## MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



Summer 2024 Volume 19 Issue 3

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**Newsletter Editor** 

Dan Lecocq

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www.manitobabee.org

## Kemnay Queens

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## **MBA Chairperson's Summer Report**



As we dive into the bustling season of honey flow, I want to update you on the latest developments and decisions made by our

Before delving into the business at hand, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Daryl Wright's retirement as our long-time secretary. Daryl has been instrumental in steering our association through his dedicated management and invaluable industry insights. His departure leaves a notable void, but I'm optimistic (twist his arm) that we can continue to benefit from his guidance into the future on the KRTP steering committee. Please refer to the newsletter for details regarding Daryl's position and consider applying or nominating qualified candidates.

#### **Business Updates:**

- 1. Code of Conduct Document: The board has unanimously agreed to circulate the Manitoba Code of Practice document to all MBA members. This document serves as a comprehensive guide for beekeepers, emphasizing education and best management practices crucial for maintaining harmonious relationships within our industry.
- 2. Manitoba Honey Bee Day: We've officially recognized May 29th, 2024, as Manitoba Honey Bee Day. Michael Clark's efforts in promoting this event garnered significant media attention, with the Minister of Agriculture, Ron Kostyshyn, attending and granting official provincial proclamation. This recognition is a testament to our industry's growing influence and importance.
- 3. Beekeeping Field Day: On June 22nd, we hosted a successful Beekeeping Field Day at Mery Malyon's Kemnay Apiaries. The event featured engaging presentations and a detailed queen rearing workshop, thanks to Merv's hospitality and expertise. Such events foster camaraderie and knowledge-sharing among our members.
- 4. MASC Wildlife Compensation Program: Following discussions with the MASC board, we've advanced our efforts to include honey loss in the Wildlife Compensation Program. This initiative aims to mitigate losses based on colony size and seasonal averages, providing a crucial safety net for our beekeepers.
- Over Winter Bee Mortality Program: Our Safety Net Committee met with the MASC board to review and enhance the Over Winter Bee Mortality Program. Topics such as premium affordability, coverage options, and spring assessment timing were thoroughly discussed. We continue to advocate for compensation for bear damage and participation in the Livestock Predation Prevention Program (bear fence cost recovery).
- 6. Director Participation: All MBA directors have pledged to disclose their particiapation in apiculture-related organizations, adhering to our updated bylaws to ensure transparency and integrity in decision-making.



7. Industry Concerns: We are closely monitoring CFIA's Animal Health Risk Assessment on California package bees, which was expected by June's end. Delays have been noted, and we're actively engaging with authorities to address concerns over Small Hive Beetle larvae found in imported California queen cage candy and high Varroa levels in imported New Zealand packages.

(CONTINUED ON P.4)

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and engagement. As Chairman, I strive to represent your interests diligently and ensure all voices are heard in our decision-making processes. Together, we will navigate the complexities of our industry and continue to promote sustainable beekeeping practices in Manitoba.

Wishing you all a safe and prosperous honey harvest season.

Warm regards,

Ian Steppler Chairman, Manitoba Beekeepers Association



## 2024 MBA Committees

Convention/AGM: Daryl Wright, Ian Steppler, Brad Hogg, Laura Wiens, Derek Micholson, Tom Lockhart, Sheldon Reimer Michael Clark, Matthew Polinsky

Resolution: Osee Podolsky, Brad Hogg

Finance and BFMF: Ian Steppler, Paul Gregory, Nadine Lecocq(treasurer) Daryl

Wright(secretary)

**CHC Director: Osee Podolsky** 

Stock Replacement: Tom Lockhart, Mike Grysiuk

Labour: Mike Grysiuk, Paul Gregory

Workplace Safety and Transportation: Sheldon Reimer Osee Podolsky,

KAP Delegate: Michael Clark (Ian Steppler and Osee Podolsky- alternate)

Membership Resources and Communication: Ian Steppler, Brad Hogg, Paul Gregory, Matthew Polinsky

Pests & Pest Management: Paul Gregory, Tom Lockhart, Derek Micholson

Research: Chair - Sheldon Reimer, Matthew Polinsky, Ian Steppler, Osee Podolsky, Derek Micholson

Safety Nets: Paul Gregory, Osee Podolsky

Pollinator Habitat and Sustainable Initiatives: Michael Clark Paul Gregory, Brad Hogg,

Ian Steppler, Derek Micholson

Board Development: Ian Steppler, Paul Gregory, Daryl Wright



## Health Canada

Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program delivers inspections to monitor compliance within pesticide industries of the requirements under the Pest Control Products Act. This involves information to:

- determine that pesticides are used in compliance with label directions
- prevent or eliminate the presence of unregistered pesticides in Canada

Link for more information: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-products/pesticides-compliance-enforcement/activities-results.html

Health Canada will be **conducting inspections in the beekeeping industry this year.** This inspection is compulsory and you may receive a call from Health Canada Inspectors.

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **INSECTICIDE USE PROGRAM FOR 2024**

The City of Winnipeg's Insect Control Branch is involved in the control of nuisance and disease carrying mosquitoes in the City of Winnipeg and up to 8 km beyond.

