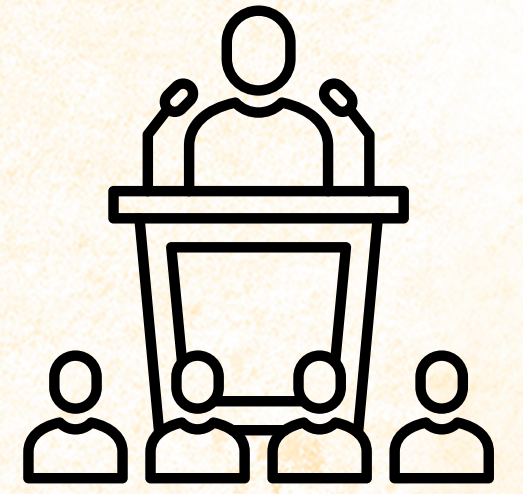




Manitoba
Beekeepers'
Association

2024 | 118th Annual Convention



Meet The Speakers



Dr. Rob Currie | University of Manitoba

Rob Currie is a Professor and former Department Head in the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba. He teaches a wide range of courses in the Diploma, Degree and Graduate programs within the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. These courses have included, an online and in-person course on beekeeping, Pollination Biology, Pest Management and Farm Insects, Physiological Ecology of Insects, World of Bugs, Advanced Entomology and Advanced Pollination Biology. His research interests focus on issues related to the biology and management of bees (honey bees, leafcutting bees and native pollinators) and the crops that they pollinate. A major focus of his research relates to how parasites, disease and other stressors such as nutrition interact to bee health and winter survival of honey bees.

University of British Columbia | Dr. Leonard Foster

Dr. Leonard Foster is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Dr. Foster comes from a family of beekeepers and got his introduction to academic bee research at Simon Fraser University while doing his Bachelor's degree in biochemistry – at SFU he worked with Drs. Winston and Slessor on honey bee pheromones, particularly the components of queen mandibular pheromone. He then did a Ph.D in Toronto a post-doctoral studies in Denmark before starting his current position in 2005. The first independent operating grant that Dr. Foster secured was to study how bee pathogens were able to manipulate the protein machinery within bee cells. Since that time he has led three very large-scale projects that have investigated some of the molecular mechanisms behind disease resistance in bees. This effort has recently moved into trying to apply this knowledge by using the information they have learned to guide selective breeding for hygienic behavior in honey bees. He is very active in extension and frequently engages the public on various aspects of honey bee biology. He currently lives in Richmond and keeps bees himself.



Cory Stevens | Queen Breeder

Cory Stevens comes to us from his 27 acre farm in Bloomfield, Missouri; which he manages for wildlife and pollinator habitat. Cory and his wife Jaime own Stevens Bee Company where they have selected a VSH line of bees they call "Missouri Mite Hunters." Cory is a Past President of Missouri State Beekeepers Association. He was certified as a Master Beekeeper by the Eastern Apicultural Society in 2013, and earned a MS in entomology from University of Nebraska - Lincoln. He was trained by Sue Cobey in 2014 to instrumentally inseminate queen bees. Cory slips bees into random conversation with strangers, and annoys his wife by constantly talking about bees.



University of Alberta | Dr. Rassol Bahreini

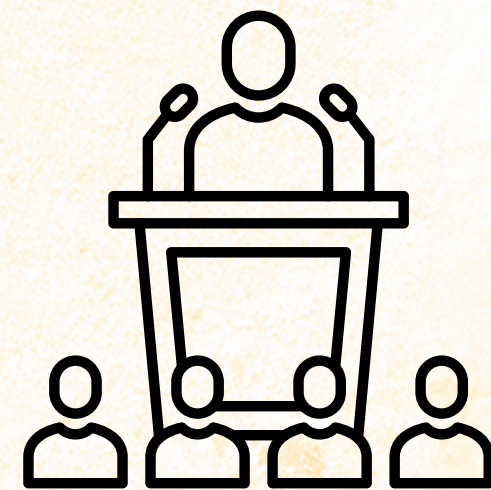
Dr. Rassol Bahreini is a Senior researcher at the University of Alberta. He has received his PhD in Entomology from the University of Manitoba (2015) at Dr. Rob Currie's lab. In his previous positions, as an Apiculture Research Scientist at the Animal Science Research Institute-Iran, and Alberta Agricultural and Forestry-Canada, he carried out many studies of honey bee biology, control of parasites and pathogens, integrated pest management, honey bee toxicology, and studies of Varroacides. In addition to teaching graduate and undergraduate students, his extension activities encouraged beekeepers to adopt new and improved methods of honey bee IPM to manage pests and diseases, using a variety of methods. His recent projects are focused on new miticides and antibiotics to assist producers in solving challenges related to honey bee parasites and diseases, and exploring miticides resistance evolution in Varroa mites.





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Dr. Stephen Pernal | AAFC Beaverlodge, AB

Dr. Steve Pernal received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Manitoba and was a postdoctoral fellow at Simon Fraser University. Since 2001, he has been employed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as a Research Scientist in Beaverlodge, Alberta where he leads Canada's federal apiculture research program and also serves as Officer-in-Charge.

Dr. Pernal's doctoral work concentrated on honey bee nutrition and the influence of pollen quality on foraging strategies in honey bees. Since 2001, he has been a Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where he leads a national honey bee research program. His work has focused on the detection and management of honey bee diseases and parasites, the detection of antibiotic and pesticide residues in hive products, and the development of markers for breeding resistance to diseases and the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*. He previously served as President of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, and is a member of several national and international advisory committees. Dr. Pernal was the Scientific Program Chair of the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress (2019).

