

**120th**  
Annual

2026 Manitoba  
Beekeepers' Association  
Convention,  
AGM, & Trade Show



## **What's Inside**

Convention Program  
Speaker Bios  
Event Notices  
MBA & KRTP Resources  
Tradeshow Vendors



**Sustainable Canadian  
Agricultural Partnership**

---

**Manitoba**



---

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

---

**PLATINUM**

**BeeMaid  
Manitoba Agriculture/SCAP**

**GOLD**

Bartel Bee Co.  
Dancing Bee  
From Hives to Honey  
Lewis & Sons

**SILVER**

Heritage Steel Works  
NOD Apiary Products  
Tri Bee  
Mann Lake  
Vita Bee Health

**BRONZE**

Abbey Road  
AgroGene Solutions  
Cancade Company Inc  
MASC  
Prarie Sun Beeswax

# Chairperson Welcome Message

Welcome to the 2026 Manitoba Beekeepers' Association's 120th Annual Convention, AGM, and Trade Show!

We are proud to gather Manitoba's beekeeping community at this historic milestone, bringing together beekeepers, researchers, and industry partners to address the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing our sector today. This year's agenda reflects the depth and complexity of modern beekeeping, from miticide resistance, invasive pests, and emerging diseases, to queen and drone quality, breeding challenges, and sustainable management practices.

Over the course of the convention, you will hear from leading experts including Dr. James Ellis, Susan Cobey, Dr. Patricia Wolf-Veiga, Dr. Sarah Wood, Dr. Nuria Morfin, Dr. Ana Diéguez Antón, and many others, alongside updates from the National Bee Diagnostic Centre, the Canadian Honey Council, Health Canada, Keystone Agricultural Producers, Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation, and our Knowledge and Research Transfer Program (KRTP). These sessions are designed to provide practical tools, cutting-edge research, and timely insights to support your operations and strengthen our industry.

This convention also offers valuable opportunities for collaboration, discussion, and decision-making through our AGM, panel sessions, and networking events, including our banquet and tradeshow. The Tradeshow showcases the latest products, technologies, and services dedicated to advancing bee health and operational success.

As we celebrate 120 years of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, we also look ahead with purpose. The MBA remains committed to building a sustainable, resilient future for beekeeping in Manitoba, and we are grateful to work alongside each of you in that effort. Whether you are here to learn, connect, share ideas, or shape the direction of our association, we hope you enjoy the convention and leave inspired by what we can achieve together.

Ian Stepler, MBA Chairperson



**Bee Quick!**  
Grab your MBA  
Discount!



Scan the QR code and use **MBA10**  
for 10% off regular priced products

Valid March 6 & 7, 2026  
Some restrictions apply



**Follow @beemaidsupplies  
on Facebook & Insta**

Stay connected for tips, product updates, and  
seasonal specials.

# KRTP



FUNDED BY

**Sustainable Canadian  
Agricultural Partnership**

Additional  
Support From



Manitoba  
Canola Growers

The KRTP was established in 2021 by the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. The Manitoba provincial government, in agreement with the federal government, has committed to fully fund the KRTP from 2023 to 2028 via the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP). The KRTP mandate was conceived with four pillars: i) education, ii) services to beekeepers, iii) demonstrative research, and iv) communication.

Program Lead - Matthew Polinsky: [krtymb@gmail.com](mailto:krtymb@gmail.com)

Join us for this  
live streamed  
webinar on  
April 15 @  
7:30 PM

**Sign up for  
webinar reminder**



**LIVE WEBINAR+Q&A**

STREAM LIVE ON **YOUTUBE**

PRESENTED BY 

**Oxalic Acid  
Glycerin in  
Canada:  
Efficacy,  
Expectations  
& IPM Fit**

Wednesday, April 15  
7:30 PM (CDT)

