

State of the  
Canadian  
Honey  
Council

May 2015 | Vol 28 # 2



# Hive Insights

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Hivelights is published quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov). Deadline for submissions and adverts are 6 weeks prior to publication (i.e. Dec 15th for Feb issue). The opinions expressed in the articles printed in Hivelights are those of the authors and do not imply endorsement of the Canadian Honey Council for the promotion of any product, goods or services mentioned unless specifically stated.

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Publication Mail Agreement number

**40031644**

**ISSN 1489-730X**

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May 2015 Vol 28 #2

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



Cover story - Canadian Bee Meeting, Moncton NB, January 2015. Photos: APICON

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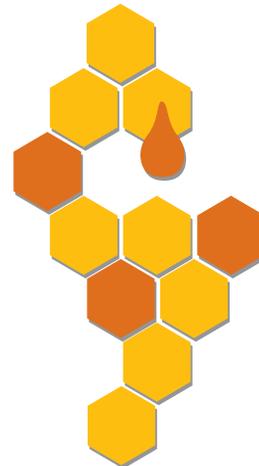
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# Canadian Honey Council Report



*Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC*



It has been a very busy period for the Canadian Honey Council and all the Board members. The AGM in Moncton was beset by winter storms and travel plans for many were delayed or altered. Despite the uncooperative weather, the AGM and conference went off without a hitch in large part to the tireless efforts of Ann Vautour. Thanks go out to her, Paul and the planning committee for arranging such a successful event as they set a pretty high bar for the organizers of the next AGM in Saskatoon in early December this year. Watch for details to emerge as the year progresses.

I want to highlight a couple of items that occurred earlier this year. Firstly, in late February I was asked to testify before the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to discuss trade issues. This committee has been very active on the honey bee file and are quite engaged with the industry. The Canadian Honey Council is dealing with a myriad of issues as it pertains to trade and I just want to point to a few of the issues that were raised. This is just a really quick summary of the complex issues related to trade

1. Labelling and identification of genetically modified food products in the European Union. Until 2010/11 our second biggest importer of Canadian honey was Europe. However, a series of unintended events has meant that no or very little sales of Canadian honey has gone to Europe since. Firstly, because a majority of honey produced for export in Canada is sourced through canola and we got caught in the European GMO debate. Court rulings decided that the pollen in honey was GMO and that that it had to be labelled as GMO honey. Further, that GM event needed to be registered for human consumption and that took time. In a nutshell, it has taken five years to clear the water, yet there still remain uncertainty as to labelling and intended and unintended GMO content.

2. In the winter of 2014, we had a load of Canadian honey destined for Japan held at port as a result of emerging food safety concerns and lack of Canadian government coordination. Tylosin is a veterinary drug used to combat Resistant American Foulbrood in bees. In essence what happened is Japan recently changed its maximum residue level (MRL) for tylosin to zero, if the exporting country does not have its own MRL. When the notice of the Japanese changes went out, Canadian officials did not make any comments for reasons unknown. In Canada, PMRA has completed their notice for an MRL in March of 2014 and also had no comments but has yet to publish the final MRL. It is all somewhat convoluted, but honey producers are very concerned that international markets will continue to publish their own MRL's for food products and honey, being a small commodity will be overlooked by both Canadian international trade officials, PMRA, and CFIA. We need the Canadian government's involvement and attention.

3. There has been a visible increase in the sale of Chinese honey domestically. There has been considerable concern in North America primarily due to quality issues but pricing is also a grave concern to beekeepers. Chinese honey can be purchased at about half the cost of domestically produced honey as producers there are not subject to the same food safety requirements. This development has caused some within the beekeeping community to push for anti-dumping action.

4. Most commercial beekeepers rely on temporary foreign workers to do the work for usually no more than eight months of the year, truly users of temporary foreign workers. Canadian workers are normally not interested, nor available, due to the short term nature of the employment. Changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker program, particularly the 4 years in 4 years out rule are jeopardizing many

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successful commercial operations and as such putting undue strain on the supply chain.

The second major event is the Bee Health Roundtable. In my opinion it may be the most important action on the bee health front in years. On March 5th the third official meeting was held and the list of action items is impressive.

1. Members to provide input and ranking for the most important methods and products identified by the Varroa mite committee.

2. The Varroa Mite Committee to articulate a clear set of short and long term objectives for workable solutions to be presented to government, industry, and other stakeholders for consideration and support.

3. CAPA is asked to provide a consistent definition and interpretation of a “non-productive hive”.

4. CAPA is asked to provide the BHRT with the detailed methodology for the overwinter loss survey.

5. The BHRT requests a technical pre-brief prior to the release of the CAPA annual report.

6. The BHRT supports the Pesticide Exposure WG request that a consultant be engaged to help develop a path forward and a work-plan.

7. After the completion of the BMP report, it will be referred to the Communications Committee for advice on how it can be used from a communications perspective.

8. AAFC to refine the economic analysis of the value of pollination; and to report back on Phase 2 work (estimate of the demand for pollination) at the Fall BHRT meeting.

9. The Research WG to explore resources to undertake a Gap Analysis of the compiled research catalogue.

10. The BHRT confirmed the Industry Co-chair as the primary spokesperson and have asked CHC to suggest an additional French-speaking spokesperson for the BHRT.

11. BHRT members support the proposed approach and principles proposed in the Terms of Reference of the Communications Working Group; the Communications Plan will be further developed on this basis. The Communications WG will meet to discuss upcoming events/milestones as identified by the BHRT, and to propose an appropriate communications response.

12. BHRT members to provide their input for the compendium of Bee Health Activities to Debra Conlon by the end of March 2015.

13. The BHRT will create 2 new working groups - “Habitat and Environment” to be chaired by Cary Gates; and “Nutrition” to be chaired by Grant Hicks. The two working groups will report on proposed scope and mandate at the next BHRT meeting (Fall 2015).

1. Les membres fourniront des commentaires et un classement pour les méthodes et les produits les plus importants identifiés par le Comité sur le varroa.

2. Le Comité sur le varroa définira un ensemble clair d'objectifs à court et à long terme et de solutions réalisables pour être présentés aux gouvernements, l'industrie et les autres partenaires pour considération et support.

3. Il est demandé à l'ACAP de fournir une définition et interprétation harmonisées d'une "ruche non productive".

4. On demande à l'ACAP de fournir à la TRSA la méthodologie détaillée utilisée pour le sondage des pertes de colonies en hiver.

5. La TRSA demande une séance d'information technique avant la publication du rapport annuel de l'ACAP.

6. La TRSA supporte la demande du Groupe de travail sur l'exposition aux pesticides de retenir les services d'un consultant pour préparer une marche à suivre et un plan de travail.

7. Une fois finalisé, le rapport sur les BPG sera présenté au Comité des communications pour l'obtention de conseils sur l'utilisation du rapport à des fins de communication.

8. AAC peaufinera l'analyse économique de la valeur de la pollinisation présentera un rapport sur la phase 2 (Estimation de la demande en pollinisation) à l'occasion de la réunion d'automne de la TRSA.

9. Le Groupe de Travail sur la recherche examinera les ressources disponibles pour entreprendre une analyse des lacunes du catalogue de recherches.

10. La TRSA a confirmé le co-président de l'industrie en qualité de parole de la TRSA et a demandé au CCH de proposer un porte-parole additionnel francophone pour la TRSA.

11. Les membres de la TRSA appuient l'approche et les principes proposés dans les termes de référence du Groupe de travail sur les communications et le plan de communication sera développé sur cette base. The Groupe de travail se rencontrera et discutera les prochains événements et étapes tel qu'identifiés par la TRSA et proposera une réponse en termes de communication.

12. Les membres de la TRSA soumettront leurs commentaires sur la recueil des activités favorisant la santé des abeilles à Debra Conlon d'ici la fin de mars 2015.

13. La TRSA créera deux nouveaux groupes de travail, un sur l'habitat et l'environnement et l'autre sur la nutrition, qui seront présidés respectivement par Cary Gates et Grant Hicks. Les deux groupes de travail présenteront un rapport sur leur portée et mandat proposés à l'occasion de la prochaine réunion de la TRSA (automne 2015).

*The Bee Health Roundtable continues to gain prominence and updated information can be found both on our website and the AAFC website. I will be trying to provide monthly updates though Bee Talk. Sign up and make sure to comment.*

# STATE OF THE CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL

## Presentation to CAPA, Moncton, NB, January 29, 2015

2014 will be known as the period of significant accomplishments for Canadian Honey Council as important developments on food safety, honeybee health and sustainability were realized and gained a measure of support from other stakeholders in agriculture.

Completion of the Canadian Bee Industry Safety, Quality and Traceability (C-BISQT) project (in June) required over 10 years of effort, funding and perseverance involving members of CAPA, the federal government and CHC's consultants. The program offers producers and producer-packers the foundation to identify hazards in their operation and develop prevention methods based on those hazards. It was a significant achievement for our small industry, being one of the first value added food chains in Canada to accomplish this initiative for food safety.

To assist with the on-farm implementation of C-BISQT, CHC has undertaken a three year project with assistance from AAFC to incorporate information of the Bee-Biosecurity program (developed by Animal Health, 2012) in developing a more user-friendly producer's guide to be available on line and possibly video CD.

