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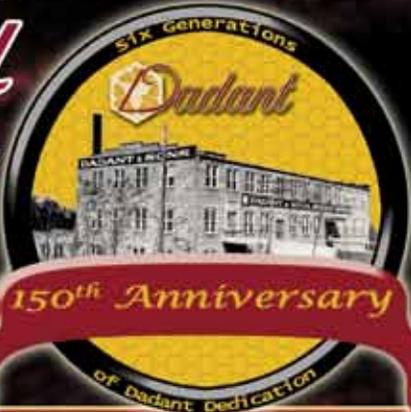
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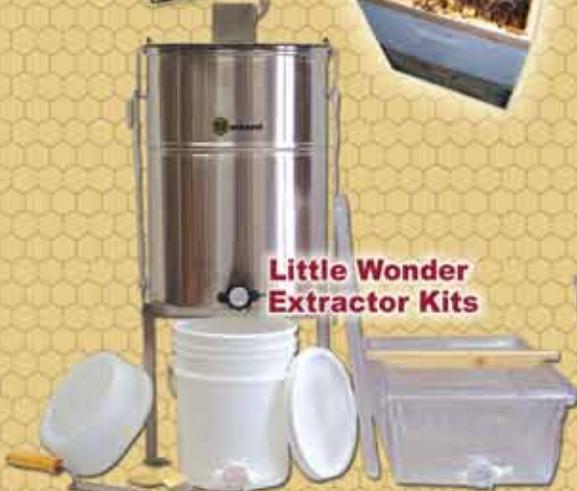


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Please contact the CHC office for more information.

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# HiveLights

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Kerri Hourd captured "Bees Wax" first place, for third time in past 4 years, at Manitoba Honey Show 2013.

Inset photo, taken at the Winnipeg Flower Show, 20-21 August 1965 at Winnipeg Auditorium (now Manitoba Archives building) where RRAA founding members Betty Ogston(left) and

Anne Donkin staffed the display and sold honey.

Photo: Jim Campbell, Stonewall Manitoba



## Table of Contents

3	Canadian Honey Council Report.....	Rod Scarlett
4	2013 CHC Directors	
5	Sweet Innovation: Attracting a New Generation of Commercial Beekeepers .....	April Weavell
7	CAPA Statement on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2013) .....	CAPA
9	Regional Reports .....	CHC Directors
13	CO-OP Honey Packer Report.....	Bernie Rousseau
15	Neonics On Corn, Soybeans Not Sustainable.....	Health Canada
16	Bees on Canola - What are the Benefits? .....	John Gavloski
19	A Crop for Bees? .....	Jim Campbell
21	Green Bees .....	Jim Campbell
23	News Release from Bayer CropScience - New Corn Planter Lubricant Technology .....	Derrick Rozdeba
25	Classifieds	
29	World News	
31	BJ SHERRIFF STILL BUZZING AFTER 45 YEARS	

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# Canadian Honey Council Report

Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC

I recently received a copy of the American Beekeeping Federation newsletter in the mail and was immediately drawn to the content of the message from the President, George Hansen. The message discussed the Future of Beekeeping and, in my opinion, it illustrates the polarization of opinion between many beekeepers. In a nutshell, Mr. Hansen points out that agricultural production is changing and so too must beekeeping. Areas where bees flourished are now vast fields of corn, wheat, and barley, crops that have little or no benefit for bees. Traditional yards may now be in areas where there is not enough environmental diversity to properly support healthy production. It is naive to think that food production will not continue to lean toward



mass production to meet world demands and it is equally naive to believe that beekeepers can insulate themselves from this change.

In the past decade, we have seen the emergence of pollination industry, where instead of bees staying in one location they are shipped across the country to fulfill pollination requirements of blueberries, cranberries and canola. It is important to remember here that it is easier to move the bees than to try and grow cranberries next to the 401. Moving bees may become the norm and trying to find suitable locations may require greater and greater distances. It is also safe to assume that as a result of more intense food production that pesticide, herbicide and fungicide use will not subside

but will in all likelihood increase and the pressures to integrate bees into mainstream agriculture may become more complex. For some this is progress, for others it is not the way they would like to envision the future. Neither is right and neither is wrong but what we have to do is find a middle ground. The inability to accept compromise will only serve to alienate and isolate our industry.

To some this appears to mean that beekeepers are at the bottom end of the scale, taking all the negatives and not receiving any of the benefits. But adaptability opens opportunities and working towards strengthening relationships with crop producers who benefit from pollination should lead to financial rewards. For those beekeepers who are currently involved in honey only production this is a large leap of faith, particularly in those areas of the country where pollination services are limited. It is not a scenario that all

► pg 4



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will, or can, embrace, but the ability to accept change and find a course that best suits you may be inevitable.

In another vein, the Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability Project is in the final phases and the CHC has put together a grant application to integrate the food safety program and the bee-biosecurity program nationally. We are also developing a proposal focussing on honey and bee stock promotion. As I write this, the CFIA has indicated that it will soon be releasing the Animal Health Risk Assessment on the importation of honeybees from the US. The report is sure to open national debate which, on the surface may prove divisive, but in the long run, can only be good for the industry.



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#### 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.

# Sweet Innovation: Attracting a New Generation of Commercial Beekeepers

## Profile: Eric Stromgren

By: April Weavell for Grande Prairie Regional College

The rebirth of a commercial beekeeping program at Grande Prairie Regional College Fairview Campus is creating a buzz that is reaching beyond the Peace to across the globe.



First Commercial Beekeeping Class(2012) with instructor Eric Stromgren at far right

Launched in January 2012, the Commercial Beekeeper Certificate Program is the first beekeeping vocational program in Canada for the education and training of beekeepers. Program instructor Eric Stromgren says the restructured program is attracting students from diverse backgrounds, many who previously may not have considered a career or hobby in beekeeping.

“The norm is that usually people coming into the commercial beekeeping field have an industry connection . . . beekeeping might be in their family, or they may have worked for a local beekeeper,” he says. “This new program is appealing to people who may not have any previous experience as beekeepers.”

Stromgren himself was introduced to beekeeping as a young child by his uncle, a hobby beekeeper in Surrey, British Columbia. That knowledge gleaned from those childhood lessons in his uncle’s backyard equipped him with the skills to work as a commercial beekeeper to pay his university tuition. It also inspired him to pursue a career in apiculture (the management and study of honeybees).

What makes GPRC’s program unique, Stromgren explains, is the combination of classroom study along with practicum experience working with large commercial operations. The students, he emphasizes, receive a salary during their 23-week

placements, while gaining the hands-on experience they require to start their own beekeeping business. There is plenty of local talent for students to tap into, since Alberta’s Peace Country has earned a reputation as the highest honey producing region in a province that is Canada’s largest honey producer.

The 46-week program, revived through industry interest and support for the renewal of a beekeeping program, builds on the track record of the former Beekeeper Technician Program offered by Fairview College (now GPRC Fairview). That program ran for nearly 20 years until 1999 and graduated 271 students.

Stromgren, who is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Biology at the University of Victoria, arrived in the Peace Region in the fall of 2011 to help establish GPRC’s new program. Bringing with him years of experience and expertise in apiculture, it is his sheer enthusiasm for honeybees and their well-being that is notably apparent. When he is not teaching at GPRC, Stromgren spends his free time tending beehives of his own and providing training and support for hobby beekeepers.

Reading through “Beekeeper Eric’s” blog, it’s easy to see the connection he has with these tiny winged creatures. He affectionately dubs the queen bees “these girls,” and shares a photo of a queen bee resting on his hand cleaning herself accompanied by the

sassy outline “Excuse me while I freshen up.”

Currently, Stromgren is working to build a 300-hive research and demonstration apiary located right on the Fairview Campus. The new apiary will facilitate student engagement in research projects and support classroom lessons through hands-on demonstrations. Eventually, the apiary will have an extracting line, giving students the opportunity to extract, package and sell honey.

Stromgren also works closely with the National Bee Diagnostic Centre near Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Beaverlodge Research Farm. The Centre is the only one of its kind in Canada to offer a wide range of comprehensive services to beekeeping businesses all under one roof.

Through the development of innovative programming and the construction of unique infrastructure, Stromgren is helping to create a new generation of producers, one that is armed with the knowledge and the skills to advance the commercial beekeeping industry to new levels and help secure Alberta’s Peace Region as a global leader in the field.

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# CAPA Statement on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2013)

Compiled by CAPA National Survey Committee and Provincial Apiarists: Claude Boucher, Les Eccles, Kristina Head, Chris Jordan, Paul Kozak, Rhéal Lafrenière, Chris Maund, Joanne Moran, Medhat Nasr, David Ostermann, Steve Pernal, Paul Van Westendorp, Geoff Wilson

In 2013, the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) National Survey committee developed a core set of questions that the Provincial Apiarists' surveys could use to report on honey bee wintering losses in their province. The following report is a summary of the reported winter losses from the provincial surveys.

Over the winter of 2012 – 2013, the average level of wintering loss of honey bee colonies (i.e. colony mortality or colonies too weak to be commercially productive) across Canada was 28.6% (Table 1). This level of winter loss represents another year of high winter loss for most Canadian beekeepers at approximately double the acceptable level, as described by beekeepers, of 15%. The level of winter loss varied between provinces and within each province.

health (Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia) and weak colonies in fall (Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and Ontario). In Ontario, many beekeepers cited acute and chronic pesticide damage as a contributing factor in winter mortality. It is worth noting that although varroa is still understood to be a serious problem in beekeeping, there were fewer concerns cited by beekeepers in some regions indicating that many of the treatment options can work well when properly applied.

