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Hivelights: The official magazine of the Canadian Honey Council, The Canadian Beekeeper and The Canadian Honey Packer.

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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.

Advertising rates as are follows:

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1/8 page	\$100.00	\$150.00
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Publication Mail Agreement number

43070512

ISSN 1489-730X

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to
Hivelights

PO Box 914, Station T Calgary,

Alberta T2H 2H4

geoff@honeycouncil.ca

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Hiveights

May 2017 Vol 30 #2

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

Cover picture - Bernie Rousseau, BeeMaid
BeeMaid and Costco's Hobby Beekeeping
Starter Kit. See page 9.



Table of Contents

1	2017 CHC Directors	
3	Canadian Honey Council Report	Rod Scarlett
5	Fraser Honey Bee Sales 2017	
7	Regional Reports	CHC Directors
11	North American Beekeeping Conference	Rod Scarlett
14	CAPA President Report 2016	Medhat Nasr
15	WAS 40th Anniversary Conference	Fran Bach
16	Adjustable Vented Entrance Reducer	Dan Vaandrager
17	Fred Rathje Memorial Award	Leonard Foster
19	Alecia Sandboe's Summer Experience at GPRC NBDC	
21	Canadian Beekeepers Practical Handbook	Svenja Belaousoff
23	2016 CAPA Research Report	
25	BeeConnected helps encourage communication between beekeepers and farmers BeeConnected contribue à favoriser la communication entre apiculteurs et agriculteurs	
27	Help Wanted	
27	Classifieds	

Hivelights - The Magazine of the Canadian Honey Council is printed with all natural vegetable based inks. Please recycle this magazine.



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Publisher**Bunker to Bunker Books Inc.**

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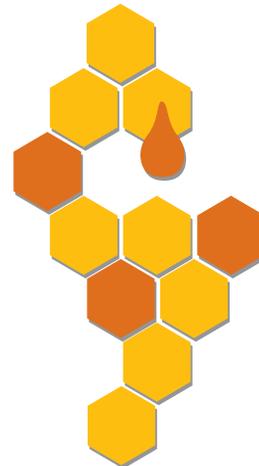
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Canadian Honey Council Report



Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC

The new year started off with a very successful AGM in Galveston, Texas. Held in conjunction with the American Beekeepers Federation and the American Honey Producers Association, over 150 Canadians attended the educational sessions and trade show. For the CHC it was a time for the Board to meet face to face as well as to meet fellow beekeepers from across North America. A special thanks goes out to Randy Verhoek, past president of the AHPA who graciously hosted a tour of his operation.

A number of resolutions were passed at the AGM and two items of interest were the focus of attention – honey testing and labelling. As many of you are aware, these two items have been on the national agenda for decades and little progress has been made. In some respects, it looks like positive changes are on the horizon as least as it pertains to one aspect of labelling. Recent proposals put forth by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency appear to at least partly address the deceptive labelling of “Canada #1”. The proposal put forth would require that only honey packaged in Canada could use the Canada #1 grade and that imported honey could only be

identified as #1. Country of origin labelling will also be adjusted in that any honey labelled as product of Canada or Canadian honey must be 100% Canadian. If blended, labelling must be product of the country in descending order of their proportion. For further information on all the labelling proposals, I suggest you visit the CFIA website at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/food-labelling-for-industry/honey-products/eng/1392907854578/1392907941975?chap=0#s6c18>.

While these labelling changes seem to be on the right track, Health Canada has put forward a labelling requirement that could be potentially devastating to the industry. Back in October, Health Canada began a consultation whereby they proposed to introduce front-of-package labelling requirements on prepackaged foods high in nutrients of public health concern (sodium, sugars and saturated fat). A warning label on the front of packaged honey indicating that it is high in sugar ignores the fact that there are a number of differences between honey and processed or refined sugars. The CHC submitted a response to the consultation and the following key points were identified:

- Single macronutrient products like honey should be exempt from front of label warnings.

- Current %DV for honey based on a 2-tsp serving size for honey is long standing and familiar to consumers. Prior consultation proposed an arbitrary level of 100 gm as a DV for all sugars including honey. More research needs to be done to determine the relevant %DV for sugars in the Canadian diet.

- The current FOP proposal makes allowance for a different ‘triggers’ for products in a nutrient category that would be a healthier choice (ie identification of saturated fat oils vs

other fats deemed part of a healthy lifestyle). Much like dietary fats are not all equal, honey offers health related benefits not present in refined sugar.

- Honey bees are critical pollinators of important crops including canola, soybeans, blueberries, apples, cranberries, nuts and carrots that contribute to a healthy diet for Canadians (Statistics Canada, 2014). Reduction in the sale of honey because of FOP ‘warnings’ could be detrimental to our shared goal of helping Canadians make healthier food choices.

As of writing this, we have yet to hear the results of the consultation.

The other issue that drew considerable attention was the issue of adulterated honey. In attempting to get information from CFIA, we have been provided with good data as it relates to the types of tests they conduct on honey. However, we received very little information on the number of tests. In fact, what we received was this:

“The National Chemical Residue Monitoring Program (NCRMP) sampling plans are developed in accordance with internationally accepted Codex Alimentarius principles and guidelines.” Further inquiries have resulted in no new information but a recent press article revealed that “Between April 2013 and January 2017, the CFIA tested 266 samples of imported honey ... and found 19 or 7.1% contained at least one of added sugars or syrups.”

Aside from the lack of transparency CFIA has with the industry, I suspect the issue of adulterated honey will continue to pose a serious threat and will require the concerted efforts of the CHC and Canadian beekeepers in convincing appropriate government officials to step up their game in inspection and testing. ■

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Regional Reports



Maritimes



Mario Swinkels

Well Spring is around the corner, but the weather does not show it. February was mild and gave hopes of an early spring in the Maritimes but March is giving us bitter cold and snow making perhaps an extended winter, gives us more time to complete the spring tasks of building and preparing for summer.

The Annual General Meetings of both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Associations were held in Moncton as a collaborate effort to bring in renown Beekeeper/Researcher "Randy Oliver". Randy gave 5 wonderful talks on beekeeping. The first day in Truro, NS, Randy outlined

how to be a better scientist when dealing with your bees. In Moncton, NB, Mr. Oliver did a wonderful job of explaining how to read comb especially between the honey and the brood, I am amazed how you always learn something on these weekends. Thanks Randy for your thoughts and Ann and Lauren for doing such a fine job of organizing this event.

Frustration can be seen in the Maritime bee world as pollination of wild blueberries remains in limbo as blueberry prices plummet so does the need for pollination. One thing that can be said, it is not the growers at fault, but the processors. Many blueberry producers will lose more than the beekeepers at this stage.

During the AGM's I failed to acknowledge some people that have done an outstanding job for maritime beekeepers, first Rod Scarlett for coming out this way and clarifying many questions. Also the outstanding job of the maritime tech transfer team Robyn McCallum and Cameron Menzies. They have introduced new items and we are looking forward to another great year.

Québec



Scott Plante

Ce fut un hiver très occupé et plusieurs dossiers sont dans l'engrenage présentement.

Au Sujet des nouvelles normes d'étiquetage du miel vous trouverez les informations nécessaires sur le site de l'ACIA.

Lors de l'AGA du CCM trois motions ont été votées et acceptées à majorité sur le maintien de la fermeture des frontières aux importations de paquets d'abeilles en provenance des États-Unis. Une nouvelle méthode d'analyse a été développée pour identifier les miels adultérés, il s'agit d'une analyse par résonance magnétique nucléaire. En Europe les détaillants exigent cette méthode d'analyse avant de mettre en vente le miel dans leur super marché.

Le Fond de Recherche Canadien qui est composé de membres de la CAPA et du CCM a subventionné trois récipiendaires canadiens pour la recherche, dont Madame Andrée Rousseau qui a reçu une somme de 6000 \$ pour son projet de recherche.

Le 25 Janvier au retour de l'AGA une réunion de la table ronde a eu lieu. L'Agence de Réglementation de la Lutte Antiparasitaire a fait le point sur les réévaluations des néonicotinoïdes, imidacloprides, clothianidines et thiaméthoxames. Le produit en voie d'homologation qui sera disponible cet automne est le fluméthrine Bayvarol (varroa) sous forme de bandelettes. Pour ce qui est de HopGuard (varroa), Aplilife VAR (varroa) et la Lincomicin (loque américaine) ils sont en priorité d'homologation pour cette année.

Santé Canada fait une révision de son guide de santé alimentaire. Les éléments visés lors de cette révision sont le sodium les gras-trans et finalement le sucre. Malheureusement, le miel se retrouve à être visé de par sa haute teneur en sucre. Si rien ne change, les contenants de miel devront indiquer sur le devant de l'étiquette qu'ils sont des aliments à haute teneur en sucre. Chose qui nuira à la vente de ce produit. Le CCM milite activement auprès du Gouvernement Canadien afin de ne pas assujettir le miel à cette nouvelle réglementation. Un consultant a été engagé en collaboration avec BeeMaid pour soumettre un mémoire à ce sujet.

Apimondia 2019 avance à grand pas. Cet événement aura de grandes retombées pour la province de Québec et ses apiculteurs en particulier. Lors de ce rassemblement les apiculteurs d'ici auront accès à des présentations faites par des sommités mondiales sur des sujets tel que le Varroa, la Loque et même la sélection génétique. De plus ils pourront visiter la salle de montre ou seront exposés des centaines de détaillants et exposants de différents pays. Il y aura aussi des retombées économiques qui seront générées grâce aux tournées agro-touristique qui se produiront chez les apiculteurs du Québec.

