

**Pygmy Shrew
(Scientific Name
– Sorex Minutus)**

August 2014 | Vol 27 # 3



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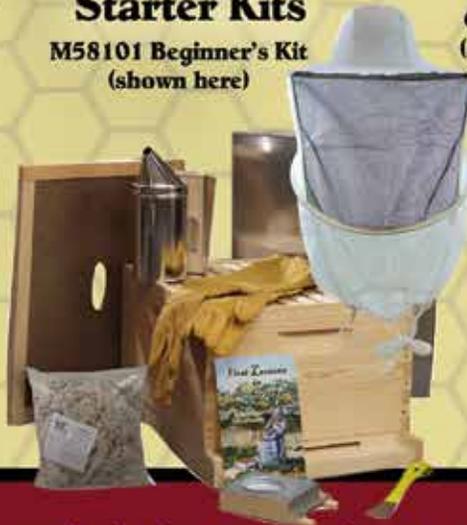
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Hiveights

August 2014 Vol 27 #3

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Cover story - Chinook Honey Company
(See page 13)

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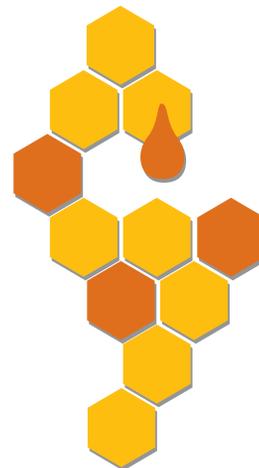
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Canadian Honey Council Report



Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC



This spring and early summer considerable attention has been paid to honey bee health in North America, particularly by governments and government agencies.

At the request of the CHC and a number of other non-profits involved in agriculture, in late March the federal government facilitated a bee health workshop attended by a number of organizations and government officials. As I reported in the last edition, a plan of action was developed and in May the Steering Committee met in Ottawa and further identified a course of action. By mid August, we should have a draft strategic plan in place that will link issues such as:

- 1) Bee care and nutrition
- 2) Pests and pathogens
- 3) Pesticides in- hive and outside of the hive
- 4) Environment and surroundings
- 5) Agricultural Need

I will be posting updates and information on the website, so keep checking or give me a call.

In a similar move, the United States has formed the Honey Bee Health Coalition of which the CHC is also involved along with a couple other Canadian organizations like the Canola Council of Canada. It is apparent that American beekeepers are experiencing many of the same issues as their Canadian counterparts but, in my opinion, they have not had the opportunity to communicate with other members of the agricultural sector on a national level and therefore, are a little behind. The coalition was officially announced in mid June and four working groups are actively pursuing

solutions in the areas of crop pest control and management, forage and nutritional development, outreach and communication, and hive management, pest control and tech transfer.

Many of the ideas developed by these two national initiatives are easily transferable and are not limited by borders so expect to see a lot of commonality and overlap of both issues and solutions.

In late June, the federal government formally announced that the CHC had received an agri-marketing grant in the amount of \$340,000 to complete the CBISQT (on-farm food safety) program and integrate it with the bee biosecurity program. Work has been started on developing a program for beekeepers and with any luck, expect it to be rolled out late this year or early next.

Recent government announcements have not alleviated any concerns regarding the Temporary Foreign Workers Program. The situation is becoming dire and the inability of the federal government to comprehend the extent of the damage the 4 in 4 out rule will have of commercial beekeepers is baffling. Beekeepers are true users of temporary workers and we have suggested that a separate category be formed for temporary workers exempting them from the 4 in 4 out rule. I am certain the Labour committee, chaired by Bryan Ash will continue to monitor the issue and formulate action strategies.

Finally, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Delta Beausejoir in Moncton, January 28-31, 2015. Please check the website for updates as more information becomes available. ■

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PYGMY SHREW

(SCIENTIFIC NAME – SOREX MINUTUS)



Fletcher Colpitts, Chief Apiary Inspector - New Brunswick



The pygmy shrew is a very common problem for overwintering honeybee colonies. Most beekeepers are unaware of the potential hazard their presence may be or mistake them for the much less harmful common yard mouse.

A pygmy shrew is a very small mammal with a markedly pointed snout. They average 40mm body length with a 32mm tail. Their average weight is 3 grams. They are able to go through a hole less than 1cm.

Shrews are insectivores feeding on insects, arachnids, woodlice, and in cold climates like Canada they specialize feeding on honey bees during winter.

Shrews are as fast as they are small. Their heart rate and respiratory rate of 800 beats per minute is maintained by consuming 125% of their own body weight daily.

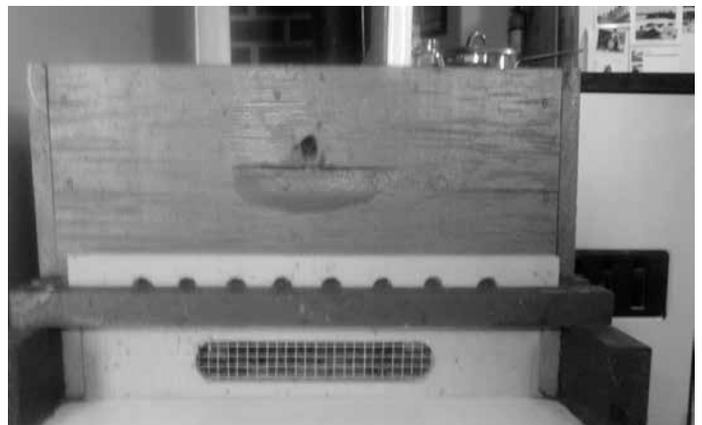
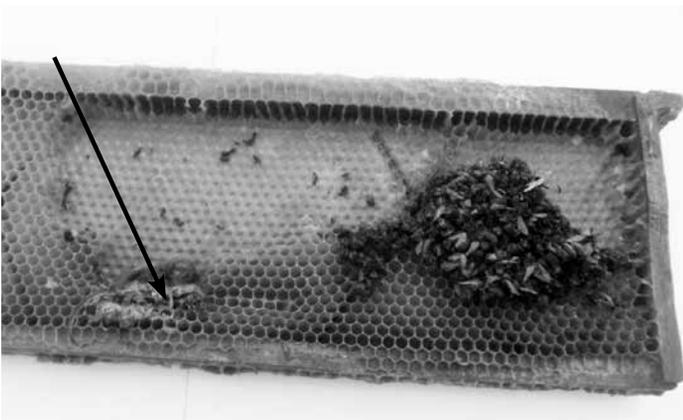
The method of feeding on wintering colonies is by grabbing a cold sluggish bee from the outside of the cluster and then taking it to a feeding place either in the back of the hive away from the cluster or in the wrapping material.

Shrews target the thorax by removing the head or entering through the top making a large hole hollowing out the thorax. They may also consume some of the exoskeleton leaving what looks like dirt (wings, legs and bit of the abdomen).

With shrews weighing about 3 grams and requiring 125% of their body weight in food per day, they may consume over 450 grams of bees in 120 days of winter.

