



Hive Lights

August 2013
Vol 26 # 3

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The Official Magazine of the Canadian Honey Council,
The Canadian Beekeeper and The Canadian Honey Packer



**Resolution of the Fédération Des
Apiculteurs Du Québec on the Banishment
of Neonicotinoid Pesticides**

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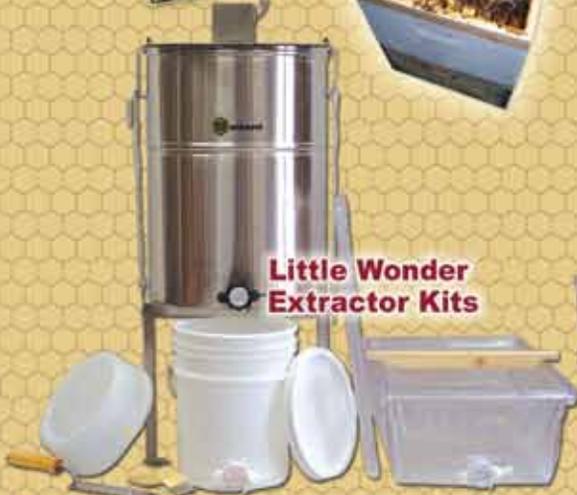


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Canadian Honey Council
#36 High Vale Crescent
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5J7

Hivelights is published quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov). Deadline for submissions are 6 weeks prior to publication (i.e. Dec 15th for Feb issue). For guidelines on article submission and advertising rates please visit our website at www.hivelights.ca

The opinions expressed in the articles printed in Hivelights are those of the authors and do not imply endorsement of the Canadian Honey Council for the promotion of any product, goods or services mentioned unless specifically stated.

Field Editor Doug McRory

Design and Production..... Cristian Campean

Advertising enquiries..... Geoff Todd

Publisher.....Bunker to Bunker Books Inc.

Printed in Canada

Publication Mail Agreement number

40031644

ISSN 1489-730X

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to

CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL

#36 High Vale Crescent

Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5J7

chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca

www.honeycouncil.ca

(877) 356 8935

HiveLights

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Canada  We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Honey Bee pollinating plum blossom.
Photo: Jim Campbell,
Stonewall Manitoba



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Canadian Honey Council Report

Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC

At the time of my writing this, honey flow is just starting in some parts of the country, pollination services have come and gone for cranberries and is just starting for canola. Very soon we will learn of the national winter loss figures but suffice it say, they won't be as good as last year. I know it's just cursory information at this point, but I have heard of individual beekeepers with very significant losses and others who came through the winter literally unscathed. I do know, however, that Manitoba beekeepers experienced extraordinary winter losses and even now are struggling to get numbers sufficient for decent honey production.

Now that spring has passed, questions abound as to how the CHC should address regional supply issues. Certainly we understand the need for a national supply strategy and steps have been taken to initiate a study. That study will certainly have to tackle a number of very difficult and divisive issues, but a healthy debate of the entire topic is good for the industry. Things are not always black and white and perhaps there is common ground that offers a reasonable solution to the majority. The CFIA will be circulating the results of their risk assessment of American packaged bees soon and this will hopefully result in a good debate on the issue.

In early June I attended a portion of the technical review of our food safety initiative in Calgary. Heartfelt thanks go out to Tim Townsend and our consultant, Robert MacDonald for the hours of work they spent in creating the documents. After the week long review, they were tasked with some corrective action items, but for the most part, the CFIA technical review team did not make any significant changes so it would appear that if all goes according to plan, that the Canadian Beekeeping Industry Safety



Quality and Traceability (CBISQT) program will approved by year's end.

The CBRF Board met in mid May and approved the financials and three projects for funding. The projects are:

"Maximising the value of bee pollination services delivered to canola." Shelley Hoover

"Screening alternative novel miticides for varroa control in an intergrated pest management system" Medhat Nasr

"Developing a diagnostic assay for Africanized bees and establishing a baseline dataset on the genetics of Canadian Honey Bees" Amro Zayed

In June the CFIA contacted the office and indicated that they were going to re-examine the container sizing issue and I participated on a conference call with them where I reinforced the CHC opinion that it does the industry no benefit to introduce changes. In fact, it may severely hamper smaller packers. CFIA's question this time around is somewhat different in that the first consultation where it was more of an ultimatum – when can you make the changes, while this time it is more can the industry institute changes. The

CHC has discussed this matter with a number of packers and CFIA indicated that they were going to contact some of them directly so they get a better sense of the issue. When they have finished, they will be coming back to the CHC for more feedback.

The Bee Incident Committee wrapped up all its recommendations in June and now the real work begins in getting them implemented. PMRA has not yet completed investigations for pesticide incidents that occurred this spring. There were a significant number of reported incidents affecting a good number of yards, again seemingly focussed in southern Ontario, but Quebec and Manitoba also has isolated cases. The recommendations of the committee, if implemented, will no doubt go a long way in mitigating risks and assist in dealing with this very important matter.

As always these are just a few brief thoughts on some of the issues the CHC is dealing with. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or thoughts you may have on any or all of them.

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2013 Directors

Canadian Honey Council

Conseil Canadien de Miel

Chair

Gerry McKee

BC Honey Producers Association
McKee's Bees
5430 Portland Street
Burnaby BC V5J 2R4
ph. 604-436-1614
mcbzes@shaw.ca

Vice Chair

Kevin Nixon

Alberta Beekeepers
Box 28, Site 8, RR4
Innisfail, AB T4G 1T9
ph. 403-927-0092
Email: kevin@nixonhoney.ca

Treasurer

Bryan Ash

Manitoba Beekeepers Association
Ash Apiaries
Box 297
Gilbert Plains, MB R0L 0X0
ph. 204-548-2036 fax 204-548-2122
Email: flash@mymts.net

Secretary

Scott Plante

Federation des Apiculteurs du Québec
2369 chemin Lambert
St-Nicolas, PQ G7A 2N4
ph. 418-531-0786
scott.plante@videotron.ca

Director

Calvin Parsons

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association
Box 44
Meskanan, SK S0K 2W0
ph. 306-864-2632
parsonsfamily@sasktel.net

Hivelihoods Magazine Editorial and Advertising

Geoff Todd ph. 403-475-3882 ggeoff@honeycouncil.ca

Director

Grant Hicks

Box 181
McLennan, AB T0H 2L0
ph. 780-324-3688
Email: grhicks77@gmail.com

Director

Bernie Rousseau

BezMaid Honey
13407 - 136 Ave. NW
Edmonton, AB T5L 4B4
ph. 780-454-1391
Cel: 780-907-6777
Bernie@beemaid.com

Director

Doug McRory

187 Dawn Ave.
Guelph, ON N1G 5J9
ph. 519-823-8191
Email: doug@dougsbees.com

Director

Paul Vautour

Maritime Beekeepers Association
Acadien Apiaries Ltd.
488 Cape Breton Road
Saint-Philippe, NB E1H 1W2
ph. 506-388-5127
paulination@rogers.com

CHC OFFICE

Executive Director

Rod Scarlett

#36 High Vale Crescent
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5J7
ph. 877-356-8935
cell 780-489-0231
chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca
www.honeycouncil.ca

Prince Edward Island to allow honey bee imports

The PEI Beekeepers' Association and the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association are pleased that the provincial government has agreed to relax its restrictive border regulations that govern the importation of honey bees from outside the province. "The blueberry sector has undergone significant expansion over the past several years, but the supply of honey bees has not kept pace with the industry's demand for pollination," says Edwin McKie, president of the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association. To address the issue, blueberry growers and beekeepers worked with the Prince Edward Island AgriAlliance to develop a pollination plan.

"Pollination is an extremely important aspect of growing wild blueberries. Without it, growers simply cannot obtain maximum production. This has a direct impact on growing blueberries profitably," said Mr. McKie. "It is well documented that increasing the number of honey bee colonies during blossom significantly increases blueberry yields if the weather cooperates. Blueberry growers will now be able to import colonies when PEI beekeepers cannot meet the demand locally."