**Host**  
Matthew Polinsky

**Invited Guests**  
Lynae Ovinge  
Nuria Morfin  
Laurence Plamondon



Photo credit: Jayne Darnell

# Our Speakers



**Dr. Jamie Ellis**  
University of Florida



**Dr. Jamie Ellis** is the Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology in the Entomology and Nematology Department at the University of Florida. He has a BS degree in Biology from the University of Georgia (USA) and a PhD in Entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa. At the University of Florida, Jamie has responsibilities in extension, instruction, and research. Regarding his extension work, Jamie works with assorted clientele through diverse programming such as the UF/IFAS Bee College and the UF/IFAS Master Beekeeper Program. As an instructor, Jamie supervises PhD and masters students. Currently, Jamie and his team have over 30 active research projects in the fields of honey bee husbandry, conservation, and ecology.



**Susan Cobey**  
Founder of the New  
World Carniolan  
Program

**Susan Cobey's** focus is enhancement of honey bee stocks and improvement of colony health through selective breeding. She founded and managed the New World Carniolan Program for 40 generations. To diversify the U.S. gene pool, she worked with the Washington State University to collect honey bee germplasm from their native European range to incorporate into U.S. breeding populations. Her experience includes management of Honey Bee Research Laboratories at the University of California, Davis and the Ohio University State. She has also worked with the USDA Baton Rouge Bee Lab. Her background includes commercial queen production in FL. and CA., and founding and operating a queen production business, Vaca Valley Apiaries, in California. Currently she runs Honey Bee Insemination Service, LLC. providing training and instructional material worldwide. Her travel includes presentations and workshops in 27 countries.





**Manitoba**  
31060 PR501 Rosewood Rd  
Dufresne, MB R5K 0P2  
T: 204 866 2402

**Port Hope**  
5029 County Road 2,  
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V5  
T: 905 753 2623

## By Beekeepers, For Beekeepers.

We are your one-stop-shop for all of your beekeeping needs! Our knowledgeable staff will help point you in the right direction to ensure you're getting the most out of your business, no matter the size. No request is too small, we are here for you!

STURDY WOODENWARE HONEY BEE IMPORTING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING QUALITY GLASSWARE HARVESTING EQUIPMENT CUSTOM LABELS

### Buzzworthy Products:



#### ApiLife Var Varroa Mite Control

ApiLife Var is an effective and natural treatment against varroa mites based on essential oils. It is the market leader in Europe for Thymol-Based Mite Treatments.



**DUWALT**  
Makita  
Milwaukee  
Skoda  
Bosch

#### InstantVap® Turbo | 18-20 Volt Vaporizer

The best just got better... again. Only 10 seconds per 2 g dose! This battery powered oxalic acid vaporizer comes with battery protection electronics and is available in the battery socket of your choice.



#### Lyson Motorized Extractor | 12-Frame Radial | MINIMA

Perfect for beekeepers with 10 to 25 hives. This motorized radial extractor provides ease of extraction. It is fast and efficient, fitting both medium and deep Langstroth wooden frames (Medium full plastic frames can easily fit by trimming the shoulders with a sharp blade).

#### Mini Honey Max Filling Machine

Built with a heavy-duty motor and automatic fill mode, this mini filling machine fills bottles from 2oz to 12 lbs efficiently.



Shop Online: [dancingbeemanitoba.com](http://dancingbeemanitoba.com)

Contact Us: [info@dancingbeemanitoba.com](mailto:info@dancingbeemanitoba.com) | (204)-866-2402



CANADIAN OWNED & OPERATED



[DancingBeeManitoba](https://www.instagram.com/DancingBeeManitoba)



[Dancing Bee Equipment Manitoba](https://www.facebook.com/DancingBeeEquipmentManitoba)



LEWIS & SONS ENT.