In the Maritimes we see a lot of colonies, in the spring, that have died as a result of obvious shrew predation

For the first 4 years, I struggled with shrew damage before developing a shrew tight entrance system. This entrance system stays in place from December first till the first natural pollen flow begins. The ¼ inch hole causes the pollen to fall off the bees so I turn it up putting the ½” holes down for the spring entrance reducer. This has prevented shrew damage in our hives for 30 years. ■





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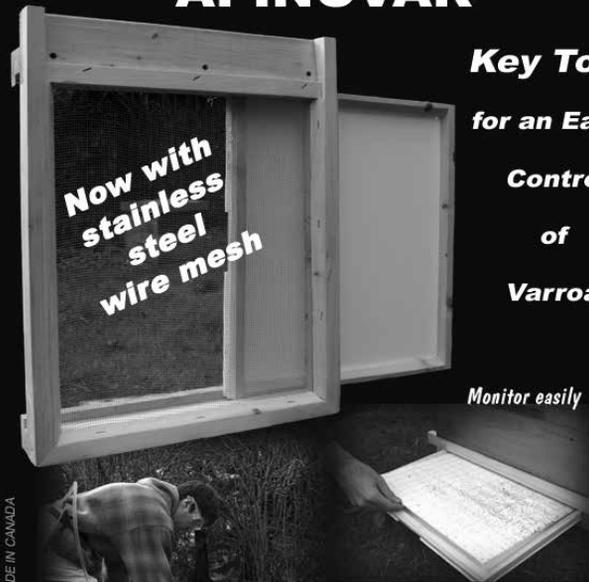
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Regional Reports



Maritimes



Paul Vautour

Generally speaking, spring has been wet and cold throughout the Maritimes, causing slow buildup of colonies and a delay in blueberry blossoms of a week or more. Some trucks from Ontario were unable to access the fields of northern New Brunswick on time because of the wet road conditions. Loads were subsequently left behind near other fields much to the delight of some growers. However, one grower expects to have one of his best crops to date after pollination was finished.

Québec



Scott Plante

It is now June 30th the bees have returned or are returning from blueberry pollination. Spring losses have been recuperated and now it's time for honey! There is no local honey for sale. We are eagerly waiting for the new crop. Have a good honey season.

.....
Nous en sommes maintenant rendu au 30 juin et les ruches sont soient de retour ou en train de revenir de la pollinisation. Les pertes printanières

ont été récupérées et c'est maintenant le temps de faire du miel. Il n'y a aucun miel local à vendre. Nous attendons avidement la nouvelle récolte. Bonne saison à tous.

Ontario



Brian Rowaan

Ontario has had its share of highs and lows this season so far, but like the rest of the country, it is still too early to say whether it will be a good year for most or not. Unfortunately, the season didn't start out well for a lot of the provinces beekeepers both large and small. As many have heard, the loses across the provinces were once again much higher then what is sustainable for an industry. Obviously there is not one single silver bullet to point the finger at, so

I won't even attempt to, sorry. The trend however seems to be that those who are spending the most time on their hives, giving them the resources that they need, are willing to move them to good pasture, are replacing old comb, spending the money and time on quality

queens, keeping mites in check, and not skimping on fall feeding, are those who have healthy strong hives to work with this year. Sadly there are pressures on the bees that are out of the control the beekeeper. The OBA applauds the new Liberal Majority Government for taking steps to regulate overuse of neonics in Ontario. The fact is that neonics are used on a huge amount of land where there are no pests to control. Reducing the overall toxic load on the environment is without question a step in the right direction for improving bee health! How can it not be?

As always, we as beekeepers need to continue to build and improve relationships with farmers and landowners. We are squatters on the land of generous men and women, whom without our industry would be non-existent. So next time you see your "landlords", remember to thank them for their generosity!

The real honey producing months are upon us, and unless you've been living under a rock, or happen to be a hermit beekeeper with no contact with the outside world, (in which case you are not likely reading this publication) you'll have surely heard that the price of honey is approaching record levels. It's equally exciting news, and obviously connected to the high price of honey, that the price of bees is also at an all-time high. So when chasing that record honey crop, don't forget to keep your mites in check, or neglect to change failing queens or make a few nucs. Even though you've got an extra couple of drums of destined for Carlisle ON, it will be awfully expensive to replace your dead hives in the spring.

All that being said, I believe the future is bright for beekeepers in Ontario; and Canada as a whole of course. Here we have a great retail market, a huge and growing demand for pollination services, and a massive demand for bee sales. With healthy bees you will be sure to do well! Just not in my area. It's terrible. Stay away!

Manitoba



Manitoba, as with other prairie provinces, has been inundated with periodic rainfall during May & June. This combined with cooler temperatures earlier on has contributed to the slow buildup of honey bee populations this spring. The only benefit of the wet weather is that flowering crop season may be extended as some fields are just ready to be planted, while earlier seeded crops are developing. This could extend our honey season.



Brian Ash

The downfall of the spring is bees suffered more from spring dwindle than expected. The province is awaiting additional responses to

their yearly survey of wintering losses, so their preliminary findings of about 21.6% estimated 2013-14 winter loss may be revised later this month. There is lots of variability with some areas reporting over 50% while others are in the range of 10-15%. Some producers speculate the final number could be around 40% average including the spring dwindle. We'll have to wait until the survey is completed!

Two auctions took place in Manitoba this spring, with reports of fairly high prices being paid for stocks. It seems that 5 frame nus went for about \$190 while single supers reached over \$260. This reflects the current demand for local replacement bees. Directors of Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) used data from these auctions to revise the Wildlife Bear Damage Compensation Program values. Bee prices, as well as increases in sugar and equipment values have been submitted to Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) for their review. It is expected the updated values will be approved for the 2014 season.

In another area, MBA was approached by MASC staff to review the Bee Winter Mortality Insurance Program results. During the conference call staff proposed some modifications to the definitions for colonies. Staff wanted to reflect similar definitions other provinces are using. The changes are to be considered for roll out next winter. Colony values also under review. The program is valued by producers.

Manitoba is preparing to roll out its' share of the Honey Bee Health Surveillance in Canada Project. We are working in cooperation with The National Bee Diagnostic Centre in Alberta and also with help from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development to determine how to best acquire representative samples across the province while insuring and respecting confidentiality requirements. MBA is hopeful other provinces will come on board, and be supportive of this project in coming years, once they see the value of having this program underway.

MBA is still working with MAFRD on the Honey Bee Inspection Program details. Initially the province eliminated funding, and this created lots of discussions and plans. The issue is still quite fluid with MBA initially agreeing to provide interim funding in order to get the inspections underway. Although discussions are not yet finalized, and the program was delayed, inspectors have been doing the best they can under the circumstances. MBA deems this an important and critical bee health service.

Manitoba producers are more concerned about the availability of Temporary Foreign Workers, not only impacted by the 4 'n 4 rule, but now further impacted by recent announcements by Fed Minister Kenny. With things like increased application fees, verification of interviews, and quotas, it will be even more complicated to get the temporary help needed for the industry. MBA encouraged members to write to their MPs and MLAs to seek relief.

Saskatchewan



Calvin Parsons

Generally speaking beekeepers in Saskatchewan have had enough winter. Our bitter and cold winter let up long enough to allow us to get into the colonies early in April. Strips and pollen patties were placed in colonies and looked really good. Winter losses were low very low in fact. Then we got 6 more weeks of cold and crap weather. The bees got their first pollen about May 9 for two or three days then back to cold and no pollen. Finally by the May long weekend bees were

able to consistently get pollen and turned the corner. Winter losses climbed significantly in those six weeks colonies ate lots of feed and didn't go ahead in population much. I saw lots of colonies where the bees were cannibalizing eggs and larvae just to keep their protein levels up as well. The result of this cold miserable spring is that colonies in Saskatchewan are two to three weeks behind normal development.

Replacement Nucleus colonies took the cold spring especially hard despite being supplied with syrup and pollen patties they only held their own or went backwards, watching this is causing many of us to think about when we move these colonies outside or finding a very effective way to protect them from the cold in the future.

Most beekeepers are making up nucleus colonies at this time in preparation for next winter most using their own queen cells as a winter hardy queen source.

Honey prices remain strong thru this and there is very little honey left in the hands of beekeepers. Some packers seem to want to forward price honey for this fall which is also a positive for beekeepers.