## Varroa control:

The vast majority of beekeepers in Canada are managing varroa levels at regular intervals through chemical and cultural means. The continued management of varroa in honey bee colonies is widely recognized as one of the primary goals with respect to maintaining honey bee health. Apivar®, when used properly, provided effective management of varroa infestations. Beekeepers in Canada are

of mite control for this industry. The promotion of monitoring and using effective control options continues to be the focus of many extension and education activities promoting honey bee health. Beekeepers awareness of these principles and the adoption of best management practices that incorporate good food safety practices are regarded as the future direction for this industry.

## Nosema:

Nosema is still considered a serious pathogen in Canada that may be influencing colony survival. In Alberta, nosema was cited as one of the major reasons for colony mortality in a few operations. In the past, nosema disease was recognized primarily as a winter disease. It has long been established that *Nosema apis* increases in severity throughout the winter months, peaking in early spring. Fumagilin treatments have been demonstrated to suppress levels of *Nosema apis*. With the discovery of *Nosema ceranae*, the seasonal relationship between nosema disease and honey bee health is less clear. Furthermore, there may be regional variations that may underlie the severity of nosema disease. Although nosema is often cited as a concern for colony health the actual virulence in colonies is not fully understood. Current strategies to address nosema disease include research projects that address the impact of the disease on the health of colonies. Novel treatment options must be developed along with programs that promote monitoring disease levels as part of the management strategy for this disease.

## Pesticides:

There are still many concerns amongst beekeepers regarding the potential chronic and sub-lethal impact of pesticides and agrochemicals (particularly systemic insecticides such as neonicotinoids). Documented incidents of pesticide exposure and colony damage during the regular season in recent years (2009 to 2013) in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario have contributed to these concerns. There are concerns amongst some beekeepers, particularly in Ontario, that exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides during the regular season may lead to

Province	Number of Colonies Wintered Fall 2012	Number of Dead or Unproductive Colonies Spring 2013	Percent Wintering Loss (%)
British Columbia	46,746	8,414	18.0
Alberta	282,000	67,116	23.8
Saskatchewan	125,000	33,750	27.0
Manitoba	84,000	38,976	46.4
Ontario	96,384	36,529	37.9
Quebec	50,000	12,000	24.0
New Brunswick	9,348	3,496	37.4
Nova Scotia	19,462	3,316	17.0
Prince Edward Island	6,413	1,788	27.9
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>719,353</b>	<b>205,385</b>	<b>28.6</b>

Table 1. Gross Wintering Losses by Province, 2012/2013

## Factors Cited by beekeepers:

Weather was seen as a major factor contributing to winter loss for many beekeepers in the Prairie Provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) as well as Quebec. The winter of 2012/2013 was long in duration and the spring weather was cold and wet in many areas creating unsuitable conditions for colonies to develop. There are concerns that the early spring across Canada in the previous year may have contributed to the early build up of varroa levels. Other concerns cited by beekeepers included nosema (Alberta and Saskatchewan), poor queen

still regularly using organic acids as part of the rotation of chemical treatments, but continue to rely heavily on synthetic treatments. Although there are a variety of chemical options available to beekeepers, all have their advantages and disadvantages. This includes timing of treatments, pattern of use, temperature dependence and the development of resistance in varroa mite populations. The use of new methods of varroa control in an integrated pest management framework is therefore essential to the sustainability

increased stress to colonies contributing to winterloss.

**Further Work:**

CAPA continues to be in close contact with scientists from various countries around the world including the U.S. working on colony losses and bee decline. Members of CAPA have also been actively monitoring the status of bee health across the country and are sharing scientific information. Researchers within CAPA are active in evaluating alternative control options for Varroa mites, methods of integrated pest management (IPM) for honey bees and the breeding of queen stock more tolerant of diseases and mites. In several regions of Canada workshops have been conducted to promote IPM practices to beekeepers with particular attention given to surveillance programs to monitor pests and diseases, with emphasis on Varroa and Nosema spp. Attention has also focussed on proper disease identification, winter management, rotation of treatments and discouraging off-label use.

Members of CAPA, in cooperation with the Canadian Honey Council, are also pursuing the registration of alternative products for Varroa control in Canada. Other areas of research that CAPA members are currently pursuing include studies of honey bee immunity, honey bee viruses, genetic expression of honey bee responses to disease, the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides on the short and long-term health of honey bees, the biology of new and emerging bee pests and best management practices to promote the health of colonies.

**Conclusion:**

The mortality level for honey bee colonies over the winter of 2012/2013 was high (28.6%). This follows a year of decreased colony mortality. It should be stressed that it is important to look at the long-term, multi-year trend of winter mortality in Canada (figure 1). Although it is also important to consider variation, by region and between beekeeping operations it is clear that the level of colony mortality has been at a high level for several years.

Responses from provincial surveys indicated that weather, poor queens, weak colonies in fall, nosema and

ineffective varroa control were reasons that beekeepers are suspecting for the high wintering losses. Clearly the impacts of pest, pathogens and environmental factors continue to be a challenge to commercial beekeepers across Canada. There are a variety of strategies that have been pursued to address these challenges including applied and basic research, pest and pathogens monitoring, responses to pesticide incidents through incident reports and data collection, regulatory authority to address bee pests and pathogens that may threaten the industry, advisory and extension services to beekeepers promoting best management practices. It has become obvious that the future of beekeeping will depend on a multi-factorial approach to address the

risks associated with honey bee health and wintering honey bees in Canada

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Guzman-Novoa E., Eccles L., Calvete Y., McGowan J., Kelly P. and Correa-Benitez A. 2010. Varroa destructor is the main culprit for death and reduced populations of overwintered honey bees in Ontario, Canada. *Apidologie*. 4 (4): 443-451.

**Honey Bee Colony Mortality in Canada**

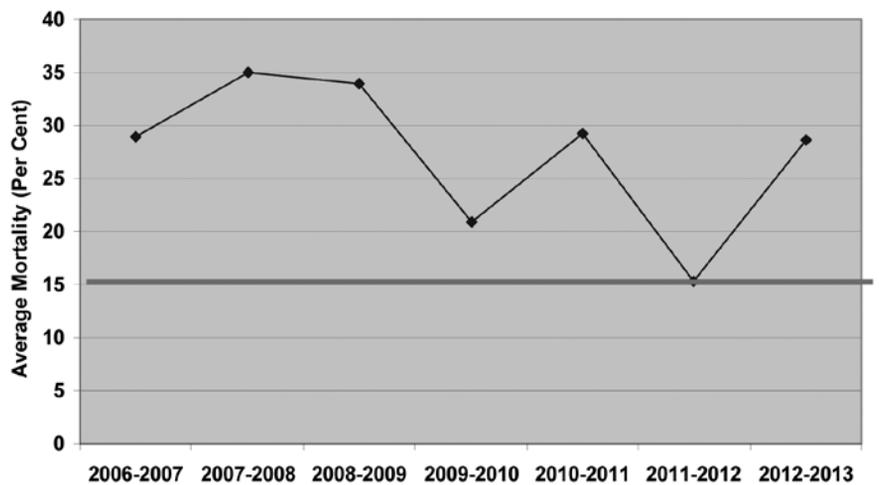


Figure 1. Average National Wintering Loss rates in Canada 2007 -2013

**Honey Bee Mortality in Canada - 2011/2012 and 2012/2013**

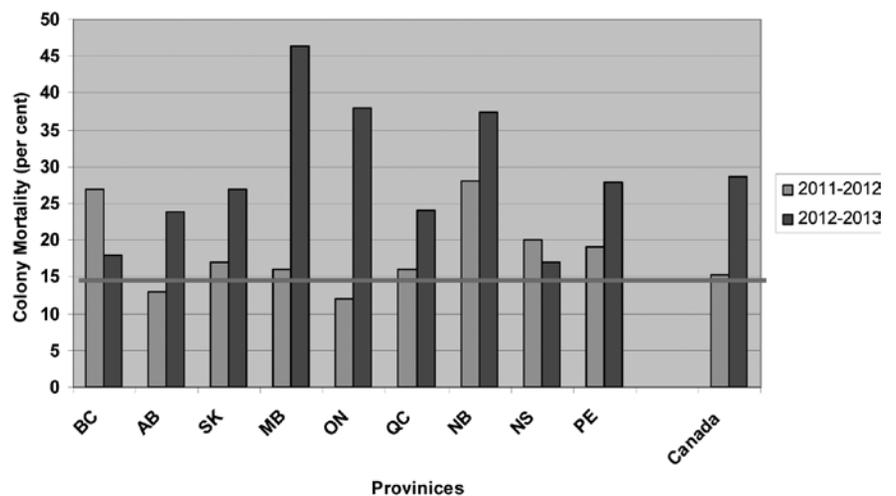


Figure 2. Average Percent Wintering Losses by Province 2011/2012 and 2012/2013



# Regional Reports

## Maritimes

Beekeeping appears to be flourishing in the Maritimes. Beekeepers are so busy that they don't have time to report on their success. Everyone I have talked to in New Brunswick seems to be contented. President



Paul Vautour

George Wheatley of the NBBA reported to the media that colonies appear very healthy in his area and that honey production is good. The three Provincial Governments are continuing to support the beekeeping industry with various incentives.

Provincial Bee Inspector (Fletcher Colpitts) who also does work on PEI, is pleased to report that colonies throughout the region look very healthy - perhaps the best he's seen in several years. Brood patterns are large and full with very little evidence of the common maladies including low mite levels. Even regions (southwest N.B.) that commonly had problems with colony strength because of climactic conditions, were thriving.