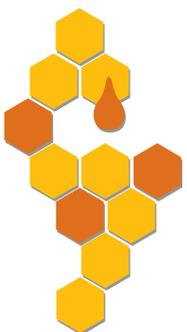
Honeybee health continues to be a priority for CHC and the federal government's recognition of this situation has resulted in the formal creation of the Bee Health Roundtable. This development began four years ago when CHC began discussions with Crop Life Canada primarily regarding bee health products for Varroa control. Subsequent meetings broaden the scope of topics eventually drawing the interest of several other organizations. The need to engage even broader industry participation eventually lead to requesting Agriculture Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to

facilitate the initial meeting which was held in Ottawa, last March. Over 20 farm associations participated along with provincial and a number of federal government staff from agencies and departments. Several action items were agreed upon and a Steering Committee was established to provide options for further action on a range of topics with priority being given to Varroa control and mitigation of pesticides, both inside and outside the hive. A second face to face meeting of the participants in October, lead to the realization there was a need and opportunities for Canadian beekeepers to continue with this group of stakeholders committed to working together and finding positive outcomes for pollinator health. AAFC's subsequent recognition in establishing the Bee Health Round Table was an important step in both increasing the status of bee issues and ensuring overall industry support in addressing issues affecting pollinator health.

Of CHC's most confounding issues, the government's proposed revision to the Temporary Foreign Worker program is the most frustrating. It's the "Four In and Four Out" proposal whereby workers with four year's experience would be lost for four years. This could impede expansion for large operations.

CHC has been fortunate in having the ongoing volunteer support of CAPA in providing information and advice on a number of situations, particularly the Honeybee Wintering Losses Report which serves as a barometer of winter conditions as well as an indication of management expertise and economic stress. Another example of CAPA's volunteer support is the 3rd edition of Honeybee Diseases & Pests, a most important educational tool valued by our beekeepers as well as our southern neighbours who envy Canadians in having such professional support services.

My term as CHC Chair is completed and I would like to express my gratitude to CAPA's current and past Executive, Paul van Westendorp, (B.C.'s Provincial Apiarist) and many others who have provided assistance in muddling through the political issues and pragmatic challenges of keeping our small industry on track as we play a critical role in agriculture. ■



# CAPA President Report 2015

*Dr. Medhat Nasr, CAPA President  
Alberta Provincial Apiculturist  
Crop Research and Extension Agriculture and Rural Development*

I would like to welcome you all including our guests to Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada to the 57th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA). I would like to extend a special thank you to the organizing committee: New Brunswick Beekeepers Association (NBBA), Canadian Honey Council (CHC), Shelley Hoover and Rhéal Lafrenière representing CAPA for putting together an excellent program for the convention, research symposium and workshops.



I am honoured to have served as President of CAPA. I would like to thank members of the Executive Committee, Vice President, Pierre Giovenazzo, and Secretary/ Treasurer, Shelley Hoover and Past-President, Rhéal Lafrenière. I would personally like to thank Rhéal Lafrenière for his guidance with many issues and Shelley Hoover for her excellent job as our Secretary/ Treasurer. I would also like to thank all the CAPA members who contributed their valuable time and knowledge to meet many of the requests mad to CAPA. CAPA is built on volunteer effort to fulfill the goals of our organization and to continue playing an active role in serving the beekeeping stakeholders in Canada.

CAPA had a very busy 2014. The following is a summary of CAPA Activities in 2014:

**1. Canadian National Bee Health Workshop (NBHW).** CAPA was invited by the CHC Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to participate in the steering committee to hold a National Bee Health Workshop (NBHW) to identify priority issues and foster collaborative activities that would help maintain a healthy honeybee population in Canada. In March 2014, the NBHW was held under the Co-leadership of the CHC and AAFC. Multi-stakeholder representatives from across the apiculture value chain, including the CHC, professional apiculturists, agricultural producers, seed companies, government regulators, the crop protection industry, and agronomists. Extensive work was done over the summer to determine current activities and research being conducted by beekeepers, scientists, grain farmers, and provincial and

federal agencies to address bee health and determine priority actions to decrease the exposure of honey bees to pesticides. CAPA fully participated in these meetings and activities. Leonard Foster prepared a list of all bee research projects currently run by CAPA members to submit to the NBHW participants. As requested by the co-leaders of NBHW, Anne Leboeuf prepared an inventory for all Canadian laboratories that provide diagnostic services for bee pests and chemical analyses for honey and hive products. Geoff Wilson presented a plan to harmonize current Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices across Canada. This plan was recently executed to provide national IPM practices for honey bee pests in Canada. Thanks to Leonard, Ann, and Geoff. A national bee surveillance program for bee pests was also submitted by Medhat Nasr. The NBHW requested that provincial apiculturists continue harmonizing current surveillance activities within currently available resources.

In October 2014, multi-stake representatives from apiculture and agriculture agreed to formalize their efforts under an AAFC roundtable. The establishment of a National Bee Health Roundtable will provide a forum to achieve results on a National Bee Health Action plan. Priority is currently being placed on two areas: 1) Varroa mite control and 2) Promoting ways to reduce pesticide exposure in and outside the hive. CAPA will continue its role as an active participant in the National Bee Health Roundtable to continue serving our beekeeping community to improve bee health and promote sustainable competitive beekeeping and agriculture industries in Canada.

For more details on the National Bee Health Action Plan, please check this link:

English: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/industry-markets-and-trade/value-chain-roundtables/bee-health/objectives-and-priorities/?id=1409836063106>

French: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/fra/industrie-marches-et-commerce/tables-rondes-sur-les-chaines-de-valeur/sante-des-abeilles/objectifs-et-priorites/?id=1409836063106>

**2. HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION.** By the end of 2013 CAPA received an invitation from The Keystone Center, Keystone Colorado, USA to participate in discussions to form a new Honey Bee Health Coalition to address the decline in honey bee and pollinator health. The Keystone Center, is an independent, non-profit organization specializing in collaborative decision-making processes for agriculture, environment, education, energy, and health policy issues. For more information please check the following link: <https://www.keystone.org/>

The idea for the Honey Bee Health Coalition first took shape as part of a Clinton Global Initiative Commitment in 2013. In a very short period of time the coalition members have turned that idea into a reality. Coalition members currently include beekeepers, growers, agribusiness, agricultural retailers, conservation groups, and researchers. The Coalition also includes ex officio participation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In June of 2014, the Keystone Center formally announced the formation of the Honey Bee Health Coalition. The Coalition is focusing on accelerating collective impact to improve honey bee health in four key areas: forage and nutrition, hive management, crop pest management and communications, outreach and education. Currently several committees have been formed to develop new solutions in these key four areas.

CAPA participated through the discussions as an observer. The Honey Bee Health Coalition- Keystone Center invited CAPA to be a full member. However, this invitation for a membership will be discussed in this year's agenda under new business.

**3. CAPA Committees and Provincial bee industry reports. I**

would like to thank all committee chairs, members of these committees and the provincial apiculturists for their excellent job addressing a number of issues that arose from last year meeting and new items that have been tasked to CAPA. Detailed activities will be covered in the annual reports by committee chairs and provincial apiculturists (watch for 2014 CAPA Annual meeting Proceeding).

I would like to thank Paul Kozak for taking care of the bee survey committee for the past several years. Paul is stepping down as the chair of the committee starting January 29, 2015. Paul's efforts in coordinating collecting data and submitting a valuable annual report on bee mortalities have helped tremendously in improving our reporting and communicating bee mortalities at the national level.

#### 4. Proposed changes to bylaws.

Lastly, there is a proposal for changes to the CAPA bylaws to address some concerns that members have raised regarding membership classifications. Rheal will be presenting these changes to the members to consider.

It is a pleasure working with you! We have a busy meeting ahead of us. I hope that you all enjoy it and have a productive meeting.

# 2014 Bee Importation Committee Report

Chair: Geoff Wilson

Rob Currie, Ernesto Guzman, Paul Kozak, Chris Maund, Paul van Westendorp, Anne LeBoeuf, Les Eccles, Medhat Nasr, and Graham Parsons

In 2014, the import committee was a resource available to all stakeholders who requested an opinion for import and export related issues. All opinions provided by the committee are based on science.

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) import committee members, I thank Dr. Rajzman for her collaborative work with the CAPA import committee.

#### Accomplished activities:

#### Risk Assessment on the importation of Honey Bee Packages from the USA

Due to reported high winter mortality in previous years and considerations for finding additional sources of healthy honey bee packages, the Canadian Honey Council requested that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency CFIA conduct a risk assessment on the importation of honey bee packages from the United States of America (USA). In 2014, this risk assessment was released. Some provinces submitted the risk assessment to a scientific third party review. This review upheld the findings of the CFIA Risk Assessment for package bees from the USA.

#### Imported queens:

Imported queens from various source countries including Australia, New Zealand, Chile and the USA (mainland and Hawaii) were randomly inspected by several provinces following protocols established by the CFIA. All inspected queens met the import conditions of queens from their source of origin. Neither adult nor immature stages of the small hive beetle were reported in inspected queens.

#### Response to the status of the Asian honey bee, *Apis cerana* in Australia and the Australian surveillance Program:

*Apis cerana* was first detected in a port area of the city of Cairns in far-north Queensland in May 2007. In January 2011 the Australian National Management Group agreed that eradication of *A. cerana* was not technically feasible. However, it did agree to use a management program to mitigate the potential impact of the Asian honey bee. Based on these developments, a risk assessment was conducted by the CFIA in 2013/2014. This Risk Assessment found that with implementation of importation protocols, queens and package honey bees from current regions of Australia pose an acceptable level of risk.