Alberta



Kevin Nixon

It is the end of June as I write this and things are busy as ever. On the whole, it sounds like beekeepers are happy with the condition of the bees going into the summer production period. Similar to most regions across the country, the extended winter and cool/wet spring was a challenge, but bees seem to have come through it okay. Many have asked, with this year being so similar to last year, yet we had such high losses last year, why are things better this year? In talking to many beekeepers, a consistent answer seems to be with high losses last year, it led to many queens being replaced and maybe this is a large part of the reason the bees seem better?? Who knows, there are so many variables, but it's nice to have more producers sitting in a better situation.

Moving bees for canola pollination has begun. There seems to be less bees needed than last year for this same time of year, which just resembles the lateness of fields being seeded due to wet conditions. I would expect the bulk of the bees will be going in this first week of July.

It seems a good part of the province is actually on the same time-frame for crops to come into flower. There are fields of canola that have started to flower this past week, yet there are some that haven't cabbaged yet. This could work out well for beekeepers by spreading out the bloom and hopefully could lead to better honey production over a possible extended period.

It doesn't sound like honey prices are changing much, and there seems to be a bit of a spread. Recently, we have heard pricing anywhere from \$2.15 to \$2.30 per lb. and possibly higher for export to certain regions. Demands still seem very strong, so hopefully things pan out and we are able to get it in the drums and hopefully come out on the top side.

There seems to be many various research projects going on across the country this year to assess the health of our bees and will be interesting to hear some of the observations and results from the projects hopefully this fall or next spring maybe by the time all the data is collected and compiled.

Well, time is short this time of the year, so with that I hope everyone has had a decent summer and we all remember to make time to sample our bees and hopefully get them fed and prepared for another great Canadian winter.

British Columbia



Gerry McKee

Although B.C.'s official tally of colony winter survival will not be completed for another month as survey reports are being received, it appears the high success of 88 % for colonies in the Fraser Valley will be offset by numerous losses in the Okanagan and Vancouver Island. An overall average of about 72 % survival is anticipated (or conversely 28% deadouts). Many suppliers of domestic packages and nucs were not able to fulfill their orders but most pollination services were not jeopardized.

Identifying causes for winter losses is not easily determined from volunteer submissions, though our experienced beekeepers suspect starvation, inadequate mite control and queen failure were the probable major factors. Weather this past winter, was not abnormally stressful for colonies, in fact the amount of rain on the coastal region was considerably less than that of previous years. It seems the lost colonies did not receive adequate attention in late summer and fall. Was this consequence a lack of ambition, money or low priority as other demands compete for our diminishing discretionary time?

Some are beginning to suspect the sub lethal effects of pesticides could be a factor though some of the greatest losses were in regions without significant applications of neonics. The increased media attention to the impact of neonics on bees could very likely strengthen demands for a moratorium on some of the seed treatments in nurseries and silage corn while regulators wait for the critical scientific evidence to base decisions. Better informed public opinion will realize growing political pressure to restrict the prophylactic application of these new systemic insecticides could stall progress for a collaborative solution that benefits both beekeepers and other farmers.

For beekeepers seeking to improve sustainability and profitability, greater effort and financial commitment will be needed in preparing colonies for winter survival. The demand for pollination services and honey continues to grow in B.C., hence it's a puzzle why some beekeepers are unable or unwilling to invest in colony survival. The decline in the number of commercial operators with over 500 colonies must be a growing concern for farmers needing pollination. For instance, the anticipated blueberry production will be 26,000 acres in the next few years, an increase from 12,000 acres ten years ago when B.C. colonies numbers have relatively remain the same. While mature traditional varieties of Blueberries, as Duke and Elliot need at least two hives per acre, many of the new varieties such as Liberty, are recommended to have three to four, per acre; so there will be an increasing demand.

Though spring was a little cool, colony strength was adequate for pollination services in most regions. Flying weather during blueberry pollination was very good and continued through to cranberry settings. Fees for blueberry ranged from \$ 100 to \$ 150 with an average of about \$ 120 while Cranberry ranged from \$ 120 to \$ 160 depending on number of hives required. Raspberry charges were \$40 to \$60 per hive though fresh fruit prices have recently improved, the demand for bees has not changed except for a slight increase in setting organic berries. Many blueberry growers with 20 acres or less did have difficulty in finding bees as beekeepers had made commitments several months before pollination began. The larger beekeeping operators limited their services to larger holdings requiring at least 40 hives, which provided an opportunity for side-liners with 150 hives or less to fill this need. Without the availability of the larger Alberta beekeeping operations overwintering in B.C., our provincial apiculture capacity would not be able to meet the needs of blueberry growers.

Following blueberry pollination, most Alberta beekeepers head east over the mountains for canola, clover and alfalfa. Cranberry cultivation is relatively smaller than blueberry so B.C. beekeepers are able to provide sufficient services.

The Annual B.C. Honey Producer's Conference and Education session is on September 25th to 27th, a month earlier than previous years. It's being held at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, same site as three years ago. President Wayne Neidig has organized a great speaker's program which features Maria Spivak, Dewey Caron, Medhat Nasr, Jean-Marc LeDorze and Shelley Hoover. 20 Vendors are expected in addition to the Honey Competition and our Significant Other program which will compliment our Banquet evening of great entertainment. Check out < www.bcbeekeepers.com >for the latest updates.

Bee Maid Honey Limited Awards Two Fiftieth Anniversary Scholarships



Bernie Rousseau

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

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

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

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

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

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





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Multi-Stakeholder Bee Health Workshop

March 25, 2014 – Ottawa, ON Record of Discussion

Submitted by Rod Scarlett

Goal:

The goal for this multi-stakeholder Bee Health Workshop, convened by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the request of key stakeholder groups, was to provide a national forum and lens to build on the work done by other jurisdictions and in other fora by identifying specific actions that would respond to risks and opportunities for bee health and ensure a sustainable future for both beekeeping and agriculture.

A Steering Committee composed of representatives of key sectors worked together prior to the meeting to identify key participants and to develop an agenda to engage all participants, with particular focus on gaining a shared understanding and appreciation for bee health from a holistic perspective, as well as the perspectives of different stakeholders.

Participants:

The meeting was Co-Chaired by the Canadian Honey Council and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, assisted by a professional facilitator. In addition to representatives of the beekeeping and apiary sectors, participants included horticultural, grains and oilseeds and organics producers and representatives of industry associations, as well as agricultural input suppliers (seeds, equipment, chemicals), and researchers. Government officials from 8 provinces participated, as well as staff from federal departments and agencies including Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC), The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). A full participants list is attached to the document.

Discussion:

The meeting began with participants providing updates on work already underway, including the Ontario Bee Health Working Group, The Quebec Bee Working Group, The Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists and collaborations between the Canadian Honey Council, CropLife Canada, and other partners. Provincial governments highlighted new research funding, new financial and information tools available to the sector, as well as work to improve surveillance and monitoring. Industry suppliers noted the increased collaboration and engagement of stakeholders in identifying priorities and participating in key business processes.

A facilitated discussion followed organized around five agreed themes: 1) Bee care and nutrition, 2) Pests and pathogens, 3) Pesticides in-hive and outside of the hive, 4) Environment and surroundings; and 5) Agricultural Needs. For each theme, participants explored work un-

derway, identification of gaps or needs, and exploration of what else might be done.

1) Bee Care and Nutrition

It was noted that unlike many other countries Canada does not have a national bee health surveillance program at this time. Provinces take an active role and coordinate information through the work of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists and others. A research proposal from the Alberta Beekeepers Commission which aims to build data that can support a national baseline indicator of pests and diseases present in Canada drew interest.

Participants noted that while the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists has worked to develop accurate, comparable, and timely monitoring of overwinter hive losses there is no similar system to monitor unusual hive losses that occur over the productive spring and summer months. The European Union has recently begun to monitor this data.

The effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) was discussed. Beekeepers across Canada benefit from the guidance provided in a National Bee Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard which supports pro-active management of threats to bee health. There are no national BMPs for beekeepers, however, the variety of different circumstances makes developing a single national BMP a challenge.