Some of the control methodologies that are employed will involve the use of Deltamethrin®. However, to protect bees from potential toxic effects of this control product, a 90 metre pesticide free radius will be provided around all registered honeybee and leafcutter bee colonies within City limits (300 metre radius for colonies outside City limits). Beekeepers are encouraged to participate in this program by advising the Insect Control Branch of bee locations.

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.





#### MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

#### 2024 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

January 1, 2024 to December 31,2024

NAME:	COMPANY NAME:		-	
MAILING ADDRESS	POSTAL	. CODE	_	
TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS		_	
NUMBER OF COLONIES EXPECTED TO	BE OPERATED IN 2024 If 50 or more	colonies, please comp	elete page 2.	
Payment Due January 1, 20	23 with Deadline for membership payment	– March 31, 2024		
<u>MEMBERSHIPS</u>				
	teer, non-voting category, for beekeepers with 4	9 or fewer honey bee	colonies in	
Manitoba, or a local or out-of-prov	vince industry supporter)		\$60.00	
	ho keeps 50 or more honey bee colonies in Manie epresentative of a partnership, corporation, or Hu		e	
Base Fee			\$200.00	
	Colony number	@0.50 per colony		
Additional Levy (1501 or more colonies) TOTAL (Base Fee plus Levy plus Addition	Colony number (Total minus 1500)	@0.16 per colony		
MBA newsletter for reference mat  BEE RESEARCH FUNDS-DONATIONS  BARRY FINGLER MEMORIAL FUND (	<u>!</u>		\$100.00US	
CANADIAN BEE RESEARCH FUND (C	•			
	PROGRAM (cash or in-kind donation, please contact Se	ecretary)		
INSURANCE (see MBA website Bees-Protection for details) Not available after March 31  BEEKEEPERS LIABILITY INSURANCE (valid 5 May 2024-5 May 2025) @ \$70.20 per year				
BEEREE ERS LIABILITT INSURANCE	(Valid 3 May 2024-3 May 2023) @ \$70.20 per yea	I		
<u>JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS</u> - (THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MBA MEMBERS ONLY) <u>Not available after March 31</u>				
AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL - \$67.00 per year				
BEE CULTURE - \$92.00 per year				
TOTAL AMOUNT			\$	
I request that the above amount be deducte	d from my account at the Manitoba Co-operativ	e Honey Producers Li	mited.	
THERE IS NO "AUTOMATIC" DEDUCTION FOR PAST MEMBERS.  Applicants, please approve deduction by initialing here.				
IF YOU WISH TO PAY BY ETRANSFER, PLEASE	CONTACT TREASURER AT: nlmba@outlook.com	ı		
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. INFORMATION MAY BE USED TO PROVIDE PRODUCTS OR SERVICES BENEFITIAL TO MEMBERS.				
APPLICATION DATE:	APPLICANTS SIGNATURE:			

1 of 2 pages

## Manitoba Beekeepers' Association

#### **Designated Representative Form**

1. Business Name of Registered Producer	·
2. Name of Registered Producer:	(Business name used on original Registration form)
	(Name of person completing this form)
Business Number:	Manitoba Agriculture Registration Number:
•	Corporation or Hutterite Colony <b>must</b> appoint <b>one</b> designated on in the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. The designated age and a resident of Manitoba.
3. Name of Designated Representative:	<del>.</del>
Postal Code: Emai	· 1·
Phone #: _(204)	l: . FAX: _(204)
	pointed above as Designated Representative:
☐ Sole Proprietor	:
	To be eligible, a designated representative must hership and be entitled to 10% of the income of that partnership. fy? $\square$ Yes / $\square$ No
Corporation  To be eligible, a designated representative  Does the person to be designated so qualit	e must hold at least 10% of the voting shares in the corporation. fy? $\square$ Yes / $\square$ No
☐ Hutterite Color To be eligible, a designated representative be designated so qualify? ☐ Yes / ☐ No	e must be a member of the Hutterite Colony. Does the person to
□ No	gnated representative of any other registered producer? $\square$ Yes / and that designation must accompany this form).
	gistered producer, as no individual who is a registered producer sentative of another registered producer? (If "yes", to be on must accompany this form)
7. I hereby affirm that the above information	ion is correct to the best of my knowledge.
Signature: (Signature of Registered Producer complete	ting this form)  Date: (Date form completed)
8. Date Designated Rep. Form received	d:  (This section for MBA office use)



#### **Code Of Practice**

Manitoba beekeepers have access to and maintain stewardship of a valuable resource that allows them to harvest honey and simultaneously provide ecological services through crop pollination. The ability to continue to do this is dependent on their relationship in the community that they operate in. This code recommends ways to maintain that co-operation with landlords, other beekeepers and the community at large. It provides a standard for the management of beehives which Manitoba beekeepers are asked to honour. By following the code and learning all they can about honey bee habits, apiarists will choose the best sites for their hives, keep their bees healthy, maintain good relations with their neighbours, enhance the public perception of honey bees and comply with all the laws that govern their industry.