En Apiculture aujourd'hui nous avons plusieurs défis qui ne peuvent se régler qu'au niveau fédéral. Saviez-vous que la FAQ paie une somme financière pour représenter le Québec au CCM et que cette somme est basée sur toutes les ruches du Québec. Même si certains apiculteurs du Québec forment des syndicats détracteurs et cherchent à détruire la FAQ, laquelle paie la cotisation à leur place.

It was a very busy winter and several matters are currently in the mill.

On the CFIA site, you will find the necessary information concerning the new labelling standards for honey.

During the CHC's AGA, three motions were voted on and approved by the majority regarding the continued closing of the borders to the importation of packages of bees from the United States. A new analysis method has been developed to identify adulterated bees, to wit, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. In Europe, retailers require this analytical method before selling honey in their supermarkets.

The Canadian Bee Research Fund, which is comprised of members of CAPA and the CFIA subsidised three Canadian recipients to carry out research, including Mrs. Andrée Rousseau who received the sum of \$6000 for her research project.

On January 25, after the AGA, a round-table meeting was held. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency outlined where things stand with the re-evaluation of neonicotinoids, imidacloprids, clothianidins, and thiamethoxams. The product that is in the licencing process and which will be available this fall, is Flumethrin Bayvarol (varroa) in strip form. As far as HopGuard (varroa), Aplilife VAR (varroa) and Lincomicin (American foulbrood) are concerned, they are licencing priorities this year.

Health Canada is revising Canada's Food Guide. The substances being targeted for this revision are sodium, trans-fats and, finally, sugar. Unfortunately, honey ends up being targeted for its high sugar content. If nothing changes, honey containers will have to indicate on the front label that they are foods with high sugar content. This will hinder the sales of this product. The CHC is actively lobbying the Government of Canada to not subject honey to this new regulation. A consultant has been hired in collaboration with BeeMaid to prepare a submission on this subject.

Apimondia 2019 is moving forward expeditiously. This event will have significant benefits for the province of Quebec and its beekeepers in particular. At this meeting, local beekeepers will have access to presentations by world experts on subjects such as varroa, foulbrood and even genetic selection. In addition, they will be able to visit a showroom where hundreds of retailers and exhibitors from various countries will be offering exhibits. There will also be economic spin-offs generated thanks to visits by agro-tourists with Quebec beekeepers.

Beekeeping today faces several challenges that can only be resolved at the federal

level. Did you know that the FAQ pays a financial sum to represent Quebec at the CHC and that this amount is based on all the hives in Quebec? This is despite the fact that some Quebec beekeepers are setting up unions that are critical of and are trying to destroy the FAQ, even though the latter pays fees on their behalf.

Ontario



Albert Devries

The North American Beekeeping Conference in Galveston, Texas this past January was a productive and enlightening way for me to begin my role as the Canadian Honey Council representative for Ontario. I was able to meet all the other members of the council and begin to build good working relationships. There is a great deal of value in meeting face-to-face as so many of our interactions take place through teleconferencing and emails. I felt fortunate to be able to spend a warm week in Galveston immersed in the world of beekeeping. Hundreds of beekeepers and researchers from across North America gathered to

share and learn from each other.

I was first introduced to beekeeping over 30 years ago when I was a student at the University of Guelph. I now work as a commercial beekeeper with my business partner and friend, Chris Hiemstra, at Clovermead in Aylmer, Ontario. Clovermead was founded 40 years ago by Chris's parents, Henry and Anne Hiemstra. I am kept busy managing around 1000 hives in Elgin County.

This winter has varied incredibly in southern Ontario. The temperature has been very mild compared to other winters. The Bruce Peninsula has received a lot of snow, while the southwestern part of the province has had more rain than snow. The month of February saw record-setting high temperatures. There were widespread reports of pollen coming in at the end of February weeks ahead of usual patterns. A number of beekeepers reported seeing spikes in their mite levels last fall. This mild winter may have helped ease winter losses that I expect could have been much higher because of those mite levels.

The decreased demand for hives to move to Eastern Canada for blueberry pollination caused stress for many beekeepers. Earlier this past winter commercial beekeepers were told by blueberry growers to expect that very few hives would be needed for pollination. The financial repercussions of this possibility brought a lot of uncertainty. The situation continues to change as some beekeepers are able to secure contracts to send out more of their hives.

As I begin my term as the Ontario representative on the Canadian Honey Council, I would like to thank Julie White for all the work she did for Ontario beekeepers in her role on the board of the Ontario Beekeepers Association. She did great work with the Ontario Bee Journal and deserves much credit for reaching out to our 1200 members. I look forward to representing our members at a national level.

Manitoba



Allan Campbell

Spring is usually a busy time of year for a beekeeper and this year is certainly no exception, even with the cold weather. Our work in the Okanagan-Similkameen area has definitely been slowed by a few weeks due to a winter that just didn't want to let go, and it seems to be going the same way for coastal areas as well. But the warmer temps have finally come leading into April and work is in full swing to prepare hives for berry pollination. Our Manitoba hives haven't received any love yet as of writing this, but decades of experience tell me that April 10th is my average start date in the North-West region and that is still more than a

week from today, I think we should be right on time.

At Honey Council, we've been dealing with a number of issues that are on the forefront of everybody's minds and they are issues that are absolutely critical to the well-being of the majority of this industry. As Health Canada is soon to be wrapping up consultations on front of package labelling we have been involved in a number of conference calls to try and battle back against being labelled as "containing added sugars" as it is a very misleading statement to the consumer. Country of Origin labelling changes, which we've also been consulting on, have been gazetted and are posted on the CFIA website.

Agriculture groups at all levels and in all commodity groups are involved with consulting on the New Policy Framework and a few of the suggestions we're considering putting forward are a national risk management program, a national honey bee health surveillance program, support of a science cluster for honey bee research

and a honey marketing/ honey profiling database so that we have a clear and concise definition and comparison record of what makes up Canadian honey. Our collective input on this will shape the next round of Growing Forward suites available for our benefit.

The Honey committee has met to discuss solutions to honey adulterations and trans-shipment of honey potentially happening in Canada and certainly throughout the world. We are still sorting out terms of reference for the newly struck committee but I feel we are starting with a clear perspective on the problem. One of the first matter we would like to clean up is the Statistics Canada reporting of honey imports and exports. The values listed, as given to Stephen Paige are a hybrid value of both bulk and prepackaged containers and there is currently no way for us to sift through that in sufficient detail. It looks bad for the industry when we are claiming that we are being faced with a market value well below our cost of production when their own stats can numbers show otherwise. It is more difficult and cumbersome for us to prove that bulk Canadian honey offers were on the market as low as \$0.95/lb when their reports for the same period show \$1.60 because of a blended price.

I would also like to thank Peter Awram for his extensive investigative work into Nuclear Magnetic Resonance testing for adulterated honey. According to discussions we've had as a committee, NMR testing looks like a great option for checking the miniscule components of honey and providing great detail about it's make up is. The most widely known lab in Germany extensively tests European honey, and when it comes to European wines, claims that they can tell you the exact hillside in France where a particular sample came from it that accurate. However, there are a few hurdles we need to overcome if we go this route. It is expensive. Buying the NMR machines would have a high initial cost and there would also be increased costs to operate and maintain annually. In order to really combat honey fraud we would also need to purchase other testing equipment to be able to offer a full range of tests and provide with all certainty that a sample is truly representative of it's claims. The next largest hurdle is creating a database of Canadian honey. Very little work has been done on this in the past, and in order to define Canadian honey I recall that we will need in the neighbourhood of 25,000 samples before we can say without a doubt, this sample came from (eg. Carman, MB)

It may sound like a daunting task, but perhaps if we were able to collect funds through a temporary increase in CHC levies, form a collaboration with CHC, and perhaps the Canadian wine or the fruit juice industry AND a Canadian university that already has a NMR machine, we could leverage additional government funding to make this a reality. If we can do this, we would be the first lab in North America that is fully equipped to deal with food fraud at the highest levels.

Happy Beekeeping all, I wish you a productive and fulfilling season!

Saskatchewan



Dani Glennie

The CHC has had an extremely busy winter dealing with the current market and attending meetings. These meetings kept many board members busy and on the road for much of the winter, including myself.

The CHC attended the North American Beekeeping Conference in Galveston, Texas January 10-14th. We had multiple board meetings there as well as our AGM which was open to the membership. We were also able to tour the 10,000 hive operation of Randy Verhoek, where he was very informative on how they keep bees in Texas and the pollinating they do in the almond groves. A big 'Thank You' must go out to all those who helped organize and run the conference in Galveston. The AHPA, the AFB, and the CHC did a wonderful job in bringing the best speakers to the conference and providing all that attend with the most up to date information in the beekeeping world. There was around 150 Canadians in attendance in Texas and the room was almost full for the Canada night that CHC hosted on the 10th. It was fabulous to see so many people from across the country getting together and discussing our industry.

