

**Impacts of
Covid-19 on
Canadian
Beekeeping
in 2020:
Part 1**



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Summer 2021 | Vol 34 # 3

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

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Table of Contents

3	Canadian Honey Council Report	Rod Scarlett
5	Regional Reports	CHC Directors
9	Cover Story.....	Harry Meier
9	Williams Racing Welcomes Honibe® as Official Partner	
10	U.S. Beekeepers Anti-Dumping Case	Rod Scarlett
12	Honey Trade Statistics	Stephen Page
15	News from NOD	
16	Preliminary Report on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2021)	CAPA
19	How Fondant Can Help You and Your Bees	Dara Scott
23	Governments Providing Additional Supports for Ontario Beekeepers	
25	Impacts of Covid-19 on Canadian Beekeeping in 2020: Part 1	Matthew Polinsky, Miriam Bixby, M. Martha Guarna
28	Help Wanted	

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MADE IN FINLAND

Canadian Honey Council Report



Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC

All exporters of honey know that it is important that they test their honey before any export sales. Countries set maximum residue levels (MRL's) often, but not exclusively for public health standards. Sometimes, however, an MRL is established to hinder or prevent sales, to lower the expectation of a price, or perhaps based on "iffy" science. As Canadians, we rely on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to set MRL's and ensure that those MRL's are science based. It is therefore confusing to say the least when a country we may be exporting to sets an MRL that is extremely low for a substance we consider safe. It is imperative, however, that exporters of honey adhere to those guidelines as the implications may be far reaching.

For example, Japan can, and has blocked the importation of honey from a country because over 5% of the total exports exceeded an existing default MRL. This may not sound ominous but let us say we only exported one half million pounds of honey to Japan. One beekeeper exported 25,000 lbs without testing and not knowing the consequences. Japan could shut down all imports and everyone suffers. I am using Japan as an example but as we strive for more international markets it could be any country. The importance of testing, and keeping samples to verify tests, is increasingly important as we look at more and more international sales opportunities.

As we move to post Covid life, the Canadian Honey Council has booked a large num-

ber of international trade shows to promote the sales of Canadian honey and other related products. We are upgrading our "Honey Exporters' Catalogue" (which can be found on our website at <https://honeycouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CHC-Honey-Exporters-Catalogue.pdf>) If you are interested in being included, please contact me.

While the matter of adulterated honey is a world-wide problem, here in Canada we still have a way to go to do our part. Increased testing using state of the art technology continues to be a priority. The introduction on store shelves of things like honey spreads and vegan honey have focussed our attention on labelling issues. Consumers who buy something labelled honey should be assured that what they get is real honey, not some variation thereof. In California, a laboratory has developed a chemical honey that mirrors the characteristics of naturally produced honey and it is set to hit the market. These developments have thrust the CHC Honey committee into action as we are working with CFIA to clarify myriad of labelling concerns. It is not right that adulterated honey could be stopped at the border, but the same product could show up on the store shelf labelled honey spread. Descriptive terms such as "raw" and "pasteurized" need to be looked at and their relevancy examined. If the pandemic taught us one thing it is that the Canadian consumer will support domestic product, and it is incumbent for us to ensure that what we tell consumers about our product is true. ■



In Beekeeping, Timing is Everything

A Devastating Discovery

It started in October, his bees were absconding. Discovering colony loss is heartbreaking, no matter how many years you've been beekeeping. When beekeeping is your business, this loss has an all-too-real impact on the future of your company and family. That's what Peter Chorabik was faced with two years ago when his Ontario colonies were cut in half, lost to the devastating Varroa mite.

A Timely Wake Up Call

For years, Peter's go-to treatment was multiple applications of oxalic acid in the fall, which kept losses around 30% — an acceptable reality for his business and region. When his apiaries were hit hard by Varroa mites two years ago, he spent some time rethinking his treatment plan. Peter recalls working with oxalic acid, "Something always seemed to be going wrong." Despite being a cheaper product upfront, Peter often faced unexpected costs and unavoidable delays. He needed to rebuild, but also find a more reliable Varroa treatment that would ensure further growth for his apiaries.