This code of practice is designed for all beekeepers - recreation or hobbyist, part time and commercial, as well as beekeeping associated with research and educational institutions. In addition to the honey and hive products produced by honey bees in Manitoba, the economic and social value of honey bees through pollination services is substantial. Although honey bees are not plentiful in all agricultural regions, it is an achievable goal that our Association wants to strive for.

#### Registration

• All beekeepers are required under the Manitoba Bee Act to register with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. This registration requirement aids in disease control, the gathering of industry statistics and in the distribution of information to beekeepers. This registration is free. A copy of the Manitoba Bee Act and other useful documents are located on the Government of Manitoba's "Managed Bees" webpage.

#### Location

#### In Urban Areas:

- When keeping hives in urban areas check with municipal guidelines to ensure keeping hives is permitted and follow local guidelines and bylaws that are specific to Municipalities concerning locations and bee management. Where guidelines do not exist, use common sense to ensure the bees will not become a nuisance or safety concern.
- When keeping hives in residential areas, discuss your intentions with close neighbors. Bees require water and often become a nuisance when collecting from taps, air conditioners and open pools. Establishing and maintaining a clean water source near your hives before moving them into a location can help prevent bees becoming attracted to these sources. Water should be provided in spring before the snow melts and continuing late into fall. Try to avoid placing hives adjacent to yards with sources such as swimming pools.
- Locate hives so flight paths avoid high pedestrian and traffic areas. In urban areas, locate hives adjacent to high fences or high shrubbery to keep flight paths over the heads of pedestrians. Follow local guidelines to ensure you do not overload the area with hives so that bees become a nuisance.
- Follow any restrictions on maximum numbers of colonies that can be maintained on a residential lot specific to the part(s) of the city in which you reside.

#### In Rural Areas:

- Locate your apiary a reasonable distance from other apiaries. It is poor etiquette to place apiaries within a two kilometer distance from other established apiaries. Doing so presents an unacceptable risk of disease transmission, unfair competition for limited floral resources and increases robbing of hives by bees from another bee yard.
- It may be difficult to determine where bees are located as many beekeepers intentionally keep hives out of view. However, new beekeepers have a moral obligation to try and ascertain whether an area is occupied by discussing with local beekeepers and property owners.
- Established beekeepers have a moral obligation to try to inform beekeepers who have recently set up bee yards in their territory, of the location of active bee yards and work together to ensure a two kilometer distance is maintained.
- Almost anywhere honey bees are kept in rural Manitoba, apiaries consisting of 30 to 40 beehives can be maintained at two kilometer intervals. While small scale beekeepers should have the right to maintain bees on their own property, it is unreasonable for a beekeeper with very few colonies to expect to monopolize such a potential resource by claiming an exclusive right to that area and the 2 km restriction would not apply.
- It is unacceptable to knowingly put bees right next to someone else's established bee yard or honey house.

- Stocking rates above the level recommended above sometimes occur such as in cases where a beekeeper is following the request of pollination contracts for more densely placed hives/acre, where beekeepers are moving bees into yards for wintering (indoors or outdoors), for temporary spring or fall management or for the purpose of queen rearing and this is acceptable practice
- Keep apiaries neat, clean of debris and leave them in a clean state after removal of the hives.
- Prevent situations where mice can enter hives or equipment to prevent contamination and disease.
- Ensure all apiary locations and hives are adequately marked with the name and contact information of the beekeeper as per the Provincial Bee Act.

#### **Disease**

- Beekeepers should familiarize themselves with proper biosecurity protocols and should be using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for the control of pests and diseases to ensure the health of their bees, those of their neighbors, and of native pollinators. Only registered chemicals should be used and only in accordance with label instructions to ensure the purity of honey, the health of bees, mitigate the development of disease resistance to treatments and disposal of registered chemicals.
- Beekeepers should make regular checks of their hives for disease and pests and should they require it, seek assistance from the Provincial Apiarist, the Knowledge Research Transfer Program (KRTP), or other beekeepers.
- If American Foulbrood (AFB), other reportable diseases and pests, or other unusual conditions or abnormalities are observed, immediately contact the Provincial Apiarist with Manitoba Agriculture.
- Unused beekeeping equipment should be stored under cover (either tarps or inside a building), to minimize bee access thus reducing the potential spread of disease both at bee yards and honey house locations.
- Wax moths are an increasing problem and beekeepers should be monitoring for infestations and take control measures if moths are present.
- Beekeepers are encouraged to render their wax yearly, as stored cappings could become a reservoir for spread of pathogens and establishment of pests such as wax moth and small hive beetle. For transport of cappings and old comb for rendering; see the Wax Rending Facility Biosecurity Best Management Practices on the MBA website.
- Beekeepers are encouraged to swap their old dark comb for new comb in brood chambers regularly as this is good bee management.

#### Feeding

• Stimulative feeding must not take place during honey flows. Our entire industry depends on the integrity of all beekeepers to keep their produce pure and free of foreign sugars.