Some participants drew attention to emerging issues with honey bee nutrition, and the links to changes in agricultural crops and practices. Pollination of agricultural crops often requires hives to feed on a single concentrated food source for some part of the year which is not always sufficiently nutritious for the colony. It was noted that there have been educational efforts by Soil & Crop Protection Associations and some research centres to better educate crop producers on these issues. Some participants observed that while there is a wide variety of products to supplement bee feeding needed from frost to frost (though no supplemental diets replace natural pollen), a complete ingredient list is not always available, which perhaps suggests a regulatory gap. A lack of basic research in this area was also cited as a challenge and a literature review was suggested to assess the state of knowledge.

2) Pests and Pathogens

Varroa mite control is a major issue for Canadian beekeepers. Products for this purpose must control mite populations while not harming bees or affecting honey. Mites develop resistance to products after several seasons, so a rotation of varroa control products is required. The bee industry would like to see a continuous flow of new varroa control products moving through the approval process. It was noted that there is improved co-operation between researchers and chemical companies; however financial resources for further research and registrations remains important in making progress and challenging given the small size of the sectors.

Beekeepers would like to make more effective use of the Minor Use Program, a joint AAFC/PMRA program which annually develops a short list of priority pesticide uses and supports the accelerated development of the data required for those uses to be approved. The small size of the honey/beekeeping sector also influences approval priority.

Some participants mentioned that current testing of bees and hives can indicate the presence of various pests and chemicals. Since presence alone does not indicate causality, particularly when there are multiple stressors, further work is required to determine what caused/causes hive demise.

Some participants noted that it would be valuable to have a better understanding of what a healthy bee population looks like, to understand what the target is that the group should be trying to achieve to ensure sustainability, as well as to identify what research is needed to determine whether bee populations are "healthy". Researchers noted

work being done on genetic tools. There was discussion of the need for co-ordination of research projects to maximize impact and to involve producers in research efforts. Concerns were also raised regarding variations in capacity for action across the country, and our level of awareness of emerging issues at the international level.

3) Pesticides In-hive and Outside of the Hive

PMRA updated the group on work underway to investigate hive loss incidents linked to exposure to neonicotinoids and the reevaluation of the neonicotinoid class of pesticides. Changes to-date include new labelling requirements and BMPs for use of treated seeds which come into force for the 2014 planting season including new seed lubricants which are expected to reduce pesticide dust release. The current review will look at long-term implications as well as immediate challenges. Officials noted that PMRA's mandate to protect the environment extends to all pollinators. They also noted that they work with international partners.

In future years, the group expected increased demand for laboratory capacity to analyze pesticide residues in bees as well as test for virus and other disease agents. It was noted by government officials present that research funds have been provided to some government and private institutions to support further work, and that provincial and federal officials are training staff, and collaborating in relevant work, including analysis of specific incidents. There was discussion of capacity and timing challenges for monitoring as well as appropriate processes for triage and analysis. Some work is also being done by chemical companies to track developments through the season including tracking sentinel bees to monitor their progress through the growing season.

The group discussed the need for and use of seed treatments in agriculture. Some raised the need for criteria to determine appropriate treatments, grower education to properly use products, and the implications for yields and profitability of various scenarios. Discussion included consideration of adopting an integrated pest management approach using pest detection thresholds to indicate when a pest treatment is required; however some participants indicated this approach is not always possible or ideal.

All parties agreed that enhanced communication between beekeepers and crop farmers was required particularly regarding hive location and seed planting. Drift Watch, a software platform for sharing this kind of information was raised as a good example of approaches to enhance communication.

4) Environment and Surroundings

Both beekeeping and crop farming affect the natural world. It was recognized that diversity in the environment provides best results. Discussions included the consideration of how to measure and protect biodiversity. It was noted that crop producers' primary interest is in yields, rather than the nutritional value of cultivars – but dialogues have begun with beekeepers. The Canola Council mentioned a short series of videos that had been produced to demonstrate practices which would be mutually beneficial to crop producers and beekeepers.

The availability of other tools (including guides for scouting bee sites, extension education workshops, and a variety of 'best practices') was also noted, with interest expressed in how to improve on them and share them across the country. Some limits were also noted in how they could be used (information without advice or resources on what to do next). It was observed that more needs to be done to facilitate exchanges of information across sectors and expertise, with inventories of resources being one suggested approach.

A project currently underway in the United States promotes the use of ditches and roadsides bordering crop fields as a buffer zone for wildflowers and other bee and wild pollinator friendly crops. Currently, Ontario is developing some buffer zones.

5) Agricultural Needs

Demand for controlled pollination is increasing dramatically. Blueberries (east and west), orchards, canola seed production and other crops all create demand for controlled pollinators. The availability of honeybees is becoming a limiting factor for the growth in production of some of these crops. Honey producers/beekeepers noted other challenges to their sector including access to labour and innovation.

Planting equipment suppliers are developing new ISO standards for 2016 which will specify the velocity and direction of air coming off the planters. Potential improvements to planting equipment through the use of filters were mentioned. Manufacturers expect to have retrofit kits available to reduce dust spread from the operation of existing planters.

Action Items

The participants indicated strong support for an ongoing forum to discuss and coordinate actions. Industry participants agreed to issue a press release following the workshop to create awareness that the sectors are working together on this challenge.

A list of potential action items stemming from the days discussions is attached. Generally, action items included research (including inventories, support for key projects and a literature review); identification of targets for success (including healthy bee populations and biodiversity, in the context of a competitive sector); surveillance and monitoring (better tools and a national strategy for surveillance); technology transfer and improved BMPs; and communications & education.

It was agreed that a Steering Committee would meet in May to prioritize the proposed action items and to plan next steps.

Annex 1 – Participants, Bee Health Workshop

Susie Miller, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) (Co-chair)
Rod Scarlett, Canadian Honey Council (Co-chair)
Gerry McKee, Canadian Honey Council
Jean Pierre Chapeau, Canadian Honey Council
Grant Hicks, Alberta Beekeepers Commission
David Jones, Canadian Horticultural Council
Janet Krayden, Grain Growers of Canada
Deb Conlon, Grain Farmers of Ontario
William VanTassel, Fédération des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec
Salah Zoghalmi, Fédération des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec
Greg Sekulic, Canola Council of Canada
Ashley St Hilaire, Canadian Organic Growers
Kelly McAslan, Government of Ontario
Pierre Petelle, CropLife Canada
Maria Trainer, CropLife Canada
Medhat Nasr, Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) / Government of Alberta
Rheal Lafreniere, Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA)
Connie Rajzman, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Animal Health
Lorne Jordan, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Animal Health
Pascal Moreau, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Animal Health
Mary Mitchell, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (Health Canada)
Lars Jurgenson, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (Health Canada)
Connie Hart, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (Health Canada)
Pat Curry, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (Health Canada)
Tim Talbot, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Animal Health Directorate
Steve Pernal, AAFC Science and Technology Branch
Jack Hamilton, Oxford Foods
Debbie Etsell, BC Blueberry Council
Brian Gilroy, Ontario Apple Growers
Dave Cary, Canadian Seed Trade Association
Ron Gerold, Canada Agriculture and Food Museum
Caroline Lafontaine, Canadian Seed Growers Association
Geoff Wilson, Provincial Apiarist - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Deb Sikora, Ontario Bee Health Working Group
James Calpas, Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development
Chris Maund, New Brunswick Dept. Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries
Shelley Empey, Northwest Territories Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Renalyn Pascua-Matte, Northwest Territories Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
David Feindel, Government of Alberta

Chinook Honey



This summer marks the tenth anniversary of Chinook Honey Company. Those of you that have been in the bee business for that long or longer, will acknowledge that it's been a decade of many changes. Just keeping our bees alive and healthy has often eclipsed concerns over maximizing honey yields.