The Pollination Plan contains nine recommendations to address the shortage of honey bee colonies for the low bush blueberry industry. They include allowing the importation of honey bees from other jurisdictions, improving the genetic resistance of local honey bees to certain pests, and better coordination of pollination services within the province.

"The province is pleased that blueberry growers and beekeepers are working together to address the challenges both industries face," said Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, George Webster. "Both groups rely on one another for success and this plan focuses on common goals that will generate growth in the two industries."

The Pollination Plan has been endorsed by the PEI Beekeepers' Association and the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association. They have also requested that the "Bee Health Regulations" be amended for the upcoming season. "This is a big change for our industry. An open border policy will allow beekeepers to access genetics which currently cannot be obtained from other provinces and it will improve colonies within the province," said John Burhoe, president of the PEI Beekeepers' Association. The president of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture, Bertha Campbell, also supports the plan.

"It is important that Prince Edward Island move towards policies which improve farm profitability. Allowing honey bee colonies to enter PEI from other provinces to fill the gap in pollination services and will allow blueberry growers to achieve maximum yield potential and farm cash receipts," said Ms. Campbell.

Blueberries have become a major crop on Prince Edward Island and are valued at more than \$10 million with 175 growers and a large blueberry processing facility located near Morell. This year, more than 6,000 Island honey bee colonies were available to blueberry growers, which is only half the number required to obtain maximum yields.

Membership in CHC

National organizations with a vested interest in honey bees, in addition to the existing provincial beekeeper organizations, are eligible for membership in the Canadian Honey Council. Applications are subject to review by the CHC Membership Committee. Those associations that meet established criteria are then considered for approval by the Board of Directors. Application form available from CHC office.



Regional Reports

Maritimes

Spring was slow to arrive in the Maritimes and, as in many other parts of the country, there were excessive rainfalls.



Paul Vautour

However the weather has greatly improved in June and growers are reporting good pollination of their crops. High temperature records are being broken in the first part of July and the bees are building on a strong honey flow. Apiculture seems to be at its peak of normalcy and there is optimism that this will be a good year.

Québec

When we compare this year to last we can't stop the feeling that were lagging behind. Actually, as this is being written we are about seven to ten days behind last year and very little honey produced.

Blueberry pollinations went well this year and this ever growing industry is becoming part of our beekeeping practices. Most if not all professional beekeepers in Québec rent their bees for pollinations and I would go so far as to say that it is one of the saving graces of our industry.

No news of any new small

hive beetle occurrence, and personally I hope it stays that way!

Now to the question of the day, what's the price of honey? I got a call from a local buyer for a semi load he offered 1.96\$ a pound, I was told the local honey COOP was selling at 2.05\$ a pound and I then called the honey hot line and it was between 2.00\$-2.25\$ a pound. In conclusion I think honey prices will be good, I just hope we have honey to sell!

Have a great summer.

Quand nous comparons cette année à l'an passé on n'a l'impression que 2013 traîne continuellement de l'arrière. Actuellement nous avons 7 à 10 jours de retard sur l'an dernier ainsi que très peu de miel produit pour le moment.

La pollinisation des bleuets cette année c'est bien déroulée, cette industrie croissante devient peu à peu partie intégrante de notre pratique apicole. La plupart des producteurs commerciaux apicoles au Québec, si non tous, louent leurs ruches pour la pollinisation, j'irais même jusqu'à affirmer que la pollinisation est devenue la planche de salut de notre industrie. Aucune nouvelle du petit coléoptère de la ruche et personnellement j'espère qu'il en restera ainsi.



Scott Plante

Maintenant, à quel prix se vend le miel me demanderez-vous? J'ai reçu un appel d'un acheteur local qui m'offrirait 1,96\$ Lb, la Coop vend le miel à 2,05\$Lb, et en appelant la ligne téléphonique sur le prix du miel aux États Unis, le miel se détail présentement entre 2,00\$ et 2,25\$ lb. J'en conclus donc que le prix du miel restera bon, j'espère seulement que nous aurons du miel à vendre...

Bon été à tous.

Ontario

Ontario is experiencing a "great Monsoon season" as it continues to rain almost every day. The basswood is blooming as this is written and a honey flow is on! The plants are out there in abundance if the right weather comes to make a good honey crop for the rest of July and August.

Ontario beekeepers continue to be hit with Nionic poisoning and it is high on everyone's agenda here in Ontario. The OBA and Quebec Beekeeper Federation have both called for an immediate ban on these products as Europe has done. There are many beekeepers that feel that beekeeping is unsustainable with the losses that they are experiencing. The beekeepers feel that these chemicals have been building up in the soil over a number of years as every seeded crop now is totally treated with them to the point that these chemicals are now coming out in the water and after each rain storm you can literally see dying bees with

pesticide symptoms. Many colonies continue to lose their field bees. The bees that were affected last year did not winter well. This spring there were 50 beekeepers and 140 reported incidents according to PMRA at the Quebec Meeting on Nionics two weeks ago. PMRA, MOE and OMAFRA are again co-operating to go out and sample all reported locations and the chemicals have again been found in the dead bees. Quebec also reported finding the Nionics in water sources of the honey



Doug McRory

bees. Two incidents this spring have involved soybeans which widened the spectrum of problem crops.

Pollination of blueberries with Ontario bees in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and for the first time in Prince Edward Island has been successful and now the bees are on cranberries in southern Quebec. I was able to see many fields in bloom in PEI and northern New Brunswick. Norma and I even got to go Lobster fishing (a life experience believe me) along with Chris Jordan, PEI Bee and Blueberry Specialist, thanks to Edwin (past president of PEI Blueberry Growers Association) and Freda McKie. The lobsters tasted the best that I have ever eaten! Unless you see for yourself the expanse of the blueberry fields is very hard to communicate the magnitude of those blueberry fields. As the honey market is strong, some beekeepers held their colonies back from pollination or found growers

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who do not move the colonies once they are in the fields and who pay more per colony with a guaranteed price per colony. Some beekeepers were able to go to Nova Scotia and then to northern New Brunswick for a second full priced pollination and then also do cranberries to make the pollination pay. Next year should be a very interesting year to see how the pollination business in eastern Canada works out!

Hello friends and colleagues, As you may know, the Ontario Beekeeper's Association has been working hard to have the neonicotinoid pesticides responsible for these losses removed from use in Ontario. As part of their strategy, the OBA has developed the attached petition requesting the Premier of Ontario to follow the lead of the European Union and ban neonicotinoid pesticides.

I am asking you to sign this petition by clicking here<<http://chn.ge/11J53Jc>> to add your voice to the beekeepers, farmers, environmentalists, scientists, and citizens who want to see an end to this toxic contamination of our pollinators, wildlife, water systems and land.

Please circulate this email to all your friends and contacts, or 'cut and paste' this link into your own message: <http://chn.ge/11J53Jc> . If you have a website, blog or Facebook page, or if you Tweet, please share the petition on your sites. Together we can protect our bees. *Submitted by Julie White*

Manitoba

The board of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association has been kept quite busy this spring with several issues

being addressed.

With unprecedented demand for package bees for Eastern Canada needs, coupled with our late spring inspections, plus extreme high winter losses, Manitoba experienced a major bee shortage. This triggered our board to contact usual suppliers, and ultimately lead to checking with former USA contacts. With the need for packages to replenish winter losses, MBA sought direction from our members. A Special General Meeting was held on 3 May to discuss a plan to seek packages bees from USA.

The Special Meeting resulted in a change in policy for Manitoba. Our new direction is now to seek to have the importation of packages from continental USA permitted. Although recognizing other provinces remain strong in their current views, MBA believes that some former risk areas reported by CFIA may have changed. For example Tylosin is now available as a disease treatment, plus Amitraz is registered for pests. MBA met with Min Ron Kostychyn, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, and subsequently prepared a report for Federal Minister Ritz plus Canadian Food Inspection Agency. We are awaiting responses.