#### **Open Feeding**

• While open feeding is permitted in Manitoba, it is generally not recommended (especially in urban areas) because it encourages robbing behavior and may spread disease. Open feeding also presents an unacceptable risk of contaminating honey of your own or neighboring apiaries since bees regularly forage over distances of 3 km and can forage over distances of up to 12 km. Therefore, open feeding should not occur when any beekeepers in the region still have honey supers on their colonies. Usually this means beekeepers should not provide bees with unrestricted access to open containers of sugar syrup during spring, summer or fall honey flows.

#### Water

• Water should be readily available in close proximity to the apiary and established before bees are moved into apiary sites in both urban (see above) and rural regions. This will keep bees from using watering troughs or swimming pools. When the beekeeper judges there could be a shortage of water, they should take steps to provide a source

#### **Protection from Bears**

Colonies should be protected by a properly constructed electric fence where there is a potential problem of damage by bears. In dry areas, beekeepers should integrate ground rods into the fence design to ensure proper functioning of the fence so that hives will be protected. Please consult Manitoba Conservation document on Bees and Bears - <a href="https://www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/pubs/fish\_wildlife/coexistence-of-apiaries.pdf">https://www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/pubs/fish\_wildlife/coexistence-of-apiaries.pdf</a>

#### Keeping up to Date

 Beekeepers should keep abreast of all industry development, changes in legislation and other management improvements both locally and federally. This can best be achieved by joining the beekeeping association, reading beekeeping journals and attending field days and meetings.

#### **Bee Temperament**

• Gentle bees are best, especially in urban areas. Requeen any hives that are too aggressive and manage your colonies to minimize the bees' defensive behavior (eg. avoid robbing). Manage colonies to minimize swarming through such techniques as providing adequate room for egg laying, providing space for bees, ventilating hives, and regularly requeening colonies.

#### **Public Relations**

- Where possible, beekeepers should advise and/or assist the public in situations where bees may be a nuisance such as swarms, bees in buildings and trees, etc.
- Beekeepers should deal promptly with concerns and questions about bees and hive products.
- Beekeepers should be prepared to undertake an occasional act of public relations to help the industry as a whole (e.g. addressing a school, commodity group or the general public at exhibits and fairs).
- Beekeepers engaged in pollination should maintain good communication with their growers as the farmer's livelihoods' depend on timely placement of hives when crops are flowering.
- Care should be taken to keep pets and non-target species safe when trapping for skunks and raccoons.

#### **Transportation**

- Ensure that all loads are properly secured following Department of Transportation regulations. Move hives when bees are not flying (i.e. during darkness or in wet or cold weather).
- When working with your bees, park your vehicle so it does not block traffic or interfere with the landowner's use of the land. Remember to close any gates you opened.
- Movement of bees and/or beekeeping equipment into or out of the province is regulated under the Provincial Bee Act. Contact the Provincial Apiarist with Manitoba Agriculture to request a permit before transporting bees or equipment across the provincial boundary. A guide for the interprovincial movement of bees can be found here: Interprovincial Bee Movement Requirements Canadian Honey Council.

#### **Fire Prevention**

- Extreme caution should be used whenever you use your smoker especially during high fire danger periods. Exercise care when lighting and extinguishing smokers and placing smokers on dry grass. Beekeepers should have fire proof storage containers if transporting lit smokers.
- Mowed bee yards are a proven method of reducing the risk from grass fires from bee smokers or catalytic convertors on vehicles.

#### **Marketing**

- Honey and pollen are food products that should be packaged in clean and appropriately marked containers in accordance with Canadian Food Inspection Agency requirements.
- All beekeepers should have access to a refractometer to test moisture levels and monitor all honey being packaged or sold in bulk. Wet honey will ferment and degrade the quality of honey being sold.





Canola farmers and beekeepers make a dynamic team. As with any team, communication and a clear game plan are key to their success.

Canola fields are a nectar jackpot. The bright yellow flowers are attractive to honey bees: they are easy to see and the shape of the flowers is easy to land on. Canola pollen is a good source of essential nutrients for bees, including amino acids, proteins, and fats, and canola nectar is high in sugars giving bees energy to fly, forage, and pack away stores.

The benefits go both ways. Research has shown that having pollinators near canola can lead to higher yields and improved seed ripening. An Australian study1 revealed a decrease in the number of canola pods per plant as the distance from beehives increased.

"While there are many variables involved, we are seeing a one to two percent canola yield increase when there are bees present," says Ian

Steppler, farmer, and chair of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. The Steppler family farms 4,000 acres of canola, sunflowers, wheat, oats, and soybeans, they manage a 650-cow calf operation and tend to 1,500 hives near Miami, Manitoba.

There are close to 1000 beekeepers in the province and 115,000 hives. Commercial beekeepers manage the vast majority (95 percent) of those hives. This mutually beneficial partnership between bees and canola is an economic win for both beekeepers and canola farmers.

Manitoba produces more than 8,500 metric tonnes (nearly 20 million pounds) of highly prized smooth, water-white honey per year – with a value of over 50 million dollars(2). The managed bee industry (honey bees and leafcutter bees) contributes up to 150 million dollars in increased pollination to canola, alfalfa and other crops grown in the province per year.