How could a small commercial apiary and farm store survive such tumultuous times? Well, there has been an upside to the honey bee woes and that is the heightened awareness and appreciation the general public now has for bees and the pollination and honey they provide. Combined with the huge and still growing wave of people concerned about the food they eat and supporting local producers, it wasn't such a bad choice after all.

Forced by the small size of our apiary (200-300 hives) to sell direct to the customer sets us significantly apart from our fellow Alberta commercial beekeepers who count their hives by the thousands. Our production, marketing, employee, insurance, and regulatory issues are very different. The bees unite us.

When it comes to value-added honey products we shine. From award winning meads sold from our 'honey boutique' and select Alberta liquor stores, to products from our commercial kitchen such as Honey Caramel Spread, Honey Pickled Beets and Honey Rhubarb Chutney, there is enough variety for anyone, honey lover or not. In addition to beeswax candles, honey candies, apitherapy products, honey body care items, the mead tasting bar and even honey ice cream it's no wonder our little store has become a tourist destination. However all of our 'in-house' items require production, packaging and labeling and everything needs to be tracked, handled and priced. Not so simple!

Marketing this unique mix has changed a lot in our ten years. Regular ads in the local newspaper used to be the norm. Now we use Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest frequently and our website is the main base for detailed information. Oh - check us out on Tripadvisor as well! Of course 'word of mouth' is the best and after a decade its rewards are paying off handsomely. Tours are another marketing tool. Early on we realized that people have a huge curiosity about honey bees. Using an observation hive, props, displays and a video enables us to give informative (and safe) talks to folks of all ages. When mead was added to our portfolio we started giving tours of the fermentation room and now teach the history and production of this ancient beverage. Education is a huge priority of ours and combined with seasonal family oriented events increases our profile in the community.





istered however much of our honey house and product labeling does follow CFIA standards and our facilities are regularly inspected by the local Health Authority. The Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission as well as Canada Excise regulations form the majority of our paper work burden and restrictions to mead production. Restrictions on signage and property development by the province and our county are also important business considerations.

Yes, ours is a different kind of honey company. We've been grateful for the guidance of similar businesses across the country. Also our provincial Agriculture and Travel departments, provincial growers association and NAFDMA have been very helpful. It's been a great journey and now that we're sustainable and thriving we've time to reflect. Do we hand the reins to someone else or continue to build and grow some of the many opportunities? Hmmmmm... ■

We are fortunate to have a great team of employees. They are multi-talented yet each has their specialty whether it is store sales, tour guide or production. All are part time, live in nearby communities and enjoy rewarding work without having to have a 'city job'. Our challenge is to find beekeeping help that is also willing to work in the other areas – unfortunately we don't have enough work for a full time beekeeping position. Because we don't use foreign workers and since Alberta wages are unusually high, our wage expenses are significantly higher by percentage than most of our fellow beekeepers.

Insurance issues have some commonality but liability is our top concern. Most insurance companies just don't understand Agritourism and refuse to cover it. When you invite the public onto your farm, or even produce and package something for human consumption you become potentially vulnerable to a host of negative possibilities. Our coverage now is five million dollars- up from one million in 2004.

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International Honey Market

by RON PHIPPS, President, CPNA International Ltd.1, Co-Chairman,
Committee for the Promotion of Honey and Health

The International Honey Market is approaching a crisis due to a shortage of honey, especially genuine white honey and low priced light amber honey. The shortages and high prices of 2013 are finding more acute expression in 2014. But the shortage of honey in 2014 is also rapidly and substantially narrowing the traditional price gaps among white, extra light amber, light amber and amber honey.

Behind these shortages and escalating prices are negative climate events, especially the droughts in Argentina and Brazil. These droughts are affecting not only honey but also coffee as their impact is relatively indiscriminate. For example, Brazil's drought has caused coffee prices to spike during the past 5 months from \$1.20/lb. to \$2.10/lb. The extended and persistent drought in California is contributing to rapidly increased prices for citrus fruits and nuts.

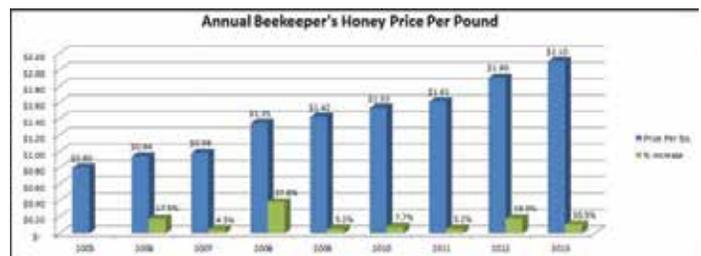
USA

According to the US Department of Agriculture, 2013 domestic honey production increased 5% from 2012, to a total over 149,000,000 pounds with 2.64 million colonies engaged in commercial production of honey. As of mid May, there are virtually no stocks remaining in beekeepers' hands. With prices for remaining stocks of honey having attained historically high levels of roughly \$2.15/lb. for white, \$2.05 for ELA and \$1.95 for LA, American and Canadian beekeepers had minimal incentive to retain stocks, especially as the international shortage of honey created urgent demand among packers. As new crop honey approaches, beekeepers are talking of \$2.25/lb. for new crop white and \$2.15/lb. for ELA. Mono-flora honeys, which are increasingly being marketed as gourmet specialty honey, are commanding high prices. While Florida's orange honey crop was again harmed by spraying of pesticides, California had an improved, though spotty, orange honey crop, lower in moisture and lighter in color, being offered at \$2.25-\$2.50/lb., depending on quality. That prices have so steadily and steeply risen reflects smaller crops than the old bumper crops of 220 million lbs., lower productivity per hive than, for example, the old 150 pounds per hive for Dakota clover crops, and increased costs of production. These factors are superimposed upon an international honey market in crisis of supply and increasingly vulnerable to dramatically increased volatility of weather patterns.

Beekeepers report that the bees coming to the Dakotas from California and the south are in excellent shape. The crop will depend the flowers which will depend upon the weather. The old adage of not selling honey

until it is in the barrel still rings true.

The graph below, based upon USDA statistics, clearly illustrates price trends during the past few years. Prices of \$0.98/lb. in 2007 compare to \$2.10/lb. in 2013, representing an increase of over 110% during 7 years.



California suffered the driest year in recorded history in 2013, and conditions for 2014 are looking like more of the same (Dry Again, Dan White, UCSC Review, Spring 2014). In May, when moisture levels are typically high, 95% of California was in severe drought, fire warnings were in effect and fires were affecting the southern region.

Bee losses after the winter of 2014 were about 23%, showing some improvement from 2013, when they were 30% (Bloomberg News, May 15, 2014). While there are multiple variables, including migratory bee practices, mono diets, mites, and loss of natural bee habitat, negatively affecting bee health and the stress on bee populations, it is becoming increasingly clear that the widespread use of neonicotinoids on agricultural crops is a major factor. The manufacturers of these pesticides, like the manufacturers of tobacco products in an earlier era, are masters at obfuscation and denial of the harmful effects of the products from which they derive huge profits.

A recent research study reports that colonies subject to neonicotinoid pesticides had abandoned their hives a key symptom of CCD. Neonicotinoids may cause bio-chemical impairment of honey bee neurological functions, specifically memory, cognition, or behavior. We note that 3 neonicotinoids are currently banned in the EU, but still widely used in the US, for example, on corn. While this study is not definitive, and it does not diminish the argument that a multiplicity of factors may be at play, the global significance of understanding and solving this problem, which is important to assuring the adequacy of global food supplies, is underscored.

The health of the world's bee populations is a factor which cannot be ignored. It is only one of many factors placing increasing stress upon global agricultural production. It is not merely a question of the quantity, but also the quality of global food supplies. While pollination by honey bees accounts for 1/3 of total agricultural production, it is a much higher percentage of anti-oxidant rich, phyto-chemical foods, including almonds, oranges, apples, blueberries, cranberries, etc., which are at stake. The health of bees is inextricably integrated with the health of humanity.