In another area, the board was pleased a spring inspection confirmed Small Hive Beetle found last fall, did not survive the winter. Due to the late spring, this confirmation came later than anticipated, yet permitted Manitoba to retain its

previous status.

Meanwhile, a representative from CropLife met with our board to discuss their recent activities concerning the difficulties Ontario producers faced last spring. Manitoba has determined to take a closer look at how pesticides may have impacted our winter bee loss. We are pleased Health Canada updated their web so suspected pesticide impacts can be reported.

In Manitoba, the political scene is a little unsteady as the government introduced an increase in the PST from



Bryan Ash

7 to 8%, and the final details of the budget are still sketchy. With this uncertainty, there is no money available for the traditional disease inspection program. The Honey

Bee Lab was also impacted, and only started processing bee samples in early May.

However, news of the Growing Forward 2 – Growing Assurance, is gradually unfolding. Initially, it appears there may be some opportunity to gain support for biosecurity and food safety projects. An advisory group is being formed to establish priorities, so we will monitor this closely to see how producers can take advantage of this program.

The initial provincial report on winter bee losses reveals an average of 46.4% when spring losses are included. The average number dying in the winter was 30.1% of the hives. Winter weather conditions account for 20.1% of losses. From the producers responding, it appears the

worst area was the Northwest with an average of 59.4% loss.

The good news is that honey prices are reported above \$2.00 range, however most honey has already moved out of storage.

Canola crops began flowering the first week of July. The high humidity means fungicide applications are in full swing. The weather has been spotty with 10-15 inches of rain in the Northwest, to fairly dry soils in central Manitoba.

The Day of the Bee was celebrated in Winnipeg on May 25, with many visitors enjoying the Live Bee display.

Meanwhile, the Field Day in June, saw over 60 people gather to tour the Extraction Facilities of Ash Apiaries limited in Gilbert plains.

Saskatchewan

It's hard to believe that the year is half gone with the last days of June fading fast into July.

The eve of the honey flow here in Saskatchewan is at hand and it looks good. There is another record acreage of Canola seeded in the country and the bees have built up nicely after a slow start.

The nightmare of March and April is just a memory but one that will stay with me for some time. We took the motor toboggan as close as we dared for our first check this spring then we donned snowshoes to travel the rest of the way into the yards. Pollen patties, strips, medication and smoker and hive tools in hand to attack that last 100 yards. Oh sorry I forgot one other crucial

► pg 8

piece of equipment, the snow shovel to get the snow of the lids so we could actually open the hives.

The bees looked fairly decent on the first inspection only to be followed up by the coldest April in some 100 plus years which took a toll on them. No or very little flight and some colonies cold starving inches away from more food. This following one of the longest coldest winters in years. Average winter loss in the province is reported to be in the 25% area but there were very serious losses reported that far exceeded this. Fall treatment of mites being the connective tissue that held together a common thread with the high losses. The cold April meant that the indoor wintered colonies didn't get moved out of their hiding places until late in April the days were simply too long to hold the bees any longer. Winter losses were covered off quite nicely by overwintered nuclei colonies and some packages. One operator in the province had an auction sale and any shortages still left could have been found there. The price of honey may have taken some bees out of the market place as guys opted to run their extra colonies rather than sell them.

May was a decent month and the colonies seemed to build nicely. The dandelions flowered quite well and for a couple of weeks. I don't understand all the fuss about killing dandelions personally and I imagine the vast majority of those reading this article share my wonder at this. Dandelions save us a lot of money.

There is very little honey left in the hands of beekeepers and what is left most fellas are asking a good price for. There are rumours of 2013 honey being pre-priced at very good levels as well. It could be a very good year to be in honeybees.



Calvin Parsons

I hope everyone has a decent honey crop and are able to take advantage of the honey prices.

Alberta

It has been an extremely busy challenging year so far beekeeping in Alberta. Most beekeepers in central and northern Alberta had higher spring losses than winter losses. Sounds like most were able to recover their numbers, but some were not able to. Will this translate to a short honey crop? Who knows at this point Also, there was a few beekeepers affected by the devastating flood in Calgary and southern Alberta. It is an extremely sad situation, but those beekeepers that were affected the most will get through this. Losses were great in both equipment and personal belongings, but they are the type of people who will make the best of it and pull up their socks and carry on. It is July 15 as I write this, it is raining and 11 degrees. Bees started being moved into pollination around June 24. I thought it may have been just a few early fields especially with the cool late spring. But to my surprise, we kept moving steadily. At this time, I think



Kevin Nixon

most if not all the bees are in and some have been moved out already due to large hail storms entirely wiping out some of the seed production fields. The crops look decent in most areas outside of the hail damage. We have had plenty of moisture, and are in need of some good temperatures and flying days. If we can get that, I would be hopeful for an average honey crop. Sounds like honey prices are maintaining themselves or possibly rising, so it would be great if we can get all that we can.

By the time your all reading this, we will probably have a good idea of where we are all at and hopefully every barrel on the yard is full and fall conditions will be favourable for putting the bees into winter again.

British Columbia

British Columbia's winter colony mortality dropped to 18 % which is an improvement compared to previous years since 2007. Prior to the introduction of the Varroa mite in the late 1980s, winter mortality was about 10 to 12 %. Subsequently, varroa is considered responsible for the increases between 15-20% with a high of 36% in 2008. Regional variations have occurred as Vancouver Island beekeepers in 2010, endured a loss exceeding 60%. Anecdotal reports this year, from some V.I. beekeepers complain of 70 % losses while other operators indicate losses of less than 10 %. Does this indicate effective mite control may simply have made the difference?

In the Ministry's survey, 40

% of beekeepers considered that "Poor queens" were the main cause for colony failure while 38% thought the losses were "Weak Colonies" going into winter. These two situations indicate there is probably the need to upgrade management skills. While talking to both sideliners and commercial beekeepers, I often hear the complaint that there is never enough time to better prepare the colonies for winter. But, why are some beekeepers luckier than others ?

Response to the Ministry's Spring survey represented over 30% of all colonies managed in the province which was far better compared to previous years. The Ministry, with some guarded optimism, points this improvement to a long-term trend of manageable winter survivor levels.



Gerry McKee

In the lower region of the province, rain and overcast skies during June, disappointed queen producers who had invested time and money in meeting the increasing demand for domestic stock. There was little flying weather for mating. Although B.C. has experienced several cool, wet Junes over the past five years, it has been a very strange spring as May was exceptionally hot and flowering berry crops seemed ahead of schedule.

In the Peace River region, Kerry Clark reported the cool spring, with frost extending to the end of April, resulted in hive losses of about 30 %. June had a lot of rain and the crops are lush and the soil has plenty of moisture. Surviving

colonies have done well on the regular progression of willow – dandelion – rose and wild flowers. Sweet clover and other forage legumes are just starting to bloom in July. The potential for a good honey harvest is very promising and prices remain strong.

The new “Growing Forward II” program is being well received as over half the funding has already been allocated for this year and applications are being received at a good rate. The opportunity to have a “Taking Stock” professional farm financial analysis done on your beekeeping operation, a \$ 2,000 value at a cost of only \$ 100 is a very low investment to confirm options for getting ahead.

Several promising developments are underway this summer and fall. Queen producers are optimistically waiting for Dr. Len Foster's research team selecting disease and Varroa resistant stock which are under field trials. Participants at the Campbell Gold Honey Farm workshop on testing for hygienic stock that was held last spring, have already reported a noticeable difference with their selected stock in cell building and brood development.