Feb 22-23 took Stan Resist and I as representatives of CHC to Canadian Federation of Agriculture meetings in Ottawa where we were joined by many others in the agriculture industry. We heard from Minister McAulay and others on the current state of agriculture in Canada and how we fit into the next policy frame work. There is a future for agriculture and as farmers we are going to play a huge role in the upcoming years as populations increase and farmers decrease. There was a statement made multiple times during the meetings that we as farmers will need to produce more food in the next 40 years than we have produced in the last 10,000 and we will have to do it with only 2% of the entire population. The current issue that most of agriculture is worried about is the new carbon tax that the government is trying to impose on all. Farmers do more than their fair share in carbon capture methods and

buying machinery that is more expensive so that it runs cleaner, yet if the government gets their way they will punish farmers the most for trying to do everything they can to feed to world. It's time for us to step up and challenge this mentality that the government has somehow found a way to tax air and make us pay for it. The meetings went very well and the CHC is a new member to this organization and we feel that it will be a place that we can join forces with others in agriculture to give more voices to the issues that are plaguing not only us as beekeepers but in agriculture in general. It will also be another level closer to the government to take our issues to when we have run out of steam on trying to work on them individual.

After CFA I attended the Canadian Young Farmers Forum conference Feb 24-27th in Ottawa as well, where I had the pleasure to meet many people across the agriculture industry in Canada and share in their passion for the future Canada holds in agriculture. In a room filled with farmers under 40 there was lots of emphasis on succession planning, technology and innovation. The greatest talks given were actually by those who farm for a living as we were permitted glimpses to what farming is like across the country in different sectors. We heard from multiple types of cattle farmers, potatoes farmers, grain farmers as well as one tobacco farm (from the USA). In all aspects each farm was different then the next in the way that they operated and use technology. The CYFF hosted all day meetings as well as evening speakers who spoke about how to keep ourselves healthy and safe so that we can keep on feeding the world. The opportunities to meet new people and learn about other aspects of farming across Canada where immense and the passion that this next generation has for farming is inspiring. I left the conference knowing that the next stages of agriculture in Canada is in good hands and that our industries should be proud of the leadership we have upcoming in the future.

With honey prices holding steady around the \$1.50 mark and the bee season looming in front of me, I look forward to changing my meeting apparel out for my baseball hat and farm duds. This year on the CHC has been extremely educationally, and I am thankful for the all the opportunity it allowed me to be a part of. I look forward to continuing on as the director of Saskatchewan and hope to meet many more of you in the upcoming year. I wish you a happy spring and while we are all out there opening our hives be safe, as I have learned this winter it will take all of us to feed the world in the upcoming years. Here is hoping for a great crop and a higher honey price, good luck out there.

Alberta



Ryan Poelman

It has been an interesting winter in Southern Alberta and becoming an interesting spring. We had our up and down temperatures through December and that just continued through to beginning of March. One week would be -20°C the next would be 5°C to 10°C dropping again the next week with a few inches of snow. In the first week of February we had a huge dump of snow with a total of 120 cm in the SW corner varying to 45 cm a bit further east. This is the longest winter and most snow we have had in the south in recent years as we have been spoiled with recent mild winters. We had cold temperatures to start March but by the middle of the month we seem to have steady plus temperatures. But the important thing is how are the bees doing. There is a concern in regards to winter loss, and with a few beekeepers getting a peek in the bees in the middle of March it does seem to be that losses will be higher than recent years, but hopefully not drastically so. However, Varroa continues to be our #1 issue. Mite levels were a concern in the fall with some high levels, but it seems like most beekeepers put in a strong effort to get those levels down and the long winter may have helped in that regard. We do have a long spring ahead of us still, but hopefully losses will be closer to average and with the moisture we have had over winter will lead to lots of dandelions and other spring pollen sources for the bees. A positive is that the honey market has seemed to pick up with honey moving, demand and increase in price. It seems steady and not a temporary soft increase so I think we should be able to see this maintain and hopefully the price will continue to steadily increase for all those huge crops we know we are going to have this summer.

British Columbia



The BCHPA has just finished our semi Annual meeting in Kamloops. It was a great success. The business day went well no controversial subjects to deal with. The Resolution that was withdrawn from the CHC AGM in Galveston was reworded and passed for submission to the CHC board of directors.

The Education day was sold out 2 weeks before the event. We knew we would



Stan Reist

have a certain amount of walk-ins so the web site was closed down. We did indeed have walk-ins and because of Fire Marshall Rules some had to wait until we could clear up the no shows that had booked early. The weather was not the best, driving conditions were sometimes not very favorable but the majority made out and we were able to accommodate everyone in the end.

Mike Palmer gave a great presentation, on making and selling Nucs, not importing off shore stock as replacements for dead outs and building a sustainable Apiary. He also mentioned that he used to see old bald guys in the front rows and now he sees women and young people in the audiences. It's fairly safe to say he is concerned about bringing pests and diseases into the country when we import foreign stock. It doesn't matter if it's Canada or the US, it will end up affecting all of us sooner or later. As with every presentation there are a lot of enthusiastic participants leading the talk, we will see how that translates into action in the coming months.

Svenja Belaousoff attended on behalf of the CHC to present the Canadian Honey councils beekeeper handbook. It's a sanitized version of the CBISQ manual but in friendly terms, helping to clarify biosecurity and food safety aspects of beekeeping. Canada has enjoyed a stellar reputation for food safety and puts our products in demand in foreign sales so it's important to up grade our responsibilities.

On the topic of food safety we had George Ferguson from CFIA with some info on the requirements of honey houses and regulations. Rudi Peters did a presentation on inspections of honey houses and what's required as did Ted Handcock.

Judy Campbell and Amanda Goodman Lee gave an over view of the progress of a marketing plan. This is in response to the BC Honey Producers program that we used to have and trying to revitalize the use of 100% B.C. Honey.

One primary concern is the pollination revenue for renting hives to growers of berry crops and apples etc. This income is not classed as farm income to count for revenue that is needed to qualify for farm designation for the land assessment, i.e. if your farm is under two acres, then you need to earn \$10,000 in revenue to get classed as farm property and the tax benefits that go with it. If you are over two acres then you need \$2500 in income. You could earn \$50,000 a year in pollination revenue and not have the tax benefit because it's classed as a service! It doesn't qualify. We have lobbied for this ever since I can remember and have been denied because, well if we allow that then stud services would also be included and were not going to do that. Well guess what! A'one is now accepted but were not. If it's so high value then why won't they help the beekeepers? Lots of lip service but way short on helping. Let's make it an election issue. There's one in the wind.

One thing that has hit the radar in the amount of hives being lost due to Blueberry pollination, I am aware of some businesses that will no longer do Blueberry pollination. Our president, Kerry Clark, would like to start talks with the Blueberry Council of B.C. to see what can be done to reduce the mortality to the bees. At this time there is no study to prove the pollination is the actual cause but the antidotal evidence is what we're looking at. *Noted from the March 2017 issue of Bee Culture Magazine pages 38 and 39: The research paper, "In-hive Pesticide Exposome: Assessing risks to migratory honey bees from in-hive pesticide contamination in the Eastern United States," Kristen Tynor, Jeffery Pettis, David Turpy, Christopher Mullin, James Frazier, Maryann Frazier and Dennis vonEngelsdorp, was published in the online journal Nature Scientific Reports on September 15, 2016.*

In checking our hives this spring we haven't seen hives this robust in at least 5 years. It's almost too good to be true. The unofficial date of what you have or don't have is the fifteenth of April. If it's alive then it's going to make it. This year, however, because of the winter we have just gone through, that date may change. Let's cross our fingers that that isn't the case because we have a lot of people looking for Nucs this spring.

BeeMaid



Bernie Rousseau

As support for bees grows, more people are interested and wanting to learn more about hobby beekeeping. Costco approached Bee Maid's Bee Outfitters in mid-2016 about selling them a beekeeping starter kit. Since Bee Outfitters is geared towards commercial beekeepers, there has never been a need for a starter kit. The Costco opportunity was intriguing, so a team set out to create a starter kit. Everything had to be developed, from the box and label to the instruction manuals! Bee Outfitters staff worked with a local Winnipeg agency, to create all the necessary components and before long, the Beekeeping Starter Kit was born. Costco is testing the kits British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. If you have any friends or family interested trying out beekeeping, be sure to tell them about the starter kits available at select Costco locations!



Growing Forward 2

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Turning ideas into action

Hugh Simpson of Osprey Bluffs Honey tapped into Ontario's *Growing Forward 2 Program* to build a storage room that keeps his honey business safe from a destructive pest. He's managing risk, protecting bee health, securing his equipment and maintaining revenue.

Get an up-close look at Simpson's project – watch the video at ontariosoilcrop.org.