#### Protecting canola from insect pests

While a thriving beekeeping industry brings economic benefits to Manitoba, canola crops are susceptible to various insect pests which can significantly affect production and nectar yields for bees.

Every growing season is different, and insects vary by location and field conditions. Properly scouting canola fields at the correct timing to assess the level of damage or infestation can help farmers manage insects throughout the season for a successful crop. In Manitoba, common canola insect pests include flea beetles, cutworms, diamondback moth, lygus bugs, and grasshoppers. The Canola Council of Canada recommends farmers scout fields weekly for each of these pests, and if/when insects begin to approach action thresholds, sample more frequently to determine if insecticides are necessary.

Most canola purchased in Manitoba will be pre-treated with an insecticidal seed treatment for early season protection from pests like flea beetles, but scouting is still required as protection declines over time. Many crops require an additional in-season foliar insecticide application in late May or June to protect against yield loss.

The damage levels from these pests vary, and at higher population levels, they can cause damage detrimental to grain yield in canola and pest control may be required.

"We work with agronomists to monitor thresholds. If we see patches for example, we might not pull the trigger on an insecticide, but if we start to see widespread damage, we will apply a pollinator-safe insecticide," says Steppler.

There are insecticides on the market that offer control of key insect pressures with minimal impact on bees and other pollinators, which is ideal for integrated pest management programs. Though these insecticides typically come at an increased cost, they can be highly effective and add a diversified mode of action into farmer's insecticide programs helping to manage resistance development. Farmers can consult their local retailer for these targeted and effective options.

#### Best management practices

If insecticides are warranted, there are best management practices that can minimize detrimental effects on nearby beehives.

First and foremost, keeping open communication between beekeepers and farmers is crucial. Beekeepers should inform farmers of nearby fields on hive locations as they are placing them. A new app called FieldWatch that helps improve communication between farmers and beekeepers is currently being trialed in Saskatchewan and may be coming to Manitoba soon.

The Manitoba Bee Act states that all beekeepers must post a sign with their contact information at any apiary site. Farmers are also encouraged to take note of any hives near their fields.

Giving a beekeeper 48 hours notice before any application can give them enough time to relocate or cover nearby hives as necessary.

"It may not only take time for a beekeeper to reorganize their schedule or prepare equipment or staff to move colonies, but they also need to organize the new site where colonies will be placed,' says Matthew Polinsky, Program Lead of the Manitoba Knowledge and Research Transfer Program for Apiculture (KRTP). "Bees can only be moved under specific conditions so that move needs to be well-timed with weather, site access, and distances. It usually also takes place under the cover of darkness after already long days in the field."

If moving bees can be avoided, application timing becomes an even more crucial factor. "Spraying in the evening is the best thing a farmer can do to protect the bees and get the full benefit of the residual effect of the product," says Steppler.



Bees are more active during the day, so if spraying in the evening is not an option, spraying very early in the morning can also reduce exposure to bees. If possible, the Canola Council of Canada recommends waiting until the field is no longer in bloom to use an insecticide in canola to minimize effects on bees.

Flea beetle pressure can come on quickly requiring fast action from farmers. To avoid potential insecticide spray damage to hives during the critical flea beetle window (susceptible up to the four-leaf stage), Steppler notes that it's advantageous to beekeepers if they can delay placing hives in summer yards or along fields where canola is emerging.

It is important to always read and follow product label instructions, and check pre-harvest intervals when applying an insecticide.

Beekeepers and farmers can work together by better understanding each other's practices and communicating when preparing to take an action that may impact the other party in their shared environment. Simple steps like open communication, using treatment thresholds, and pollinator-safe insecticides, as well as proper application timing will ensure the best possible outcomes for both stakeholders and a bright future for both honey and canola production in Manitoba.

- 1. Manning, R. and J. Boland. 2000. A preliminary investigation into honey bee (Apis mellifera) pollination of canola (Brassica napus cv. Karoo) in Western Australia. Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture. Vol. 40, No. 3: 439-442
- 2. Province of Manitoba. Managed Bees (Honey Bees and Leafcutting Bees). Province of Manitoba Agriculture. <a href="https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/apiary">https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/apiary</a>

This article was prepared by the Manitoba Canola Growers and the KRTP for their respective audiences.





## KRTP SUMMER REPORT



In May we completed our last assessment in the syrup field trial with Dr. Currie and final analyses are underway. You can see the KRTP's short presentation on our testing services and syrup quality indicators on the MBA's YouTube channel.

We can test syrups for pH and titratable acidity, which is particularly relevant if you have held syrup over the summer. See the submission form up on the website under the tabs: "KRTP" and "Services to Beekeepers". Contact Matthew with any further questions.

Our 2024 Greenlight Biosciences trial on their varroa control product is underway. Greenlight has applied to register this product with the EPA in the U.S. Manitoba is a key collaborator in their work to further test this product in the region and generate sufficient data to begin the registration process in Canada. The colonies took a lot of time and efforts to set up and we thank our casual staff, Laura Wiens, and the U of M Currie Lab for all their assistance.