“Hive and Thrive” is the theme for the AGM and Conference of the BC Honey Producer's to be held at Kelowna, in the Okanagan Valley, October 24 -26, 2013. Noted speakers include Heather Clay, retired CEO of the CHC, who is the project coordinator for the Urban Bee Network promoting Integrated Pest Management to reduce use

of pesticides; Sue Cobey, on Queen Rearing and stock improvement; Dr. Leonard Foster, on selecting disease and Varroa resistant stock using molecular techniques to reduce time for breeding outcomes; Dr Mehat Nasr, Provincial Apiarist of Alberta, on Improving Overwintering Success; Peter Awram, CEO of Honeyview Farm, largest commercial beekeeping operation in B.C.; James and Max Macdonald, queen breeders using stock originated from B.C. Queen project in the 80's; Hossein Yeganehrad, largest producer of royal jelly in North America; and Judie Barta, a registered Massage Therapist and CEO of Meadow Vista Honey Wines; who will share her knowledge of wellness through honey, propolis and other products from the hive. Larry Conner, Kalamazoo, Michigan, will share his Beekeeping by the Numbers, \$ 500 per Hive per Year. With the ever-increasing need for more regional self-reliance for producing queens, he has started raising queens at the Connor Farm in Galesburg with an eye toward mite resistance and local fitness (honey production, resistance and wintering).

Opportunities for significant others attending the Conference at Kelowna, include a winery tour, Orchard Park Mall (over 170 stores), Boutique shopping, visiting the Kasugai Japanese gardens and the tea at Guisachan House, or enjoying the excitement and gourmet dinner at the Lake City Casino. For updated information go to hiveandthrive.com.

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Bee Maid's mission is to create long-term value for beekeepers and consumers and to strive continually to be the best in industry and to lead in all that we do. The single focused activities that the Board of Directors and Managers have undertaken over the last three years have been the propulsion in moving the organization forward in an effective way.



Bernie Rousseau

The most impactful undertakings that have been planned diligently and are now positively affecting the organization are:

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Now is the time for you to join us and be part of a producer owned organization that is well positioned to continue benefiting the Canadian beekeeping industry for many more years. Some conditions do apply when applying for membership, please contact us for more details. So don't delay and sign up now!

Resolution Of The Fédération Des Apiculteurs Du Québec (FAQ - Quebec Beekeepers Federation) On The Banishment Of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

1. Considering that a large number of international, independent scientific studies have demonstrated the acute and/or chronic toxicity of neonicotinoid pesticides for bees, either through the insecticide dust liberated in the environment during the sowing of treated seeds, contaminated surface water that is drunk by bees, or their nectar and pollen foraging on treated plants;

2. Considering that the European Union Scientific Commission has analyzed these publications and concluded that neonicotinoids constitute an unacceptable threat to bees' life;

3. Considering that neonicotinoids are used on a very large scale in Quebec, namely in field crops, and that this massive use creates an unprecedented level of exposure for the bees, more than ever before;

4. Considering that the systematic use of neonicotinoids undermines the very foundations of integrated pest management, based on field scouting and one-off interventions when required by the situation;

5. Considering that fieldwork done in Quebec have asserted that bees are also directly and indirectly exposed to these substances and that they are also negatively impacted by such contacts;

6. Considering that pollinators' exposition to these substances is repetitive, prolonged over large periods of time and that more severe intoxication cases caused by these products can occur unpredictably, as incidents in Ontario during the Spring of 2012 have shown, even when these pesticides are used according to prescribed use.

7. Considering that some neonicotinoid pesticides have been homologated as an interim measure specifically because their security for pollinators had not been demonstrated to the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)'s satisfaction.

8. Considering that these interim homologations are still in force even if additional studies requested by the PMRA have not been completed after nine years.

9. Considering that comparative studies conducted by the Centre de recherche sur les grains (Centre for Research on Grains - CEROM) have demonstrated, in their first year, that the use of seeds treated with neonicotinoid pesticides do not lead to higher yields in corn production;

10. Considering that the commercial strategies of companies

producing those neonicotinoid treated seeds make it very difficult for farmers to access non-treated seeds, thereby imposing a generalized use that is not agronomically justified;

11. Considering that neonicotinoids are water-soluble and persist in the ground and considering that their generalized and repeated use create water contamination problems;

12. Considering that neonicotinoid dust liberated in the air and the environment create unforeseen issues which effects have not been studied and which could threaten the health of rural populations, first and foremost that of farmers whose level of exposure are very high.

13. Considering that the different forms of pollution created by neonicotinoids would not only impact bees and other pollinators but also affect many other insects as well as other wildlife species such as insectivorous birds, fish and other aquatic species;

The Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec (FAQ - Quebec Beekeepers Federation) asserts that the current use of neonicotinoid pesticides in field crops is harmful to pollinators and creates environmental problems whose importance largely exceeds their eventual benefits. Therefore the FAQ asks the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to ban their use on field crops.

14. Meanwhile, considering that while such a ban would represent an optimal solution, it remains unlikely in the short term, in Quebec or in Canada;

The Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec (FAQ - Quebec Beekeepers Federation) urges all interested stakeholders to adopt concrete measures in order to reduce the use of neonicotinoids as much as possible, first and foremost by ensuring the availability of non-treated seeds and by promoting the adoption of mitigation measures that will reduce risks of exposure for the bees.

Resolution unanimously adopted in a regular meeting of the FAQ board of directors on 15 May 2013.



**FÉDÉRATION DES APICULTEURS
DU QUÉBEC**

Maison de l'UPA

555, boulevard Roland-Therrien, bureau 225

Longueuil (Québec) J4H 4E7

Téléphone : 450 679-0530, poste 8601 Télécopieur : 450 463-5226

Courriel : apiculteur@upa.qc.ca www.apiculteursduquebec.com

Ontario Beekeepers Call For The Suspension Of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

Submitted by Doug McRory (Field Editor)

Milton, Ontario, May 1, 2013: The Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA), congratulates the EU on Monday's decision to ban the use of three neonicotinoid pesticides (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam) that have been tied for the devastation of thousands of bee colonies in the province.

"The EU vote clearly shows there is scientific and public support around the globe for policies which protect honey bees and other pollinators and recognize their essential role in food production and healthy ecosystems," said Dan Davidson, President of the OBA.

In 2012, Ontario experienced widespread losses of more than 5,000 colonies in various locations throughout the Province. At the time of the poisonings, Ontario beekeepers suspected that the neonicotinoid insecticides used in corn seed treatment were the cause of both bee kills and the decline of colonies near corn and soybean plantings.

The federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) recently confirmed those fears in their report "Evaluation of Canadian Bee Mortalities that coincided with Corn Planting in Spring 2012" "The information evaluated suggests that planting of corn seeds treated with the nitro-guanidine insecticides clothianidin and/or thiamethosam contributed to the majority of the bee mortalities that occurred in corn growing regions of Ontario and Quebec in Spring 2012."

The OBA believes that the health of Ontario's food production system is at stake. "Ontario's fruit and vegetable farmers depend on adequate pollination by honey bees, bumble bees and wild bees. We encourage the Government of Ontario to reassess the bee safety of all neonicotinoid pesticides products and suspend all conditional registrations until we understand how to manage the risks posed by these products to honey bees and other pollinators," says Davidson.

Neonicotinoids are systemic pesticides that are absorbed into plant tissues. They are highly soluble in water and will leach into our ground water supply and contaminate the soil. They are routinely applied to corn and soybeans and a variety of agricultural crops with sprays, seed coatings, soil drenches and granules. Neonicotinoids are highly toxic to bees. They migrate through soil and the entire plant all the way to the flowers. This causes toxic, lethal and chronic exposure to multiple species, including

pollinators, earthworms, birds and fish.

Since 1881 the Ontario Beekeepers Association has represented the interests of Ontario beekeepers. We work to ensure a thriving and sustainable beekeeping industry in Ontario. To this end, we advocate for beekeepers' interests, support honey bee health research and deliver practical training and information.

For more information: www.ontariobee.ca

Media Inquiries: Dan Davidson President, Ontario Beekeepers Association sddavidson@brktel.on.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Bee Industry Released

Rod Scarlett, Executive Director CHC

OTTAWA, May 8, 2013: Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced the release of a national biosecurity standard designed to protect bees from pests and disease today.