# BEEKEEPERS

— BUILDING FOR —

# BEEKEEPERS

- QUALITY BOXES - ASSEMBLED • UNASSEMBLED
- WAX-DIPPED, FOOD-GRADE FINISH
- FRAMES, LIDS, BOTTOMS, BEE ESCAPES
- LIVE NUC SALES
- CUSTOM ORDERS WELCOME



1.204.637.2277 | [LEWISANDSONS.CA](http://LEWISANDSONS.CA) | AUSTIN, MANITOBA

# Our Speakers



**Dr. Sarah Wood**  
University of  
Saskatchewan

**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. As a veterinary pathologist and Research Chair in Pollinator Health, Dr. Wood's research program focuses on optimizing the management and diagnosis of honey bee disease to enhance the health and productivity of Canadian honey bee colonies. Her specific research aims include understanding mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance of foulbrood bacteria, investigating the safety and efficacy of overwinter miticide treatments, enhancing pesticide risk assessment for honey bee drones, and improving honey bee health to ensure sustainable pollination of blueberries and canola. The outcomes of this applied research, including novel therapeutics and diagnostics for honey bee disease, will have direct, positive impacts on the health of honey bees and the crops they pollinate, with overall benefits for food security and sustainability. Moreover, Dr. Wood's research program strengthens the relationship between veterinarians and beekeepers, fostering shared advancements in antimicrobial stewardship and surveillance of bee disease.



**Nuria Morfin** is an Assistant Professor in Apiculture and Honey Bee Biology at the University of Manitoba with expertise in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), selective breeding, and honey bee pathology. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Guelph's Honey Bee Research Centre, where she studied stressors affecting bee health and behaviour, behavioural immunity, and the lipidome and metabolome profiles of bees. Following her doctoral work, Nuria served as the lead of the British Columbia Technology Transfer Program, focusing on supporting the beekeeping industry through research and education. She has collaborated on numerous research projects across North America and has taught courses in IPM, queen rearing, and honey bee biology.



**Dr. Nuria Morfin**  
University of Manitoba

**Bartel Bee Co. Limited**

Toll free: 1.844.224.2337

Up to 16 foot reach  
Up to 660 lbs lift capacity  
Uses 10 inches deck space  
THREE AUTO-LEVEL MODELS

**EZYLoader**

<https://www.bartelbeeco.ca>

**Your Next Great Hive Starts Here!**

**Bees & Queens from:**

- ✓ New Zealand
- ✓ Chile
- ✓ Italy

From  **Hives** to  **Honey**

Proud Sponsors of  
the 2026 Manitoba  
Beekeepers  
Convention!

- Your Exclusive Western Canadian Hummerbee Dealer
- Extractors
- Custom Built Woodenware
- General Beekeeping Equipment
- Fondant and Other Feed



Please visit our website.  
**FROMHIVESTOHONEY.CA**  
(306)-931-1715

# 2026 Program

THURSDAY, March 5	
7:30pm (Limited seating capacity)	<p>An Evening with Jamie Ellis            Talk: <u><i>The Indispensable Nuc</i></u>            Presented by            Red River Apiarist Association</p>

FRIDAY March 6	
7:30 – 8:00	Registration Desk Open
8:00 – 8:10	Welcome Remarks MBA Chair   Ian Stepler
8:10 – 8:30	Canadian Honey Council Update   Osee Podolsky & Rod Scarlett
8:30 – 9:30	Towards Sustainable Beekeeping   Dr. Jamie Ellis
9:30 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:30	Clinical Signs and Diagnosis of European Foulbrood in Your Colony   Dr. Sarah Wood
10:30 – 11:15	The Emerging Threat of Tropilaelaps and Other Provincial Updates   Derek Micholson
11:15 – 11:45	Panel: Risk of Facing a New Mite? Tropilaelaps Update   Derek Micholson, Jamie Ellis, Rod Scarlett, Ian Stepler – Moderated by Matthew Polinsky
11:45 – 12:00	MBA Chair Report, Call for Nominations