He turned to *Formic Pro*, adding a mid-summer treatment of this all-natural product made with formic acid that targets Varroa mites where they reproduce, under the brood cap. This results in higher efficacy rates compared to oxalic acid, which only kills phoretic or dispersal phase mites

found on adult bees. Plus, the ready-to-use strips meant *Formic Pro* would be a dependable, scalable application solution.

Commercial Apiaries Can't Afford Setbacks

As viruses compound, it becomes even more critical to get mite loads under control before the winter brood is produced. In Peter's case, waiting to treat with oxalic acid until after his honey harvest was too little, too late. By adding *Formic Pro* to his treatment plan, he was able to safely treat during the summer honey flow to ensure the bees hatching in early fall are healthy. This more flexible and effective treatment properly protects and prepares his colonies for winter.

"We had 30% more honey because the bees overwintered better."

Bouncing Back

Just two years after his heartbreaking discovery, their apiaries have bounced back to more than 500 colonies. Peter is proud to report an overall survival rate of 84% this past winter after using *Formic Pro*. He consults his records, "We had 30% more honey because the bees overwintered better." Going into spring with stronger bees, Peter looks forward to even more productivity from his hives this year. 🐝



In 2012, Peter Chorabik began his beekeeping venture with just two hives. After some hard work, he and his wife, Sarah Allinson-Chorabik, turned those hobby hives into a commercial operation with 500 colonies. They now run two full-time businesses: *Toronto Bee Rescue* and *Ontario Honey Creations*.



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Regional Reports



Atlantic



Chris Lockhart

Pollination season has come and gone. Besides some isolated frost issues it sounds like blueberry pollination season went well. The bees came through winter looking better than they have in many years. It has been extremely difficult to stay on top of them and seems like the bees have decided that they wanted to swarm this season.....a lot.

Most people I have spoken with dealt with many swarms, sometimes even if the bees still have room. Hopefully the bees settle down in the next month or so and we can have look forward to a half decent crop. As long as we receive more rain than last year we should be in good shape.

Hopefully I will be able to meet some of you face to face again in the near future. Best of luck the rest of summer.

Québec



Maggie Lamothe Boudreau

Quel printemps! Notre été québécois augure bien!

Beaucoup de chaleurs et de soleil. Le printemps a été beaucoup plus hâtif que celui des dernières années. Ceci a occasionné une floraison beaucoup plus rapide du bleuets et de la canneberge. La pollinisation de ces cultures a donc été devancée d'une à deux semaines. Les prix par ruche sont beaucoup plus intéressants cette année. Plusieurs apiculteurs ont pu obtenir un prix de 175\$ la ruche. Malheureusement, cette pollinisation a été entrecoupée par une gelée tardive qui a tué une partie des fleurs. Il s'en est fallu de peu pour que les apiculteurs soient obligés de retirer leur ruche des bleuetières une semaine après leur arrivée. Certains secteurs le Saguenay Lac-Saint-Jean ont été beaucoup plus affectés que d'autres. En effet, pendant que pour certains le miel de bleuets coulait à flot d'autres ont dû nourrir leurs ruches durant la pollinisation. La saison continue d'être à l'avance avec l'entrée hâtive des ruches pour la pollinisation de la canneberge.

Cette année nous avons eu une miellée extraordinaire offerte par le pissenlit. Elle a d'ailleurs occasionné chez plusieurs apiculteurs des problématiques d'essaimage. En effet notre association a reçu beaucoup d'appels afin d'obtenir de l'aide pour récolter

des essaims qui se retrouvait parfois à des endroits problématiques.

Finalement, il semble y avoir quelques cas résurgents du petit coléoptère de la ruche dans le sud du Québec. Le Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire du Québec suit le dossier de très près afin de l'éliminer le plus rapidement possible de notre territoire.

Sur ce je vous souhaite un superbe été.

.....

What a spring! Hope it's a good omen for our summer as well!

Lots of heat and sun. Spring has been much warmer and earlier than in recent years. This resulted in a much faster flowering of blueberries and cranberries. The pollination of these crops was therefore anticipated by one to two weeks. Prices per hive are much more interesting this year. Several beekeepers were able to obtain \$175 per hive. Unfortunately, this pollination was interspersed with a late frost that killed some of the flowers. We came awfully close to being forced to remove our hives from the blueberry fields a week after their arrival. Some areas of Saguenay Lac-Saint-Jean were much more affected than others. For some the honey flowed, others needed to feed their hives sugar syrup. The season continues to be in advance with the early entry of hives for cranberry pollination.