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North American Beekeeping Conference was hosted by: American Beekeepers Federation, Canadian Honey Council and American Honey Producers Association Galveston, Texas, January 10-14, 2017



Albert Devries, Amanda Goodman Lee, Stan Reist, Bernie Rousseau, Allan Campbell, Jeff Lee. Photo supplied by Jeff Lee



Everyone having a good time. Photo supplied by Jeff Lee



The Wall of Honey. Photo by: Jeff Lee



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Donovan Coffey
Galena, IL

Sandra Dave
Mamaroneck, NY

Andrew Dewey
Jonesboro, ME

Ed Erwin
Houston, TX

Rodney A. Ewing
Indianapolis, IN

Barbara Fitts
Gold Beach, OR

David Fox
Millersville, PA

Sam Golston
Elkins, WV

Cindy Haacke
Syracuse, UT

William Hesbach
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J. Ward Hicks
Rexburg, ID

Coy David Hocutt
Carmel, IN

Nancy Wu Houk
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Rev. Dr. Chip Lee
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Andrew L. Lux, Ph.D.
Liberty Township, OH

Sharon McKenna
Kelowna, BC, Canada

Peter Mich
Eagle, WI

Erin L. Miller
Marion, IA

William Morrissy
Miramichi, NB, Canada

John D. Mudrock, MD
Ogunquit, ME

Jaylene Naylor
Stevensville, MT

John Nelson
Great Falls, MT

Robert Perdelwitz
Hamburg, Germany

Tanya Phillips
Austin, TX

Roger Quinlan
Los Altos, CA

Thomas Repas
Hermosa, SD

Ken Rhodes
Idaho Falls, ID

Brian Rogers
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Paul Romero
Reno, NV

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Wheeling, WV

Carol Saunders
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Berlin, MA

Przemek Skoskiewicz
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Paul Snapp
Flowery Branch, GA

Elwin Stillman, MD
Lowville, NY

Myrl Stone
North East, MD

Jane I. Sueme
St. Louis, MO

Lori Thomas
Indianapolis, IN

Natalee B. Thompson
Salt Lake City, UT

Karen Thurlow
Yarmouth, Maine &
Eel River Bar, NB, Canada

Mike Tornabane
Los Angeles, CA

Joe Towson
Duncan, SC

Shearer Turton
Cordele, GA

Dale Varner
Boulder County, CO

Handre Volschenk
Gordon's Bay, Cape Town,
Western Cape, South
Africa

John P. Welty
Wheeling, WV

Terry Whittam
Washago, ON, Canada

Janet L. Wilson
Tsawwassen, BC, Canada

Scott Wilson
Monkton, VT

Jacek Tomasz Ziebinski
Orland Park, IL

Resolutions passed at the AGM in Galveston, January 10, 2017

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeeper's Commission direct the Canadian Honey Council to ensure any labelling changes do not harm the honey industry.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission direct the Canadian Honey Council to continue to lobby Health Canada to remove misleading labelling and replace it with labelling that prominently displays the "country of origin" in sizable, bold lettering.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission requests the Canadian Honey Council to lobby the Canadian government to take action by whatever means necessary, including the use of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance testing, to protect the integrity of the Canadian honey market.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Honey Council lobby governments to conduct a thorough study of Canadian honey for the chemical makeup and pollen profile so that honey trading can be regulated and honey fraud minimized.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Honey Council support the continuation of the border closure to packaged bees from the United States.

It is to be noted on any public disclosure that Alberta (representing over 320,000 colonies) and Manitoba (representing over 100,000 colonies) voted against the resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Honey Council recognize its historical position of campaigning against the opening of the borders

to the packages of bees from the United States.

Alberta (representing over 320,000 colonies) and Manitoba (representing over 100,000 colonies) voted against the resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED that SBA and CHC lobby the federal government that animal feed be removed from the protection of the sugar tariff, and most specifically, sucrose, dry white sugar, divert and high fructose corn syrup.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Beekeepers' Association calls on the CHC to publicly restate its position and urge the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to uphold its prohibition of honey bee hives and/or nucleus colonies and/or packages imports from the United States.

Further the OBA calls on the CHC to make a public statement of this position and post it on its website as well as notify the Standing Senate Committee on Ag and Forestry of this correction.

Alberta (representing over 320,000 colonies) and Manitoba (representing over 100,000 colonies) voted against the resolution

Resolutions withdrawn as a result of duplication

BE IT RESOLVED that the SBA request the CHC to fund a lab in Canada to test for adulterated honey using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) technology

BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC rep lobby CHC to petition CFIA that country of origin font size be the same size and in the same location as the grade information

Canadian Honey Council board of directors visit Texas bee operation

Submitted by Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC

In conjunction with the Canadian Honey Council AGM in Galveston, the Board plus a few guests toured the bee operation of former American Honey Producers Association President Randy Verhoek.

Randy runs an operation in North Dakota and Texas and sends a numbers of his bees to pollinate almonds in California. Everyone involved gained a better understanding of bee operations in the US and thoroughly enjoyed his hospitality. ■



CAPA President Report 2016



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

I would like to welcome you to the 59th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA).

I would like to extend a special thank you to the organizing committee members, especially Shelley Hoover, who worked hard to get this meeting organized with the American Association of Professional Apiculturists, North American Beekeeping Conference, and Canadian Honey Council (CHC). I would also like to acknowledge the organizers of the American Bee Research Conference, and the student competition programs.

CAPA is a non-profit professional organization. All of our activities are built on voluntaries to serve our members and beekeeping stakeholders in Canada. As the president of CAPA, I am so proud of our members who have been working on behalf of this organization to serve our stakeholders. On behalf of myself and CAPA members, we would like to thank members of the Executive Committee; Pierre Giovenazzo (Vice President), Shelley Hoover (Secretary), Graham Parson (Treasurer), and Rhéal Lafrenière (Past-President) for their efforts in making 2016 another successful year. We would also like to thank all CAPA committee chairs and members who contributed their valuable time and knowledge to carry on their mandates and answer many requests made by various organizations and stakeholders.

CAPA had a very busy 2016. The following is a summary of CAPA Activities:

1. CAPA Committees and Provincial Bee Industry Reports.

I would like to thank all committee chairs, committee members, and provincial apiculturists for their excellent work addressing a number of issues raised by the industry and other stakeholders. Detailed activities

are covered in the annual reports by committee chairs and provincial apiculturists (watch for 2016 CAPA Annual Meeting Proceeding). I must say that Dr. Anne Leboeuf and her committee once again did an excellent job in harmonizing the questions and writing an excellent report for the annual survey of honey bee mortality in Canada. Any user of data and published information in these annual reports must get permission from the chair of the committee and contributors before using this information.

CAPA chemical committee chaired by Jason Sproul has been busy working with Canadian Provincial Apiculturists and Health Canada to develop a process to implement the new policy for Antimicrobial use and Antimicrobial resistance in the beekeeping industry. Antibiotics will not be available over-the-counter and beekeepers must have a prescription for antibiotics to use in their operations starting in 2017.

2. Canadian National Bee Health Roundtable (BHRT).

CAPA is a full member of the national BHRT, therefore, CAPA representatives participated at BHRT meetings and activities this year. In 2016, CAPA members who are members of BHRT various committees contributed in providing advice and solutions that will help maintain a sustainable, healthy honey bee industry in Canada. Earlier reports of bee research activities and a list of Canadian laboratories for pest diagnostics and chemical analyses of honey have been helpful in providing good information about the current status of bee research activities and services in Canada. Provincial Apiculturists have continued their discussions on how to harmonize current pest surveillance activities and bee movements across Canada with consideration for regional beekeeping industry profiles, regulations and available resources in all provinces. For more information about BHRT activities, please check: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/industry-markets-and-trade/value-chain-roundtables/bee-health/?id=1409832956249>

3. Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC).

The Keystone Center (Keystone Colorado, USA) formed a “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/>

Since 2015, CAPA is an ex-official member of HBHC. The HBHC aims to provide the best available tools and resources for improving honey bee health. CAPA participated in developing tools for Varroa mite management. To access the newly revised Tools for Varroa Management, please check the following link: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

4. CAPA Committee for Apimondia –Montreal.

CAPA committee headed by Dr. Pierre Giovenazzo continues to prepare for this big international event. I am sure that CAPA will continue to be involved in this event's organization and be proud to help produce such a successful event.

CAPA members, this year is my third year serving as president of this organization. On behalf of the executive team and me, we would like to thank you for entrusting us with this role. I hope that I have been able to make CAPA's views known on many issues. I assure you that CAPA will continue to play a very constructive role to strengthen our beekeeping industry and improve honey bee health in Canada.

Thank you for your support and advice.

WAS 40th anniversary conference comes home to UC-Davis in September!



Join the Western Apicultural Society (WAS) for their 40th Annual Conference this September 5 - 8, back where it all began at the University of California, Davis. Enjoy the northern California sunshine, on-campus bee garden and all the 'bee culture' places, events and people that have been drawn to the Davis area over the years. Mix and mingle at the Bee Buzz Social the evening before the conference begins, hear excellent speakers talk about the latest science has to offer the beekeeping industry, with plenty of time to visit with other beekeepers from all over North America.

For those not familiar with us, WAS is a registered non-profit, educational organization with specific interests in western North America (though we have members from all over). Created in 1977 to address the then-unmet needs of small-scale beekeepers, the 2017 version of WAS continues to take care of those needs at the same time it acknowledges and remains inclusive of the commercials. New research, which is the basis of the conference and, by extension, the WAS Journal, is not exclusive to either end of the spectrum. Nor do you need to be a WAS member to join us at the conference.

President Dr. Eric Mussen is a retired entomologist from UC-Davis and still the top 'go-to bee guy' in North America. He is organizing the conference to take advantage of the great resources offered on-campus. Other Davis entomologists - Drs. Elina Niño, Brian Johnson, Rachel Vannette, Neal Williams and Robbin Thorp - are expected to be speaking on their specialties, which include molecular studies, varroa control products, pesticide issues, and work on the succession of microbial turnover in flower nectars as the bloom period progresses. Dr. Thorp, now retired also, specializes in native bees, especially bumblebees. Serge Labesque, a Glen Ellen CA beekeeper originally from France, is "cemented in" as the lead-off speaker. Serge espouses selecting local stock to keep his bee colonies strong and is widely recognized for his immaculate beekeeping and his extraordinary teaching skills. Though they don't agree on all details, Serge and Eric are good friends and each respects the other's expertise. This too will be an excellent presentation.