#### Harmonization of listed diseases and pests in provincial bee regulations

Provinces are in the process of updating "listed" pests and diseases and are including potential new emerging pests and diseases to their bee regulations. Regulations across the provinces would be streamlined and harmonized to reflect the new identified pests that could significantly impact the economics of the beekeeping industry and the health status of bees in Canada. The list of pests recommended by CAPA import committee to include in an update to their regulation is as follows:

- The Africanized honey bee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) and its hybrids
- The Cape honey bee: *Apis mellifera capensis*
- The Asian honey bee: *Apis cerana*
- The Asian species of Nosema: *Nosema ceranae*
- The Asian hornet: *Vespa velutina*
- The Tropilaelaps mite\*: *Tropilaelaps* spp.
- The small hive beetle: *Aethina tumida*

The CAPA import committee will continue working with the rest of the provinces to finish this action item by 2015. ■



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# Regional Reports



## Maritimes



Paul Vautour

I would like to begin by thanking the CHC and CAPA for choosing the Maritimes as the site of their 2015 annual meetings. The wealth of knowledge that was brought to our area was most appreciated by local beekeepers and the public. It was heart-warming to see the number of people who turned out. A total of one hundred and seventy-two (172) participants were registered, and feedback from area beekeepers

was very positive. I thank my wife Ann for all the volunteer time she spend making this event a success. She was rewarded with the Willie Baumgartner Award for service to the Canadian beekeeping industry by the CHC. Although the weather conditions (SNOW) were horrendous, everyone seemed to make the best of the situation – which brings me to the beekeeping scene.

Last Fall we were quite smug about the lack of snow up until Christmas season, but at this date in late March, I can attest that we have experienced the most spectacular amounts of snowfall ever seen throughout the Maritimes. The hives, for the most part, are still buried and only those with small numbers accessible near home have ventured to shovel out the entrances. It's been reported that there were cleansing flights on one or two days but cold weather and strong winds have otherwise kept the bees inside.

I have had the opportunity to attend all three Provincial (PEI, NS, and NB) annual meetings and I was impressed by the enthusiasm that was demonstrated. In contrast to other years, there was a positive intention to get involved in volunteering for the Boards of Directors of all three organizations. Paul Kittlesen (former CHC director) and Calvin Hicks were elected Presidents of the NS and NB associations respectively, but a full slate of PEI beekeepers had not yet named a President following the meeting. On another positive note, Newfoundland and Labrador beekeepers have formed an organization of beekeepers for the first time and have indicated an interest joining us. Two founding members Kim Thompson and Trevor Tuck attended the Canadian National Beekeeping Convention here in Moncton. They're a refreshingly young couple full of spirit and hope for the future. That gem of a Province remains free of Varroa !

## Québec



Scott Plante

Early indications are for favourable results with hive losses of under 10 percent. However, I must mention that winter is still far from being over!

The beekeeping world around me is a buzz with pollination, blueberry pollinations to be precise. With an increase in demand being counted in the tens of thousands of hives in the coming years. The prices negotiated this year is 125\$ for an 8-9 frame hive, 140\$ for a box of bees and 150\$ for anything stronger. I've even heard of prices on the 190\$ to 200\$ price range for two boxes of bees.

The prices of honey remains strong with quotes of 2.45\$ a pound being quoted in the barrel for white. With prices for specialty honeys reaching over 3.00\$ a pound in the barrel.

With a unanimous vote being passed of an IPM approach in agriculture by our provincial farmers association (UPA), at the 2013 AGM. Things are moving forward with pressure being put on the seed suppliers for the availability of untreated seeds and with the concept of the need to treat approach.

Happy Easter

.....  
Les premiers résultats de pertes hivernales semblent plutôt favorables avec un pourcentage, en date du 26 mars, de moins de 10%. Je dois tout de même mentionner que notre hiver est loin d'être terminé.

Le monde apicole autour de moi bourdonne face à la pollinisation, plus exactement la pollinisation du bleuets, avec une augmentation de la demande pour la prochaine année qui se compte en dizaines millier de ruches. Le prix négocié cette année est de 125\$ pour une ruche de 8-9 cadres d'abeilles, 140\$ pour une hausse d'abeilles et 150\$ pour tout ce qui s'avère plus fort. J'ai même entendu parler de prix allant jusqu'à 190\$ et 200\$ pour des ruches à deux hausses d'abeilles.

Le prix du miel demeure élevé avec des pointes allant jusqu'à 2.45 la livre en baril pour du miel blanc. Pour ce qui est des spécialités le prix du miel peut atteindre 3.00\$ la livre en baril.

À l'AGA de l'UPA de 2013, un vote a été passé à l'unanimité sur une approche de lutte intégrée en agriculture. Les choses vont de l'avant avec une pression mise sur les fournisseurs de semences, afin de rendre disponible des semences non traitées à leur clientèle.

Joyeuses pâques

## Ontario



Jim Coneybeare

This certainly has been an interesting winter, weather wise. The Maritimes have been buried in snow while BC and parts of Alberta have experienced above normal temperatures. Ontario experienced a 50 day stretch of temperatures below freezing with mercury often dipping below minus 30C to minus 40C. Personally, I have observed a few hives that were unable to break cluster and starved with large food stores on the opposite side of the brood chamber. Finally in March we are experiencing above freezing temperatures and beekeepers are venturing out to check hives. It is still quite premature to hazard a guess at winter loss numbers, but so far hives look good with all things considered. The beekeepers I have heard from say hives look better than they expected. Fingers crossed for warm weather this spring across Canada and toes crossed that we avoid the high winter losses we experienced last year. Time will tell as they say.

A consideration that Ontario beekeepers may need to keep in mind in the future is GM Alfalfa. The few that may be registered organic or beekeepers hoping to sell honey into Europe may need to take into account new varieties of alfalfa grown in their area. In my mind honey, quality is not a problem but consumer preference and possible trade issues should be pondered.

The Ontario Government's draft regulations to reduce the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on corn and soy are being released in late March for public consultation. OBA will be reviewing and commenting on these regulations. Our response can be found on our website at [www.ontariobee.com/neonics](http://www.ontariobee.com/neonics).

And finally, the highly respected Eastern Apicultural Society Conference is being held in Guelph this year in partnership with the OBA and the University of Guelph, from August 10th - 14th. I'd like to invite everyone to come. It's a great opportunity to learn and network. You can find more information at [www.ontariobee.com/eas](http://www.ontariobee.com/eas).

## Manitoba



Brian Ash

Beekeepers across Manitoba were introduced to a way of keeping indoor wintered bees cool during early spring warm days.

Jocelyn Marceau, an Engineer with Agriculture Quebec, made a presentation at the recent Beekeepers' Convention in Winnipeg. His talk demonstrated a refrigeration system, which when added to the typical over winter building air circulation system, provided cooling when outside temperatures reach about 10 degrees Celcius in spring. This cooling method permits bees to be held indoors for a few days longer in March or early April when evening temperatures are too cool while daytime temperatures are warm.

One producer in Manitoba installed a refrigeration system last fall, and will be trying it out during spring 2015. In the meantime, Jocelyn took the opportunity while in Manitoba, along with about 20 others, to view how Manitobans were keeping bees in different wintering building designs. The tour in early March investigated 5

facilities currently managing about 1000 colonies each.

At the 11th Annual Agricultural Awareness Day, held at the Manitoba Legislative buildings, in Winnipeg, Honey received some unique mention. As part of the celebration of innovations in Agriculture, a new company producing "Puree" products from Fruits and Vegetables, challenged three local chefs to develop new creations incorporating their products. Two of the three chefs incorporated honey into their desert creation. Deserts were taste tested by the attendees, then were invited to vote for their favourite. Although the winner is yet to be announced, the samples were very tasty indeed.

Manitoba Beekeepers are continuing discussions with Keystone Agricultural Producers Association to garner their support for the Temporary Foreign Worker issue. Although KAP has been working on the labour issue for the agriculture sector, we await progress on the resolution MBA proposed at their annual meeting, and subsequently sent to committee for evaluation.

Although there are plans to have a "Bee" auction in the Brandon area in spring, it seems packages could be in short supply elsewhere. Word from the traditional outlet in Winnipeg is that packages have been "sold out" since mid January. Meanwhile a waiting list indicates that several thousand packages are being sought.

## Saskatchewan



Calvin Parsons

It seems another winter has passed us by and we're again eager to start working with the bees. Winter in Saskatchewan up until now has been normal I would say although we did suffer thru some very cold weather in November and December the last few months have been normal. Winter has begun to lose her grip here in Saskatchewan with creeks bulging at their banks with water the last week. It does seem that we may have an early spring.

Early reports from beekeepers who have been into their bees already report good strength and a low winter loss. Some beekeepers have already applied mite controls and a round of pollen patties to most of their colonies and it is only mid-March, fully 3 weeks ahead of the last few years.

Colony numbers in Saskatchewan continue to grow and with the decent price for honey I suspect that this trend will continue. Primary agriculture is driven by the return to operator. Very little honey remains in the hands of producers at this time. There is great concern here expressed to me by beekeepers of the amount of Chinese honey being seen on store shelves. It seems that the CFIA continues to care very little in the regard of labelling this product as imported honey on the front panel of the label and that it continues to bear the Canada No. 1 grade stamp! Beekeepers think if it looks like a duck walks like a duck you should call it a duck on the label! Meanwhile CFIA demands more and more traceability on our honey but the imported product once it clears customs disappears into the market without anyway to track it. It is very hard for beekeepers to accept all the challenges thrown in our faces by the CFIA when they are not fairly applied across all the honey in Canada it is certainly a less than level playing field. It may be fixed at some point but I am beginning to feel that I will never see this issue resolved.