University of Saskatchewan | Dr. Sarah Wood

Dr. Sarah Wood, MSc, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Research Chair in Pollinator Health, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Sarah grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan, studied veterinary medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, and practiced as a small animal veterinarian and a diagnostic veterinary pathologist. She never expected that one day she would find her 'dream job' as the first veterinary Research Chair in Pollinator Health in North America, a position made possible by support from SaskCanola, Manitoba Canola Growers, the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission, BASF, and the British Columbia Blueberry Council.

Sarah's current areas of research include infectious disease and toxicology of honey bees and the role of pollinators in sustainable agriculture.



Derek Micholson | Provincial Apiarist, Manitoba Agriculture

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Derek Micholson began working with honey bees as a summer student in Dr. Rob Currie's Bee Lab at the University of Manitoba, where he continued to work as a full-time research technician and later completed an MSc in Entomology focused on honey bee grooming behaviour.

Derek also worked part-time for many years as honey bee and leafcutting bee inspector and was the first Program Lead of the Knowledge & Research Transfer Program (K RTP) at its inception in 2021. In October 2022, Derek was hired as Provincial Apiarist for Manitoba.

Penn State of University | Dr. Robyn Underwood

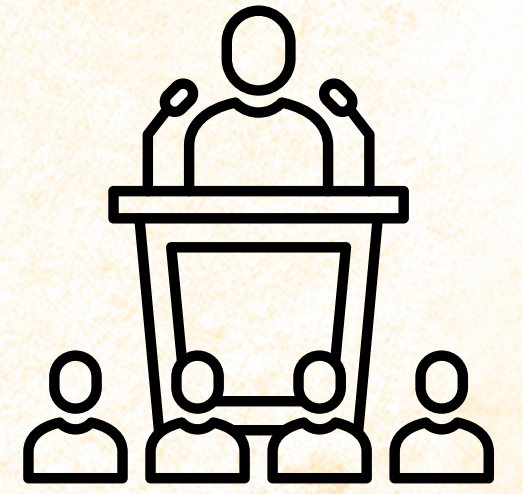
Dr. Robyn Underwood received her BSc in Entomology and Applied Ecology from the University of Delaware and her PhD in Entomology from the University of Manitoba. As Penn State's Extension Educator of Apiculture, she conducts scientific research projects to study beekeeper-applied questions and brings the results of the projects to the beekeepers through extension products with an aim to improve the industry while making beekeeping a more successful venture. Her research program focuses on honey bee health and practical beekeeping considerations. Specifically, she is studying the impacts of honey bee colony management and queen origin on colony health and productivity. Her ongoing projects include experiments that assess the foraging of honey bees on organic farms, performance of honey bee queens from various genetic lines, and how different types of feed impact honey bee health. Her research and extension aspirations work hand in hand. Conducting scientifically sound research projects to study beekeeper-applied questions is critically important.





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Dr. Shelley Hoover | University of Lethbridge

Dr. Shelley Hoover is an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Lethbridge, in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Her research focuses on honey bee health and management, queen production and breeding, and nutrition, as well as canola pollination. Previously, Shelley was the head of the Apiculture Program for the Province of Alberta and has held Research Associate positions at the Universities of Lethbridge, Canterbury (Christchurch, NZ) and British Columbia (Vancouver and Beaverlodge, Canada). She completed her PhD on honey bee worker ovary development, nutrition, and behaviour at Simon Fraser University. Shelley is also the past President of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists and Entomological Society of Alberta.

University of Saskatchewan | Dr. Elemir Simko

Dr. Elemir Simko has been a professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Saskatchewan since 1998. His research interest is in pathogenesis of diseases of domestic animals. He has received four awards for teaching excellence and three awards for research excellence over past 15 years.

Eight years ago, together with Sarah Wood and Ivanna Kozii they established Honey Bee Health Research and Teaching Program at the UofS. The value of this program was recognized by industry partners (canola and blueberry growers, beekeepers, BASF, etc) that secured funding and established the UofS Research Chair Program in Pollinator Health lead by Dr. Sarah Wood since July 2022.



Matthew Polinsky | KRTP (MB Tech Transfer Program)

Matthew Polinsky is the Program Lead of the Manitoba Knowledge and Research Transfer Program (KRTP). He has been working in apiculture for 15 years; mainly in commercial operations in Saskatchewan, New Zealand, and Australia, as well as in the urban beekeeping community in Montreal. Before joining the KRTP he contributed to Canadian honey bee research as a research assistant via UBC and Agriculture & Agri-food Canada. Matthew is a 3rd generation beekeeper originally from Saskatchewan and is a graduate of Concordia University with degrees in Geography (BA Hons.) and English Literature (BA).

Dalan Animal Health | Amy Floyd

Amy Floyd is the Regional Manager and Beekeeper Relations Specialist at Dalan Animal Health, having worked for Dalan for almost 2 years and with the vaccine for 4. Prior to working for Dalan, she worked for the USDA-ARS at the honey bee research labs in Tucson, AZ and Davis, CA studying honey bee nutrition & pathogens and toxins respectively. Amy also manages her own hives that she moves between the Sonoran Desert in Tucson and the ponderosa pine forest in Flagstaff, AZ. She can usually be found in Flagstaff or somewhere in the western US traveling in her self-built camper van with her dog, Miles.