Conference week will include tours to a major beekeeping supply outlet and a local, specialty-honey packing operation - and look for some special events marking the 40th anniversary. Dr. Mussen was the first WAS vice president way-back-when and the first president, Dr. Norm Gary, a well-known Davis "character", will also be participating. Expect some fun!

Watch the website (www.westernapiculturalsociety.org) for more details as they become available.

"Back to our roots"

WAS returns to UC Davis CA

Sept. 5 - 8, 2017 for our 40th Anniversary!



www.westernapiculturalsociety.org

Adjustable Vented Entrance Reducer

Submitted by Dan Vaandrager

Dan's Woodworking has been in business for 35 years. I was born and raised on a farm in Abbotsford B.C. and at an early age I knew the importance of bees. I am a qualified cabinet maker by trade and have gone to the bee keepers to ask them, "how can we make the Beehive woodenware better." My responses were very well received. One of the changes we made was that we router in our hand holds for better grip. Our Bee escapes and Inner covers are made with 1/2" plywood. The sheet metal on the top hive covers are hemmed bottom edge so there is no sharp edges.

All of our 3/4" lumber is Sustainably Harvested in B.C and we use a mix of pine and spruce.

Dan's Woodworking is proud to launch a new product, The Adjustable Vented Entrance Reducer (patent pending). This Bee Hive Ventilator rests on the bottom board and is made from UV resistant PVC that has 1/8" perforated back panel with a 2" x 1/2" cut out on the bottom. The front part is called the slider which you can adjust from a closed position to 2" wide opening while still having ventilation.



This ventilator has more great options:

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 - In the winter time you can adjust the slider to 3/8" wide opening to help keep rodents from entering the hive.
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Fred Rathje Memorial Award

Heather Higo

For outstanding efforts in contributing
to improving the Canadian
beekeeping industry

Presented by Canadian Honey Council

Submitted by: Leonard Foster

For someone who has never held a job as a federal scientist, a provincial apiarist or a university professor, Heather Higo has had a remarkable impact on Canadian apiculture. Heather got her start in the bee world in 1987, nearly 30 years ago, working as an undergraduate student in Mark Winston's laboratory at SFU. She started her Master's work with Dr. Winston in 1991, studying the role of queen mandibular pheromone in enhancing pollination activities and hive management practices. She received her M.Sc. in 1994 and started working in Dr. Winston's laboratory as a technician. The following year she took over the role of research coordinator for the laboratory and remained in that position until the laboratory closed in 2007. During that time she was involved in many different projects and was a co-author on twenty-one papers and book chapters. When the Winston laboratory closed down, Heather increased her own personal beekeeping operation, getting into the queen production business and becoming a member of the BC Bee Breeders' Association. At the same time, she put her broader entomological skills to good use working for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). She has held several roles with CFIA, including that of Western Canada Honey Network Specialist where she was the liaison between CFIA and the individual beekeepers in the west. Heather's passion for bee research and the people in that community never waned though and in 2012, CFIA gave her a special assignment to work with the BeeIPM project that was just getting off the ground, led by Leonard Foster at UBC and Steve Pernal at AAFC. She played an instrumental role in the breeding activities of that project but at the end of it she returned to CFIA for a short stint. Since 2015 she has been on another assignment to Dr. Foster's group at UBC, this time to assist with the Canada-wide BeeOMICS project, on which she was a co-applicant. In the time she has worked with Dr. Foster, she has co-authored two more peer-reviewed publications.

Heather has also touched the lives and careers of many beekeepers through her extension and outreach activities, not just in BC but across



Photo by: Jeff Lee

the country. During her time at SFU, she played a key role in organizing the largest bee meeting ever held in Canada, Apimondia '99, which had over 3,000 participants. She has been a fixture of the Bee Master program in BC since her time in Dr. Winston's laboratory and that has continued on to this day. In particular, in the waning years of Dr. Winston's laboratory, Heather co-organized the Bee Master week with Paul Van Westendorp, the BC provincial apiarist. She routinely speaks at local, regional or provincial bee club/association meetings or workshops, on everything from queen rearing to hive management to integrated pest management. It is hard to under-state the impact of Heather's role on beekeeping in Western Canada. Most commercial or sideline beekeepers in BC, certainly, but also in AB, SK and MB, have probably attended at least one workshop where Heather was speaking or demonstrating. Of particular note, Heather is often the person tasked with demonstrating how to assess disease levels in colonies, be it mites, American foulbrood, viruses or Nosema. So much of the monitoring done as part of integrated pest management can be traced to Heather. It is thus not surprising that Heather was the first person to identify small hive beetle in BC.

Heather's impact on Canadian apiculture goes beyond just her research outputs and her extension/outreach efforts – she has played a key role in training many of the other luminaries in apiculture, both in Canada and the United States, who came through the Winston laboratory. These include:

- Stephen Pernal (Scientist, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada)
- Robert Currie (Professor, University of Manitoba)
- Leonard Foster (Professor, University of British Columbia)
- Shelley Hoover (Scientist, Alberta Agriculture)
- Jeff Pettis (former Scientist, US Department of Agriculture)
- Andony Melathopoulos (Assistant Professor, Oregon State University)
- Danielle Downey (former State Apiarist for Hawaii)



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Alecia Sandboe's Summer Experience at GPRC NBDC



GPRC University Transfer graduate, Alecia Sandboe is heading into the third year of her Bachelor of Science program at the University of Alberta well prepared after spending her summer working in the College's world-class laboratory.

"All summer I got to work for GPRC's National Bee Diagnostics Centre in Beaverlodge," says Sandboe who graduated from Sexsmith Secondary School in 2014. "It was a really awesome experience because I got to take what I've learned so far in the classroom, and apply it to a real world work in a real world lab."

GPRC NBDC is the first comprehensive laboratory in Canada to provide a full array of diagnostic services for honeybee pests, pathogens, and parasites.

The centre provides diagnostic services for beekeepers, researchers, agencies and industry with the aim to contribute towards a healthy, sustainable and profitable apiculture in Canada. Additionally, the NBDC is one of 25 Technology Access Centres (TAC) funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

"Providing meaningful student opportunities is a main reason GPRC is engaged in applied research and innovation" says Dr. Bruce Rutley, Director GPRC Research & Innovation. "It is particularly rewarding when it's a GPRC student able to work and learn within GPRC

facilities with GPRC faculty and staff. That the NBDC is doing work of national importance with such specialized equipment directly on behalf of industry is a bonus for students like Alecia."

GPRC NBDC was able to hire two summer students this past year, including Alecia and a University of Alberta student and is looking forward to hiring more in the future.

"I would recommend this summer position to anyone," says Sandboe. "It was a great learning environment. You weren't afraid to ask questions, or talk to the researchers to get a better understanding of what was expected of you. Before working at GPRC NBDC I hadn't completely narrowed down my career path, but after my experience I know that I want to continue down a more research-oriented path in the future." ■



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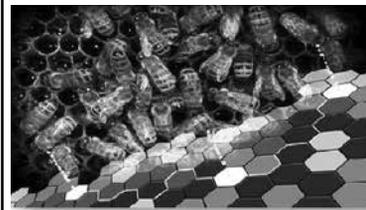
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Why the Canadian Beekeepers' Practical Handbook to Bee Biosecurity and Food Safety is an important tool for all beekeepers

Submitted by: Svenja Belaussoff

All beekeepers, regardless if they keep one colony or thousands, must work towards running operations which are bio secure and food safe. Maintaining a high standard of food safety and biosecurity is essential for protecting against the spread of disease and to uphold the reputation of Canadian honey. This is important for maintaining consumer trust here in Canada as well as opening new markets abroad which can lead to greater economic stability for beekeepers. All beekeepers are part of the industry and must help to safeguard it.

The responsibility of protecting the industry might seem scary but good record keeping is one of the best tools available to help preserve a high level of both food safety and biosecurity. **The Honey Bee Producer Guide to the National Bee Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard** (i.e. the Bee Biosecurity Standard), and the **Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability Producer Manual - Good Production Practices** (i.e., CBISQT) are recent theoretical documents which are available to all beekeepers and provide information about what records are needed. They outline many of the regulations which must be followed; however, they can be difficult to use. **The Canadian Beekeepers' Practical Handbook to Bee Biosecurity and Food Safety** is an integration of those more theoretical documents. It combines them into a single easy to use tool for all beekeepers.

The Handbook is mainly made up of recordkeeping templates, each of which is accompanied by an information page. The templates can be customized to meet the needs of a beekeeping operation, or can be used as a reference to make sure all the needed data is collected. They are broken down into the following categories: general records, bee records, facility records, honey records and inventory. Each information page includes the frequency of use, reasons for recording the information, references to CBISQT and the BeeBiosecurity standard and general comments. Beekeepers who already keep excellent records, have a high degree of food safety and biosecurity and follow all the required regulations may find the Handbook is most useful as a handy reference guide to CBSQT and the Bee Biosecurity Standard.