The KRTP welcomed aboard a second full-time staff member this spring, Amanda Turriff, as an apiary and lab technician. Here is a word from Amanda:

Hi everyone! As I start my 4th beekeeping season, I'm grateful for this opportunity to engage in the Manitoba beekeeping community. My first experience with bees was queen rearing in the Okanagan Valley with Wild Antho (Emily Huxter), where we produced queens and nucs for sale and honey. Before arriving to Winnipeg this spring, I was working in the urban beekeeping community in Montreal, where my role included public speaking and teaching that targeted folks who were new to the bee world. My experience in commercial operations, queen rearing, educating on beekeeping basics and my background in agricultural engineering will hopefully come in handy when tackling current beekeeping issues that the KRTP is focused on addressing. Excited to meet more of you over the coming months!



As you are reading this it's quite late to be considering breeder queen selection for this year, but I wanted to make a note on a few related items since quality stock and their assessments are still on everyone's radar as we are actively observing hives over the harvest and fall.

The recently developed UBeeO test is used to identify populations that may have some extent of resistance against varroa. The test is thought to specifically target mite resistance as the brood tested is not dead and only appears "unhealthy". In their studies, they have shown that a

high UBeeO score may be related to lower mite and virus loads. Based on local interest in the UBeeO product, the MBA initiated conversations with co-founder of Optera-UBeeO, Kaira Wagoner, early in 2024 regarding access to their product in Canada as it was set to enter the U.S. market. Dancing Bee Supplies Manitoba and the KRTP ended up facilitating getting this product to Canada and Dancing Bee Manitoba is presently the exclusive supplier in Canada.

On the same note, each spring the KRTP offers freeze-kill brood (FKB) hygienic testing which is used to identify populations that are more resistant to AFB and chalkbrood and may also to some extent be linked to improved resistance to varroa. You may contact the KRTP for information on both of these methods. The KRTP offers FKB hygienic testing service, while UBeeO is a user-friendly tool that doesn't require special aid.

It's ideal to select for traits desirable to you, such as honey production, build-up, winter-ability, etc., and also seek to select the most pest and disease resistant bees using quantifiable tests.

While there was no official setup of a Manitoba Queen Breeders Association/Group this spring. A monthly online meetup centred on selective breeding has been floated as an idea and will be posted to our social media and the MBA website.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer in the field.

Matthew Polinsky

KRTP Program Lead

krtpmb@gmail.com

(204) 698-7399

https://manitobabee.org/hive/krtp/



Facebook QR code:



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## Interlake Summer Report

In our region, like some other more Northern regions, very little seeding occurred. Wet cold weather through much of the Spring prevented annual crops from being planted. Thankfully,

there is birdsfoot trefoil fields, alfalfa seed fields and some clovers. Lots of weeds coming up but they will be sprayed out. One paradigm we are seeing played out locally ,is how growers that are rotating their crop land with forage production do not have the same issues with flooding and soil compaction.

Regenerative Ag courses and webinars are slowly changing what farmers are growing and how they are managing but the science is clearly there and watershed districts are providing grants to those growers that want to improve soil health. Our own queen breeding program has started slowly with mediocre breeding results but with the fine weather our queen catch is improving.

Just got back from BC , where guys receive \$80

Per colony for pollination; bur ,wow .. a lot of work and moving for small number of colonies that the fruit growers want. As soon as the "king blossom" is gone the growers want the bees moved out; as too many small apples will result. Interesting farming!

Safe travels.

Paul

## **NEW FORMULA From Vita Bee Health**

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It is vitally important to detect EFB and AFB as early as possible in order to prevent its further spread to healthy colonies.

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VITA BEE FUMAGILIN - B POWDER 96g	141024	-	5262105
VITA BEE FUMAGILIN - B POWDER 454g	141025	-	5262110
VITA BEE AFB DIAGNOSTIC KIT	141026	-	5262115
VITA BEE EFB DIAGNOSTIC KIT	141027	-	5262120

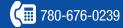
Available as 100g sachets for small holdings or 400g tubs and 10kg pails for commercial use.





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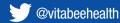
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## Protect Your Investment with Overwinter Bee Mortality Insurance



In recent years, beekeepers have had to manage higher than normal mortality rates in their colonies kept over winter. With most losses due to disease, pests, and other unmanageable perils, Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) offers the Overwinter Bee Mortality Insurance (OBMI) program to assist with the financial burden of these uncontrollable losses.

#### Eligibility

The OBMI program is available for registered beekeepers in Manitoba that tend to a minimum of 50 colonies. For coverage purposes, colonies put into winter storage are categorized as 'strong' (seven or more eligible frames) and 'nuclear' (four or more eligible frames) colonies, with an 'eligible frame' defined as having at least two-thirds of the cells on each side filled with brood or eggs, or covered with live bees, or a combination of both.

Exiting storage in spring, colonies are categorized as 'strong' (five or more eligible frames), 'weak' (three or four eligible frames), or 'dead' (two or fewer eligible frames).