## Québec

This season has been quite interesting and it has left me wondering if we're

not having our summer in September rather than in July. The honey crop has been rather disappointing with beekeepers seeing a third to half a regular a crop. The price for locally produced honey continues to rise with quoted prices of 2.25\$ to 2.75\$ / pound. I have even heard of a local producer who sold a small lot for 3.00\$/pound.

On the Small Hive Beetle front an official find was made on August 6 near the American border. One beetle was found, in one hive, in a 24 hive apiary site. All hives have been treated and SHB traps have been installed in every hive. All nearby apiaries have been inspected without any new finds. On a good note, all provinces this year to the exception of Manitoba have some sort surveillance program for Small Hive Beetle.

In recent years insecticide poisonings have become part of beekeeping and as we go forward in time we must encourage our beekeepers to declare all poisonings to PMRA. I know of one beekeeper who was tired of always seeing small amounts of dead bees in front of his hives on strawberry/raspberry pollination. He got the dead and dying bees analysed. To his great amazement nineteen different pesticides

were found on the bees. Of these pesticides twelve were fungicides and five insecticides of which Clothianidin was at twice LD50 for bees. This case has been transferred to PMRA.

As our season comes to a close the bees look great! No mites, and with all this hot weather feeding time was reduced to less than a week.

## Happy Halloween

Cette dernière saison c'est avérée plutôt intrigante tellement que je me demande si nous n'avons pas eu notre été en septembre et non pas en juillet comme c'est la norme. La récolte de miel est assez décevante, les apiculteurs ont en moyenne la moitié voir même le tiers de leur récolte habituelle. Le prix du miel local est alors à la hausse atteignant de pointes variant entre 2.25\$ et 2.75\$ la livre. Un producteur local a même vendu un petit lot de miel à 3\$ la livre.



Scott Plante

Pour ce qui est du petit coléoptère de la ruche, un nouveau cas a été découvert le 6 août aux abords de la frontière américaine. Un seul coléoptère fut retrouvé dans une des 24 ruches de ce rucher. Toutes les ruches ont été traitées et des pièges à coléoptères ont été installés sur chacune d'entre elle. Tous les apiculteurs environnant ont été inspectés sans que

de nouveaux cas soient répertoriés. Pour l'année 2013 toutes les provinces, à l'exception du Manitoba, se sont prévaluées d'un programme de surveillance du petit coléoptère de la ruche.

Au courant des dernières années les cas d'empoisonnements de ruches par les insecticides sont devenus plus fréquents, nous devons encourager les apiculteurs à déclarer tout cas d'empoisonnements au près du MAPAQ ou l'ARLA. Un apiculteur que je connais fatigué de retrouver des abeilles mortes devant ses ruches lorsque celles-ci pollinisaient les fraises et les framboises, les a fait analyser. À sa grande surprise les abeilles analysées renfermaient 19 sortes de pesticides (12 étaient des fongicides et 5 des insecticides) parmi ces derniers figuraient, à 2 fois la dose létale pour l'abeille, du Clothianidine. Ce cas d'empoisonnement à été transféré à l'ARLA.

La saison tire à sa fin et nos ruches se portent bien. Pas de traces de parasites et avec ce mois chaud que nous avons eu, la période pour nourrir les ruches fut réduite à une semaine.

## Joyeuse Halloween

## Ontario

Ontario is going through one of the poorest honey yields on record. The beekeepers that I have been in contact with me state that they have 20-30% of a normal crop. As most Ontario beekeepers

pack and sell their own production, they are scrambling to find those with honey to sell to them so they can retain their markets. There has been no honey flow in the late part of the summer and the bees are really hungry! Beekeepers are feeding both sugar syrup and pollen patties early this year to prevent starvation and to encourage production of winter bees. Losses to the Nionics have affected the strength of colonies all summer and many commercial beekeepers in Ontario are considering quitting if a major turnaround does not occur quickly!



Doug McRory

Ontario Beekeepers Association is represented by Dan Davidson, Tibor Szabo and Jim Coneybear on the Ontario Bee Health Working Group. This group has met several times this summer and is to make recommendations to the Ontario Government on the bee loss situation.

Tracey Baute (OMARFA IPM Specialist) has written an excellent article on doing IPM and reducing the number of acres treated with pesticide if it is not necessary. Some of the seed companies have come out saying that they will offer untreated seed to growers.

The OBA Annual meeting will be held November Thurs. Nov 21 & Fri. Nov 22, 2013 at Marriott, Gateway on the Falls, Niagara Falls, ON.

Plan now to attend the Eastern Apiculture

Society Meeting that is being planned for the first week of August 2015 at the University of Guelph. This will be the largest bee meeting to be held in Canada since Apimondia 1999 in Vancouver.

#### Update on Nionic Situation in Ontario

Beekeepers continue to have major losses of honey bees to Nionic poisoning in Ontario throughout the 2013 summer season. More incidents have been reported to PMRA and followed up with MOE and OMAFRA (OMAFRA checks on the bee health in each situation to rule out that as a possible cause of the loss) than the year before.

The number of incidents is definitely under reported as those beekeepers that have crop insurance will not report as that cuts them out of their crop insurance claim.

PMRA has released a statement about the 2013 incidents in which they state that the current practices are unsustainable for agriculture. OMARFA has established an "Ontario Bee Health Working Group" to bring recommendations to the Ontario government on this issue.

Here is some of the discussion that has come from PMRA and OMAFRA on this issue with comments on each point:

PMRA Immediate recommendations:

- Requiring the use of safer dust-reducing seed flow lubricants;

Criticisms: - There is no available field data to show that these are actually safer dust-reducing -seed flow lubricants.

Criticisms: - Even if these lubricants can significantly reduce the dust drift it will be very unlikely that they would actually solve the issue. This did not work in Italy as demonstrated through APENET. Basically, if the dust only travels a short distance (a few feet) it will still hit the weeds at the margin of the field and the water in the ditches. No dust reduction will stop this from getting right onto the soil and form a source of contamination when there is standing water. None these take into account water, soil or plant expression.

And this does not address the issue of water, soil and expression through plants.

- Requiring adherence to safer seed planting practices;

Criticisms: - This is vague and is this actually mandatory. These will not work.

- Requiring new pesticide and seed package labels with enhanced warnings;

Criticisms: - Are there any mandatory measures associated with these enhanced warnings. If not then this is just more communication with no regulatory behind it.

- Requiring updated value information is provided to support the continued need for neonicotinoid treatment on up to 100% of the

corn seed and 50% of the soybean seed.

This is actually a good one. When is it required?

OMAF Best Management Practices:

1. Communicate with beekeepers who have hives in your area. Bees can forage up to 5 km from their hives and likely venture in and around your fields. Let the local beekeepers know when you plan to plant. There may be steps that they can take to protect their hives during planting.

Criticism: How will this be achieved by growers? How will they contact all beekeepers and in a timely manner? What are beekeepers expected to do. They cannot move their colonies. Where would they move the colonies where the same risk would not be present? This is not realistic.

2. Adjust time of planting. If there is an opportunity to plant in the early morning or evening on windy days, when bees are less likely to be foraging, it may also help to reduce the risk of exposure to contaminated dust.

Criticism: Growers plant when they need to, and when they have dry conditions. Early morning or late evening will not mean anything as these compounds have a very long residual. This is not meaningful.

3. Manage dandelions and other flowering weeds in and around fields, prior to planting.

Criticism: This could be helpful. Does nothing to address the water issue?

4. Minimize the amount of insecticide seed treatment used. Growers planting corn on corn with moderate to high populations of corn rootworm (CRW) should use Bt corn hybrids that have two different Bt traits to control CRW, instead of using high rate of seed treatments which are not as effective. Get back to integrated pest management. Evaluate your fields and determine if soil pests are present at threshold levels this spring and start thinking about whether an insecticide seed treatment is actually needed.

No criticisms here.

5. Limit the amount of seed lubricant (i.e. talc or graphite) used at planting. The current lubricants used are abrasive to the seed coat, rubbing the insecticide seed treatment off which helps to carry the contaminated dust into the air. There has been a tendency to err on the "safe side" for planter performance, applying lubricant at the upper end of the label rate. Follow label recommendations as the amount of lubricant needed varies by planter. A build-up of talc on the blower exhaust indicates overuse.

Criticism: Has it actually been proven that excessive dust causes the issue. The dust does not have to go far to reach nearby vegetation or water. See APENET from Italy.

6. Exhaust dust towards

the center of the field. If your planter exhausts air towards the right side, plant in a clockwise direction. This will help direct the dust into the field rather than directing the dust onto the vegetation and water sources near the field's edge.

Criticism: Sure. Why not, if the planter can work this way. The dust will likely still drift far enough onto the flowers and water at the margin on the field, unless there is data to show otherwise. All the dust will still land on the soil which will be an issue with standing water.

7. Modifying planters with deflectors. Deflecting exhaust air directly at or into the ground will reduce the distance the contaminated dust is able to travel. Deflectors have yet to be tested here in North America to determine their impact both on planter performance and on efficacy to reduce dust concerns. Research into this option is currently under development.

Criticism: This may void the warranty for the grower. The research from Italy demonstrated that there was a reduction in dust but no reduction in bee mortality (APENET). The dust was still able to travel as far as it needed to continue to do damage. This may impact the efficiency of the machine for the grower.