The standard offers a consistent national approach to biosecurity and is applicable to bee operations of all types and sizes.

“Protecting bee health is important to safeguarding the bee industry and the Canadian agricultural industries that depend on it,” said Minister Ritz. “The value of the honey and bee products industry is substantial, and many other valuable crops are reliant on pollination by bees. Canada has

seen rapid growth in pollination-dependent crops such as fruits and vegetables. In fact, approximately \$2 billion in agricultural products rely on bees.”

“Healthy bees contribute to a healthy economy,” said Minister Ritz. “The development of a national bee biosecurity standard is the culmination of a cooperative effort on behalf of the Government of Canada, provincial governments and the industry,” commented Rod Scarlett, Executive Director of the Canadian Honey Council. “It represents an important step in the growing awareness and contribution of the apicultural sector to Canadian agriculture.”

The National Farm-Level Bee Biosecurity Standard was developed through a partnership with the honey bee, bumblebee and alfalfa leafcutting bee industries and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). It was developed in collaboration with producers, industry associations, academia, and provincial governments. Funding was provided by the Growing Forward policy initiative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

To request an electronic copy of the standard or to learn more about biosecurity, visit the CFIA's website at www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity.

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Gallberry/Inkberry

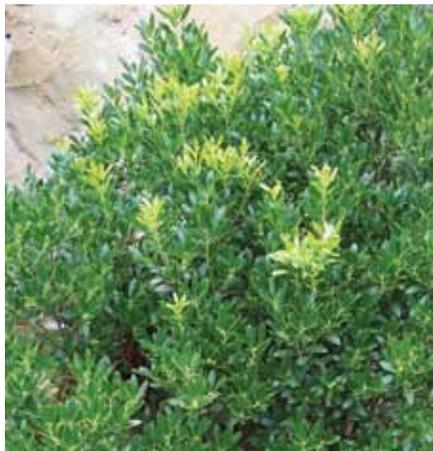
Submitted by Geoff Todd

Scientific Name

Ilex glabra (L.) Gray

Alternate Names

Gallberry, bitter gallberry, winterberry, Canadian winterberry, evergreen winterberry, Appalachian tea.



Gallberry plant.

Photo: Nova Scotia Agriculture

Uses

Inkberry leaves are browsed by marsh rabbit and white tailed-deer, the fruits are important food for raccoon, coyote, and opossum when other sources are scarce. The fruit is also eaten by at least 15 species of birds, including bobwhite quail and wild turkey. Inkberry provides cover for white-tailed deer, small rodents, and several species of birds. Nectar of the flowers is an important source for honey production.

Inkberry is coming to be recommended and used for ornament as one of the few evergreen shrubs that thrives in continually moist to wet sites and adapts to a wide range of light availability. It provides a larger and faster growing alternative to boxwood hybrids, although it tends to be leggier, prone to stem breakage, and the rhizomatous plants tend to form large, expanding colonies. Numerous cultivars of inkberry have

been selected and are commercially available. Compared to the wild types, these generally have a more compact, taller, and/or broader habit, smaller and darker leaves, greater cold hardiness, and/or more abundant fruit production. Selections are sometimes restricted to one or the other sex, and because the staminate and pistillate flowers are on different plants, both sexes must be present for fruit production.

Inkberry can be used for erosion control, watershed protection, and phosphate mine reclamation. It is included in listings of potential new crops for Australia as a source of beverage -- presumably desirable for its caffeine.

The fruit and leaves of various species of holly, presumably including inkberry, contain a mixture of the caffeine-like alkaloid theobromine, caffeine itself, and glycosides. The Indians of the southeastern US made a caffeinated tea from the leaves of yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*). Mate, or Paraguay tea, is made from the leaves of *Ilex paraguariensis*, a holly tree indigenous to Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. Mate contains caffeine and a natural alkaloid called mateine, a mildly stimulating relative of caffeine that tends not to produce side effects such as nervousness or sleeplessness.

Description

Holly family (Aquifoliaceae). Native, open evergreen shrubs, commonly growing 1.5-2(-3) meters tall,

with numerous sprouts from thick, heavy, tuberous rhizomes, forming clusters and extensive, dense, colonial thickets. Leaves are alternate, simple, entire or finely toothed toward the tip, obovate to oblong or elliptic, 2.5-6.5 cm long, evergreen, leathery, shiny and dark green above, lighter and dull beneath. Flowers are either staminate (male) or pistillate (female), borne on separate plants (the species dioecious); individual flowers small, greenish-white and inconspicuous, the staminate 3-7 in short-stalked clusters, the pistillate solitary in leaf axils. Fruit is 5-7 mm in diameter, nearly black, shiny; seeds (pyrenes) 5-7, smooth. The common name is in reference to the dark blue-black fruits.

Distribution

Inkberry occurs on the coastal plain of all US states along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, from Texas to Florida and northward to southern New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware, including more inland localities in Pennsylvania and Arkansas. It continues northward



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Gallberry blossom.
Photo: Nova Scotia Agriculture

sporadically and uncommonly through New England into Nova Scotia, Canada.

Establishment

Adaptation

Inkberry occurs primarily in pocosins, savannas, low woods, and pine barrens and woodlands. It is a common understory species of several fire-climax communities and an invader of frequently burned areas. On well-drained sites of bayland and pocosin communities, it is a dominant species. It is a common shrub in loblolly-shortleaf pine communities, and with Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), it may be one of the most conspicuous members of the understory of longleaf pine forests in Florida. Inkberry is shade tolerant and grows in both sunny and shaded habitats, on dry to wet sites, and on sandy to heavier peaty soils. Flowering: March-June; fruiting: September-October, the fruits persisting into the following spring.

General

Wildlife use of inkberry and the colonization of a variety of habitats suggest that the seeds are animal dispersed. Germination may not occur for 2-3 years, and seedling growth and early development are slow. Seedlings apparently grow best in partial shade.

Gallberry Honey

Reprinted with permission from Jenny Best Slow Food USA

Gallberry honey is sourced from a small evergreen holly bush (also known as inkberry) that grows along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast and produces a unique honey that is popular throughout the piney woods and swamps of southeast Florida.

It is desirable for the rich, elegant taste and is prized for its honeycomb. Its flavor is thick and aromatic, a perfect table honey, and also recommended for baking. Gallberry honey is known for its lack of granulation.

Gallberry honey is high in pollen and enzymes and therefore slow to crystallize. According to Florida beekeeper and National Honey Board member Doug McGinnis, this variety is a favored blending honey in Europe because it blends with other varietals and punches up the amount of diastase enzymes in the blend, preventing the honey from crystallizing even in cool temperatures. Gallberry is one of the highest honeys for diastase enzymes.

For a very short window of time every spring, from late April to early June, the bush blossoms with white

flowers that drip nectar, providing beekeepers' with their only opportunity to make the amber colored honey. Ideal production, according to beekeepers, occurs when the gallberry bush has "feet in water, head in sunshine." As with any pure,

single varietal honey, producing Gallberry honey takes the patience of an experienced artisan beekeeper because the bees must not be allowed to harvest nectar from any other flowering plant.

Unfortunately, this time-honored, local tradition is threatened by habitat loss to development throughout the area. Today, the untamed forests of the



Gallberry honey.

southeast where the plant is ubiquitous are rapidly being developed. Without this environment, the beekeepers of Southern Georgia and Northern Florida cannot continue to produce Gallberry honey. Doug McGinnis notes, that due "to destruction of wetlands, it's harder to find areas that produce lots of gallberry honey. When I was young, the 'galberry woods' were most abundant just north of here, from Bunnell, Florida to Palatka, Florida. Today that area is encompassed by the Palm Coast development. So, sustainable? Only as long as we preserve some of the wild lands left in Florida and Southern Georgia."

Single variety honeys and their bee colonies have yet to be affected by colony collapse disorder. Still, this increasingly widespread and mysterious disease is a danger and could put small, artisan and single-variety beekeepers out of business or cause them to turn to less sustainable, market-driven practices.