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The impact of last year's major and unprecedented bankruptcy continues to unfold within the context of the international shortage of honey and escalating prices. Leading American beekeepers report that the class action suits associated with this bankruptcy continue to wind their way through the legal system, with an expanded list of defendants who are alleged to be involved in schemes of collusion to circumvent Chinese honey.

Argentina

For the second year in a row, the 4th quarters of 2012 and 2013 witnessed a speculative competitive frenzy to secure increased market share of honey. Based upon such speculation, contracts were entered for significant quantities of Argentine honey, including white honey, to be shipped in 2013 and 2014. Those shipments were often either substantially delayed, cancelled or re-negotiated, imposing upon packers of honey serious difficulties. A parallel situation exists for Brazil for both its organic and conventional honey. Market share for both retail and organic honey among packers has begun to shift as serious difficulties emerged to secure enough honey at reasonable prices to fulfill packers contracts with their customers whether supermarkets, discount chains or manufacturers of products incorporating honey as an important ingredient.

Currency weakness and volatility in producing countries exacerbated these difficulties. Beekeepers faced lower total production, lower productivity per hive and increased costs of maintaining healthy bees. These factors have compelled beekeepers in South America and elsewhere to demand higher prices. As currencies like the Argentine peso declined in value, Argentine beekeepers began to hold their limited honey in their hands. Producers saw both US dollar prices rising and their ability to obtain more pesos per US dollar, the longer they waited and the more the value of their currency eroded. Prying honey out of the hands of beekeepers in South America has become more difficult. Associated with the large bankruptcy in October, 2013, there remain beekeepers in Argentina who are still unpaid for 2013 honey. Caution and resolve pervade the producer communities. With real inflation in Argentina of 2.5%-3% per month, producers are holding their small stocks tightly even as prices rise. The dilemma of course is packers need something to sell and they cannot take a financial bath based upon the speculation of some importers who sold honey that was in no ones hand, only their hope and imagination. While some speculate that an impending de-valuation of the peso will pry honey out of the hands of Argentine producers at low prices, we think that speculation will prove to be a fantasy.

Initially, projection of Argentina's 2013/2014 honey crop ranged from 70,000-75,000 metric tons (154-165,000,000 lbs.). The crop coming to an end as this report is written is estimated at closer to 50,000 metric tons (110,000,000 lbs.). From January to April, 2014, 22,000 metric tons (48,500,000 pounds) were shipped to the world.

Due to a cold spring, the crop began late. During Argentina's summer there were extreme temperatures and drought in the central states of Argentina which typically account for over 50% of the total crop.

In late summer to early autumn, heavy rains and cool cloudy days occurred affecting the eucalyptus and Chilean Light Amber and Amber crops.

From January to March, 2014, Argentina's exports to the world totaled nearly \$51,000,000 in value, with the USA as the major destination. That Indonesia was the 5th ranked Argentine honey export destination may be

Country	Value US\$ million	%
USA	35.4	69.5
Germany	2.8	5.5
Saudi Arabia	2.1	4.1
Canada	1.7	3.4
Indonesia	1.6	3.2
Japan	1.5	3.1

indicative of deeper realities than appear on the surface.

Meteorologists have indicated that they see signs (65% probability) of a new El Niño developing in the Pacific, as summer 2014 develops. If that comes to pass, it will undoubtedly have a significant impact upon the 2014/2015 crop.

Brazil

Brazil organic honey exports faced virtual force majeure conditions with extensive delays and non-shipments during the second half of 2013. That bitter experience, coupled with the drought of early 2014, has led to a frenzy to secure adequate supplies for the growing market for organic foods. Beekeeper prices, given heightened and pent up demand for some Brazilian honey, escalated from week to week, increasing by \$.05/week.

I. Main Destinations						
Period	EU KGS	CNTR	USA KGS	CNTR	Canada KGS	CNTR
Total	473,352	23	4,818,337	253	389,690	20
II. Exports from Brazil per year, Jan- Mar						
Period	KGS	CNTR				
01/2014 - 03/2014	5,760,276	303				
01/2013 - 03/2013	3,970,356	209				
01/2012 - 03/2012	4,160,439	219				
01/2011 - 03/2011	5,409,782	285				
01/2010 - 03/2010	4,701,497	247				
01/2009 - 03/2009	7,402,688	390				

Ukraine

U.S. imports reached 2,474,068 pounds during January to March 2014. The geo-political drama in Ukraine, the major supplier of honey within Europe to the EU, has gripped the world's attention. There do not seem to be any easy solutions without negative consequences. In 2011, total world exports from Ukraine were 9,874 metric tons (21,768,000 pounds). Ukraine has become a very important source of honey for Europe. This also means that European honey packers, fearful of both the consequence of continuing and deepening turmoil in the Ukraine, and both adulterated and ultra-filtered and concocted white Chinese honey, are turning to South America and doing so with a stronger Euro/US dollar ratio than many anticipated.

While the World Beekeeping Congress was being held in October, 2013, in Kiev, Ukraine, the bankruptcy of October, 2013, was an Earthquake that revealed hidden fissures and hidden relations within the American and international honey industries. The aftershocks continue.

Vietnam

Vietnam honey imports in 2013 attained a level of 74,000,000 pounds in 2013. As of March, 2014, the US has imported 19,800,000 pounds from Vietnam. Vietnamese honey that was blended with Acacia mangium, a major floral source, was darkening very rapidly, leading to color problems. The Vietnamese honey industry is working to find effective ways to select and blend honey to meet quality parameters of their export markets, including greater color stability.

Different tolerance levels for residues have made Europe an alternate destination for Vietnam. Vietnamese Light Amber honey is among the least expensive honeys in the international market. Vietnam has very diligently opposed circumvention of Chinese honey through Asian countries. The current geo-political tensions, conflicts and military skirmishes between Vietnam and China over offshore oil wells in territorial waters disputed by both Vietnam and China have attracted global concern.

India

Indian honey imports in 2013 reached about 57,000,000 pounds for the year. It is important to note that over 8,368,000 pounds of white honey were imported in 2013. Imports for 2014 have abruptly declined. There were offers floating for premium white Indian honey that may be available at \$1.80/lb., far below the current price levels for US and Canadian white

honey. Indian ELA and LA were quoted at \$1.75/lb. and \$1.65/lb., respectively.

Honey Circumvention

The problem of circumvention of Chinese honey to avoid anti-dumping duties has been dealt very serious blows and people and/or companies have been sent to jail, paid huge penalties, entered deferred prosecution agreements, been named as conspirators to circumvention, in class action lawsuits, etc. But the problem has not ceased, only the tactics have changed. In early May, honey producers from the AHPA went to Washington, D.C. and report as follows: Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske recommitted U.S. Customs Border Patrol to detect and eliminate the widespread, fraudulent circumvention of the antidumping duty order on honey imports from China, such as through the Honeygate prosecutions. An AHPA member will serve as a representative of the U.S. honey industry on a private sector committee that advises the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement on international trade enforcement issues.

No one in the honey industry, or the governments of important nations, rules out the emergence of new schemes of circumvention of Chinese honey, especially white honey through old or new points of transshipment. Circumvention through over 20 nations helped create both the past disorder and the current dilemmas. Reports of dark honey being exported to third countries to add color and pollen makes the enforcement of the integrity of country of origin labeling for raw and processed honey a continual concern and challenge. As the shortage of honey extends from white to darker grades, and the price differential among different colors diminishes, the possibility of circumvention of both Extra Light Amber and Light Amber cannot be ignored.