### Manitoba

Fall arrived and winter is around the corner. Feeding is finished, wrapping is mostly over, and indoor wintering producers are stock piling the colonies

close to the wintering sheds. Producers in Manitoba are pleased with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation is rolling out individual based winter mortality insurance coverage. MASC tracks personal history to arrive at an appropriate deductible level. Honey producers are reminded to take careful count of survivability numbers. This feature is new for the 2013-2014 winter, and is in response to members request back in 2011.

MBA continues to be in contact with Manitoba Corn Growers Association to determine if there are any reported incidences of damage to hives when corn was planted this past spring. To help honey producers, Manitoba Corn Association included an article titled "Taking Steps Towards Reducing the Risk to Pollinators". This was a two page article reminding growers, in part, to keep communications open with honey producers. Neonicotinoid debate continues. Is it the cause for large winter losses, CCD, or dwindling hives? Thousands of packages entered Manitoba this spring prior to seeding and yielded above average honey production. What does this tell us?? How will they winter??

The Sept 27-29th Honey Show and Competition was linked to the Canada-wide I Love Culture program. The Red River Apiarists' Association celebrated 50 years of organizing and staffing the show on

behalf of the Manitoba Beekeepers. The honey show grabbed the attention of three local papers, with one having an eye catching ½ front page photo on their Sunday edition.

Manitoba Beekeepers Association has proposed to both the federal and provincial governments, that in the event the import ban of package bees from continental US is not repealed, MBA would request a special import permit that would allow Manitoba Honey Producers to import packages from California for spring of 2014. Producers in Manitoba have not been able to rebuild their colony numbers over the summer, thus will be entering winter with fewer hive counts.

Honey production per hive basis was above average for most parts of the province. Prices remain strong.

Plans are underway to host the 2014 Convention and Symposium in Winnipeg on February 28 and March 1st at Canad Inn Polo Park. Early keynote speaker booked is Randy Oliver, a California beekeeper.

### Saskatchewan

Summer 2013 was interesting but then aren't they all. The deluge of rain in June gave way to the deluge of rain in July. While the bees made some honey in July it was a challenge to get to bee yards.

All-terrain vehicles and, side by sides, more utilitarian but slow, still allowed



Bryan Ash

beekeepers to try to service the yards as best they could. Driving thru water on roads became commonplace and the prospect of removing



Calvin Parsons

honey with a wagon and something to pull it thru the water and mud loomed large in all our minds. But slowly the weather cleared and gladly the nightmare that could have been was only that a nightmare.

August dawned bright and clear and the bees flew, the roads dried and the trucks moved! We scrambled to catch up and when the honey flow was over we were still behind. A mad scramble ensued as the daughter of the house was to be married on September 15! We didn't quite make it. We finished the extracting on the 18th of September. Many beekeepers were late finishing extracting, it was one of those years.

Most beekeepers are pleased with the honey crop although initial reports are that provincially we are probably below average in production.

The bees came thru the winter well but a record cold April took a toll on the spring buildup. Beekeepers are finishing their feeding and wintering preparations these days whether they winter inside or out. Mother Nature can be cruel in Saskatchewan and she rewards tardiness with wrapping and moving bees in the snow! Most

beekeepers now have their colonies ready for winter by October 15. A large number of nucleus colonies are prepared for winter to cover winter losses, a far more financially beneficial method than purchasing package bees.

### Alberta

As I write this, a few Alberta beekeepers are already all wrapped up and ready to have some R & R, however most still have a week or two left to go to finish up preparing the bees for winter.

Overall production here in Alberta was not real impressive.

There was a couple pockets that did okay, but it sounds like the overall production will be down 25-30% from a normal average.

Thankfully the market is strong and most will carry on. Seems that weather was the biggest factor in the low production which started off right from spring. Of course, there were some heavy losses in the early spring due to the late arrival of better weather conditions for the bees and some had to recover so many numbers and make so many splits that they sacrificed a big part or in a few cases all of their honey crop. This is really to bad. No one saw these losses coming. Winter losses were actually pretty low right out of the gate, but early spring is when most of the losses occurred. If only there could have been a way of accessing healthy replacement bees on short notice, the outcome could have been different for some of these beekeepers. The loss was so significant that



Kevin Nixon

there were a few that chose not to recover but get out of the business, which is to bad.

It has been an interesting week and may get more so in the near future. This past week we heard that one of the largest US honey packers, Groeb Farms, filed for bankruptcy. It will be interesting to see if they are able to restructure as they plan to in the next 90 days and if and how this will affect the honey market. We are also expecting to hear an answer regarding the risk assessment for U.S. package

honeybees. I would hope by the time everyone is reading this, we will have had this response and will be able to move ahead one way or another.

Over the past few weeks, we have also heard some announcements from the biotech industry and PMRA. There seems to be some positive response from them which shows they are listening to the requests and concerns of the industry. Really briefly these announcements included: #1 PMRA consulting stakeholders to protect honeybees from exposure to neonics and making some recommendations for 2014 already. #2 Bayer is planning to introduce a new chemistry to replace imidacloprid which is more bee friendly. #3 Pioneer is offering both treated and untreated seed in Canada and #4 Bayer has a replacement lubricants for the talc and graphite used for corn seeding which has shown positive field trials and will likely

come to market. I think it is important to recognize these steps being taken. There is definitely a lot of issues still to deal with and stay on top of to try and reduce the possible negative impacts on honeybees when they are in a crop production environment, but these are significant steps made so far.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas season and some downtime to spend with family and friends and would like to invite everyone to come out to Edmonton, Alberta for CHC's AGM which will coincide with our IPM workshop at the end of January. It is sure to have a great agenda as always.

### British Columbia

Despite the unusual weather pattern this season, honey production was average and bees appear to be in good condition for overwintering. Queen and Nuc production has also been satisfactory.

Interest in CFIA's risk management assessment for the importation of package bees from the United States is slowly gaining attention of the BC Honey Producer's membership as the Agency's report is expected to be made public in the near future.



Gerry McKee

The BCHPA has historically supported the restriction of U.S. package bees as the importation was perceived to compromise disease and pest control measures. Although the Association has not openly discussed this issue in recent

years, it will be reviewed on October 25th at the Annual General Meeting in Kelowna. This is not simply a “black and white” issue. Some proponents may emphasize the economic arguments which might provide only short term gains. They also claim the problem is simply a political situation. Unfortunately, these implications often defy objective consideration. Hence, best decisions are based on available scientific information which is what our Association is expecting in CFIA’s report.

The other emerging issue of interest for B.C. beekeepers is the unknown effect of neonicotinoid pesticides applied to crops in the agricultural regions of the province. Although there have not been any reports of acute incidents, there is concern about the possible sub-lethal effects from contaminated pollen and residues in soil water. This unknown factor can easily lead to hastily formed suspicions for colony failures which are possibly caused by any number of factors. Beekeepers are again relying on the due diligence of both federal and provincial regulators such as the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and Environment Canada.

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# Neonics On Corn, Soybeans Not Sustainable

Health Canada

Agricultural practices related to the use of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed are affecting the environment due to their impacts on bees and other pollinators, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency says in announcing additional protective measures for the 2014 growing season.

"We have concluded that current agricultural practices related to the use of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed are not sustainable," the agency says in a statement.

It is proposing requiring the use of safer dust-reducing seed flow lubricants; requiring adherence to safer seed planting practices; requiring new pesticide and seed package labels with enhanced warnings; and requiring updated value information be provided to support the continued need for neonicotinoid treatment on up to 100% of the corn seed and 50% of the soybean seed.

"We are working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, provincial governments, growers, beekeepers and the pesticide industry to determine if other options exist that would protect the environment while allowing the continued use of these seed treatments for corn and soybean," the agency says in a statement.

"At a recent meeting with officials from the Ontario and Quebec ministries of Environment and Agriculture, a number of important research projects such as those aimed at improving integrated pest management techniques were discussed and potential solutions were explored."

The agency is inviting stakeholders and the public to submit written comments on its proposals to protect bees from exposure to neonicotinoid pesticides from treated corn and soybean seed. It says it is acting after receiving a significant number of pollinator mortality reports in 2012 mainly from corn growing regions of Ontario and Quebec.

Areas of high corn production correlated well with the locations of bee mortalities. About 70% of the affected dead bee samples tested positive for residues of neonicotinoid insecticides used to treat corn seeds, while neonicotinoids were only detected in unaffected bees in one sample at very low levels.

"We concluded that the majority of pollinator mortalities were a result of exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides, likely through exposure to contaminated

dust generated during the planting of treated corn seed," the agency says.

The unusually warm and dry weather conditions were thought to be a contributing factor. Measures were implemented to reduce pollinator exposure, such as the introduction of best management practices for seed planting.

"However, in spring 2013 with more typical weather patterns, we continued to receive a significant number of pollinator mortality reports from both corn and soybean growing regions of Ontario and Quebec, as well as Manitoba," the agency says.

The agency says bee health is a complex issue that goes beyond the incidents in 2012 and 2013 and may involve a number of additional factors, including parasites, disease and climate.

The agency is conducting a re-evaluation of all uses of neonicotinoid insecticides in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the work being done with international partners.

"We are expediting this re-evaluation, which will help us better understand and manage potential risks these pesticides may pose to long-term bee health," it says.



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# Bees on Canola – What are the Benefits?