“The Safe Food for Canadians act” is supposed to address some of this but I remain sceptical.

## Alberta



Kevin Nixon

Is Spring actually here to stay? The million dollar question right now. As I write this, the season seems to be getting underway here in Alberta and many other places as well. The next 6 weeks will tell the tale though and by the time you are reading this, we will probably have a better idea.

It has been a very busy winter attending meetings among other things. Recently the vice chair and I met with the OBA. The conversation was good, but there are still some challenges that will need to be worked out. At the end of the day, we all want to have a healthy beekeeping industry, but there are some major differences of opinion in how we get there and who's voice the organizations are listening to. We have had great support from our membership on the path we have chosen to take and we appreciate that and there has been positive results over the past while.

I was also able to attend my first Bee Health Roundtable meeting in Ottawa along with our vice-chair. This is an excellent forum to bring the stakeholders together, have good open discussion and best of all, take action and see results. The level of professionalism of the people at the table is very high and I believe there is a level of trust there to be able to have good interaction. I believe there is an update as to the specifics of some results in the magazine or on our website.

The next week, I was off to Kamloops, BC to attend the BCHPA's semi-annual meeting. It was a well attended meeting and offered some good quality speakers and presentations. Pesticides and neonics were the main topic of conversation. Fortunately, even though neonics are being used in B.C. by way of foliar applications from what I understand, so far there have not been any related incidents reported. Good news for beekeepers and growers showing once again the two can work together.

It looks like there is a new campaign underway across the country to Save the Bees! This has been initiated by the Sierra Club who is accepting donations to help save the bees! This is unfortunate as we have the Canadian Bee Research Fund which is administered at zero cost and is able to put 100% of funds towards good research needed by the industry. This other organization is using our industry as their poster child to collect money which is going towards... who knows what. I imagine at least some of it will involve printing and selling T-shirts for sure.

Hope everyone has a great spring!

## British Columbia



Gerry McKee

We have just had the most fabulous fall that I have ever seen, winter just didn't arrive, on this coast. As you know the CHC AGM was held in Moncton NB and they did a great job in hosting the event, complete with snow, nice touch. So to our eastern counterparts, many thank for a job really well done. Since we have had no winter, in most parts, the hive survival has been really good,

so much so, that the hives are well ahead of where they normally would be. The next herdal is the availability of queens, I understand that some are arriving this coming week however the supply is tight.

The excellent weather has also driven the berry crops to bloom earlier than normal and at one point the guestimate was we were about 5 weeks ahead of where we were suppose be under normal conditions. We were in one of our northern bee yards last week working the hives and I looked down and there was the fireweed plants that were about eight inches high. I never seen this before at the end of March, however, things have cooled off and Mother Nature is correcting her gift, which always happens, she just doesn't give you any warning.

Our Semi Annual was held in Kamloops as usual and was a great success. Thursday was the instructor's training course for new beekeeper instructors, taught by Lance Cuthill and Axel Krause. This is the second group of instructors to be certified by the BCHPA. Well done to all who participated and congrats to all who passed the exam, which they all did. Friday was the business meeting in the morning, nothing of a surprising nature. Friday afternoon was the Pesticide Forum. There were representatives from Crop Life Canada, Dr. Maria Trainer; Canola Council of Canada, Gregory Sekulic; SFU Professor, Dr. Elizabeth Elle; Ontario Beekeepers Association, Audre Flys 2nd VP and the Moderator, Jeff Lee 1st VP of the BCHPA. It was very well received and presented a lot of info for the attendees to absorb.

Saturday was filled with education topics, which ranged from Elizabeth Huxters, The Importance of the Lowly Drone; Stan Reist, Making Nucs for the Commercial Market; John Gibeau, Creating a Profitable Business with 300 hives or less; Dr. Elizabeth Elle, Integrated Approaches to Crop Pollination; Paul van Westendorp, Update on AFB & EFB in BC; Melanie Kirby, Survivor Queen Breeding Program and Zia Queen Bees; Sarah & Julia Common: Behind the Hives for Humanity Program and last but not least, Lance Cuthill and Axel Krause, Creative Projects for your Apiary from the Workshop Wizards. So if you missed the meeting, you missed out on a lot of education.

## NEW BeeMaid Proudly Canadian Polar Bear!



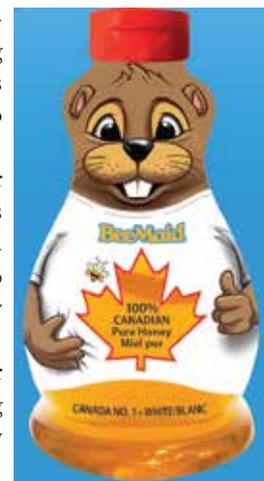
Bernie Rousseau

Celebrating 60 years of packing only 100% pure Canadian honey, Bee Maid is celebrating with the launch of our adorable special edition 750g Beaver.

With Bee Maid's new blow molding equipment, bottle design creations are now virtually limitless. Working with a marketing agency, the beaver's eye-catching shrink sleeve label came to life.

Available for shipping in summer 2015, this adorable Canadian beaver is sure to sweeten up the honey category. As always, it contains the delicious 100% pure Canadian honey consumers know and love.

Bee Maid is proud to continue their steadfast commitment of supporting Canadian beekeepers and packing only 100% pure Canadian honey.



# Canadian Honey Council Annual Meeting

Moncton,  
January 2015

AGM Agenda (Open to the Public), Thursday, January 29, 2015 1:00 pm  
Abridged version

That resolutions be brought forward by FAQ at the continuation of the  
AGM at 9:00 am on Friday, January 30, 2015.

## 1. Called to Order at 1:20 pm AST

## 2. Approval of the agenda

Moved by Scott Plante  
Seconded by Bernie Rousseau  
That the agenda be accepted as presented.  
Carried

## 3. Resolutions

BE IT RESOLVED: That Canadian Honey Council encourages members to review Manitoba's "White Paper" document on Package Bee Imports from Northern California, as available on [www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org)  
Moved by Bryan Ash  
Seconded by Scott Plante  
Carried

BE IT RESOLVED: The Canadian Honey Council insure that the new grading and labelling regulations which were developed by CHC, CFIA and the honey packers be included in developing the Safe Food for Canadians Act.  
Moved by Calvin Parsons  
Seconded by Grant Hicks  
Carried

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Canadian Honey Council lobby the CFIA around clearing up Grade Labelling confusion of non- Canadian Honey.  
Moved by Calvin Parsons  
Seconded Bernie Rousseau  
Carried

Moved by Stan Reist  
Seconded by Paul Vautour  
That the membership reconsider the previous motions and all BC resolutions.  
Carried

Moved by Stan Reist  
Seconded by Calvin Parsons  
That all the previous accepted motions and other BC resolutions be defeated.  
Carried

Moved by Stan Reist  
Seconded by Scott Plante

BE IT RESOLVED: That the CHC make a public statement in support of the basic principles of the November 25, 2014 initiative by the Ontario Government.

Moved by Scott Plante  
Seconded by Paul Vautour  
Carried

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Canadian Honey Council support reductions of all insecticides, especially those such as neonicotinoids that accumulate in the environment, to levels that are required for sustainable and profitable agricultural production, by the use of IPM.

Moved by Scott Plante  
Seconded by Paul Vautour  
Carried

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Canadian Honey Council should request all Canadian Seed Growers and marketers to make untreated modern hybrid and GMO seeds available to all growers in all regions of Canada, alongside the treated options, so growers can choose whether or not to use pesticides in an IPM program, after determining whether the pest is present above a level that indicates the treatment is necessary. Furthermore, the price should be equal to or less than the same product with pesticide coating. Furthermore, the CHC should ask to see the Canadian Seed Trade communication policy to dealers, about availability and deadlines for ordering untreated seed, and how that is being communicated to Canadian growers in a timely manner.

Furthermore, this should be done without delay, so as to be ready for the 2015 planting season.  
Moved by Scott Plante  
Seconded by Paul Vautour  
Defeated

## 4. Financials

Moved by Scott Plante  
Seconded by Paul Vautour  
That the Financial Review as conducted by Koshman and Schaaf be accepted as presented.  
Carried

Moved by Scott Plante  
Seconded by Calvin Parsons  
That Koshman and Schaaf be appointed as auditors for the 2014-15 fiscal year.  
Carried

5. Moved by Gerry McKee that the meeting adjourn.  
Carried

# The Economic Value of Honey Bee Pollination of Canadian Crops, 2013

*Submitted by Rod Scarlett, Canadian Honey Council*

## Introduction

Honey bees produce valuable outputs such as honey and beeswax, but their economic impact in agriculture goes well beyond the value of those commodities. Honey bees are critical managed pollinators used in agriculture to increase crop yield and quality. A simple methodology

times in plant development contributes significantly to agricultural output around the world. Honey bees delivered by commercial and hobbyist beekeepers is the most common form of managed pollination, though Alfalfa leafcutter bees, Bumble bees and some other insects species are used in specific agricultural circumstances.

Quality improvements also result from application of managed pollinators, often delivering early and complete pollination of plants - improving the yield and value of many crops.

This analysis roughly estimates the value of the direct contribution of Honey bee pollination to primary agricultural production. Quality improvements are understood to be captured to some degree in prices as higher quality harvests will attract higher prices.