#### Coverage & Premiums

OBMI coverage is calculated as 90 per cent of the number of overwintered colonies multiplied by a survival rate. New program participants are given coverage based on Manitoba's historic survival rate (currently 65.5 per cent), while producers enrolled two or more years are given coverage based on their own experience. At four years of participation, a participant is approaching their full individual survival rate, and after five years their coverage is solely based on their individual experience.

When coverage is based on individual experience, it can increase significantly, especially when a beekeeper's individual survival rate is well above the provincial average.

Beekeepers have the option to select from low or high dollar coverage, with low option at \$200 per colony, and the higher option at \$300 per colony. These values are current for the 2024/25 winter and are adjusted annually.

Premiums for the OBMI program are cost-shared between the beekeeper (40 per cent), the Government of Canada (36 per cent), and the Province of Manitoba (24 per cent).

#### **Important Dates:**

To manage the OBMI program, some important dates must be observed, and timely information provided to MASC:

- Beekeepers must apply for or cancel their OBMI contract by August 31 (September 3 for 2024) for a change in their overwinter coverage.
- Beekeepers must file a fall Declaration of Overwinter Colonies Report by **November 30** (**December 2 for 2024**) to declare and confirm the number of colonies placed in storage.
- March 31, 2025, is the last day that unpaid premiums for 2024/25 coverage will remain interest-free.
- If a beekeeper experiences 2024/25 overwinter losses and is in a claim position, MASC must be notified by **May 15**, **2025**, or three days prior to taking action to manage/control overwinter colonies, whichever comes first, to avoid late fees.
- May 31 (June 1 for 2025) is the last day to file a spring Declaration of Overwinter Colonies Report, and with it the last day to file an OBMI claim (with late fees).

For more information about the Overwinter Bee Mortality Insurance program, contact your local MASC Service Centre or visit masc.mb.ca. Don't forget, you must apply by **September 3** to receive coverage for the 2024/25 winter!

MANITOBA BEEKEEPER 17



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Cheques can be sent to Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Box 767, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2L4 Designate "Beekeepers GP".

#### For more information

Call Gordon Janzen: 204-478-1530 E: manitoba@foodgrainsbank.ca

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#### **Canadian Honey Council Report**



Everyone in the beekeeping industry is still anxiously waiting for CFIA's new risk assessment to be released, the "early Q2 timeline" has blown right by with still no report being released. Rumors of late July are being circulated around, whether these hold true we will just have to wait and find out.

The CHC has hired a consultant to finish the registration process of the oxalic acid glycerin pads. Formal application should be submitted in the next couple of weeks. Once filed we believe that we will be able to have it fast tracked enough to be approved for use in the fall, no guarantees but it's looking promising.

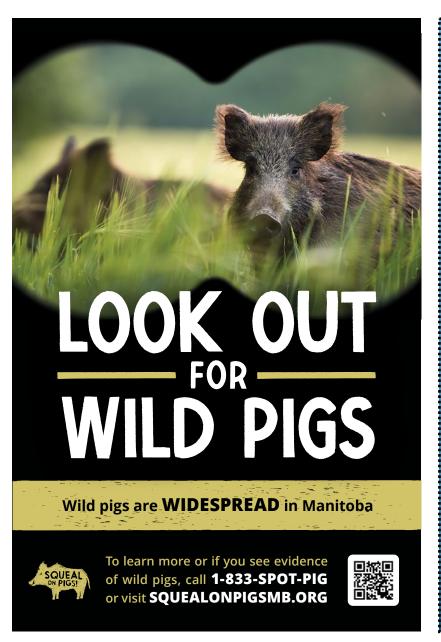
The Canadian Livestock Transporters Alliance which is a working group representing all livestock transportation industries (including beekeeping) had formally sent recommendations to the Standing Committee on the definitions of "Emergency situations" and how animal welfare ties in directly to these. Things look promising that Transport Canada will continue to make provisions for livestock haulers across Canada for increased safety and wellbeing.

The Canadian Honey Council will be having its next in person board meeting in Niagara Falls at the OBA November meeting.

Until next time

Osee Podolsky





## MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS'

#### **Position Available**

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) is seeking a self-motivated and responsible individual for the position of a part time secretary. Reporting to the MBA Chair, while working primarily with your own computer from your home office, the position consists of approximately 5 - 10 hours per week on average. The position is required to attend monthly Board Meetings (8 -10 per year) and Annual General Meeting.

Primary responsibilities include arranging board, annual and special meetings, record and distribute minutes, regular communications, regulatory applications, listing designated voting members, invoicing members, filing records and managing web site updates. Secondary board support responsibilities include member communications, board letters, newsletter articles, grant applications, media interviews, tracking membership and coordinating convention/AGM site location, agenda, sponsors, speakers, promotions and field days.

The preferred candidate should possess strong written and oral communication skills, proficiency in working in Microsoft programs, data entry skills, accuracy and attention to details, the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Familiarity with the beekeeping industry would be an asset.