In addition to being useful to help beekeepers do their part in maintaining the reputation of the Canadian beekeeping industry, record keeping is a very valuable tool for the optimal functioning of any operation. Reasons for this include:

- Improved recordkeeping can help to maximize profits and reduce excess expenditures
- Records help seasonal staff to maintain a consistent high level of food safety and bee biosecurity

- Keeping track of what is happening within an operation helps beekeepers to understand and implement the needed protocols

- Communication. Keeping track of all aspects of a beekeeping operation will help facilitate communication with the provincial Apiarist, bee inspectors, CFIA, crop insurance and other beekeepers. If there is damage to a bee yard because of bears or vandalism, it is important that beekeepers have their information readily available to submit reports or claims.

The bottom line is that keeping records leads to better beekeeping, healthier bees, more honey being produced and therefore more money being made. As well, the resulting increased food safety and biosecurity will help to maintain the reputation of Canadian honey.

There have been a few updates to the Handbook since it was originally released. It is now available in three different versions to ensure that beekeepers across Canada are able to choose the format that suits them best. The abridged version is suitable for beginners and small scale producers who produce honey for personal use. It has fewer templates and concentrates mainly on bee records and inventory. As beekeepers expand their operations and establish more permanent facilities they should incorporate the full version. That version is primarily for larger operators and commercial beekeepers. It includes information which is useful for honey exports to international markets. The full version is also available in French.

The six general revisions to the original version are in the full version. They include:

- Honey export requirements needed for the CFIA Health certificate
- Inclusion of appropriate grade or standard information
- Inclusion of prescribed container information
- Inclusion of correct labelling information
- Health and safety requirements are further emphasized
- Added references to the Canadian Best Management for Honey Bee Health document
- A table outlining which templates provide needed information for honey export

If a beekeeper wants to expand into new international markets there are many forms to fill and much information which is required. Having good record keeping makes it much easier to sell honey to those markets. As long as the reputation of Canadian honey is maintained it is more likely for beekeepers to be able to break into new markets. If there are beekeepers who try to sell honey that does not meet the high standard of food safety then the image of the entire industry can be tarnished.

The entire Handbook, as well as individual templates, are available as free downloads on the CHC website. ■



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2016 CAPA Research Report



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Canada, G0A 1S0
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(418) 953-4941
pierre.giovenazzo@bio.ulaval.ca

1. Sélection génomique de lignées d'abeilles VSH (Varroa sensitive hygiene) résistantes à la varroase / Genomic selection of VSH honeybees

Principle investigator: Pierre Giovenazzo PhD
Co-Investigators: Nicolas Derome PhD (professor, University Laval)
Abstract: Objective is to identify genetic markers for VSH behavior.
Start Date: September 2015
End Date: September 2018
Total Funding for Project: \$250 000

Funding Sources: Innov'Action, Ministère de l'agriculture des pêcheries et de l'alimentation du Québec et Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault.

2. Maintien de la diversité génétique de l'abeille domestique à l'aide de méthodes de conservation de semence des faux-bourdons / Protecting the Genetic Diversity of the Honey Bee (Apis mellifera): Preservation Methods of Drone Semen

Principle Investigator: Pierre Giovenazzo PhD
Co-Investigators: Janice Bailey PhD (professor, University Laval)
Abstract: Objective is to optimize honeybee drone sperm conservation.

Start Date: September 2015
End Date: September 2017
Total Funding for Project: \$105 000

Funding Sources: Innov'Action, Ministère de l'agriculture des pêcheries et de l'alimentation du Québec et Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault.

3. BeeProbio : Stratégie durable optimisant la santé et la productivité des colonies d'abeilles mellifères / BeeProbio: Improving honey bee health with probiotics

Principle Investigators: Pierre Giovenazzo PhD and Nicolas Derome PhD

Co-Investigators: Stephen Pernal PhD

Abstract: The objective is to test efficiency of both probiotic and

nutritional supplements, independently and in combination, on honey bee health

Start Date: May 2014

End Date: September 2016

Total Funding for Project: \$540 000

Funding Sources: Agri-Innovation Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada et Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault and CRSAD.

4. PerformNuc: Renforcement de la compétitivité et de l'autosuffisance du secteur apicole par une production de nucléi avec une génétique améliorée / Strengthening competitiveness and self-sufficiency by improving nuclei production

Principle Investigator: Pierre Giovenazzo PhD

Co-Investigators: Valérie Fournier PhD (professor, University Laval)

Abstract: Objective is to survey nuclei fabrication methods Used by Québec beekeepers and evaluate their efficacy to produce strong and healthy colonies.

Start Date: September 2015

End Date: September 2018

Total Funding for Project: \$345 808

Funding Sources: Programme de soutien aux stratégies sectorielles de développement 2, Ministère de l'agriculture des pêcheries et de l'alimentation du Québec, Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec et Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault.

5. Sustaining and securing Canada's honey bees using 'omic tools

Principle Investigator: Dr. Leonard Foster (University of British Columbia) et Dr. Amro Zayed (York University)

Co-Investigators: Dr. Katherine Baylis (Univ. Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Dr. Miriam Bixby (Univ. of British Columbia) Dr. Carlos Castillo (National Bee Diagnostic Centre), Dr. Robert Currie (Univ. of Manitoba), Dr. Nicolas Derome (Université Laval), Leslie Eccles (Ontario Beekeepers Association), Dr. Valérie Fournier (Université Laval), **Dr. Pierre Giovenazzo (Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault)**, Dr. Marta Guarna (Univ. of British Columbia), Dr. Shelley Hoover (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development), Dr. Stephen Pernal (AAFC), Dr. Jianhong Wu (York University)

Abstract: Objective is to develop genomic and proteomic markers to help identify specific criteria of the honeybee.

Start Date: November 2015

End Date: March 2019

Total Funding for Project: \$7 334 000 (18% in Québec)

Funding Sources for the Québec portion : Genome Canada large scale applied research project : genomics and feeding the future; Genome Québec and Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault.

6. CRSAD Nutrition Monitoring Study

Principle Investigator: Pierre Giovenazzo PhD

Co-Investigators: Claude Dufour, Émile Houle

Project description: To monitor the health and quality of nutrition of a set of standardized honeybee colonies managed for pollination of blueberries and/or cranberries over one growing season.

Start Date: April 1, 2015

End Date: September 30, 2017

Funding Sources: Bayer CropScience and Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault

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1 - Nazre et al. Efficacy of Apivar on the Varroa Mite, Varroa destructor in Alberta, Canada. 2012 Canadian Pest Surveillance (Brandt, Research and Innovation Division, Agriculture and Rural Development // 2 - Chantzos, L, Paraskeas, N & Hatjina, F (2013) Long term effects of a food supplement HiveAlive™ on honey bee colony strength and Nosema cataractae spore counts. Journal of Apicultural Research // 3 - Increase in honeybee populations with continued use of HiveAlive. Results from long-term field trials, France 2014-2015. Trial conducted by Veto-Pharma, France

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BeeConnected helps encourage communication between beekeepers and farmers

Jillian Bender, CropLife Canada

It's well understood that honey bee health is complex and honey bees face pressures from a number of factors throughout the year including: pests and parasites like the Varroa mite, harsh weather, disease from bacteria and viruses, a lack of nutritious food sources and potential exposure to pesticides.

Fortunately, according to the 2016 stats from Statistics Canada, honey bee colony numbers continue to increase and are in fact at an all-time high. There were over 750,000 honey bee colonies in Canada and close to 10,000 beekeepers, as of the end of 2016.

"Bees and pesticides are integral and complementary components of sustainable agriculture, so we are very happy to see these numbers increasing," said Pierre Petelle, acting president and CEO CropLife Canada. "Our industry is proud to be playing a key role to ensure both beekeeping and agriculture continue to co-exist and thrive."

In 2016, CropLife Canada partnered with the Canadian Honey Council to bring BeeConnected to Canada.

BeeConnected is an app that anonymously connects registered farmers, beekeepers and pesticide applicators – free of charge. This allows them to share information about where beehives are located and when pesticide applications will happen, all through the use of a web browser, iPhone or Android device.

"We've heard from a number of groups that communication between all parties could be improved," said Petelle. "The BeeConnected app addresses this issue with an end goal of helping prevent bees from being unintentionally exposed to pesticides."

Getting started with the app is easy. Users simply visit the website (www.beeconnected.ca) or download the app from Apple store or Google Play and create an account right on their smartphone.

Farmers are then notified when a beekeeper logs a bee yard location within five kilometres of their property and beekeepers are notified when any crop activity is logged within five kilometres of their hives. All registered information is kept confidential and users are always anonymous.

Registered users can choose to use BeeConnected's built-in messaging service to coordinate and privately share information with specific users or they can broadcast their message to any relevant users registered within a five kilometre radius of their activity or hive.

Farmers, commercial pesticide applicators and beekeepers can also explore the in-app map to find any nearby activity that could affect them. But beekeepers can't see other beekeepers and farmers and pesticide applicators can't see other farmers and applicators.

Efforts like BeeConnected demonstrate the high level of interest that exists to support honey bees in Canada and to help protect them from inadvertent exposures to agricultural pesticides. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency's recent update on Canadian bee incident reports shows these efforts are having a positive impact.

Here are a few highlights:

- The number of beekeepers reporting incidents potentially associated with a pesticide spray application in Canada have been cut in half – there were seven in 2016 and 14 in 2012.

- The number of bee yards with reported incidents potentially associated with corn and soybean planting have decreased by 75 per cent from 2013.

- The number of beekeepers reporting incidents, and the severity, potentially associated with corn and soybean planting are down – there were 37 in 2016 and 89 in 2013.