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Factors Affecting Winter Survival of Honey Bee Colonies

Submitted by Doug McRory, (Field Editor)

Dr. Ernesto Guzman-Novoa and Leslie Eccles wrote a very interesting paper that was published in 2009 concerning this topic. It points out some very basic facts that beekeepers can control through management that affect the survival of the colonies over winter.

They specifically, looked at low food reserves, low bee population, Nosema disease and infestation of varroa and tracheal mites in commercial honey bee colonies.

The following three tables are from this paper:

Table I. Mean fall, spring, and summer conditions (\pm SE) of honey bee colonies in Ontario, Canada, for factors that could be associated to colony mortality and low spring and summer bee populations.

Factor	Fall ⁵	Spring ⁵	Summer ⁵
Bee population ¹	7.4 \pm 0.1	4.3 \pm 0.2	15.8 \pm 0.5
Food reserves (kg)	23.6 \pm 0.4	12.5 \pm 0.5	42.6 \pm 2.5
Varroa mite infestation ²	5.1 \pm 0.5	3.1 \pm 0.6	1.5 \pm 0.2
Tracheal mite infestation ³	1.0 \pm 0.4	0.8 \pm 0.2	1.1 \pm 0.4
Nosema infection ⁴	9 804 \pm 4 688	3,108 199 \pm 327 722	1,142 000 \pm 118 200

- 1 Number of frames covered by bees per hive;
- 2 number of mites per 100 bees; the summer number may be too low as high % of Varroa are under the cappings at any given time
- 3 number of parasitized bees in 100;
- 4 number of spores per bee.
- 5 N = 408, 297, and 278 for fall, spring, and summer, respectively.

Table II. Mean fall conditions (\pm SE) of 408 honey bee colonies found alive or dead the following spring in Ontario, Canada, for different factors that could be associated to colony mortality and low spring and summer bee populations. P based on Mann-Whitney U tests.

Factor	Alive	Dead P
Bee population ¹	8.0 \pm 0.1	5.9 \pm 0.2 < 0.0001
Food reserves (kg)	25.4 \pm 0.5	19.0 \pm 0.9 < 0.0001
Varroa mite infestation ²	2.9 \pm 0.2	11.1 \pm 1.5 < 0.0001
Tracheal mite infestation ³	0.2 \pm 0.1	3.1 \pm 1.3 < 0.001
Nosema infection	4 6 734 \pm 3 238	18 018 \pm 14 923

- 1 Number of frames covered by bees per hive;
- 2 number of mites per 100 bees;
- 3 number of parasitized bees in 100;
- 4 number of spores per bee

Table III. Effect of different fall factors on winter mortality for 408 honey bee colonies found alive or dead the following spring in Ontario, Canada. P based on Chi square tests.

Factor	Condition ⁵	No. alive	No. dead	%Mort/Total ⁶	P
Bee population ¹	Low	122	77	69.4	< 0.0001
	High	175	34		

Food reserves (kg)	Low	140	75	67.6	< 0.001
	High	157	36		
Varroa mite infestation ²	Positive	214	95	85.6	< 0.01
	Negative	83	16		
Tracheal mite infestation ³	Positive	13	12	10.8	0.0159
	Negative	284	99		
Nosema disease ⁴	Positive	76	38	34.2	0.0833
	Negative	221	73		

- 1 Number of frames covered by bees per hive;
- 2 number of mites per 100 bees;
- 3 number of parasitized bees in 100;
- 4 number of spores per bee;
- 5 colonies were classified as having low or high food reserves or bee populations if the values for these variables were below (for low) or above (for high) the means obtained from all colonies used in the study (low < 23.6 kg; high > 23.6 kg for food reserves; low \leq 7 frames with bees; high \geq 8 frames with bees for bee population; n = 408);
- 6 percent mortality calculated from the total number of colonies that died during the winter (n = 111).

This research indicates that the Varroa mites are the greatest factor for over winter loss. These mites are totally unforgiving. We as beekeepers need to be sure that the spring and fall (you need both and possibly a mid-July treatment if possible) treatments are working and we also need to alternate our treatments so we do not develop resistance the last effective strip treatment - Apivar ®. We all need to work out how to use Formic Acid in our own beekeeping system. Oxalic in late fall is a cheap, effective insurance policy!

The next factor was the number of bees in the cluster. For outdoor wintered bees anything under 7 frames of bees in late fall has a high probability of dying. My suggestion is to winter those colonies with over 7 frames of bees outdoors, well packed and winter anything under that number indoors where they are protected from the elements. You can get even a 3 frame unit through indoors. The big hives are better outdoors as they develop brood in midwinter and come out with much more brood than the indoor wintered bees. It is a matter of survival to put the smaller colonies indoors!

The next factor is the feed. This one is totally under the control of the beekeeper and there really is no excuse for bees to not have enough stores going into winter!

Now that we have Nosema cerana, the effects of this form of Nosema are definitely more of a problem in the spring where Nosema Apis was a problem during the winter. We need to shift our thinking on treating for Nosema to the spring if it is justified with Nosema samples. You should probably sample both spring and fall and decide if you need to treat based on those timely samples. Fumagilin is expensive and sample is well justified!

Honey Bee Tracheal Mites do not appear to be a problem except when in combination with Varroa and for those colonies it appears to be deadly.

So there you have it – keep your Varroa under control, have strong colonies to overwinter (or put them indoors), feed your bees well, treat for Nosema if samples indicate a problem and HBTM will eliminate itself at the low numbers that it is appearing in the general bee population.

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Evaluation of Canadian Bee Mortalities that Coincided with Corn Planting in Spring 2012

Pest Management Regulatory Agency

In the spring and summer of 2012, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) received a significant number of honey bee mortality reports from the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. A portion of these mortalities were determined to be associated with spray drift, however, an unusually high number of reports of honey bee mortalities were received from beekeepers in corn growing regions of Ontario and Quebec. The majority of reports were from southern Ontario, involving over 40 beekeepers and 240 different bee yard locations. Additionally, one report was received from Quebec involving eight bee yards. Timing and location of these honey bee mortalities appeared to coincide with planting corn seed treated with insecticides. An evaluation was undertaken to assess whether pesticides may have contributed to the mortalities and whether regulatory action was required. This evaluation focussed only on pollinator mortalities that coincided with planting treated corn.

To evaluate the role that pesticides may have played in the Ontario bee losses, Health Canada, supported by the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), collected samples for pesticide residue analysis, as well as information on the effects observed, bee health, and agricultural activities in the vicinity of affected bee yards.

Affected Ontario beekeepers reported varying levels of mortalities and other symptoms consistent with pesticide exposure (twitching, unable to fly, extended proboscis). It was commonly reported that the bees were foraging at the time of the incidents and that the strongest colonies were the most affected, having the largest number of dead and dying bees, which were often observed to have pollen on their legs.

Many of the beekeepers monitored their affected hives through the season and reported ongoing effects, including lack of recovery and colony build up and lack of honey production. Effects on queens were also reported, including queen mortality, high supersedure (replacement of the queen), and poor egg laying resulting in spotty brood. Additionally, some beekeepers noted drone mortality and brood removal from the colonies. Some beekeepers reported colony recovery after varying time periods (days to weeks).