## Canadian Beekeeping Industry

In 2014 Canada's 8,777 beekeepers produced 81 million pounds of honey worth \$201 million dollars. 455,700 of Canada's 694,000 hives (67%) were kept in the three Prairie Provinces, producing 71% of total Canadian honey production volume. Depending on local business opportunities, some beekeepers specialize in supplying pollination services, often charging fees for hive rentals, while others derive most or all of their income from the sale of honey, beeswax, bees and other bee products. Pollination services for blueberry, cranberry, orchard fruit, and canola seed production generate the bulk of the demand for Honey bee pollination.

## Note on Canola

Canola is the most valuable crop produced in Canada with a critical link to insect pollination, generating \$7.3 billion in 2013. Commodity canola, which is canola planted by farmers to be crushed and used as end-products is primarily self- or wind-pollinated. However the production of the hybrid canola seed grown to be subsequently planted by those farmers requires

precisely timed and thorough insect pollination to bring together the separate genetic lines of the male and female parent plant strains. Most hybrid canola seed is produced in farms in southern Alberta dedicated to this type of production. Each spring approximately 80 thousand honey bee hives are placed for canola seed production along with simultaneous complementary placement of Alfalfa Leafcutting Bees in the same fields. Since hybrid canola seed is produced primarily with

▶ pag. 14

can be applied to estimate the direct economic contribution to agriculture generated by Honey bee pollination. This analysis is based on Canadian farm gate value or farm cash receipts for key commodities for which data is available for the year 2013.

## Background

Managed pollination, when applied to flowering plants at critical



controlled pollinators, a portion of the value of this crop can be included as part of the direct agricultural contribution of Honey bees through pollination.

Most of the hybrid canola seed is subsequently planted in Canada as the Prairie Provinces provide ideal growing conditions for the crop. Canola is also increasingly popular as a rotation crop choice in other provinces.

While commodity canola is primarily wind pollinated, research has demonstrated that Honey bees foraging on canola can add to harvest quantity and quality. Researchers offer a wide range of estimates for the increase in

production linked to Honey bee foraging depending on plant variety and a number of local conditions. The highest estimates suggest a gain approaching 20 % in additional harvest value, while more modest gains from 2 % to 15 % have also been reported. Most of the 455,700 hives in the Prairie Provinces forage on commodity canola for several weeks in the peak of summer, supplying the bees with abundant pollen and nectar while simultaneously benefiting canola farmers.

### Methodology

The contribution of Honey bee pollina-

tion to agricultural production can be estimated using an established formula:

$$V \times D \times P$$

Where

V = Annual value of crop

D = Dependency of the crop on insect pollinators

P = Proportion of effective insect pollinators of the crop that are Honey bees.

The estimates for D and P used are those used by Morse and Calderone (2000)

### Analysis

Honey bees are estimated to be responsible for about half of the pollination that makes possible the production hybrid canola seed (with Alfalfa leafcutter bees responsible for the other 50%). It is reasonable

to take this share of the total farm gate value of canola into account as a key economic contribution of Honey bees to the total value produced by Canadian agriculture. Total farm cash receipts for producers of canola were \$7.3 billion in 2013. If Honey bees are credited with making possible 50% of the production of canola seed (for a contributed value \$3.66 billion) in order to avoid double counting, the additional estimated contribution from Honey bee pollination to commodity canola from Table 1 must be removed from the total contribution. The additional agricultural value of all other crop pollination, less canola is \$733 million.

### Conclusion

The total economic contribution of Honey bees in 2013 from canola production (\$3.66B) and other agricultural crops (\$733 million) can be estimated at \$4.4 billion. While a more rigorous and detailed scientific assessment of each commodity in production could produce higher or lower estimates, it confirms that the value to agriculture of Honey bee pollination is at least 10 times greater than the value of honey and other hive products produced. This estimate does not capture the growing contribution of Alfalfa leafcutter bees to canola and blueberry production as well as the valuable contribution of natural pollinators. ■

### Determination of Value of Honey Bee Pollination

Table 1. Estimated contribution of Honey bee pollination to value of key crops, Canada 2013, in \$1000's

Crop	Dependence on all insects, D (1=100%)	Honey bee proportion P (1=100%)	Combined coefficient P (1=100%)	2013 value of crop V in 1000's	Value of Honey bee pollination V x D x P
<b>TREE FRUITS</b>				<b>\$ 306,883</b>	
Apples	1	0.9	0.9	\$ 197,391	\$ 177,652
Apricots	0.7	0.8	0.56	\$ 781	\$ 437
Sour Cherries	0.9	0.9	0.81	\$ 10,328	\$ 8,366
Sweet Cherries	0.9	0.9	0.81	\$ 44,033	\$ 35,667
Nectarines	0.6	0.8	0.48	\$ 5,344	\$ 2,565
Peaches	0.6	0.8	0.48	\$ 33,986	\$ 16,313
Pears	0.7	0.9	0.63	\$ 7,959	\$ 5,014
Prunes/Plums	0.8	0.9	0.72	\$ 7,061	\$ 5,084
<b>BERRIES</b>				<b>\$ 529,984</b>	
Grapes	0.1	0.1	0.01	\$ 154,491	\$ 1,545
Blueberries	1	0.9	0.9	\$ 187,146	\$ 168,431
Raspberries	0.8	0.9	0.72	\$ 24,514	\$ 17,650
Strawberries	0.2	0.1	0.02	\$ 69,606	\$ 1,392
Cranberries	1	0.9	0.9	\$ 94,227	\$ 84,804
<b>CUCURBITS</b>				<b>\$ 86,020</b>	
Cucumbers	0.9	0.9	0.81	\$ 25,742	\$ 20,851
Melons	0.8	0.9	0.72	\$ 17,988	\$ 12,951
Pumpkin	0.9	0.1	0.09	\$ 18,023	\$ 1,622
Squash/Zucchini	0.9	0.1	0.09	\$ 24,267	\$ 2,184
<b>OILSEEDS</b>				<b>\$ 9,945,801</b>	
Canola/Rapeseed	0.2	0.9	0.18	\$ 7,325,446	\$ 1,318,580
Sunflower	1	0.9	0.9	\$ 30,322	\$ 27,290
Mustard Seed	0.2	0.8	0.16	\$ 98,564	\$ 15,770
Soybeans	0.1	0.5	0.05	\$ 2,491,469	\$ 124,573
<b>FORAGE SEED</b>					
Alfalfa Seed	1	0.1	0.1	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 2,051,243</b>

# OECD Work Related to Bees/Pollinators

*Submitted by Rod Scarlett, Canadian Honey Council*

Outcome of OECD Work - Current and Planned OECD Activities

## Introduction

There have been reports these last years of declines in native and managed pollinators in several regions of the world. Potential factors associated with these declines are hypothesised to include habitat destruction, predators, certain agricultural practices, bee management practices, pathogens, climate change, nutrition and pesticides. There is uncertainty regarding the extent to which pesticides contribute to pollinator declines. In recent years, reports of adverse incidents associated with pesticides use have been rapidly disseminated by the media across the globe. Pesticide Regulatory Authorities of OECD member countries have found challenging to access authoritative information sources in real time to develop responses to incidents.

In 2009, the OECD Working Group on Pesticides conducted a survey to address issues related to pollinator declines. Member countries were surveyed on: how incident information on bees is handled, testing requirements for pollinators, active areas of research into pollinator issues, and approaches employed to mitigate potential risks to pollinators from pesticides. The report of the OECD Survey on Pollinators Testing, Research, Mitigation and Information Management: Survey Results was published in 2010 in the series on Pesticides, No. 52.

## Outcome of OECD Work

The work related to bees and pollinators is conducted into two areas overseen respectively by the Working Group on Pesticides (WGP) and the Working Group of National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme (WNT). It consists of:

\* Pollinator Incidents Information System

is a system launched in March 2014 allowing the rapid exchange of information between national competent authorities on information on pollinator poisoning incidents potentially related to pesticide (mis)use.

\* Managing Pesticide Risk to Insect Pollinators Website is a mechanism for sharing risk management tools - precautionary labeling, use restrictions, training materials, best management practices, integrated pest management, etc. - used by OECD countries to mitigate pollinator risks. It was launched in April 2014. The website is intended to provide a central point where anyone can quickly find information about the regulatory approaches adopted by OECD member countries to mitigate pesticide risks to insect pollinators.

\* Test Guidelines and Guidance Documents Three OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals and two Guidance Documents for honeybee toxicity testing have been developed and are publically available:

\* TG 213, adopted on 21st September 1998: Honeybees, Acute Oral Toxicity Test

\* TG 214, adopted on 21st September 1998: Honeybees-acute-contact-toxicity-test Honeybees, Acute Contact Toxicity Test

\* TG 237, adopted on 26th July 2013: honey-bee-apis-mellifera-larval-toxicity-test-single-exposure Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) Larval Toxicity Test, Single Exposure

\* No. 75, Guidance Document on Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Brood Test under Semi-field Conditions, published in August 2007 in the series on Testing and Assessment

Draft Guidance Document on Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) Larval Toxicity Test, Repeated Exposure, dated 25th February 2014

## Current and Planned OECD Activities

Testing Requirements and Risk Assessment Priorities have been ranked based on the analysis of need and feasibility. Need is deter-

mined by the policy and (current and future) regulatory requirements.

Feasibility is determined by a number of elements like: can the proposed test be easily conducted? Is there already someone working on this test method? Are there available data obtained by using the proposed test method? Will adequate methodology be available soon? Is there a need for further research before envisaging such a test?