It is also relevant to note that China is establishing Direct Outside Investment, buying factories, farms. Petroleum fields, banks and mines throughout the entire world. We cannot wisely assume circumvention has stopped for it is more likely that it is assuming new forms. Such forms involve blending honey from third countries to add color and pollen to ultra-filtered Chinese honey and rice syrup blends. For that reason it is important, as Prof. Vaughan Bryant points out, to establish a global data base of the pollen of the world's honey supply.

Tolerance Levels and Testing limits

As we all know, bees are not invulnerable to diseases and honey, therefore, does not dwell in a mythical realm of ultra-purity. The need for reasonable and realistic tolerance levels and testing limits based upon ADI (average daily intake) levels is an issue about which I have written for a decade. We need to protect both human health and the health of honey bees since both are inter-related imperatives. We cannot hide behind the illusion that the lack of science based assessments of health risks and reasonable tolerance and testing limits is your problem, not mine, since they are our shared problems in our increasingly integrated, international honey industry.

There are now plans to discuss this issue with the FDA and seek to achieve reasonable solutions where ignorance and silence previously prevailed. The context is more favorable. The concern with the abuse of antibiotics in modern animal husbandry has intensified with genetic mutations that have led to antibiotic resistant bacteria. This reflects both less than optimum conditions for raising poultry, pigs and cattle and using antibiotics not to protect animals from disease, but to promote rapid growth of animals. If the excessive use of antibiotics on these major sources of animal protein declines, there is no valid reason to impose extremely low levels or



no testing or tolerance levels, for honey, whose per capita annual consumption is about 1.1 lbs./per capita!

Can we recall the lively song from the musical Oklahoma: the farmers and the ranchers just be friends. We need the producers and packers, and the importers and exporters, to become more friendly. Both domestic and foreign honey will benefit from establishing and enforcing reasonable and realistic testing limits and tolerance levels. The international honey industry needs to encourage coordination among government to government regulatory agencies at point of export and import, producers and packers, exporters and importers, private and government laboratories, in order to achieve food safety, adequate supply and smoother flow of honey, and testing based upon science and authentic health risks. The National Honey Packers and Dealers Association is working to be part of this effort.

Global Climate Change

The March, 2014, UN reports on climate change have most dramatically and scientifically documented the rapid rising of global temperatures and the extent to which these are self-feeding processes which render their reality all the more serious.

For example, as glaciers melt and the perma-frost retreats, light colors covering large swatches of the planet are replaced with darker colors, the former reflecting 95% of solar energy back into space and the latter absorbing solar energy and exacerbating warming processes. Similarly, the report released by NASA and the University of California, Irvine, in April 2014, indicating that Global warming fuels loss of ice sheet in West Antarctic bears great significance for the future of climate change and rising oceans. Once again the geo-physical processes concerned are self-feeding.

The increased volatility, severity, frequency and unpredictability of global weather patterns pose serious and negative effects upon global agricultural production.

On March 30, 2014, *The Guardian* reported: The scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found evidence of climate change far beyond thawing Arctic permafrost and crumbling coral reefs - "on all continents and across the oceans".

But it was the finding that climate change could threaten global food security that caught the attention of government officials from 115 countries who reviewed the report. "All aspects of food security are potentially affected by climate change," the report said.

Conclusion

Hopefully at some point these storms will pass and a more stable and vibrant honey market, based upon more creative marketing of honey, will be developed. Such a market will require 1) greater integrity without the masks of deceit that have clouded the international honey market for over a decade, and 2) creative marketing. The fundamental challenge will be how to both preserve and harmonize the incentive to produce honey with the incentive to consume honey. This effort will require the cooperative efforts of producers, packers, exporters and importers and working with governments to ensure integrity and a level playing field. Marketing Boards, like our National Honey Board, will continue to work with the industry to increase the perception among consumers of the romance, value, health benefits, quality and variety of these products which 1) arise from the interaction of bees and flowers, zoological and botanical life, and 2) play a vital role in producing the overall, diverse food supply needed to sustain and advance human civilization. ■

Canada needs a new kind of Beekeeper

Doug McRory (Field Editor)

It does not take a “Rocket Scientist” to figure out that there is a huge opportunity to supply the demand for replacement honey bees in Canada! In my little bee business, I could have sold over 1,000 nucs this spring if I had them to sell. The demand is there for Canadian grown honey bees! We obviously need a new brand of beekeeper that is totally focused on producing and selling honey bees to other beekeepers. We need this group of people (and it will take many beekeepers dedicated to this specialized industry to accomplish a significant impact on the large numbers of bees we need) to focus only on this one major core goal for their businesses.

The technology to produce large numbers of honey bees is developed in each region of Canada now! We do not have to go out and reinvent the wheel! We just have to learn from those in each region that are currently carrying out these practices! There are different methods to produce honey bees depending and where the beekeeper is located. In BC package bees can be produced early. On the prairies beekeepers have been very successful at overwintering nucs indoors. In Ontario we can winter double nucs with a second split box outdoors quite successfully. We need more of our extension activities to focus on this specialized segment of the Canadian beekeeping industry so that more people are trained in this focused segment of beekeeping.

Marketing of these Canadian produced honey bees is the key to making this segment of the Canadian honey bee industry viable. Commercial beekeepers need to support those who make the effort to supply this segment of the demand for honey bees. It may mean changing some practices to accommodate sourcing bees from Canadian sources. The beekeepers who take on this specialized and focused business have to realize that they will only be successful if they develop long term working relationships with the beekeepers that they sell their bees too. It is a two- way street when you are dealing with a biological product such as live honey bees. Both sides need to help the other when things do not work out quite as planned.

Breeding of honey bee stock that is adapted to Canadian conditions is an obvious direct benefit of developing a segment of the Canadian beekeeping industry that supplies honey bees to other beekeepers here in Canada. These honey bee producers should be focus on breeding from selected Canadian stock that is productive in Canadian beekeeping operations. The purchaser of the stock should select the exceptionally productive queens and return them to the breeder to include back into their breeding program. Not all beekeepers that produce bees for others should necessarily focus on the breeding. That should be left to those individuals who have a bent for that even more specialized part of beekeeping. We need many beekeepers that will mass produce honey bees using breeder queens selected by those elite breeders of honey bees!

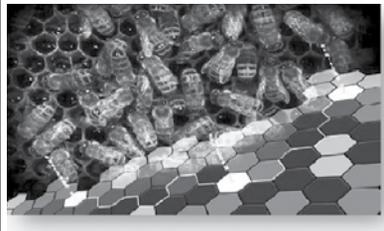
We need a government incentive program to encourage the development of this specialized segment of beekeeping in Canada. This needs to be a federal program so that all beekeepers across the country can access this money. Provinces should supplement what the Federal government does in each province to develop those provincial applications of such a program so it would be tailored to the needs of beekeepers in each province. We live in a very diverse country and the needs of beekeepers vary according to the geographical area that they live in with the various beekeeping opportunities that exist in each province.