"The goal of a tool like BeeConnected is to further help by improving communication between farmers and beekeepers about agricultural activity or hive locations with their neighbours," said Petelle.

To learn more about how the app works, head to beeconnected.ca. ■

BeeConnected contribue à favoriser la communication entre apiculteurs et agriculteurs

On sait bien que la santé des abeilles domestiques est une question complexe et que plusieurs facteurs exercent des pressions sur elles tout au long de l'année, notamment : les ravageurs et les parasites (tel le varroa), les intempéries, les maladies causées par les bactéries et les virus, le manque de sources d'aliments nutritifs et l'exposition potentielle aux pesticides.

Heureusement, les données de Statistique Canada pour 2016 montrent que le nombre de colonies d'abeilles continue d'augmenter. En fait, il a atteint un sommet historique : à la fin de l'an dernier, on dénombrait plus de 750 000 colonies au pays, et près de 10 000 apiculteurs.

« Les abeilles et les pesticides sont des composantes intégrales et complémentaires de l'agriculture durable, et nous sommes donc très heureux de voir que le nombre de colonies augmente, dit Pierre Petelle, président et chef de la direction par intérim de CropLife Canada. Notre industrie est fière de jouer un rôle clé pour assurer le maintien de la bonne santé et de la cohabitation harmonieuse des abeilles et de l'agriculture. »

En 2016, CropLife Canada s'est associée avec le Conseil canadien du miel afin de mettre en place au pays l'application BeeConnected.

Cette appli met en contact – gratuitement et anonymement – les agriculteurs, les apiculteurs et les entrepreneurs en pulvérisation de pesticides qui y sont inscrits, dans le but d'un échange d'informations sur les emplacements de ruches et sur les applications de pesticides à proximité de celles-ci. Tout cela, au moyen d'un navigateur Web ou d'un appareil iPhone ou Android.

« Divers groupes nous ont dit que la communication entre toutes les parties pourrait être améliorée, indique Petelle. L'appli BeeConnected vise à apporter une solution à ce problème. L'objectif ultime est de contribuer à éviter que les abeilles ne soient accidentellement exposées aux pesticides. »

La mise en route de l'appli est simple. Les utilisateurs n'ont qu'à se rendre sur le site Web (www.beeconnected.ca) ou à télécharger l'appli à partir d'iTunes ou de Google Play, puis à créer un compte directement sur leur téléphone intelligent.

Les agriculteurs reçoivent ensuite une notification lorsqu'un apiculteur consigne la mise en place d'un rucher à moins de cinq kilomètres de leur propriété, et les apiculteurs reçoivent une notification lorsqu'on inscrit une activité culturale à moins de cinq kilomètres de leurs ruches. Tous les renseignements fournis demeurent confidentiels, et les utilisateurs sont toujours anonymes.

Les utilisateurs inscrits peuvent choisir d'utiliser le service de messagerie intégré à BeeConnected pour communiquer de l'information en privé à certains autres utilisateurs, ou ils peuvent diffuser leur message auprès de tous les utilisateurs concernés se trouvant dans un rayon de cinq kilomètres autour de leur activité ou de leurs ruches.

Les producteurs agricoles, les entrepreneurs en pulvérisation et les apiculteurs peuvent aussi consulter la carte intégrée à l'appli pour vérifier si l'on prévoit dans les alentours des activités susceptibles de les affecter. Mais les apiculteurs ne peuvent pas voir sur cette carte les autres apiculteurs, et les agriculteurs et entrepreneurs en pulvérisation ne peuvent pas y voir les autres agriculteurs et entrepreneurs en pulvérisation.

Les initiatives comme BeeConnected démontrent qu'il existe au Canada un haut niveau d'intérêt à soutenir les abeilles et à aider à les protéger contre les expositions accidentelles aux pesticides agricoles. La récente mise à jour sur les déclarations d'incidents impliquant des abeilles, publiée par l'Agence de réglementation de la lutte antiparasitaire de Santé Canada, montre que ces initiatives ont des effets positifs.

En voici quelques faits saillants :

- Le nombre d'apiculteurs ayant déclaré des incidents potentiellement liés à une pulvérisation de pesticides au Canada a diminué de moitié : il est passé de 14 en 2012 à 7 en 2016.

- Le nombre de ruches pour lesquels des incidents potentiellement liés à l'ensemencement de maïs et de soya ont été déclarés au Canada a diminué de 75 % par rapport à 2013.

- Le nombre d'apiculteurs ayant déclaré des incidents potentiellement liés à l'ensemencement de maïs et de soya a diminué (de même que la gravité de ces incidents) : il est passé de 89 en 2013 à 37 en 2016.

« Le but d'un outil comme BeeConnected est de fournir une aide supplémentaire, en améliorant la communication entre agriculteurs et apiculteurs au sujet des activités agricoles ou des emplacements de ruches dans les environs », dit Petelle.

Pour en savoir plus sur le fonctionnement de cette appli, rendez-vous sur beeconnected.ca. ■

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Apiary Worker previous experience would be an asset but is not requirement as all employees receive the necessary training. Assist Apiary Technician with all aspect of hive health. Building and repair honey boxes, frames and clean extracting tools & equipment. Assist in Queen Rearing, Pulling and Extracting Honey and Yard work.

Contact: Calvin Groot. Phone: 1-306-236-3041 or 1-306-236-6924.

Email: calvingroot@xplornet.com

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

Help Wanted: Carlisle (ON)

Recruiting for 2017 Beekeeping Season

Duchman's Gold Inc. in Carlisle Ontario is now recruiting for 2017 season 1 Apiarist (Farm Manager NOC 0821)-

Requirements: college degree in Apiculture and minimum two years experience apiary technician (supervisory role): drivers license with clean driving record.

Duties: Year round management of all aspects of beekeeping operation; prepare and deliver colonies for pollination contracts; supervise and work alongside apiary technicians and workers; keep records and order supplies; operate and maintain vehicles and equipment.

This is a year round position: remuneration \$16:00 to \$20:00 /hour. Housing and vehicle available.

1 Apiary Technicians (Farm Workers NOC 8252)

Requirements: College degree or two years experience in commercial apiary; drivers license with clean driving record. Duties: Handle, Feed and care for Honey Bee colonies as seasonally required; recognize hive health issues and take remedial action; take direction from and work alongside Farm Manager; prepare colonies for honey production and pollination contracts, harvest honey crop; operate vehicles and equipment:

This is a full time, year round position that will begin in ASAP. Remuneration \$15.00 to \$18.00/ hour. Housing available.

Contact: John Van Alten, john@dutchmansgold.com or fax 905 659-6370.

Help Wanted: Granum (AB)

SUPERNUC APIARIES located near Granum, AB (M.A. 251032 TWP RD 104) has the following positions for the 2017 season. APIARY WORKERS (Low Skilled Worker NOC 8431) 4 positions; wage starting at \$13.16/hr, needed full time (45+hrs/wk) from Mar 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017. Some evening, night and weekend work will be required. Accommodations are available. 1 year experience required.

Duties include assisting with beehive maintenance and treatments, building and repairing bee equipment, moving hives, harvesting and extracting honey, and winter preparation. All wages are negotiable based on experience and productivity. A valid driver's license and the ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit and accustomed to working with honeybees.

Email resumes to aovinge@gmail.com or fax to 403-687-2154.

Seasonal Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourers and Apiary Harvest workers required for seasonal work in a commercial honey production and bee rearing operation for the 2017 season.

Five Apiary Harvest Labourer positions available for 5-7 months (starting March/April). Labourers perform (but are not limited to) tasks such as supering hives, harvesting honey, cleaning honey extraction and storage equipment; barrel filling and moving; repair, assemble and maintain hive equipment and bee equipment; bee yard maintenance. Knowledge of the industry, a valid drivers licence and English speaking skills an asset but not mandatory. Wage starts at \$10.72/hr with subsidized housing option and potential for bonuses based on performance, attitude and character.

Three apiary Harvest worker positions available for up to 8 months (March to November). Apiary Harvest Workers perform (but are not limited to) tasks such as supering hives, harvesting honey, cleaning honey extraction and storage equipment; barrel filling and moving; repair, assemble and maintain hive equipment and bee equipment; bee yard maintenance; assist with colony manipulation; assist with colony treatments; assist with moving colonies; assist with feeding colonies. Canadian beekeeping industry knowledge, 1 year experience, valid drivers licence and English skills required. Wage starts at \$11.64/hr

with subsidized housing option and potential for bonuses based on performance, attitude and character.

Availability to work long hours, evenings/nights, holidays and weekends is required for all positions. Work is faced paced and physically demanding with heavy lifting. Email resume and cover letter with references to B's Bee Ranch Inc at beeranch@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Kinistino, (SK)

Position 1

Bacon Apiaries Ltd, located in Kinistino, Saskatchewan, is looking for an Apiary worker for the 2017 honey crop season. The job will commence approximately on March 15, 2017 to Oct 31, 2017. Primary duties (but may not be limited to) includes moving hives, feeding and medicating colonies, evaluating colonies, supering hives and harvesting honey, extracting and storing of honey and repairing bee equipment. Availability to work long hours, including week-ends and evenings is required. Salary starting from \$11.75/hr to \$ 13.00/hr

Position 2

Bacon Apiaries Ltd, located in Kinistino, Saskatchewan, is looking for 5 Honey harvester labourers for the upcoming 2017 honey season. Job duties include using an automatic lift to place full honey supers on a conveyor, running honey frames through an uncapper, moving frames into an extractor, removing empty frames and putting them into supers, stacking them away, making new honey equipment and repairing existing honey equipment. Employees hours will be 40-60 hours/week (5-6 days) with wages starting at 10.65/hr to \$11.50/hr. Employment from July to September 24th 2017. Send resume to rbacon@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Surrey (BC)

Honeybee Centre is seeking 7 apiary workers, March 15 to October 15. Pay is \$13.50/hour for approximately 50 hours per week. Minimum 3 years' experience in beekeeping, including brood nest management, queen rearing, livestock production, honey production, and disease and pest control. Beekeepers are also required to clean, maintain, and assemble beekeeping equipment, and be able to operate small engine equipment, such as syrup pumps, grass trimmers, and bee blowers.

