarships to Manitoba and Alberta students

Winnipeg, MB June 11, 2014 - Bee Maid Honey Limited recently awarded two \$1000 scholarships to deserving students. The Bee Maid Fiftieth Anniversary Scholarship was created in 2004 to commemorate the formation of Bee Maid Honey Limited in 1954. The annual Scholarship is designed to stimulate the pursuit of excellence by rewarding outstanding achievement by the children and grandchildren of Bee Maid's co-op members and staff as they enter post-secondary study.

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

The scholarship awards are testament to Bee Maid Honey's commitment to its members and staff. The Scholarship committee is pleased to announce that the 2014 recipients are Sydney Paulson and Robyn Termeer. Sydney, a resident of Nesbitt, Manitoba, is graduating from Boissevain School and is entering University One at the University of Manitoba with hopes of attaining a Bachelor of Nursing Degree. The subject of her essay was Honey Food Safety and Quality.

Robyn Termeer, originally from Grand Prairie, Alberta has her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She is currently registered at the University of British Columbia in the after degree Education program, as she wants to become a secondary art teacher. Robyn's essay "Bee Safe: Ensuring Quality Honey from the Hive to the Home" explored the safety and quality measures taken during the production of honey.

Those interested in reading their winning essays can visit www.beemaid.com, clicking About Bee Maid and selecting Press News Archive.

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

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

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E-mail: flash@mts.net (Bus) 548-2036 ext2,1

KAP Delegate: Allan Campbell (same info as above)

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2014 Manitoba Beekeepers Association

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Some of the control methodologies that are employed will involve the use of control products including Chlorpyrifos®, Methoprene®, Permethrin®, Pyrocide®, and Malathion®. However, to protect bees from potential toxic effects of these control products, a 300 metre pesticide free radius will be provided around all registered honeybee and leafcutter bee colonies. Beekeepers are encouraged to participate in this program by advising the Insect Control Branch of bee locations.

The only allowable exception to this spray policy will involve the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (Bti) or *Bacillus sphaericus*, which are considered non-toxic to bees.

For further information, please **call 311 or write to the Insect Control Branch, 3 Grey St., Winnipeg, MB, R2L 1V2.** An appointment can be arranged with Insect Control staff to properly map beehive locations, ensuring appropriate buffer zones around your colonies.

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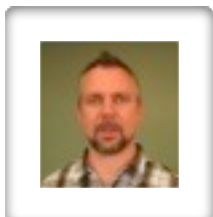
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PRESIDENTS REPORT Summer, 2014

Allan Campbell

“No Report at this time”



Sympathies go out to Sharon Lockhart, (and other members of the Lockhart families), on the accidental death of her husband Jim, on Wed 16 July, in a truck collision just South of Baldur.





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