This year we have an extraordinary honey crop from the dandelion. It also caused several headaches to beekeepers with swarming hives. Indeed, our association received many calls for help to remove swarms.

Finally, there seems to be a small resurgence of the small hive beetle in southern Quebec. The Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire du Québec is following the case very closely in order to eliminate it as quickly as possible from our territory.

With that I wish you a great summer.

Ontario



Albert Devries

This past spring will be known for the large amount of swarms. The winter was mild and pollen was available early. The good hives built up quickly. Then there was cold weather with some rain that kept the bees in the hives late April and early May. Many hives swarmed if you didn't get to them fast enough. Thankfully it was over reasonably quickly and the bees



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have settled down and started to collect honey. Most of the province seems to have good conditions for honey production. Many beekeepers are optimistic about harvesting a good honey crop. The OBA is pleased to welcome Colette Mesher to the position of Tech-transfer lead. Colette has been involved with the OBA for several years as a member then as a director. She is now as our TTP lead. I look forward to seeing the directions she leads the team. I wish everyone a good honey harvest and a safe summer. I hope we can see each other in person soon.

Manitoba



Osee Podolsky

The bees are buzzing, the sun is shining, splitting season has come and gone, and the bees are waiting for the honey flow around the corner. This Spring has been an interesting one in Manitoba, many temperature fluctuations, although it seems that the bees have still been able to build up well with most beekeepers reporting being satisfied with how their hives are looking going into honey flow. Some beekeepers

are reporting queen mating issues due to the high winds that we have been seeing this spring. The lack of rain has proved to be problematic; the majority of the province got a good 3–4-inch soaking rain to get the crops germinated, although for some farmers the timing was just too late so some were forced to reseed. The combination of heat and wind has dried the fields up to dust again, and bugs have been wreaking havoc on the crops, there has been a lot of spraying insecticides to stop further damage to the already suffering crops. We ourselves have been holding off from moving our bees out of our spring buildup yards into our honey production yards in fear of having hive deaths due to spraying. Most beekeepers are optimistic on this year's honey flow, especially if we get some good rains to provide moisture for the crops and the heat doesn't get too high to stress and burn up the canola blossoms.

Saskatchewan



Jake Berg

Scarlett Charter Service was another great success this spring. Although the third flight could not happen due the economic threshold not being met. The other two flights were a great success!! A huge thank you to Cheryl and Rod Scarlett for once again going above and beyond for Canadian beekeepers. At this point it appears that commercial flights should be available for the fall of 2021 for returning

TFW to their countries of origin.

If you haven't already, please make an effort to make Covid-19 vaccinations available to your TFW while their in Canada. Being fully vaccinated will hopefully make re-entry into Canada next spring much easier.

Winter loss in Saskatchewan was quite low this past year. It was nice to see the results of the winter loss so early. Saskatchewan is at 13.7%. It will be interesting to see what the national average is once CAPA has input from all the provinces and does the calculation

for the national mortality rate.

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission hosted a virtual field day on the ending of June 29. This event was well attended and well received by all involved. As the country opens back up, hopefully we can have an in-person meeting in the fall.

The CHC Board is still planning on attending food shows as the world reopens. We have booked and cancelled, rebooked and cancelled at multiple food shows around the world. I'm sure we will may have to do this a few more times. But once the world opens up and it's safe to travel once again, CHC will participate in food shows and exhibitions around the world promoting Canadian honey in new global markets. I'm confident this will benefit and strengthen Canadian honey sales.

Alberta



Curtis Miedema

Here we are already, half of 2021 behind us and it so far the weather has been kind to us up here in north central Alberta. Bees are building up well and we have just about wrapped up our queen rearing program on our farm. Seems there is so much bee and equipment prep and management to do before the honey crop arrives in roughly a month. Overall Beekeepers are feeling optimistic for the crop, and many producers see good amounts of dandelion honey on their hives already. Seems work force and queens have arrived as needed which is a huge relief in these uncertain times. Wishing everyone a safe and productive honey season.