Prepared by: John Gavloski, Entomologist, Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives,

A close look through a canola field that is flowering will reveal many insects that have come to collect the nectar and pollen from the flowers, including many species of bees. Even if there are no bee hives near the canola field, there will likely still be honey bees in the field, sometimes at quite high levels, and at least several species of wild bees. Many species of flies will feed on the nectar as well. But is there any benefit to having these pollinators in the field? And what is at risk if insecticide applications reduce their abundance in the field? There are several benefits that honey bees and other pollinators can produce in canola, and these benefits need to be considered when deciding if and how other insects are going to be managed in canola that is flowering.

## Effect on yield

The effect of pollinators on yield of canola will likely depend on the density of the pollinators in the field, the weather conditions during the blooming period of canola, and possibly the type of canola that is grown. As might be expected, the results of studies looking at the effect of bees on the yield of canola are quite variable. Research in Quebec showed an improvement in seed yield of 46% in the presence of three honey bee hives per hectare, compared with the absence of hives (Sabbahi et al. 2005). This is a fairly high density of bees that was used in the study, but does show the potential yield improvements that can exist when there is good pollination. In an earlier study on oilseed rape (*B. napus*) there was a 13% seed yield increase in plots with bees compared to those without bees, although the authors did state that oilseed rape gives good yields without insect pollination (Free & Nuttall, 1968).

A study in Australia looked at the effect that distance from an apiary

can have on pod yield in canola. The number of pods/plant decreased as distance from the apiary increased (Manning & Boland, 2000). Their regression analysis predicted a pod loss of about 15.3 pods/plant over a distance of 1000 m from an apiary. This was equivalent to a 16% loss.

## Reduced time in bloom

In addition to potentially enhancing yield of canola, pollinators can also contribute to uniform and early pod setting (Abrol 2007). Research in Quebec found that three honeybee colonies per hectare reduced the blooming period of Argentine canola (*B. napus*) by 3.8 days, or 17% compared to the absence of pollinators. Because of the efficient pollen transfer, the honeybees resulted in the flowers living for a shorter period of time, and also reduced the number of flowers the plant had to produce to reach its carrying capacity (Sabbahi et al., 2006).

The reduced flowering period and fewer flowers the plant needs to produce to reach its carrying capacity could have implications for disease management. For example, the risk of sclerotinia may theoretically be reduced by a shorter flowering period and fewer petals being produced. This association between increased pollination and decreased risk of sclerotinia has never been directly tested however, and there would be other factors such as weather conditions that would also factor in.

## Germination of the seeds

The presence of pollinators can increase the germination of canola seed. A study from the University of Guelph found that the presence of pollinators on *B. napus* (cv. O.A.C. Triton) increased the germination of resulting seeds from 83% to 96%, compared to where pollinators were excluded from plants using either tents



or sleeves (Kevan and Eisikowitch, 1990).

## Spreading biological controls?

Researchers in Ontario looked at using honey bees to spread the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*, which can help reduce the level of *Lygus* bugs (Al Mazra'awi et al. 2006). In studies in 2002 and 2003, honey bees were used to spread the fungus into canola fields, which resulted in increased kill of *Lygus* bugs. The highest level of *Lygus* mortality was 56%. So this would not be a means of totally eliminating a *Lygus* population, but if the technology gets registration and is affordable it could be a means to help keep *Lygus* populations under the economic threshold. The researchers noted in their paper that “the benefits are better pollination, reduction in pest pressure of *Lygus lineolaris*, and reduced reliance on insecticides”.

## What about the effect of wild bees and other pollinators?

Although honey bees can be an abundant pollinator in canola field, there are also many species of wild bees that can be present. A study in Manitoba found that 15 species of bumble bees were inadvertently captured in traps baited with a bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) attractant and placed in canola fields (Turnock et al., 2006). Many species of wild bees will live in uncultivated land, and a study by researchers from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia found that bee abundance was greatest in canola fields that had more uncultivated land within 750 m of field edges and seed set was greater in fields

with higher bee abundance (Morandin & Winston, 2006). Some species of hover flies (Syrphidae) may also significantly increase seed set and yield in canola (Jauker & Wolters 2008).

### Conclusions

Although canola may still produce good yields in the absence of pollinators, the impact of pollinators on maximizing yields and the economic value of this should not be ignored. Canola growers do gain from having bees pollinating canola, and this gain needs to be factored in when making management decisions in canola that may have potential negative impacts on bees. Efforts should be made to avoid using insecticides in canola when it is flowering. Should insecticide use be deemed necessary during the flowering period of canola, it is in the economic interest of canola growers, as well as apiarists, to ensure that insecticides and timing of applications are chosen to minimize losses to bees. If possible, spray as late in the day as possible, or very early in the morning,

when bees will not be foraging in the canola, and communicate with nearby beekeepers so that harm to the bees can be minimized.

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# A Crop for Bees?

By Jim Campbell, a beekeeper and photographer from Manitoba

How do I begin to capture photos of my bee operation? Have you ever wanted to take a photograph of your bees and didn't quite know where to start?

Chances are, when showing a favourite photo; someone will surely ask what type of camera is used. Although the photo could be attractive, some think it is only the camera that makes it that way.



**TAKE LOTS OF SHOTS:** The digital world can be wonderful, especially enabling taking lots of pictures, not being critical of exposure levels, nor having things centred in the photo. It is easy to delete blurry, crowded, far away, un-centred, etc files later, when sorting on a computer at home. The important thing is to capture a photo of what you want! Don't be afraid to take more pictures than you think are needed. Secure Digital memory cards are inexpensive! Set camera to take medium to large sized files for easier cropping later, or more importantly, making 8 x 10 prints of favourites.

The answer is however, a combination of camera plus the owner. I would suggest the main part of the process begins with a personal interest in a specific subject. I began by capturing pictures of the inner workings of the hive. Who was there? What were they doing? Where were they going? When did things get done? Why are they doing that? These questions and more, and then, my interests broadened to what else the bees were doing, and where were they going, outside the hive.

Most beekeepers are partly environmentalists, or perhaps nature lovers, and this leads to a greater awareness of our surroundings such as plants, flowers, insects, fields, and nature in general. This is how to move from a single focus or interest, to capturing images of a wide variety of subjects. However my encouragement for you is start taking photographs NOW!

**START SMALL AND PORTABLE:** Purchase a medium price range digital camera at the start. This keeps expenses down, while getting underway. My preference is the Nikon Coolpix pocket cameras, merely as they generally focus quicker than other brands. Since bees and insects DO NOT pose, a fast focus is best. The other thing to consider is where pictures will be taken and how accessible the camera should be. The smaller cameras can clip to belt loop, or be put in a shirt pocket, thus carried almost anywhere, and yet are readily accessible whenever an image or activity catches your attention.

**SAVE ONLY THE BEST:** This is the area where it will be "do as I say", and not "do as I do". Deleting files is often difficult! Keeping the BEST is easy, yet several shots are just too "nice" to delete. However, with computer memory, it is easy to save a few extra, since files can be deleted later on when another is better than one already saved. Get rid of out of focus shots, no matter how nice it could have looked, or what fond memory it generates—it will never come into focus. How many remember looking at photo albums with blurry pictures of unrecognizable grandparents.

**CROP TO ENHANCE:** Software programs abound for editing files. An older version of Adobe Photoshop serves me quite well. This permits centering an item in the middle of the photo, or properly placing it in the 1/3 sectors (i.e. top/middle/bottom, or left/center/right) to create visually attractive printable pictures. It is much easier to do this cropping and editing on the computer than to try to get insects or animals to move to the correct site in the viewfinder. Cropping is important to ensure your print displays the image you want. Crop to show the bee, rather than your bee yard.

**BE READY:** The small pocket camera should serve well for about 95% of most photos. If you desire mountain shots, then a larger, usually bulkier camera is designed for that. Since most shots are relatively close, or even macro (very

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close) the smaller ones seem convenient to grab whenever the mood strikes. Were there eggs or larva? Was that a pest? How old are those bees? Be ready to use your camera quickly.

**BE PATIENT:** Invariably when discovering an insect on a flower, the wind is causing everything to move. Take a few shots, yet patiently wait for the few seconds the wind may subside, just enough to snap a clearer shot. Blurry shots

can be deleted later. Again take lots of shots!

Start taking photographs of whatever subject interests you the most! This builds confidence in seeing the images, and making adjustments so results improve. Have a good time! My cameras have been into the bee yard so often; the propolis has to be cleaned off frequently. Sometimes the bees react to the infrared focus light and fly out to greet me, often landing on my fingers while I'm trying to make camera adjustments. Or perhaps they are just wondering why I'm sticking the camera in their faces. Are they smiling, or are they planning something? Who knows! In any event, I've got my shot, now how do I get out of here before they get me?



## Green Bees

Submitted by Jim Campbell

Halictidae (Family Name) bees (Subfamily - Halictinae) are small, about 7-15mm long, and can be bright metallic



Although not a honey bee, this Green Metallic Halictid Bee on Peony Flower

green or blue bees. My green bee is about 7 mm long (i.e. quite small). Most species have a bright metallic green head and thorax with a black and yellow abdomen (I have pic

of this colouring from a trip to BC), and some females are entirely bright green (pic of bee on Peonae flower in garden near Stonewall).

There are several sub species, (and this seems to be *Osmia*, as it carries pollen on underside of the abdomen), although this is more likely *Agapostemon*, as pollen on hind legs. These bees are also sometimes called Sweat Bees, although this species isn't attracted to sweat. Halictid bees usually nest in soil, although some nest in dead wood (we have lots of trees on our property). Mostly solitary, yet can be in a social setting as well. When at Oak Hammock Marsh a few weeks ago, many of the Sow Thistle (Look somewhat like dandelion flower, yet flowers are several on top of tall stalk) had a green bee on each flower. Was a lovely warm day and these bees were collecting pollen.