Prior to the mortality there were indications that the bees were healthy. Most of the beekeepers reported overwinter losses below 15%, the level generally considered to be acceptable and sustainable by most apiculturists. The 2012 province-wide overwinter loss reported by OMAFRA was 12%. This is the lowest Ontario overwintering loss in the last 6 years (range

Évaluation de la mortalité chez les abeilles pendant la période de semis du maïs au Canada au printemps 2012

l'Agence de réglementation de la lutte antiparasitaire

Au printemps et à l'été 2012, l'Agence de réglementation de la lutte antiparasitaire (ARLA) de Santé Canada a reçu un nombre important de déclarations d'incident faisant état de cas de mortalité d'abeilles domestiques dans les provinces de l'Alberta, du Manitoba, de la Saskatchewan, de la Nouvelle-Écosse, du Québec et de l'Ontario. Une partie de ces mortalités a été reliée à la dérive de pulvérisation, mais un nombre anormalement élevé de cas ont néanmoins été signalés par des apiculteurs qui se trouvent dans des régions consacrées à la culture du maïs en Ontario et au Québec. La majorité des déclarations provenait du sud de l'Ontario et concernait plus de 40 apiculteurs et 240 ruchers. En outre, une déclaration provenant du Québec concernait huit ruchers. Le moment et le lieu de ces mortalités d'abeilles domestiques semblaient coïncider avec la plantation de semences de maïs traitées aux insecticides. Une évaluation a été entreprise afin de déterminer si les pesticides ont pu contribuer à ces mortalités et si des mesures réglementaires étaient nécessaires. Cette évaluation portait uniquement sur les cas de mortalité de pollinisateurs qui coïncidaient avec la plantation de semences de maïs traitées.

Afin d'évaluer le rôle que les pesticides ont pu jouer dans les pertes d'abeilles survenues en Ontario, Santé Canada, avec l'appui du ministère de l'Environnement de l'Ontario et du ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales de l'Ontario (MAAARO), a recueilli des échantillons en vue d'y rechercher des résidus de pesticides, ainsi que de l'information sur les effets observés, la santé des abeilles et les activités agricoles à proximité des ruchers touchés.

En Ontario, les apiculteurs concernés ont fait état de taux de mortalité variables et de symptômes évoquant une exposition aux pesticides (contractions musculaires, incapacité de voler, extension du proboscis). Il a été mentionné fréquemment que les abeilles butinaient au moment des incidents, et que les colonies les plus vigoureuses ont été les plus touchées. C'est dans ces colonies que l'on a retrouvé les plus grands nombres d'abeilles mortes ou sur le point de mourir, et la présence de pollen sur leurs pattes a souvent été constatée.

Bon nombre d'apiculteurs ont surveillé les ruches touchées tout au long de la saison et ont signalé la présence d'effets persistants, dont l'absence de rétablissement et de développement de la colonie, ainsi que l'absence de production de miel. Des effets sur les reines ont également été signalés, notamment la mort, la fréquence élevée des supersédures (remplacement de la reine) et une ponte déficiente donnant lieu à un couvain irrégulier. En outre, certains apiculteurs ont noté des cas de mortalité chez les faux-bourçons et le retrait

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20% to 43%, as reported by OMAFRA). Canada-wide, the overwintering loss in 2012 was 15%, also the lowest in the past 6 years.

Weather conditions in the areas where beekeepers were affected were unusual in spring 2012, particularly in Ontario. It was warmer and drier than normal as well being windy in April. OMAFRA reports indicate corn planting began two to three weeks ahead of schedule in Ontario, which coincided with the first honey bee mortalities. The unusual weather conditions may have been a contributing factor to the high number of mortality incidents. Corn planting was early, the bees overwintered well and began to increase hive populations early, and in many cases the bees were out foraging. As well, dry windy conditions could have facilitated exposure to bees if dust travelled further afield than would normally be the case.

In almost all cases, there was evidence of corn planting near affected beeyards. Some affected beekeepers observed corn planting near their affected hives. Information collected from growers confirmed large areas of corn planted near these yards, and that negative pressure (vacuum) planters and talc seed flow lubricants were used. Information from OMAFRA and Agricorp confirmed a correlation between the bee mortalities and location of corn growers in Ontario. The reported honey bee mortality in Quebec was also located in a corn growing region.

Residue analysis was conducted to determine whether bees were exposed to the insecticides used on treated corn seeds. Samples of affected bees, from many incident locations, were analyzed for pesticide residues by the PMRA Laboratory Services or Ministère de l'Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation Québec. Clothianidin was detected in approximately 70% of the samples analyzed in Ontario and clothianidin and thiamethoxam were detected in the samples analyzed from Quebec. On a bee yard basis, these residues were detected in approximately 80% of the bee yards where dead bee samples were collected and analysed. Samples of unaffected bees were also analysed and clothianidin was only detected in one sample at very low levels. Corn seed in Ontario and Quebec is treated in approximately equal quantities with either clothianidin or thiamethoxam. Since thiamethoxam is converted to clothianidin, the detection of clothianidin in dead bees could indicate exposure to either clothianidin or thiamethoxam.

Additional pesticides were detected in some affected honey bee samples, including acetamiprid, coumaphos, fluvalinate, permethrin, phosmet and thiabendazole. However, these pesticides were detected only in a small number of samples or in localized areas, whereas clothianidin was detected across all areas of reported honey bee mortalities. Acetamiprid, fluvalinate and permethrin were also detected in unaffected honey bee samples. With the exception of phosmet, which is toxic to honey bees and was detected at high levels in samples collected close to apple orchards where phosmet is commonly used, it was considered unlikely that these pesticides

du couvain des colonies. Certains apiculteurs ont indiqué que les colonies se sont rétablies au terme de périodes de durée variable (allant de quelques jours à plusieurs semaines).

Plusieurs indications donnent à penser que les abeilles étaient en bonne santé avant les incidents liés aux mortalités. La plupart des apiculteurs ont signalé que les pertes hivernales se situaient en dessous de 15 %, le niveau généralement considéré comme acceptable et viable par les apiculteurs. Les pertes hivernales dans l'ensemble de la province en 2012, selon le MAAARO, ont été de 12 %. Il s'agit des pertes hivernales les plus faibles enregistrées en Ontario au cours des six dernières années (les taux ont varié entre 20 % et 43 % selon le MAAARO). À l'échelle du pays, les pertes hivernales ont été de 15 % en 2012, ce qui représente également la plus faible mortalité des six dernières années.

Des conditions météorologiques inhabituelles ont été observées dans les régions où des apiculteurs ont été touchés au printemps 2012, en particulier en Ontario. Il a fait plus chaud et plus sec que la normale, et le mois d'avril a été particulièrement venteux. Les rapports du MAAARO indiquent que le semis du maïs a débuté deux à trois semaines plus tôt que d'habitude en Ontario, et c'est à ce moment que sont survenues les premières mortalités d'abeilles domestiques. Il se peut que les conditions météorologiques inhabituelles aient contribué au taux élevé de mortalité. Le semis du maïs a été hâtif et les abeilles, qui avaient bien traversé l'hiver, ont commencé tôt à accroître les populations des ruches; dans bon nombre de cas, les abeilles étaient sorties butiner. De plus, le temps sec et venteux a pu favoriser l'exposition des abeilles, si la poussière a été transportée plus loin que d'habitude.

Dans presque tous les cas, des éléments indiquent que du maïs a été semé près des ruchers touchés. Certains apiculteurs ont observé que du maïs avait été semé près des ruchers touchés. L'information recueillie auprès des cultivateurs confirme que du maïs avait été semé sur de vastes zones près de ces ruchers, et que des semoirs à pression négative (à vide) ainsi que des lubrifiants pour les semences à base de talc ont été utilisés. L'information provenant du MAAARO et d'AgriCorp confirme la corrélation entre la mortalité observée chez les abeilles et l'emplacement des cultures de maïs en Ontario. Les cas de mortalité signalés au Québec se sont également produits dans une région productrice de maïs.

Une analyse des résidus a été menée afin de déterminer si les abeilles avaient été exposées aux insecticides utilisés pour le traitement des semences de maïs. Des échantillons d'abeilles touchées, provenant d'un grand nombre d'endroits où des incidents ont été signalés, ont été analysés à la recherche de résidus de pesticides par les Services de laboratoire de l'ARLA ou le ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec. De la clothianidine a été détectée dans environ 70 % des échantillons analysés en Ontario, et de la clothianidine et du thiaméthoxame ont été détectés dans les échantillons du Québec. Au niveau des ruchers, de tels résidus



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contributed significantly to the honey bee mortalities.