The following activities have been given high priority for both need and feasibility:

\* 10-d laboratory toxicity test on adult honeybee;

\* Laboratory toxicity test on developmental stages of honeybee: larvae, pupae and adult emergence;

\* Honeybee tunnel test under semi-field conditions;

\* Estimation of level of residues in pollen and nectar by calculation based on the application rate;

\* Risk assessment schemes for adult and larvae honeybee, bumble bees and solitary bees, for sprayed products, soil and seed treatments;

\* Uncertainties in the risk assessment; and

\* Laboratory acute contact toxicity test on adults of solitary non-*Apis* bee species.

These priorities are in line with the work undertaken in Europe under the auspices of the International Commission for Pollinator Plant Relationship (ICPPR).

Based on the above priorities, the following activities are currently underway:

\* Ring-testing of the Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) Larval Toxicity Test, Repeated Exposure

\* Development and ring-testing of a 10-d Laboratory Toxicity Test on Adult Honeybees

\* Revision of Guidance Document on Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Brood Test under Semi-field Conditions, originally published in August 2007 in the series on Testing and Assessment, No. 75 ■

*Note: Information related to the current ring tests is provided to experts nominated by the OECD member countries.*

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# Houston HSI seizes 660 barrels of illegally imported honey

HOUSTON - Special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers have seized illegally imported Chinese honey valued at \$2.45 million destined for U.S. consumers.

Since Oct. 2014, 660 barrels weighing 203,280 kilograms (448,156 lbs.) of the illicit honey has been seized and since abandoned or forfeited. The containers' shipping documents indicated the bulk honey had originated in Latvia.

HSI and CBP have stepped up efforts regarding commercial fraud investigations that focus on U.S. economic and health and safety interests. Anti-dumping schemes create a divergent market that negatively affects legitimate businesses.

"Helping to ensure a safe food supply is an important component of border security," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent in charge

of HSI in Houston. "HSI and our partners are committed to working together on behalf of the American people to identify and remove potentially dangerous or adulterated products from our shelves and away from our families. We are equally committed to ensuring that no one benefits from circumventing our nation's trade and import laws."

In December 2001, the U.S. Commerce Department imposed anti-dumping duties after determining that Chinese-origin honey was being sold in the United States at less than fair-market value. The duties first imposed were as high as 221 percent of the declared value. Later these duties were assessed against the entered net weight, currently at \$2.63 per net kilogram, in addition to a "honey assessment fee" of one cent per pound of all honey.

In 2008, federal authorities began investigating allegations of organizations circumventing anti-dumping duties through illegal imports, including transshipment and mis-



labeling, on the "supply side" of the honey industry. In October 2002, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an import alert for honey containing the antibiotic Chloramphenicol, a broad spectrum antibiotic that is used to treat serious infections in humans, that is not approved for use in honey. Honey containing certain antibiotics is deemed "adulterated" within the meaning of federal food and drug safety laws.

This is an ongoing investigation with assistance provided by HSI Frankfurt Attaché Office and Latvian customs authorities. ■

## Fred Rathje and Willie Baumgartner Memorial awards

The husband and wife team of Paul and Ann Vautour were the recipients of the Fred Rathje and Willie Baumgartner Memorial awards. The team received numerous letters of support from all across Canada but these two sum it up best. While the letters were in support of one award the Canadian Honey Council felt each deserved their own special recognition.

I can't think of anybody else, who deserves the Fred Rathje Memorial Award more than Ann and Paul Vautour.

I have known Ann and Paul for almost 20 years and their enthusiasm and dedication for the beekeeping industry locally and nationally has been ongoing ever since. Because of Ann's exceptional organizational skills, many Maritime Beetours were a success. Paul's connection and ability to secure funding made it possible to bring in many world-renowned researchers as our guest speakers.

Ann and Paul have gained the respect of all Maritime beekeepers and many had the opportunity to learn a great deal from them. I strongly suggest that you consider Ann and Paul Vautour for the 2015 Fred Rathje Memorial Award.

*Sincerely,*  
*Daniel Ficza*  
*President, Maritime Beekeepers Association*

My name is Tania Carrier and I am writing a letter of support for Paul and Ann Vautour who have received a nomination for the Fred Rathje Memorial award for 2015. I began thinking about keeping bees a few years ago when I met Paul and Ann at the Sainte Marie de Kent agricultural fair. They attend this fair every year. They were so knowledgeable and were always so friendly. I decided three years ago after speaking with Ann to get my own hives. I started out with two and then bought 8 more to get started. Ann and Paul were always there to answer all my questions. In the beginning Ann came to my place to show me how to go through the hives and little tricks in taking care of them. She advised me on which medications were needed to keep them healthy and how to take care of them for winter. I have gone over to their place on many occasions and Paul has been a tremendous help as well. He showed my boyfriend and I how wrap the hives for winter. He showed us how he makes his own boxes, top covers and bottom boards. He has also on many occasions taken a group of us into the field and showed tips on how to rear our own queens. My boyfriend and I are planning on going commercial with our beekeeping. We already rent out our small amount of hives to a local blueberry grower thanks to Ann who introduced us to him. We are just two people in the many that Paul and Ann have helped through the years. I meet new people every year that they have helped get started in beekeeping and I am sure they will help many more in the years to come. They absolutely love what they do and enjoy sharing it with others. If it were not for them I may never have gotten my first bees. I can't think of anyone who would deserve this award more than they do. I hope you take this letter in to consideration when making your decision for this award. Thank you for your time.

*Sincerely*  
*Tania Carrier*



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# APIMONDIA Montréal 2019

*Pierre Giovenazzo*

The challenge is on! The Canadian Honey Council is campaigning earnestly to host APIMONDIA 2019. Our team will attend the upcoming APIMONDIA 2015 in Daejeon, South Korea to compete against other beekeeping countries and entice a majority of the 250 or more APIMONDIA delegates from around the world to vote for Canada. Here is a brief description of our bidding procedure.

As many of you know, APIMONDIA is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations. Its major objective is to facilitate the exchange of information and discussions by organizing Congresses and Symposia where beekeepers, scientists, honey-traders, agents for development, technicians and legislators meet to listen, discuss and learn from one another. Apimondia meetings are fabulous events that offer great opportunities to learn about all the aspects of the beekeeping world. During these meetings, from morning until late evening, participants explore various exhibits and learn about cutting edge research from all parts of the world.

The last Canadian Apimondia was the 36th Congress, "Apimondia 1999", held in Vancouver. It was a spectacular success and many beekeepers consider it the best Apimondia in recent years! The Canadian Honey Council (CHC) also hosted an Apimondia Symposium in Quebec on honeybee pathology and Queen breeding in 2012. It was very well attended and a great experience for the local organising committee and the CHC. Why are we bidding for Apimondia 2019? First, it is a great opportunity to promote and showcase our Canadian beekeeping industry and second, we have the expertise and the means to host such an event. Furthermore, Apimondia alternates the geographical destination of the Congresses between Europe and other continents. As the 2017 Congress is in Europe (Istanbul, Turkey), a country outside of Europe is recommended as the venue for the 2019 Apimondia Congress. This is a unique opportunity to submit a Canadian candidature.

The CHC's selected venue for the 46th Apimondia International Congress is Montreal, during September 7-13, 2019. The bidding procedure starts 4 years prior to the expected

date of the Congress. A comprehensive application to host the 2019 Apimondia Congress must be forwarded to the Apimondia General Secretariat in Rome by 30 April 2015 and must include information describing the interest and capacity of the host to hold the event. On June 15, the Executive Council of Apimondia will inform all bidders of the 5 selected bids to be presented at the General Assembly during the 2015 Apimondia Congress in Daejeon. A site inspection will be carried out by representatives from Apimondia and paid for by the bidding member Association prior to the 2015 Apimondia Congress.

There will be two sessions of the General Assembly during the 2015 Apimondia Congress. At the end of the first session, each applicant for the 2019 Apimondia Congress will have the opportunity to make a presentation of 10 minutes (i.e. a speech, a powerpoint presentation or video) during a session open to voting delegates as well as all Congress participants. At the end of all presentations, a social event may take place for further promotion of all bids. The applicants will also have the opportunity to promote their venues throughout the 2015 Congress, possibly by having a booth in the ApiExpo, or by making presentations, offering receptions and staging entertainment events during the Congress. At the second session of the General Assembly, during the Congress closing ceremony, each competing country will be granted two minutes to make a final presentation. After this, the voting delegates will cast their votes.

Two key factors stand out for the selection of a candidature: the highlights of the venue city/country (tourism and beekeeping interest) and the quality of the local organising committee. Canada is a great beekeeping country with a very diverse and prosperous beekeeping industry and Montréal is internationally renowned for its hospitality, great attractions, and centrally located modern congress facilities with easy access to Dorval International Airport. The CHC has put together a team that has been working for the past year with the City of Montréal and the Montréal Congress Center to promote this grandiose project. At this time, the CHC bidding team is comprised of two Leads: Pierre Giovenazzo (University Laval/CRSAD), Stephen Pernal (Agriculture



Agri-Food Canada); and their collaborators: Rod Scarlet (CHC), Scott Plante (Beekeeper/CHC), Jocelyne Perron (Montréal/Palais des Congrès), Shelley Hoover (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development), Paul van Westendorp (BC Ministry of Agriculture) and Geoffrey Williams (University of Bern).