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# News Release from Bayer CropScience - New Corn Planter Lubricant Technology

Submitted by Derrick Rozdeba, Manager,  
Marketing Communications Bayer CropScience

Growers Positive about New Corn Planter Lubricant Technology from Bayer CropScience Technology Lowers Dust During Planting; Further Reducing Honey Bee Exposure

Calgary (Sept 17, 2013) – As part of its commitment to sustainable agriculture, Bayer CropScience announced very favorable field trial results of its new seed application technology, which is designed to further reduce potential dust exposure to honey bees during a typical planting process, while offering improved handling efficiencies to corn farmers.

The use of lubricants, such as talc and graphite, are a standard recommendation by seed planter manufacturers to reduce friction and improve uniformity, but recent scientific publications on this topic have triggered a debate as to the relationship between the already low level of exposure of dust from these planters and potential acute effects on bees. As an alternative, the new Bayer fluency agent – made of a polyethylene wax substrate – was shown to significantly decrease dust and emissions during laboratory testing:

- Ninety percent reduction in total dust versus talc
- Sixty percent reduction in total dust versus graphite

To follow up on the promising laboratory research, this past spring, Bayer conducted large-scale field studies – covering more than 40,000 acres – throughout North America with growers and in collaboration with major planter manufacturers in the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of these trials was to evaluate the new fluency agent's commercial viability under field conditions.

"We were impressed by the success of this new fluency agent when we examined the field trial results," said Paul Thiel, VP Innovation and Public Affairs, Bayer CropScience. "Although potential exposure from corn planting is relatively rare, cooperation among applicators, growers and beekeepers is a critical part of effective best-management practices for seed treatment applications and important for pollinator health."

Based on feedback, growers who participated in the trials thought the new fluency agent:

- Performed equal to or better than comparable talc or graphite lubricants;
- Was less dusty during application and was easier to avoid dust when checking boxes; and
- Showed equivalent results at significantly lower use rates

than talc when comparing planting uniformity.

When asked to describe his experience with the Bayer fluency agent, Ed Benjamins, a grower from Ontario said, "It's pretty simple really; easy to apply, a lot smaller quantity. It worked equal or better than regular talc; absolutely no issues whatsoever."

Bayer will finalize its analysis of the results of the field trials and work with growers, planter equipment manufacturers and other stakeholders to determine the commercial viability of its fluency agent.

Bayer has been actively involved in finding solutions to improve honey bee health for more than 25 years. Its Bee Care Program includes initiatives designed to further bee health research, engagement and discussion and bring Bayer's extensive experience and knowledge in bee health under one platform. Bee Care Program initiatives include:

- \*The North American Bee Care Center\*, which broke ground in May at the North American Bayer CropScience Headquarters in Research Triangle Park, N.C., will aid the advancement of honey bee research by providing a state-of-the-art facility to support worldwide bee health initiatives,
- \*The Protect the Western Bumble Bee\* initiative as part of the Bring Back the Wild program, a partnership with Earth Rangers to educate kids on the importance of bees and to help protect their habitat, and
- \*Bee Ambassador Program\*, a field staff training campaign dedicated to cultivating dialogue and awareness around topics related to honey bee management and health.

## About Bayer CropScience

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of health care, agriculture and high-tech materials. This year the company is celebrating 150 years of Bayer – consistent with its mission "Bayer: Science For A Better Life". Bayer CropScience, the subgroup of Bayer AG responsible for the agricultural business, has annual sales of EUR 8,383 million (2012) and is one of the world's leading innovative crop science companies in the areas of seeds, crop protection and non-agricultural pest control. The company offers an outstanding range of products including high value seeds, innovative crop protection solutions based on chemical and biological modes of action as well as an extensive service backup for modern, sustainable agriculture. In the area of non-agricultural applications, Bayer CropScience has a broad portfolio of products and services to control pests from home and garden to forestry applications. The company has a global workforce of 20,800 and is represented in more than 120 countries. For more information visit: [www.bayercropscience.ca](http://www.bayercropscience.ca).

Contact: Derrick Rozdeba - Manager, Marketing Communications, Bayer CropScience  
Tel: (403) 723-7432  
Email: [derrick.rozdeba@bayer.com](mailto:derrick.rozdeba@bayer.com)



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## Help Wanted

### Help Wanted - Austin,(MB)

One Position available for a full time, seasonal apiary labourer at New Rutherford Apiaries (4647204 Manitoba LTD) for the 2014 season April 1 - Oct 31 2014. Valid drivers licence and previous experience working with honeybees are an asset. Duties include helping with: honey harvesting/ extraction, feeding/medicating hives, hive inspection, moving hives, building hive equipment, and clean-up. Hourly wage rate of \$11 - \$15/hour depending on experience. Some evening and weekend work required. Send resume to: Mike Lewis, New Rutherford Apiaries LTD RR#1 Austin, MB, R0H0C0.

email: mike-beehive@hotmail.com ph: (204)466-2551

### Help Wanted - Aylsham SK

4 Seasonal full time beekeepers at Aylsham,Sk.. Employment from April to October 2014. Wages starting at \$11.00 per hour based on experience and qualifications.

7 Seasonal full time apiary workers at Aylsham, Sk.. Employment from July to September 2014. Wages starting at \$10.25 per hour based on experience and qualifications.

Send resume to Valteau Apiaries Ltd by fax @ 306-862-3682 or email Dan at valteau.apiaries @ sasktel.net

### Help Wanted - MacGregor MB

Seasonal beekeepers - 3 apiary technicians & 7 apiary workers. March 1 to November 1, 2014. Valid driver's license an asset, previous experience working with honeybees a requirement. Wage range \$11.00-\$15.00 per hour depending on experience. Candidates must be willing to work days, evenings, weekends, and overtime in a fast paced, repetitive, and physically demanding environment. Duties may include: assessing hive health, feeding/medicating colonies, removal/extraction of honey, relocating colonies, collecting/cleaning pollen, building/repairing beehive equipment, and light maintenance on machinery/vehicles. Contact: Nichol Honey Farm Ltd., Box 461, MacGregor, MB , R0H 0R0. Phone (204)-252-2770, fax (204)-252-2129 email: nicholhoney@yahoo.ca

### Help Wanted - North Battleford SK

Seasonal beekeepers/farm laborers required - May to October \*2014\*. Beekeeping experience an asset but willing to train enthusiastic people. Position(s) will require working with bees and extracting honey. All applicants must be physically fit, able to lift 50+ pounds. English speaking with drivers license preferred. Wages to start at \$10.26/hr, up to \$17.00, based on experience. Reply to: Cameron Brown Farmer Brown's Honey farmerbrownshoney@gmail.com

### Help Wanted - Langenburg (SK)

11 Seasonal Workers: Full time beekeeper required Beekeeping experience an asset. Apr 15 till Oct 31 2014, \$10.07 to \$17.00 per hour. Glory bee Honey, phone 306-743-5469 or email DennisGlennie@sasktel.net for more information

### Help Wanted - Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan

Groot's Honey Farm Highway 55 West, Meadow Lake, SK Hiring for 2014 Seasonal Workers (April 01 - October 30, 2014)

Position: 3 Apiary Technicians (NOC 8253) \$13-\$14.00/hr depending on experience

Position: 4 Apiary Workers (NOC 8431) \$11-\$13.00/hr depending on experience

All applicants must be in a good physical condition.

\*Apiary Technician must have a minimum of 2 years experience

\*Someknowledge of Queen Rearing

\*Driver's License is an asset

\*The Apiary Workers must be able to work in the presence of honey bees and will assist with colony management and Honey extraction/processing  
Essential Skills: Reading text, Writing, Oral Communication, Working with others, Problem Solving, Good in Decision Making, Job task planning and organizing

Contact: Calvin Groot, Phone: 1-306-236-3041 1-306-236-6924. Email: calvingroot@xplornet.com

Mailing address: P. O. Box 2077 Meadow Lake, SK, S9X 1Z4

### Help Wanted - Porcupine Plain, SK

4 apiary workers. Full time,seasonal work. May-Oct 2014. Spring/fall maintainance, building of equipment, supering, pulling honey,extracting honey, moving beehives, feeding bees. Inside and outside work. Application to be made to: g.knuksen@xplornet.ca

### Help Wanted - Golden Ears Apiaries Inc.

Seeking employees for the 2014 season. Apiary Technician (NOC 8253) 7 positions at \$13.58/hr. Apiary worker (NOC 8431) 3 positions at \$11.81/

hr. Work starts in mid Feb, 2014 and ends late Oct. 2014. Some evening, night and weekend work, full time seasonal work. Applicants must be in good physical condition and be able to work in a team environment., speak English and or Spanish. Apiary Technician must have a min. of 2 years commercial beekeeping experience. They will handle feed and care for bees in a manner appropriate for the season. Assist in the production of queen cells, nucs, queens and or replacement colonies. Recognize, report and monitor hive health issues and apply appropriate cures/controls. May drive and maintain vehicles including large trucks and forklifts. Maintain bee yards. Operate and maintain other apiary related equipment. Keep field and or production records. Apiary harvesters do not require experience. They will super hives, harvest honey, extract honey, clean honey extraction and storage equipment. Move barrels, prepare and fill them. Maintain hive equipment and bee yards. All employees may have to work long hours. Most tasks are performed outdoors in all kinds of weather. Work is repetitive and physically demanding. All applicants should submit a resume to: jeanmarcledorze@gmail.com or write to: Golden Ears Apiaries Inc. 33197 Ito Place, Mission, B.C. V2V-3W7

**Help Wanted - 4 Experienced beekeepers & 1 Honeybee Farm Supervisor - Pitt Meadows(BC)**

4 experienced beekeepers wanted for January 15 - November 15, 2014, and 1 honeybee farm supervisor on a permanent full-time basis starting January 1st 2014. Preference will be given to candidates with queen rearing experience. Hourly pay rate \$13 - \$20, depending on experience. Send resumes to manager, Honeyland Canada Inc. email: manager@HoneylandCanada.com  
Ron Lin, Ph.D., President Honeyland Canada 17617 Ford Road Pitt Meadows, B.C. Canada V3Y 1Z1 Tel: 604 460-8889; Fax: 604 460-8887 Email address: DrBee@shaw.ca, website: www.HoneylandCanada.com

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Wages would vary depending on experience and accommodation requirements. Duties include handling, feeding and caring for bee colonies, assisting in the production of NUC's and replacement hives, queen raising, brood inspections including regulation AFB checks, applying varroa mite treatments, moving hives, harvesting honey and assembly/maintenance of hive equipment. Experience in commercial queen raising an advantage. If successful, this may lead to a permanent full time or annual seasonal position.