## 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 1:30	Miticide Resistance in Canadian Apiaries   Dr. Patricia Wolf-Veiga, National Bee Diagnostic Centre
1:30 – 1:45	Keystone Agricultural Producers   Colin Hornby
1:45 – 2:45	Challenges of Bee Breeding   Susan Cobey
2:45 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 5:00	MBA AGM: Resolutions, Financials, Director Voting
5:00	AGM Adjournment
5:30	Cash Bar
6:00 Banquet	Banquet with Featured Speaker Dr. Jamie Ellis: <i>What I learned while working with honey bees</i>



# 2026 Program

SATURDAY, March 7	
7:30 – 8:00	Registration Desk Open
8:00 – 8:45	<b>2025 KRTP Field Trials and Annual Program Update</b>   Matthew Polinsky (KRTP)
8:45 – 9:00	<b>AgroGene Solutions Beehive Monitoring &amp; Diagnostics</b>   Pascale Michaud
9:00 – 10:00	<b>Rearing Quality Queens &amp; Drones</b>   Susan Cobey
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Break</b>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>ApiLog: A Manitoba-made Record Keeping App</b>   Kyle Sierens
10:45 – 11:15	<b>Disinfection &amp; Antimicrobial Management of European Foulbrood in Your Operation</b>   Dr. Sarah Wood
11:15 – 11:30	<b>Novel Approach to Honey Bee Vaccination Against the Deformed Wing Virus</b>   Danika Strelaëff
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Defensive Strategies and Immune Responses in Honey Bees</b>   Dr. Nuria Morfin

## 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 1:30	<b>Invasive Pest Impacts on Beekeeping: The case of the yellow-legged hornet</b>   Dr. Ana Diéguez Antón
1:30 – 2:30	<b>The Science of Pollen Substitutes</b>   Dr. Jamie Ellis
2:30 – 2:45	<b>Break</b>
2:45 – 3:00	<b>Winter Mortality Insurance &amp; More – Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC)</b>
3:00 – 3:15	<b>Comparison of Domestic and Imported Queens</b>   Dr. Patricia Wolf-Veiga, National Bee Diagnostic Centre
3:15 – 4:00	<b>Panel: Oxalic Acid Glycerin Treatments: Field Experience &amp; Current Research</b>   Sarah Wood, Nuria Morfin, Derek Micholson & Audience Questions! Moderator: Matthew Polinsky
4:00	<b>Closing Comments</b>

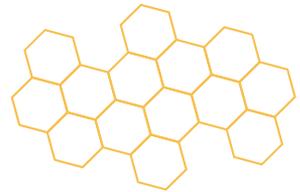


# Our Speakers

Born & raised in Winnipeg, **Derek Micholson** began working with honey bees in 2009 as a summer student in Dr. Rob Currie's Bee Research Lab at the U of M, where he continued as a full-time research technician and later completed an MSc in Entomology, focusing on honey bee grooming behaviour. Derek also worked for many years as honey bee and leafcutting bee inspector and was also the first Program Lead of the Knowledge & Research Transfer Program (K RTP) in 2021. In 2022, Derek was hired to replace Rhéal Lafrenière as Provincial Apiarist for Manitoba. Derek also maintains a small hobby operation of his own, allowing him to continue honing his general beekeeping & queen rearing skills, trial different treatments, and stay well-connected to the issues of the day.



**Derek Micholson**  
Provincial Apiarist  
Manitoba Agriculture



**Dr. Patricia Wolf-Veiga**  
National Bee Diagnostic  
Center

**Patricia** is the Manager of the National Bee Diagnostic Centre at Northwest Polytechnic in Beaverlodge Alberta – the first comprehensive laboratory in Canada to provide diagnostic services for honey bee and native bee pests. She's been with the Centre since its inception in 2012.

THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
SPONSORS

204-741-0703

# PRAIRIE SUN BEESWAX

**Wax Rendering & Sales**  
Wax rendering of cappings, frames and slum.  
Cash paid for finished blocks.

Ted & Joanna, Jordan & Emily Turnbull  
Elgin, Manitoba

For delivery & pricing call  
204-769-2118  
204-741-0703  
[www.prairiesunbeeswax.com](http://www.prairiesunbeeswax.com)



## Introducing the **H-LOADER**

The new standard for Hive lifting devices



**Contact Us At**

Admin@  
Heritagesteelworks.ca

(204) 326-3008

40047 HWY 12N  
Blumenort, MB



**ML MANN LAKE™**

**800-233-6663**  
[mannlakeltd.com](http://mannlakeltd.com)

**ULTRA BEE**  
HIGH PROTEIN POLLEN SUBSTITUTE

**Bee-Pro**  
HIGH POLLEN SUBSTITUTE

FOR OVER 40 YEARS!  
Proudly made by  
MANN LAKE

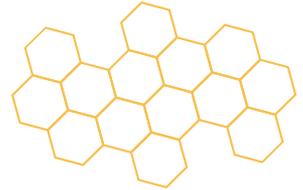
MADE IN  
USA

# Our Speakers

**Ana** is a beekeeper and pharmacist with a PhD in Food Science and Technology from the University of Vigo (Spain). Currently, a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Mountain Research Center (CIMO) in Portugal. Her research focuses on innovative technologies in beekeeping, honey bee health, colony management under invasive species pressure, and strategies to enhance apiary resilience. She is also collaborating as a visiting scholar at the University of Manitoba Honey Bee Lab, where she has made significant contributions to joint research projects.



**Dr. Ana Diéguez Antón**  
Mountain Research  
Center



**Matthew Polinsky**  
K RTP Program Lead

**Matthew** is the Program Lead for the Manitoba Knowledge and Research Transfer Program (K RTP). With 20 years of experience in apiculture, Matthew's background is primarily in commercial beekeeping in Saskatchewan, New Zealand, and Australia. In addition to research coordination, his role includes delivering extension services through hands-on field support, industry communication, and the development of educational materials and events. Originally from the Parkland region of Saskatchewan, Matthew holds degrees in Human Environment Geography and English from Concordia University in Montreal.

THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
SPONSORS

**ABBEY ROAD**<sup>LTD</sup>  
**DISTRIBUTION**



beehealth  
CANADA

**Get with the  
Formic Program.**

*Formic Pro™ targets varroa mites under the brood cap, helping you protect developing bees to build healthier, more productive colonies.*

**Download the Formic Pro Guidebook**  
Scan the QR to download the Formic Pro Guidebook for pro-tips about application, when to treat, and more!

# Our Speakers

**Danika Strelaëff** is a master's student in Entomology at the University of Manitoba, where she works at the Honey Bee Lab under the supervision of Dr. Nuria Morfin. Danika first became involved with honey bee research three years ago during her undergraduate studies. Since then, she has spearheaded her own project investigating a novel anti-viral treatment in honey bees that has applications in protecting against the Deformed Wing Virus. Danika completed her prototype during her undergraduate studies, where she obtained a B.Sc. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of British Columbia. Now, Danika continues her project as a master's student at the University of Manitoba. Outside of the lab, Danika enjoys drawing, weightlifting, and video games.



**Danika Strelaëff**  
University of  
Manitoba



**Pascale Michaud**  
AgroGene Solutions

**Pascale Michaud**, Ph.D., is the co-founder and CEO of AgroGene Solutions, a New Brunswick-based biotechnology company dedicated to improving bee health through innovative diagnostic tools. Originally from New Brunswick, Pascale completed a degree in Biochemistry at the Université de Moncton before pursuing a Master's and Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology at Université Laval. After returning to New Brunswick in 2020, Pascale joined the Université de Moncton as a research assistant, where her work with honeybee samples inspired the creation of AgroGene Solutions. Today, she leads a team that bridges science and agriculture to help beekeepers better monitor and protect their colonies.

THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
SPONSORS



**AGROGENE SOLUTIONS**

*Take the guesswork out of your integrated pest management with complete hive health analysis.*

INFO@AGROGENESOLUTIONS.COM  
AGROGENESOLUTIONS.COM



**CANCADE**  
COMPANY LIMITED

1651-12th Street  
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 7L1

Phone: 204-728-4450

Cell: 204-362-3702

**Jeff Hildebrand**

Toll Free: 1-800-363-2639

jeff.hildebrand@cancade.com

Sales

Fax: 204-728-8795

CanCADE Company & C20 Group Ltd

www.cancade.com

TRUCK BODY, TRAILER, AND CUSTOM MANUFACTURERS - DISTRIBUTORS

**MASC**

Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation

Your trusted partner in ag. [www.masc.mb.ca](http://www.masc.mb.ca)

# Our Speakers

**Kyle** is a web technologies developer with over 18 years of experience and a passionate beekeeper since 2023. He founded APiLOG, a beekeeping record-keeping app out of his frustration in seeking an app that was simple, and easy to use in the field. APiLOG was developed to provide a clean, intuitive tool for recording inspections and tracking hive health without unnecessary complexity or reliance on expensive monitoring equipment. Kyle believes that good beekeeping starts with consistent record-keeping – often less is more and simplicity drives better decision-making.



**Kyle Sierens**  
APiLOG

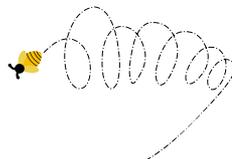


**Colin Hornby**  
Keystone Agricultural  
Producers



**Colin** will join us to share info on KAP. **KAP** is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 and has approximately 4,700 farmer members who produce a variety of agricultural products. KAP is also supported by 18 commodity group members and 10 associate members.

**KAP promotes the interest of Manitoba producers** through advocacy, collaboration, communications and education. This includes meetings with provincial and federal decision-makers, participation in consultations, working groups with partners, and providing communications material and awareness campaigns.



# Our Speakers



**Rod Scarlett**  
CHC



Canadian Honey Council

**Prior** to joining the Canadian Honey Council as the Executive Director in January of 2011, **Rod Scarlett** was the Executive Director of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, Alberta's general farm organization, for fourteen years and concurrently, the General Manager of the Canadian Young Farmers Forum for six years. After obtaining his MA in Canadian Studies from Carleton University, Rod worked for eight years with the Government of Alberta where he was Executive Assistant to three different Cabinet Ministers. He has served on the executive of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association and the Pest Management Advisory Council. He currently sits on the Board of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, Co-Chair of AAFC's Horticulture Sector Engagement Table and was Co-Chair of AAFC's Canadian Bee Health Roundtable. He sits an ex-officio board member of the US based Honey Bee Health Coalition and is also a member of the international Apimondia Honey Fraud working group.



---

## List Your Classifieds in the MBA Newsletter & Website

MBA members: FREE

Non-member \$20

Out-of-province \$40

**Contact: [dnlcocq@shaw.ca](mailto:dnlcocq@shaw.ca)**



Manitoba  
Beekeepers'  
Association

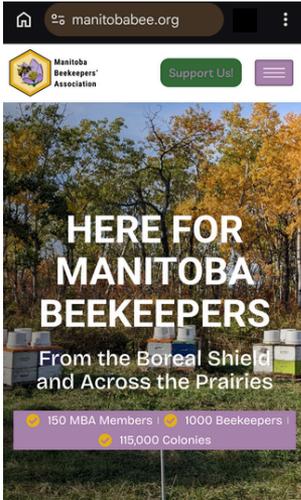
Please share your feedback on the convention to help us improve future planning and tailor next year's program to your needs.

## Feedback Survey



Use your phone's camera or a QR scanner to access

## Check out the new MBA website



## Read the MBA: Beekeepers Code of Practice

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Code of Practice is a guiding document that outlines recommended standards for responsible beekeeping across the province. It provides practical guidance on hive management, biosecurity, site selection, community relations, and regulatory compliance to help ensure healthy bees, strong industry relationships, and public trust. The suggestions are relevant to all Manitoba beekeepers: backyard, small-scale, and commercial.