Please submit resume, including references, in confidence to: Ian Steppler, MBA Chair iansteppler@gmail.com

The MBA thanks all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

## EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS LIST 2024 MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



#### **EXECUTIVE**

Chairperson:	lan Steppler (2027)	P.O. Box 7 Miami MB R0G 1H0	iansteppler@gmail.com	204 435 2491
Vice-Chair:	Paul Gregory (2026)	P.O. Box 238 Fisher Branch MB R0C 0Z0	paul@interlakeforageseeds.com	204 372 6920
CHC Director:	Osee Podolsky (2026)	P.O. Box 1 Ethelbert MB R0L 0T0	osee@podolskihoneyfarms.com	204 647 2265
KAP Delegate:	Michael Clark (2027)	P.O. Box 4 RR1 Wawanesa MB R0K 2G0	beemanitoban@yahoo.com	204 7204844

#### **DIRECTORS**

Tom Lockhart (2025)	P.O. Box 209, Wawanesa, MB R0K 2G0	tcl@mymts.net	204 761 4986
Brad Hogg (2026)	P.O. Box 16, Libau, MB. R0E 1C0	brad@faithapiaries.ca	204 232 5180
Sheldon Reimer (2027)	34021 Road 29E Mitchell, MB R5G 2P3	Sheldonreimer1@gmail.com	204 381 1629
Mike Grysiuk (2025)	2 Kuharski Street, Neepawa MB R0J1H0	mgrysiuk@mymts.net	204 899 9250

Directors Terms are until the AGM of the year indicated

#### **NON-VOTING APPOINTEES**

Secretary:	Daryl Wright	326 Belvidere St, Winnipeg, R3J 2H3	204 229 9343
		d.l.wright@shaw.ca	
Treasurer:	Nadine Lecocq	P.O. Box 48123 Lakewood P.O.	
		Winnipeg, MB R2J 4A3	
		nlmba@outlook.com	
RRAA Rep.	Sheldon Reimer		
BABA Rep.	vacant		

#### **PROVINCIAL APICULTURE OFFICE:**

545 University Cres. Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5S6

Provincial	Derek Micholson	derek.micholson@gov.mb.ca	204 791 0124
Apiarist			204 945-4327 (FAX)





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Seasonal, full time, days, evenings and some Saturdays. Work is mostly outdoors, so must be able to work under hot conditions. The job starts April 1st – July 1st. End Date: Sept 10th – November 6th. Wages: \$15.50-\$19.00/hour. Minimum 2 years experience preferred. Performance and/or production bonus may be available.

Duties include but not limited to, feed and care for honey bees, replacement of hives and production of nucs, moving hives, supering hives, detect and report hive health and apply correct disease cures and/or controls, bee yard maintenance, keep field and/or production records, harvest honey, working on extracting line, cleaning extracting equipment and honey house, raise queens, assemble and maintenance of bee equipment, drive and maintain vehicles, other duties as assigned. Work is very physically demanding, with long days and heavy lifting. The job is located 2 hours north of Winnipeg in the RM of Fisher NE 33-23-1W in Fisher Branch, MB. Send resume by mail to Box 328 Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0 or email anita@ifsltd.ca

**For Sale:** 500 supers @ \$30 each (price is picked up at our location) – inquire about delivered price. 100+ Top Wintering Pillow for 4 pack configuration - \$10 each if you purchase the whole lot, for smaller orders call for price.

**2024 Bees for Sale**: Wendell Honey Farms will be offering 100+ overwintered 5 Frame nucs with 2023 F1 selected Buckfast Queens in the spring of 2024 - \$400 each. If you have questions or to reserve your order, please contact Tim at (204) 773-6684

For Sale: Nucs, 4 frames of brood, with new queen and lots of bees.contact Jake @ 2045130529, email jake@destinyroad.ca

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER !! **For Sale**: Walk behind electric forklift 1500 kg lift capacity,All terrain tires, Staddle lift, no side shift Almost new, \$6500 Contact Paul @ Cell: 204-739-3535 or E-mail paul@ifsltd.ca

**For Sale:** 50 honey supers with drawn comb - \$55 each. Glycerine by the pail . Contact Paul (Interlake Honey Producers) at 204-372-6920

**For Sale:** Mated Queens - \$42 each and Queen Cells - \$10 each. We raise our queens from carefully selected survivor colonies for strong wintering success, mite tolerance, honey production and gentleness. Contact Patrick Cox - Phone 204-855-2492 or Phone or Text 204-851-1266 - Oak Lake, MB

**Wanted:** 4 or 6 or 10 frame stainless steel extractor. Motorized, serviceable, and good quality. Contact Brian. Email <a href="mailto:berich@mymts.net">berich@mymts.net</a>. or phone 204 7395481. Please leave a message if no answer. No texts on this line.

#### **Classified Ads information**

Advertisements that are usually short (i.e. typically 30-50 word, single entry) miscellaneous TEXT ONLY ads (i.e. sell/want equipment, bees, books, honey, etc) and placed in the Classified section near the back pages of the newsletter, or on web site page, are free to members and are \$20/issue, for non members. DISPLAY ADS

Advertisements that are multiple entries per advertiser (i.e. Employment for more than one category of worker), or longer than 50-100 words of text, and/or include photo, logo, sketch, diagram, etc. are subject to the following charges:

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