Applicants must:

- \* have a minimum of 3 years fulltime experience as Apiary Technician in a Canadian commercial apiary.
  - \* be strong, fit and in good physical condition.
  - \* speak good English
  - \* be able to manage all aspects of an apiary, sometimes working alone and other times working in a team environment.
  - \* have a full (Canadian) drivers car license. A truck licence (>3.5T) is also an advantage.
  - \* have experience in driving 4x4 utility vehicles over rough, uneven mountainous terrain.
  - \* Staff accommodation can be provided/negotiated.
- To apply, please send resume to brendon.redfern@xtra.co.nz, together with referees contact details, wage expectations and dates of availability.

**Help Wanted - 12 Beekeepers : Shellbrook (SK).**

Need 12 willing beekeeping workers for Apr.-Nov. 2014. Pay starts at \$10.07 with bonuses based on performance. Training is on the job. Accommodations provided on rental basis. Contact Murray: 306-747-3299 email: hanniganhoney@sasktel.net

**Help Wanted – Wendell Honey : Roblin (MB)**

12 full-time seasonal positions available at Wendell Honey, Box 1439, Roblin, MB in 2014

- Apiary harvesters to:

- o assemble equipment
  - o help super hives
  - o help harvest honey
  - o help maintain beeyards
  - o help with Fall feeding
  - Positions available from May 12, 2014 to mid-October 2014.
  - Work is physically demanding. No experienced required.
  - Wages \$12.00-\$15.00 per hour.
- email Isabel Wendell at isy@wendell.ca or fax 204 564 2568

12 full-time seasonal positions available at Wendell Honey, Box 1439, Roblin, MB in 2014

- Apiary technician to:
  - o help with Spring check, hive assessment and manipulation.
  - o help with pest and disease control.
  - o help with grafting, making nucs, and raising Queens.
  - o assemble equipment
  - o help super hives
  - o help harvest honey
  - o help keep field production records
  - o help maintain beeyards
  - o help with Fall feeding, assessment and treatments.
  - o help to wrap bees.
  - Positions available from April 14, 2014 to mid-October 2014
  - Experience working with bees necessary
  - Work is physically demanding.
  - Wages \$15.00-\$18.00 per hour depending on experience with Wendell Honey
- email Isabel Wendell at isy@wendell.ca or fax 204 564 2568

**Help Wanted- 2 Experienced Beekeepers: Honey Bee Centre Surrey (BC)**  
HONEYBEE CENTRE requires two (2) beekeepers for the 2014 season February 15 - October 15, 2014. Our company is situated in the centre of the Vancouver metropolis. Wages are \$13.00 for workers with three or more years experience. A driver's license is an asset. On-site accommodations are available at \$300 per month. Contact John Gibeau. gibeau@honeybeecentre.com. Visit our website at www.honeybeecentre.com.

**Help Wanted: Pleasant Valley, Alberta**  
PLEASANT VALLEY requires General Farm Workers (Harvest Laborer): 3 required, experience is an asset but will be trained, wage starting at \$11.20/hr. Apiary workers (Low skill Worker): 7 required with a min. 1yr. experience, wage starting at \$12.28/hr. Apiary Technician (Skilled Worker): 4 required with a minimum 2yr. experience, wage starting at \$13.33/hr. All positions are to be filled for the 2014 Season. All wages are negotiable upon experience and productivity. A valid driver's licence is a benefit. Ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit. Email resumes to pollenpal@gmail.com attn. to Pleasant Valley or fax to 403-687-2410

**Help Wanted: Fort Macleod, Alberta**  
POELMAN APIARIES requires General Farm Workers (Harvest Laborer): 5 required, experience is an asset but will be trained, wage starting at \$11.20/hr. Apiary Workers (Low skill Worker): 14 required with a min. 1yr. experience, wage starting at \$12.28/hr. Apiary Technician (Skilled Worker): 6 required with a minimum 2yr. experience, wage starting at \$13.33/hr. All positions are to be filled for the 2014 Season. All wages are negotiable upon experience and productivity. A valid driver's licence is a benefit. Ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit. Email resumes to pollenpal@gmail.com attn. to Poelman Apiaries or fax to 403-687-2410

**Help Wanted- Seasonal Beekeeper Helpers: Rocanville (SK)**  
6 full time positions for 6 months March 21 - October 21 - 2014  
2 full time positions for 3 months July 3 - Sept 21 - 2014  
Pay starts at \$10.07 - \$17.00 based on experience at B Strong Apiaries .  
Training on the job.  
Contact: email Brian at bdstrong@sasktel.net . Fax:306-645-4591

**Help Wanted-Seasonal Beekeepers: Nipawin (SK)**  
5 Full-time Seasonal Beekeepers and 10 Beekeeper's Helpers (apiary workers) for April to November 2014. Work is physically demanding, and includes hive management and maintenance. Wages \$12.00 to \$17.00, depends on experience. Contact Yves Garez ph: 306-862-5979 fax 306-862- 5974 or email y.garez@sasktel.net

**Help Wanted - 4 Beekeepers: Shellbrook (SK).**  
Wanted 4 beekeepers for May to October 2014. Wages depending on experience. Contact Jason Rinas, Email: jasonrinas@hotmail.com or Phone: 306-747-7220 or 306-764-4303 or 306-747-3130.

**Help Wanted- Meskanaw, (SK)**

2 beekeepers helpers required. April to October 2014. Wages 10.00 - 13.00 / hour depending on experience. Contact: Calvin Parsons 306-864-2632 email parsonsfamily@sasktel.net

**Help Wanted - Full time seasonal apiarist 2014 : Argyle (MB)**

Full time seasonal apiarist, wages are \$12 to \$15 per hr. depending on exp. job is physically demanding, must help with wrapping, feeding, making nucs, supering, pulling honey, honey extraction, medicating hives, and winter preparation. Please call Cal Grysiuk, ph./fax 204-831-7838, Email acgrysiuk@shaw.ca, or mail 83 Acheson Dr. Winnipeg, MB R2Y 2E8.

**Help Wanted - Austin, (MB)**

Full time seasonal Apiarist Technician NOC 8431/8253 and Apiarist Labourers NOC 8431/8253.

Full time, seasonal Apiarist Technician, 1 position and Apiary Labourers, 3 positions, available at Busy Bee Apiaries, a honey farm near Rural Austin, MB, Road Lane #63074 for 2014 season. Apiarist Technician: April 15-Oct.31: duties: all apiary management like medicating, feeding, harvesting, extracting honey, maintenance, clean-up, other duties as assigned. Must have drivers licence \$12.55-15.00/hour based on qualifications.

Apiary Labourers or Workers: 2 positions July 1-Sept30 1 position April 15-Oct 31 duties: supervised hive management, harvesting, extracting honey, clean-up, other duties as assigned \$10.45-11.50/hour based on experience.

Send resume to Busy Bee Apiaries Ltd. C/O: Chris Rempel, Box 358, Austin, MB., R0H 0C0, e-mail: cdrempe@mts.net

**Help Wanted - Seasonal beekeepers: Kinistino, (SK)**

6 full time beekeeping positions for up to 8 months (April to Nov.) 2014. Familiar with beekeeping an asset but not required if willing to learn all aspect of beekeeping with training by employer. Starting wages will be \$ 10.27 with bonuses based on performances. Some week-end and evening work will be required during season for moving bees and bad weather during the week. Work is physically demanding and fast pasted.

E-mail resume to Bacon Apiaries at rbacon@sasktel.net or to dbacon13@sasktel.net or fax resume to 306-864-2451.

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**Dutchman's Gold Inc. in Carlisle Ontario**

Requires 1 Apiary Technician (NOC number 8253) and 3 Apiary workers (NOC number 8431) for the 2014, 2015 seasons.

**Apiary Technician**

Experience: minimum two years with a commercial apiary.

Education and Language requirements: must have diploma in Apiary Management Course. Must be able to communicate and write in English.

Duties: Handle, feed and care for honey bee colonies and supervise apiary workers. Recognize hive health issues and take remedial action. Prepare and transport hives for pollination and honey production. Bee Yard maintenance. Operate and maintain apiary related equipment. Harvest honey crop. Build and maintain beehive equipment. Keep field and production records. Interact with external farm personnel (ex. Owners of apiary locations, supply companies). Report to, and take direction from the owner of Dutchman's Gold Inc. Wages: Depending on experience \$16:00 to \$20:00 per hour.