We will produce an excellent bid application and give a remarkable "show" during the 2015 Apimondia Congress in Daejeon. We have already received great support from the CHC (\$25,000), the City of Montréal (\$15,000 including preparation of the bid and production of the two bid presentations) and the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (\$10,000). Many stakeholders in the honey bee industry are showing a growing interest in our project. All this is very encouraging and our team is very excited. Here is a brief description of our upcoming actions:

Prior 2015 Apimondia Daejeon  
Visit our website: <http://apimondia2019mtl.com/> (opening soon).

Bid application submission: April 30 2015  
Welcome reception of Apimondia officials: July-August

Promotional strategy planning: June-August  
Completion of the two bid presentations (long and short)

During 2015 Apimondia Daejeon, South Korea.  
Long bid presentation (10 minutes) during first general assembly

CHC- 2019 Apimondia Montréal promotional booth

Promotional strategy  
Short bid presentation (2 minutes) during closing ceremony

There it is! We hope that many Canadian beekeepers are now wondering how they can help. Any support is greatly appreciated, and we encourage you to visit our website regularly: <http://apimondia2019mtl.com/> (opening soon). If you plan on attending 2015 Apimondia in Daejeon and wish to help our campaign, please contact us through our website.

We are going to Daejeon to win this bid!

# TEXT TO COME

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# Neonic Residue

Submitted by John Van Blyderveen

There were 10 reports of this happening in early December. I see the following as in the pictures, the result of a more toxic landscape this past year, then the year before. The hives in the picture, (home yard) had 4 bee kill events happen last summer. The first from planting dust off, and then the next 3 were from toxic blooming plants in the 3 mile radiuses that they foraged on during the rest of the summer.

The dead bees in the picture are an accumulation off the first 2 weeks of cold weather in November, where the bees were no longer cleaning the hive out. At this rate of die-off they will not make it till spring. The pictured hives are the better production hives in the yard as these will have the highest residue levels of Neonicotinoids in them. I expect a heavy winter loss again.

The one thing that can reduce the winter loss is, if the hives can get brood going shortly. If the temperature stays like the past day or two we might be ok. It takes a lot of bees to clean the Neonicotinoids out of the hive. This is what I believe happened in 2012. That spring, hives had a lot of brood in January already and were swarming the first week of April.

I am hoping that the Beekeepers can continue to grow their awareness of this. I see the number of participating beekeepers is down from 2013, but the number of hives and yards are up. Keep up the effort. ■

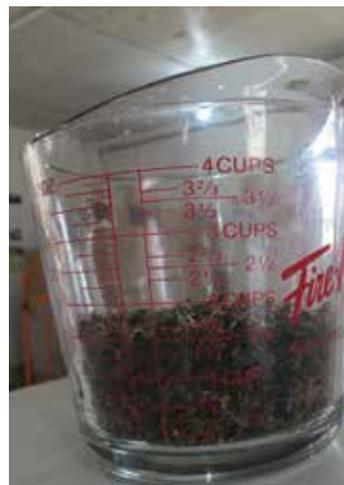
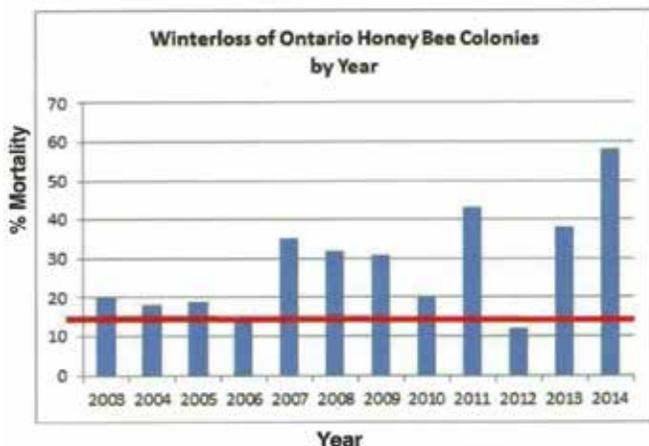


## Bee Kill Reports – 2012, 2013, 2014



- 2012: ~240 reported incidents, 40 beekeepers  
 2013: ~320 reported incidents, ~80 beekeepers  
 2014: ~345 reported incidents, ~62 beekeepers  
 highest number reported in August
- Incidents reported in association to corn and soybean planting
  - Bee, pollen, soil and water samples are being analyzed
  - Reported symptoms include:
    - Abrupt loss in the population of the colony (lots of capped brood with few bees)
    - Dead and dying bees at the entrance
    - Disorientated, paralyzed and shaking bees

[Source: PMRA; OMAFRA]



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By Doug McRory





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# The Apiarium Project

## Observation hives as interactive teaching tools

By *Andres Amaya Bríñez*

### A simple idea materializes

I am a member of the association of beekeepers in Hisingen (Hisingens Biodlareförening) which along with 279 more associations makes up the Swedish Beekeepers Federation. The association has existed since 1944 in the northern part of the city of Gothenburg on the west coast of Sweden. Every year in mid-May the association organizes a public venue (Öppet hus), when spring has already made its entrance, gladdening the hearts of us all, fans of this beautiful art.

During this day, the apiary is open to all who want to take a closer look at the hives, discover the beekeepers' tools and equipment and learn more about beekeeping, something totally unknown to many people. For this occasion a couple of observation hives are installed in the apiary and on this day they are the center of attraction of all the visitors. This made me wonder why we display bees for only one day per year. Why not display them in more places within the reach of all? The first viable place I found to carry out this idea was in Hisingsparken, the largest public park in the city of Gothenburg.

I started out by drawing simple sketches of how it would be possible to realize the idea and also how to finance this small project. I found out on the web that it was possible to request funding through LEADER, an initiative funded by the European Union that supports rural development. A few days after applying for funds I received a negative answer, which explained that Hisingen was not considered rural, despite the fact that it is an island which consists of 80% forest and farmland.

The first Apiarium was actually realized thanks to the assistance of a carpenter friend and by private means. The curiosity and interest shown by neighbors to the park was unexpected and even made headlines in the local newspapers.

### The observation hives through the centuries

Curiosity and a great desire to decipher the mysteries of the hive have carried recognized beekeepers in different parts of the world to study bees by using observation hives; like Maraldi, Huber, Prokopovitsch, Miller and

Karl von Frisch, only to mention a few. Currently, observation hives are used to study the behavior of bees and to clarify the true effects of systemic insecticides such as neonicotinoids and their possible relationship with the mysterious disappearance of bees around the world and the problem of colony collapse disorder (CCD).

In Sweden, observation hives are usually found at the headquarters of beekeepers' associations. The innovation of the Apiarium project is to establish this type of hives in public places, and turning them into meeting points while using them as interactive teaching tools aiming at both promoting beekeeping and the transfer knowledge about bees, pollination and its crucial role in the sustainable development of cities.

The Apiarium project is unique in Europe, perhaps in the world, and it can be considered as an innovative and different way to practice urban beekeeping, a phenomenon that has acquired many new adepts in recent years in several cities in Europe and North America.

### From the public park to the international airport

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Apiarium in Hisingsparken, I founded the company Beepartners which has become the only player for urban beekeeping in Gothenburg and its surrounding municipalities, with the Apiarium project as its main reference. The

Apiarium Project started to expand in 2013, thanks to the great interest shown by municipal entities and the Ekocentrum foundation that invited us to take part in their permanent exhibition on sustainable development.

By the end of the Apiarium project in 2014 observation hives were established at eight sites, including among other the recycling park Kretsloppsparken Alelyckan, Bäckparken in the town of Kungälv and one located next to the control tower at the Göteborg-Landvetter International Airport in the municipality of Härryda.

Since August 2014 public elementary school classes are offered a lesson on bees and pollination. The idea is that school groups visit the closest Apiarium, as a complement to the lesson they receive in the classroom.

Data Apiarium project  
Start: Summer / Fall 2012.

Funding: The project is developed in collaboration with companies, organizations and municipal entities in Gothenburg and neighboring municipalities, as part of their environmental CSR work (CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility).

Type of hives: 10 LN frames in the brood chamber and supers (LN = Low-Normal 366x222 mm).

Breeds of bees: *Apis mellifera ligustica* and Buckfast depending on the area.

2015 Projection: Apiarium on 15 sites.

On the Internet: [www.apiarium.se](http://www.apiarium.se) and [www.beepartners.se](http://www.beepartners.se)

## Brown-Forman Canada created a "buzz" around Jack Daniel's Tennessee Honey and encouraged more millennials to give the brand a taste

*Dr. Leonard Foster, Chair Canadian Bee Research Fund*

Throughout the month of November, 2014 Jack Daniel's and agency partner The Hive held "This One's For The Bees" tasting events in bars across Canada for its Tennessee Honey brand, which features its trademark whiskey infused with a custom honey liqueur. Tasters placed a bee sticker on a large board designed in the style of beehive. For every sample given, the company made a donation to Canadian Bee Research Fund to help save Canada's bee population. The tastings were promoted through the <https://www.facebook.com/jackdanielshoney> Jack Daniel's Tennessee Honey Facebook page and the company encouraged attendees to upload and tag their own photos from the events.

The Board of the CBRF would like to thank Brown-Forman Canada for their generous donation in the amount of \$7000.

# Should the Canadian Beekeeping Industry Invest in the Off Shore Supply of Bees and Queens?

*By Doug McRory*

If we look at the statics of queen and package imports into Canada, we are importing a considerable percentage of our bees stock every year from off shore sources. How secure is access to this stock when we are purchasing these bees from independent suppliers? Should the Canadian bee industry at some level invest in beekeeping in these off shore countries where we can import from so there is some control over the supply of bees and queens to the Canadian Industry?