Beekeepers must be in good physical condition, able to work well with others, and be able to understand instructions in English, Spanish, or Chinese. Beekeeping protective clothing, smokers, and living accommodations are provided at a no charge. Beekeepers are responsible for their own food and luxuries.

Please apply to Mr. John Gibeau at gibeau@honeybeecentre.com. More information at www.honeybeecentre.com.

Help Wanted: Mission, (BC)

Golden Ears Apiaries Inc requires 10 Apiary Technicians (NOC 8253) at \$14.05/hr starting Feb 1, 2017 until Nov 15, 2017. Apiary Technicians must have a min of 3 seasons working fulltime (40+ hrs/wk) in a Canadian style commercial beekeeping operation. Apiary Technicians must have a good understanding of honeybee management and have the ability to independently assess hive health and make decisions regarding individual hive management. 3 Apiary workers (NOC 8431) at \$13.39/hr (40+ hrs/wk) from April 1 October 31, 2017. Apiary workers must have a min of 1 season working in a Canadian style commercial apiary as an Apiary harvester. Apiary Workers will be required to assist Apiary Technicians with day to day colony management, extracting and honey processing. 3 Apiary Harvesters/labourers (NOC 8431) Farming experience is an asset but will train. Starting wage is \$12.21/hr. From April 1 October 31, 2017 All positions may require some evening, night & weekend work. All applicants must be in good physical condition and able to work in a team environment. English is an asset as well as a valid driving license work will be in southern BC (Fraser Valley) and Elk Point, AB. Accommodations available. Contact JeanMarc Le Dorze 33197 Ito Place, Mission, BC V2V3W7 or by email: jeanmarcleedorze@gmail.com

Classifieds: Honey Bees and Supplies for Sale and Wanted

Honey Bees For sale:

All Hives are on 2 way pallets:
1000 Double brood Hives, w/2016 Queens
1200 single brood Hives, w/2017 Queens
800 - 5 frame wooden Nucs: w/2017 Queens available late May. Contact: Ron @ 204-381-4529 or email rtloewen@hotmail.com for more info. Delivery available or pickup in Brandon MB area

For Sale

Large quantity of 4 frame Nucs with 2017 California queens. Available early May. 500 + Colonies of Honey Bees. Strong single brood chamber hives with 2016 Queens. Available mid May. For details or to place an order, contact John Van Alten. Cell 905-536-6371, or email john@dutchmansgold.com.

PRE-ORDER:

Newly produced fresh royal jelly and bee pollen will be available around mid May. Please contact mikibeeefarm@gmail.com for more information.

FOR SALE

Large quantity of nucs available in early May with 2017 California queen. Singles and doubles available year round with Caspian queens that we raised. Call for pricing and availability. Jean-Marc 778 882-6254

FOR SALE

-180 brood boxes with 10 frames drawn comb and a new wax dipped box. Can sell frames separately. \$4/comb or \$55/new box with comb.
-450 new wax dipped box \$14.77/box
-4- 2500lb. bolt on torsion suspension hubs with 14" tire and rims \$550.00
-28ga. galv. metal bent for standard hive lids- 16-3/4"x20-1/4"x1/2" lip
-\$4.80/pc.(300pcs)and 4 frame nuc lids 8-1/2"x20-1/4"x1/2"lip-\$3.96/pc(200pcs)
- 4 frame nucs with 2016 local queens- call for pricing and availability. Austin, MB. call: 204-872-2398, email: canbeeaman@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

2017 3 Frame Nuc 3 frames of bee covered brood and a young wintered queen. Expected pick up date, end of May. Price: \$180
Location: Steinbach, MB. Contact: Alex Reich cell (204) 381-3866, or home (204) 326-8182. Email: alex_reich63@yahoo.ca

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300+ strong healthy 4 - frame nucs available from May through August. B.C. raised queens also available. Our nucs consist of 3 frames of brood, 1 frame of honey/pollen and 1 young laying queen in full depth equipment. 200 strong pollination hives for rent in cherries,apples,blueberries and raspberries. Contact Matt at Nagy Apiaries for pricing and order details 250-306-9896 or email - nagylandscaping@shaw.ca

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500 + Colonies of Honey Bees. Strong single brood chamber hives with 2016 Queens. Available mid May.
For details or to place an order, contact John Van Alten. Cell 905-536-6371, or email john@dutchmansgold.com

WANTED

Used 60 frame Cowan extracting line. Phone 519-245-5361 Dan Walker or email walkerb65@hotmail.com

FOR SALE:

PACIFIC QUEENS hybrid Italian queens from CHILE. Hygienic behavior and pollen production. Available JANUARY through MAY. apiculturarey@gmail.com. Contact Alejandra and Francisco Rey for more information.

FOR SALE: Chilean Queens

Order now for the 2017 honey season. We have Chilean Queens, 1.2kg Honeybee Packages for sale with Queens available from March until the first week of June and Chilean packages are available from March to April. In the middle of May until June we have 4 Frame Nucs with a new Queen that are locally produced and from June until the first week of September Alberta/ BC Local queens are available. Please contact us either by email or telephone for pricing & delivery dates. Chris Stewart (403)427-0472/ castanedastewart@honeyco.com / www.castanedastewart@honeyco.com or Lorne Newby at (250)506-0015/ dchcgutter@gmail.com

FOR SALE

4 frame nucs (200) and hives (100+ singles) for sale end of April to early May 2017. Prices dependent on size of order. To be picked up in Grand Forks, BC. Contact: Terry at lizandterry@gmail.com

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18/9 extractor, 115V, VS control, stainless steel
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Location: Maple Ridge BC. Contact: Ian Fisher 604-209-2767
Email: ian@honeybuilders.com

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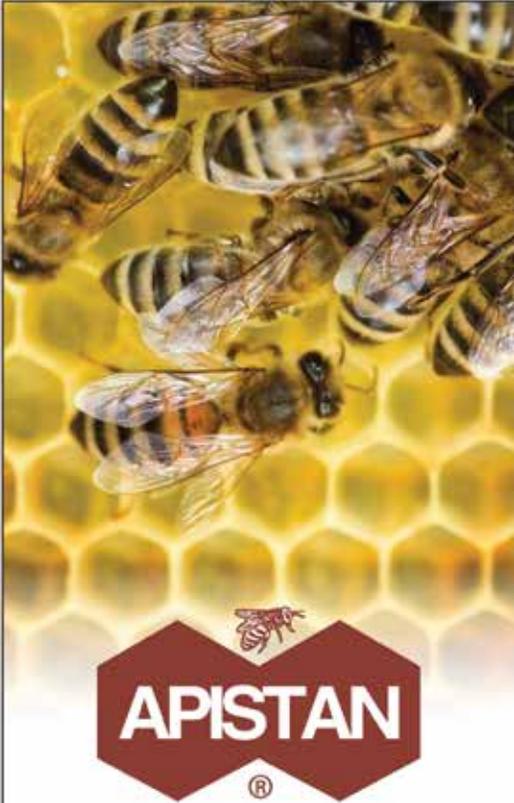
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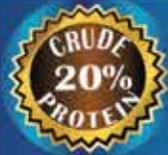
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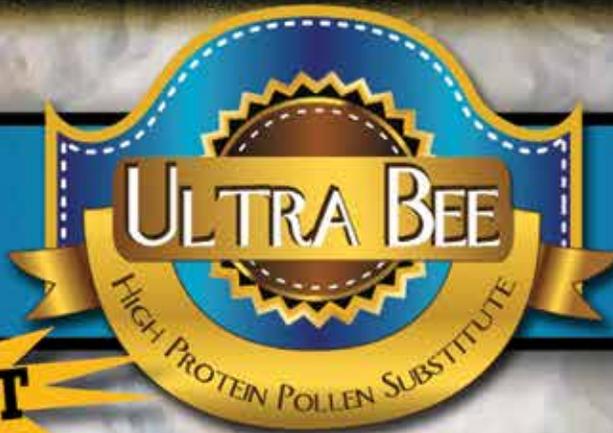
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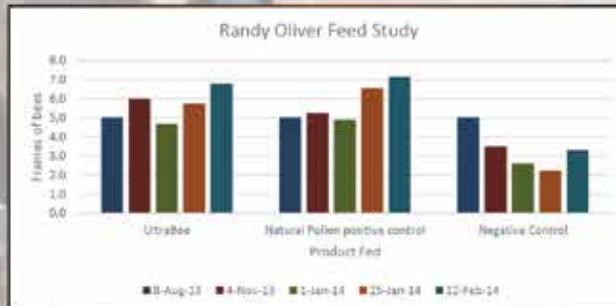
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