**Apiary Worker**

Experience: Candidates must have minimum 1 year working experience in a commercial apiary. Language requirements: None (English or compatible language with Supervisor would be beneficial)

Duties: Handle, feed and care for honey bee colonies under the direction of apiary technician. Learn to recognize hive health issues and report to supervising apiary technician. Prepare and transport hives for pollination and honey production. Bee Yard maintenance. Operate and maintain apiary related equipment. Harvest honey crop. Build and maintain beehive equipment.

Wages Depending on Experience: \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour.

Working Conditions: Apiary Technicians and Workers will work long hours at certain times of the year. Many tasks are performed outside in all kinds of weather. Apiary Technicians and workers may routinely lift items weighing 30 kg or more. Bee yards are located in multiple locations

in Southern Ontario. Apiary Technicians and workers will travel to those locations in company trucks.

Candidates must be in good physical health, be willing to learn, have a responsible attitude and be able to work in a team environment in a pleasant and civil manner. Seasonal employment (March through November) Could lead to permanent full time employment for the right candidate.

Contact: John at Dutchman's Gold Inc. 300 Carlisle Rd., Carlisle, Ontario. L0R-1H2. john@dutchmansgold.com Fax 905-689-7730

**Help Wanted: 3 Seasonal Beekeeper Helpers (apiary workers) Good Spirit Lake SK.**

Wanted: 3 Seasonal Beekeeper Helpers (apiary workers) for the 2014 honey production season at Howland's Honeyfarm, Good Spirit Lake, Sk. May to September 2014, \$10.27 to \$17.00 per hour depending on experience. A valid driver's license is a benefit and beekeeping experience an asset. Employees must have own transportation to the job site. Training available on the job. Work is physically demanding, and includes hive management/ maintenance, harvesting and extraction of honey. Long hours, week-end, and evening work may be required during the harvest period. Contact Danny or Sasha at Howland Enterprises Inc., phone 306-792-2044 fax 306-792-2064 or email sasha@howlandshoney.com for more information.

**Help Wanted-5 Beekeepers Wanted: Nipawin (SK)** Full time beekeeping help, April to October. Beekeeping experience would be preferred. Wages start at \$10.27 per hour. Contact Mark Knox, kinoxapiaries@sasktel.net, 306-862-5657, Box 179 Nipawin, Sask. S0E 1E0.

**Help Wanted - Apiary Harvest Labourers: Kinistino (SK)**

Seasonal Apiary Harvest Labourers wanted in Saskatchewan for work in a commercial honey production and bee rearing operation. Four full time seasonal positions for up to 7 months (April through October) for the 2014 season. Two full time seasonal positions for up to 3 months (July - September) for the 2014 season.

Apiary Harvest Labourers perform tasks such as: supering hives, harvesting honey, cleaning honey extraction and storage equipment, honey extracting, barrel moving, preparation, filling and storage, manufacture, assemble and maintain hive equipment, bee yard maintenance. Experience, valid drivers license and English speaking skills would be an asset but not required. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is a must. Starting wages at \$10.27/hr with subsidized housing options and potential for bonuses based on performance, attitude and character. Long hours, week-end and evening/night work may be required. Work is physically demanding and fast pasted. E-mail resume to B's BeeRanch Inc. at beeranch@sasktel.net

**Help Wanted - Tees (AB)**

Tees Bees Inc requires general farm workers (harvest laborer NOC 8431) 2 required, experience is an asset but training is available, wage starting at 11.42/hr (or current wage according to NOC code). Apiary workers (low skilled worker NOC 8431) 3 required with a minimum of 1 yr experience, wage starting at 12.53/hr (or current wage according to NOC code). Apiary technician (skilled laborer NOC 8251) 3 required with a minimum of 2 yr experience, wage starting at 13.60/hr (or current wage according to NOC code). All positions are for the 2014 season. All wages are negotiable based on experience and productivity. A valid driver's licence and the ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit and accustomed to working with honeybees. Email resumes to teesbeesinc@gmail.com

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## WORLD NEWS

# Manuka Honey Fraud Uncovered. More Sold Than Made. Surprised?

Alan Harman, submitted by Doug McRory (field editor)

New Zealand's NZ\$120-million manuka honey sector is in crisis as tests around the world find the product often has nothing but price to set it apart from ordinary honey.

All manuka honey comes from New Zealand and Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association research shows 1,700 tonnes produced each year.

But 1,800 tonnes of "manuka" honey is sold in Britain alone each year with as much as 10,000 tons sold worldwide.

Of the 73 samples of honey tested by the association, 41 failed to show the non-peroxide activity claimed for manuka honey. Hong Kong authorities found 14 of 55 manuka honey samples tested were adulterated with syrup. Other tests found some of the honey was not manuka.

The New Zealand Herald reports Britain's Food and

Environment Research Agency tested a small sample of five brands of manuka honey from shop shelves. Only one, made by Comvita, the biggest manuka honey producer, was up to standard. The other four showed no detectable non-peroxide activity, the antibacterial properties special to manuka honey.

Britain's Food Standards Agency then issued a nationwide warning about misleading claims on the labels of manuka honey jars.

Manuka honey commands prices 10 to 20 times higher than other types of honey because of its antibacterial properties and New Zealand Food Safety Minister Nikki Kaye said on Radio New Zealand the government and the honey industry need to move quickly to set an international labeling standard.

UMF Honey Association president John Rawcliffe tells the Herald the UK crackdown was due.

"There is potentially huge fraud," he says. "There are higher and ever-increasing volumes of honey labeled as manuka which are not manuka.

"We knew we sold more 'manuka' overseas than has ever been produced . . . we've been spending everything we've got to work out how to stop this fraud, and the only negative thing is that we should have done it quicker."

---

## Pioneer announces neonicotinoid-free seed offering

CHATHAM, Ont. — The world's largest producer of hybrid seeds is offering a neonicotinoid-free option for corn and soybean seed — but only in Canada. Dave Harwood, technical services manager for Dupont Pioneer in Eastern Canada, said the move began with a request from the Grain Farmers of Ontario. They sent a letter to the Canadian Seed Trade Association asking for the choice. Farmers will need to order ahead. The new option does include a fungicide treatment. With soybeans, farmers will pay less for their seed without the treatment, Harwood said. With corn seed, they'll pay the same price.

Neonicotinoid seed treatments have been linked to bee deaths in Ontario and Quebec. A suspension on the products was announced in the European Union earlier this year. "The situation that has developed here has been an association made with these neonicotinoids ... either acute injury to bees or, there

has been speculation, there's been more of a chronic effect. That's the discussion," Harwood said. "It is good press for production agriculture to bring that option." Asked whether the option would be offered in the U.S., Harwood said that neonicotinoid issue is "less visible" there. He announced his company's intention at the annual field day near Chatham, next to its Eastern Canadian headquarters.

In response to questions from the group, Harwood said much of the issue is likely to be addressed through planter modifications and by switching to a new wax-based seed lubricant. Compared to talc, the wax-based seed lubricant reduces the level of neonicotinoid-laced dust being emitted from air planters by as much as 90 percent, he said. Growers expressed a concern that yields will be negatively impacted if the seed treatments are banned. Harwood said a ban is possible and with the absence of insecticide seed treatments entirely, corn yields would likely be reduced. "We did a lot of yield testing of these products and in corn it would five bushels less without these products." There are insecticide alternatives, although they may not have the broad spectrum of control as with neonicotinoids, he said.

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## Saskatraz Breeding Stock Available in 2014

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Limited number of Saskatraz Hybrid production queens available April 15 th to July 2014 (\$28 to 34). These hybrids will produce pure Canadian Saskatraz drones for stud use. All breeding stock tested and certified. See www.saskatraz.com for breeding information and updates.

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# BJ SHERRIFF STILL BUZZING AFTER 45 YEARS

BJ Sherriff, the market leader in protective beekeeping clothing, celebrated its 45th anniversary July 2013.

Dissatisfied with the protection available in the 1960s, beekeepers Brian and Pat Sherriff utilised their knowledge of clothing manufacture from their lingerie factory to create the first lightweight, self-supporting hood with Clear View veiling. The innovative hood not only protected from bee stings but offered exceptional visibility.

Fast-forward 45 years and the family company continues to revolutionise the world of beekeeping from its base near Falmouth in Cornwall where Brian, with a life time of experience, still pattern designs and cuts the clothing.

Working alongside him is his daughter Angela Sherriff who runs a small team of staff as well as a network of eight local machinists.

She said: "It is amazing that something that started out as a hobby in 1968 has become a thriving commercial enterprise, and is a key part of beekeeping around the world.

"A lot of research goes into our products, from finding out the best bee friendly colours to sourcing the best fabrics, and this is why we are respected by many organisations within the beekeeping industry including the British Beekeeper's Association."



Brian Sherriff

BJ Sherriff's variety of clothing and accessories is sold throughout the world to amateurs, professionals, adults and children, and even an extra, extra, extra large size was sent to the Honey Monster as part of a campaign for National Honey Week.

For more information visit [www.beesuits.com](http://www.beesuits.com), email [sherriff.int@btinternet.com](mailto:sherriff.int@btinternet.com) or call 01872 863304.

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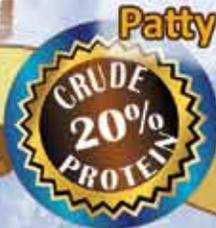
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