We do have those who sell bees to other beekeepers now and they are doing everything that they can to supply bees! We just need more beekeepers working in this area to meet the demand! Hopefully this gets some beekeepers thinking about not producing honey but bees. ■



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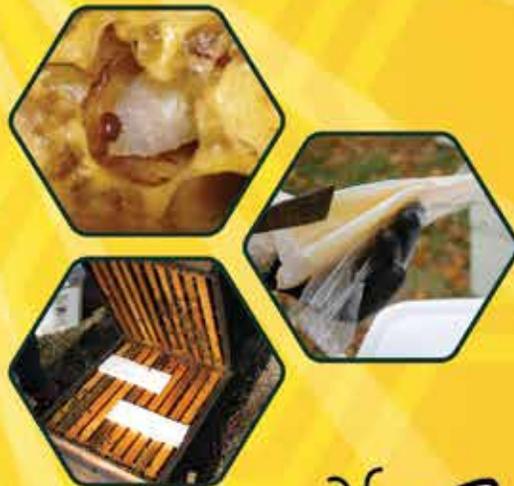
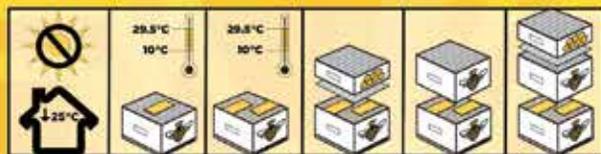
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Classifieds

Help Wanted

Beekeeper Technician – Fairview Campus

This casual appointment, working up to 30 hours/week, will commence as soon as possible to August 14, 2014. You will facilitate the operation of beehives to produce honey and related products such as pollen. Key activities will include:

- Build, repair or put together beehives. Treat and paint beehive parts to prevent wood rot.
- Prepare bees and equipment for pollination activities.
- Feed bees
- Replace queen bees, divide colonies when necessary and replace combs
- Be able to work long hours during active season, collecting and extracting honey.
- Able to withstand bee stings.
- Perform maintenance on equipment

A Beekeeping Technician certificate and one year related experience required. A combination of education and experience may be considered. A valid driver's license is essential.

Salary range: \$24.67 - \$33.78 per hour + 11.2% vacation and statutory pay

Competition Number: WP0977

This competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is selected.

Submit your resume for this position plus 3 references to: Human Resources, Grande Prairie Regional College, Box 3000, Fairview, AB T0H 1L0 Fax#: (780) 835-6790. Mail, fax or email your resume. If applying by email, Microsoft Word applications are accepted. Send email to: FVHRmailbox@gprc.ab.ca We thank all applicants for their interest. Only those applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

Susan Frye is looking for Beekeepers in the areas of Bracebridge Haliburton and Muskoka who would be interested in collecting pollen one day a week from 1-2 hives over the summer to help with her research study. All equipment supplied.

Contact: Susan Frye, PhD Student, University of Toronto | Faculty of Forestry | 33 Willcocks Street | Room 2029 s.frye@mail.utoronto.ca

Help Wanted: Vanderhoof, (BC)

Wanted Apiary technician by 2015 Spring(Noc 8253)Starting \$15.25 and negotiable per experience. One year related per experience required. Year round for right person.

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-Replace Queen Bees, divide.colonies when necessary .

-work varied hours and weather conditions if needed with heavy lifting -32kg honey boxes

- withstand bee stings. Recognize Bee Health issues and take remedial actions

-Perform maintenance on equipment, especially for extracting.

-Lead harvest/extraction crew as needed.

Contact: Jon Aebischer

Juanaebis@sweetnechakohoney.ca

Help Wanted: Kinistino, (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourer. Work in automatic honey extracting facility which includes placing honey supers on an automatic lift to a conveyor through an uncapper into the extractor to remove the honey, then removing empty honey supers to be used again or stacked away for the year. Wage \$10.35. Fulltime seasonal from July 15th to Sept 15th,2014. Long hours. Some experience would be welcome but not necessary, physical demanding, repetitive tasks,standing for extended periods,working as a team and working around some bees. Location: Kinistino, Sask. Contact by e-mail to rbacon@sasktel.net by June 15

Help Wanted: Nipawin, (SK)

Rehaluk Honey. PO Box 3156 Nipawin, SK. S0E 1E0 needs 6 Honey plant Labourers for full time employment from mid June 25 to mid Sept. Wages start at \$11.35 per hour with 40 hours per week typical. No previous work experience required, no education required. Job duties include honey extraction, cleaning extracting equipment, filling containers, and cleaning and maintaining hive equipment.

email: stinger.apiaries@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Southern Alberta, (AB)

Wanted Apiary general farm workers, (

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NOC8431) to help in day to day operations for a commercial beekeeping operation in Southern Alberta.

Experience an asset, however willing to train right person. Minimum 45 hours a week, wage starting at \$14.00 per hour.

Drivers license an asset. Must be in good physical shape. Must be able to speak and write English.

If interested please email resume to beecruzin@gmail.com

Help Wanted: Shellbrook, (SK)

Hannigan Honey Inc. PO Box 367 Shellbrook, SK. S0J 2E0 needs 7 Apiary Harvest Labourers for full time employment June 25 to Sept. 15. Wages start at \$11.00 per hour with 45 hours per week typical. Primary work place is Hannigan Honey, Plant located 1.5 km North of Shellbrook on Shell River Road. No previous work experience required, no education required. Job duties include honey extraction, cleaning extracting equipment, filling containers, and cleaning and maintaining hive equipment.

email: hanniganhoney@sasktel.net

For a complete list of help wanted go to www.honeycouncil.ca

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- Sept 18 Kyra Jean Williams Farm to College Fall 'Festival' with dinner on the Oval (evening)
- Sept 18-19 Main Conference Presentations & Trade Show
- Sept 19 Banquet
- Sept 20 Workshops - Candle Making to Queen Breeding (a.m.)
- Sept 20 UM Color Run for the Fun and Exercise (a.m.)
- Sept 20 Missoula Honey Harvest Festival on the UM Oval with additional opportunities (p.m.)



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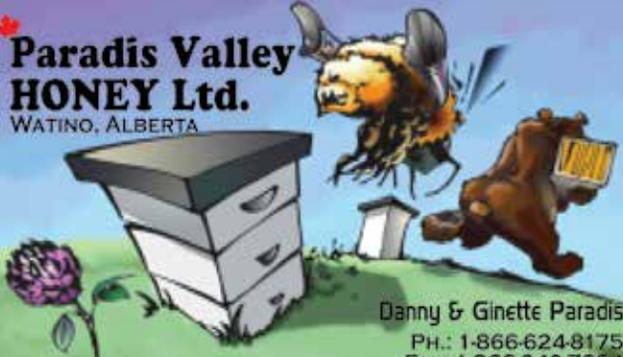


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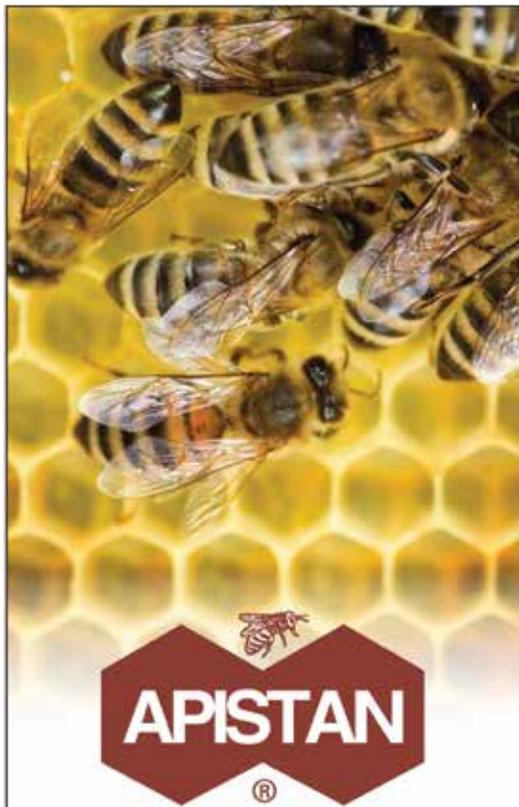
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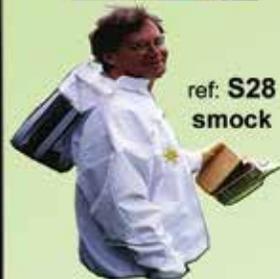
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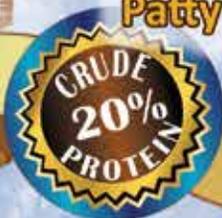
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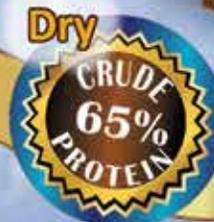
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