Most major industries invest in other countries. Why would it not make sense for some of the larger commercial beekeepers from Canada or consortiums or co-operatives of Canadian beekeepers or honey bee imports to join together and seek finical assistance from their provincial governments or the Federal government in order to either buy into bee businesses on a joint venture basis or set up and completely control companies in countries where we can import honey bees from into Canada?

If Canadians had control of some of the production in offshore countries and could designate the production of those bee businesses to the Canadian honey industry we would be in a much more secure position to know that we will have bees in our bee colonies. Now we are at the whims of the market place. We are currently dealing with individuals who run their personal bee businesses and if something

happens to them or their staff there are major repercussions for our supply of bees.

The other advantage would be some say in the genetics of the bees that are raised for us as Canadians. We all have out preferences when it comes to genetics. At the moment most of those decisions are in someone else's hands that have different criteria as to what makes a good bee for their purposes.

Another advantage would be our contribution to the management of the bee business in the offshore country. A good example of this is Chile where there is great untapped potential according to the various beekeepers from Canada who have been there but they just are not able to put things together to make it a viable business to deliver bees to Canada in useful numbers. Some assistance with management and organization and these problems could be overcome. Chile does a major business in other Agricultural products and there is no reason to think that it could not be done in honey bees.

Canada should diversify the countries where we get bees from to offset any problems with supply or transportation from those countries. The limiting factor from some countries may be the number of flights that can carry pallets of honey bees during the short period of time that we need honey bees delivered to Canada in the spring.

It is time of the Canadian industry to take a serious look at this problem. ■



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# Classifieds

## Help Wanted

For a complete list of Help Wanted go to the Canadian Honey Council website: [www.honeycouncil.ca](http://www.honeycouncil.ca) and look under Careers (Classifieds - Help Wanted).

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3 Bedroom House, Large Certified Honey House, 2.6 Acres, 500 Hive Equipment, Trucks, School Bus Route.

The Honey House: Retail sales office, 220v and 110v electrical service, natural gas heat, 3 piece bathroom. Cowan Uncapper chain drive machine. Kelley jumbo capping wax melter. Kelley 72 frame auto shut off extractor.

Eight foot stainless steel uncapping tank. Stainless steel baffled S/S sump tank (1,200lb capacity). Kelley five G. P. M. sump pump. Cook and Beals heat exchange unit. Two stainless steel storage tanks (2,000lb and 5,000lb). 1.5" piping with stainless steel "s" Ferrule connectors. 3/4" warm water heating system throughout tanks. Two trucks: 1980 GMC 7000-20' flat deck equipped with a 24' Kelley boom and a 1991 GMC 3500 Vandura, 1 ton cube van.

Contact: Jennifer Brock, MacDonald Realty, [townandcountry4sale.com/518](http://townandcountry4sale.com/518)

### FOR SALE

\*BUSY BEE BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES - we sell beekeeping equipment, hive parts, tools, protective clothing, honey containers etc. - also candle making supplies, silicone moulds.

We buy and sell beeswax. Located in eastern Ontario, we ship coast to coast. [www.busybeebeekeepingsupplies.ca](http://www.busybeebeekeepingsupplies.ca)

### FOR SALE

Four-Frame Nucs - May and June 2015.

Queen Cells - June and July (pick-up only)

Mated Queens - July - September (Canada Post and pick-up available)

Contact: Highlands Honey, Portland, Ontario. 613-272-2091

[highlandshoney@storm.ca](mailto:highlandshoney@storm.ca)

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100 winter wraps for single hives pallets, 50\$ each + 32 winter wraps for double hives pallets, 50\$ each. All wraps come with a R30 cushion, a R5 top cover, side walls, and the stretch cords. Only used a few winters, all in mint condition.

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Forklifts: Toyota warehouse forklift and rough terrain forklift with trailer.

Trucks: 2006 International 2 ton flat deck, diesel and 1995 Nissan flat deck, gas.

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120 FRAME Cook & Beals extractor, new reel last year, air ram frame loader, no uncapper, O.B.O. Irwin Harlton, Souris, Mb. 204 483 2382 evenings, cell 204 570 2867

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Drawn Honey Bee Comb in standard sized supers.

All equipment would have to be inspected & pass provincial regulations. Contact: Jack Hamilton, [jack.hamilton@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jack.hamilton@ns.sympatico.ca)

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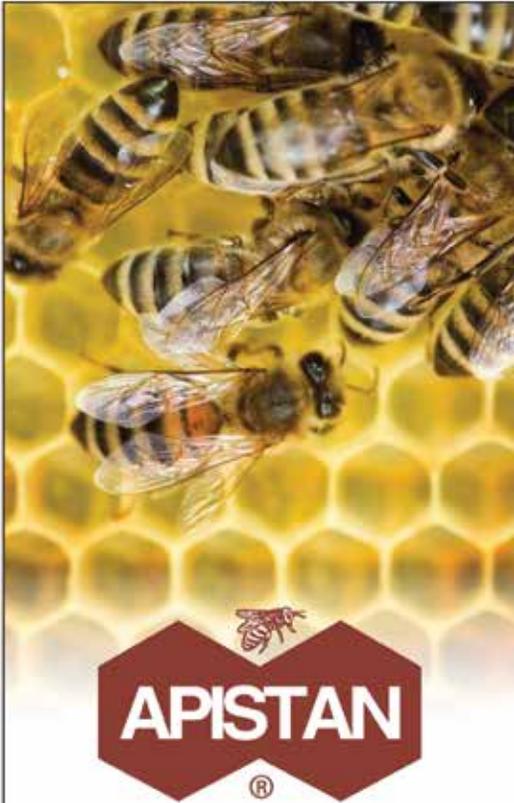
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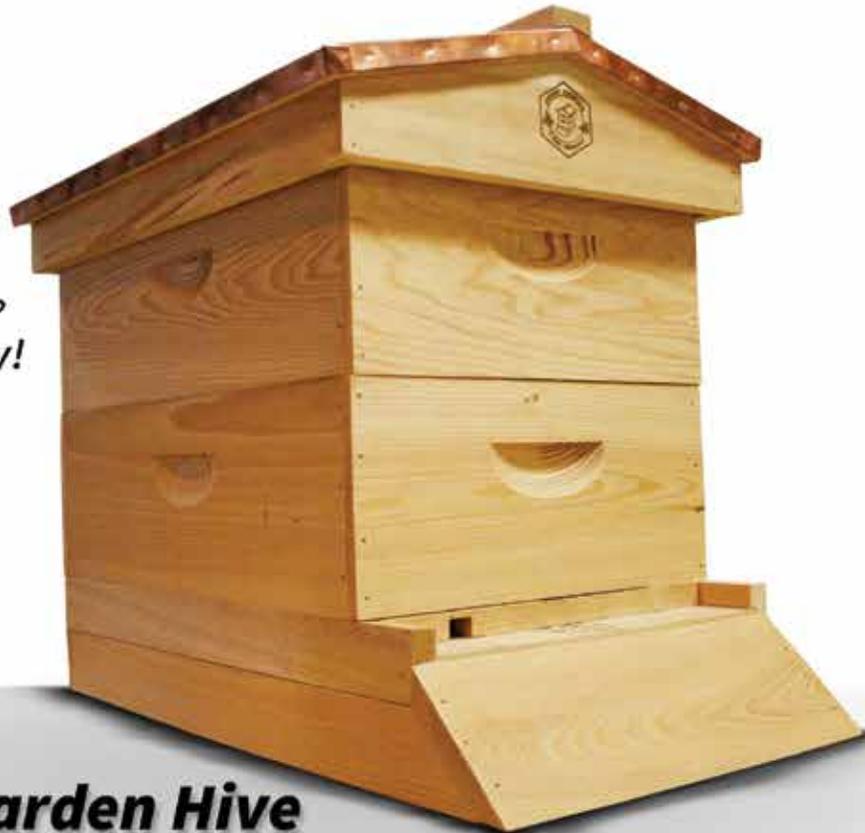
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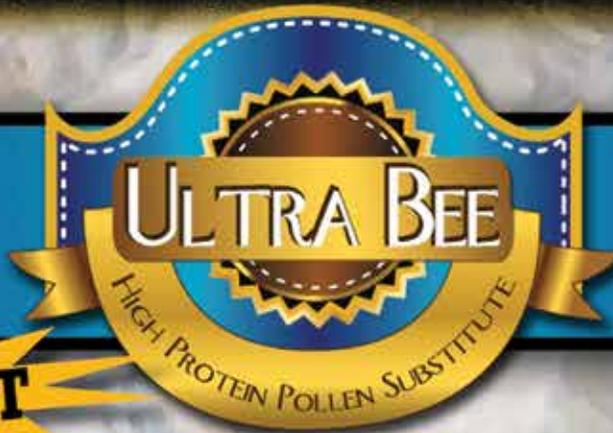
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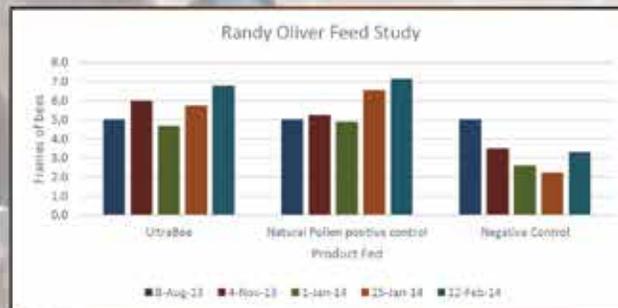
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