The information evaluated suggests that planting of corn seeds treated with the nitro guanidine insecticides clothianidin and/or thiamethoxam contributed to the majority of the bee mortalities that occurred in corn growing regions of Ontario and Quebec in Spring 2012. The likely route of exposure was insecticide contaminated dust generated during the planting of treated corn seed. The unusual weather conditions in the spring of 2012 were likely also a contributing factor.

Measures have been implemented to reduce honey bee exposure to dust generated during planting of treated corn seed, including communication of best practices to reduce the exposure of honey bees, labelling of treated seed, a treated seed dust standard, and development of technical solutions to reduce dust, including developments in the areas of seed coating quality, seed flow lubricants, planting equipment, and disposal of treated seed bags. Please refer to "Pollinator Protection: Reducing Risk from Treated Seed" (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_fact-fiche/pollinator-protection-pollinisateurs/index-eng.php) for details.

Additionally, the nitro-guanidine neonicotinoids have been placed under re-evaluation (REV2012-02, http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_decisions/rev2012-02/index-eng.php) and further regulatory action will be taken if required.

ont été détectés dans environ 80 % des ruchers pour lesquels des échantillons d'abeilles mortes avaient été recueillis et analysés. Des échantillons d'abeilles non touchées ont également été analysés, et la clothianidine n'a été détectée que dans un seul échantillon à très faible concentration. En Ontario et au Québec, les semences de maïs sont traitées dans des proportions équivalentes avec de la clothianidine ou du thiaméthoxame. Comme le thiaméthoxame est converti en clothianidine, la détection de clothianidine chez les abeilles mortes peut indiquer l'exposition à l'une ou l'autre de ces substances.

D'autres pesticides ont été détectés dans certains échantillons d'abeilles domestiques touchées, dont l'acétamipride, le coumaphos, le fluvalinate, la perméthrine, le phosmet et le thiabendazole. Cependant, ces pesticides n'ont été détectés que dans un petit nombre d'échantillons ou dans des secteurs précis, alors que la clothianidine a été détectée dans toutes les régions où des cas de mortalité d'abeilles avaient été signalés. L'acétamipride, le fluvalinate et la perméthrine ont également été détectés dans des échantillons d'abeilles non touchées. Sauf dans le cas du phosmet, qui est toxique pour les abeilles domestiques et qui a été détecté à des concentrations élevées dans les échantillons recueillis à proximité des pommeraies, où le phosmet est couramment utilisé; il a été jugé improbable que ces pesticides aient contribué de manière importante à la mortalité des abeilles.

L'information analysée donne à penser que l'utilisation de semences de maïs traitées à la clothianidine et (ou) au thiaméthoxame, des insecticides contenant de la nitroguanidine, a contribué à la majorité des morts d'abeilles survenues dans les régions de culture du maïs en Ontario et au Québec au printemps 2012. La voie d'exposition probable est la poussière contaminée par l'insecticide qui a été produite au moment de la mise en terre des semences de maïs traitées. De plus, les conditions météorologiques inhabituelles du printemps 2012 ont probablement favorisé l'exposition.

Des mesures ont été prises afin de réduire l'exposition des abeilles domestiques à la poussière produite au moment de la mise en terre de semences de maïs traitées, dont la communication de pratiques exemplaires pour réduire l'exposition des abeilles, l'étiquetage des semences traitées, une norme sur la poussière libérée par les semences traitées et la mise au point de solutions techniques de réduction la poussière, y compris l'amélioration de la qualité de l'enrobage des semences, des lubrifiants facilitant l'écoulement des semences, de l'équipement d'ensemencement et de l'élimination des sacs de semences traitées. Pour obtenir des détails supplémentaires, veuillez consulter le document « Protection des insectes pollinisateurs : réduire le risque posé par les semences traitées » (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_fact-fiche/pollinator-protection-pollinisateurs/index-fra.php).

En outre, une réévaluation des néonicotinoïdes contenant de la nitroguanidine a été entreprise (REV2012-02, http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_decisions/rev2012-02/index-fra.php), et des mesures réglementaires additionnelles seront prises au besoin.

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WORLD NEWS

USDA Office of Communications, Comprehensive Scientific Report on Honey Bee Health - 0086.13

Submitted by Rod Scarlett CHC

WASHINGTON, May 2, 2013-The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health. The report states that there are multiple factors playing a role in honey bee colony declines, including parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure.

"There is an important link between the health of American agriculture and the health of our honeybees for our country's long term agricultural productivity," said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. "The forces impacting honeybee health are complex and USDA, our research partners, and key stakeholders will be engaged in addressing this challenge."

"The decline in honey bee health is a complex problem caused by a combination of stressors, and at EPA we are committed to continuing our work with USDA, researchers, beekeepers, growers and the public to address this challenge," said Acting EPA Administrator Bob Perciasepe. "The report we've released today is the product of unprecedented collaboration, and our work in concert must continue. As the report makes clear, we've made significant progress, but there is still much work to be done to protect the honey bee population."

In October 2012, a National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health, led by federal researchers and managers, along with Pennsylvania State University, was convened to synthesize the current state of knowledge regarding the primary factors that scientists believe have the greatest impact on managed bee health.

Key findings include:

Parasites and Disease Present Risks to Honey Bees:

The parasitic Varroa mite is recognized

as the major factor underlying colony loss in the U.S. and other countries. There is widespread resistance to the chemicals beekeepers use to control mites within the hive. New virus species have been found in the U.S. and several of these have been associated with Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

Increased Genetic Diversity is Needed:

U.S. honeybee colonies need increased genetic diversity. Genetic variation improves bees thermoregulation (the ability to keep body temperature steady even if the surrounding environment is different), disease resistance and worker productivity.

Honey bee breeding should emphasize traits such as hygienic behavior that confer improved resistance to Varroa mites and diseases (such as American foulbrood).

Poor Nutrition Among Honey Bee Colonies:

Nutrition has a major impact on individual bee and colony longevity. A nutrition-poor diet can make bees more susceptible to harm from disease and parasites. Bees need better forage and a variety of plants to support colony health.

Federal and state partners should consider actions affecting land management to maximize available nutritional forage to promote and enhance good bee health and to protect bees by keeping them away from pesticide-treated fields.

There is a Need for Improved Collaboration and Information Sharing:

Best Management Practices associated with bees and pesticide use, exist, but are not widely or systematically followed by members of the crop-producing industry. There is a need for informed and coordinated communication between

growers and beekeepers and effective collaboration between stakeholders on practices to protect bees from pesticides.

Beekeepers emphasized the need for accurate and timely bee kill incident reporting, monitoring, and enforcement.

Additional Research is Needed to Determine Risks Presented by Pesticides:

The most pressing pesticide research questions relate to determining actual pesticide exposures and effects of pesticides to bees in the field and the potential for impacts on bee health and productivity of whole honey bee colonies.

Those involved in developing the report include USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as well as the EPA and Pennsylvania State University. The report will provide important input to the Colony Collapse Disorder Steering Committee, led by the USDA, EPA and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

An estimated one-third of all food and beverages are made possible by pollination, mainly by honey bees. In the United States, pollination contributes to crop production worth \$20-30 billion in agricultural production annually. A decline in managed bee colonies puts great pressure on the sectors of agriculture reliant on commercial pollination services. This is evident from reports of shortages of bees available for the pollination of many crops.

The Colony Collapse Steering Committee was formed in response to a sudden and widespread disappearance of adult honey bees from beehives, which first occurred in 2006. The Committee will consider the report's recommendations and update the CCD Action Plan which will outline major priorities to be addressed in the next 5-10 years and serve as a reference document for policy makers, legislators and the public and will help coordinate the federal strategy in response to honey bee losses.

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Duties include handling, feeding and caring for bee colonies, assisting in the production of NUC's and replacement hives, queen raising, brood

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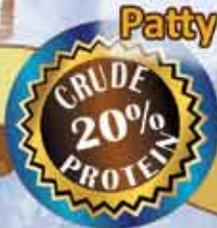
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