Alberta



Ron Greidanus

I remember reading the Alberta Bee News years ago in which an article by an Alberta beekeeper stood out to me. It had been a tough summer and the crop that had been produced that season had been disappointing—it had not met the expectations that producers had been hoping for. Other quotes and Truisms that stand out in my mind come from a few movies that I have seen over the years. Lines like the one that the grandmother says to Steve Martin in Father of the Bride, "I like the roller coaster best..." or in Braveheart, "all men die but not all men Live." Or from Act of Valour, "One twig is easily broken, but a bundle of twigs can not..."

I was moving the last of my hives into Canola pollination, thinking about what to put into my report.... I have been so busy that I have not spoken to many other producers to be able to give a good account of what is going on, but then if I gave a factual report, perhaps that would be as dry as the dust that is swirling at my feet in this heat as I sit and write... perhaps regaling you with a tale of hope would be more appropriate.

On my first night of moving bees, I was sure that I had all my bases covered: Trucks had the oil changed and were greased and running like tops; the trailer had new bearings in each wheel

and the lights all worked, brakes were set. Hives were busting bees hanging off the bottom bars. The hives had been requested 10 days earlier than expected. Ready to go!!!

We got to the first yard, it was a little overcast so we got an early start – 6:00 pm, 32 hives, and had it loaded in 15 minutes. (I defy anyone to try and move bees faster than I can in my Case SV250 skid steer) Second yard 48 hives loaded 20 minutes later – it was now 7:15 pm. As me and my iudante pulled into the third yard, I hear a whistle – the ones employees make when they urgently need to call your attention.

“The trailer only has three wheels, Boss, the trailer only has three wheels!”

“what”

“The trailer only has three wheels.”

“@#%\$#@! #@\$%#@#!”

That ended the great start to the season that most producers were quietly optimistic about.

What to do now? Unload the truck, or keep loading? Make the run or call the pollination company and tell'em, “Not tonight – I got a headache.” This is the rollercoaster of life. Just when I find myself full throttle headed straight towards the goal, a curve in the path that I had not seen coming exerts G-forces on my mind that are completely unexpected and unwelcome. In these moments it is really tough to stay optimistic or to remind myself that life would be extremely boring if everything went perfectly all the time.

I took a few moments and picked up my phone. First call was to the other employees to bring another truck and look for the wheel, perhaps we could repair the trailer and still make a good run. One look at the spindle on the trailer and those hopes evaporated as quickly as a puddle of Spit on the sidewalk in Osoyoos did yesterday. Second call was to my brother who also pollinates – did he have equipment to unload hives in the Taber area? No, but he did have an employee who would be willing to go and take a machine to unload me. Excellent, this meant that I could keep loading and move my first load. We loaded the third yard and drove the skid steer to the fourth location and loaded it as well. So much for my speed record. I am not a very patient man, so sitting and waiting for my man to drive the skid steer the three miles to the next location just about killed me.

The rest of the night went without a hitch (literally) and no more problems. As it turns out, the man my brother sent to unload us was my man's next door neighbour – they had a good visit in some obscure quarter section in the middle of the flat lands just north of Taber. Unfortunately, Tim Hortons wasn't open and I couldn't even buy them a coffee....

Its nice when twigs are bundled together and the one small twig that is easily broken has the support of those twigs that are around him.

As it is, my trailer is still broken awaiting a new axle which is on order, all my hives are moved in thanks to the generosity of 4 different beekeepers in the area: My brother, LeRoy Poelman, Miegers, and the HoneyMill. I could not have done it without you. Thank You!

Its easy to get lost in the stresses of life: chasing the dollar, Striving to achieve and feeling like your floundering to keep your head above water. It is easy to become discouraged when looking

at a forecast that spells disaster. I was battling discouragement driving home through sunbaked fields and scorching heat. What happened to the promising spring? I had so hoped that this would be the year that everything would come together.

“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your bread” Genesis 3:19

I had an epiphany of sorts driving home in a sleep deprived state: I can do nothing about the weather, I am powerless to put a single drop of honey into my hives; life is always going to a rollercoaster that is ridden wearing a blind fold. And when it is all over, all that I have worked for, no one will remember it. What will be remembered is the friendship that I offered others, the love I gave my children and my wife. What will last well beyond my leaving footprints in the bee locations in which I tread, is the kindness I show to others; the integrity with which I conduct myself, whether I made the lives of those around me better or if I made them worse.

Who knows what tomorrow will bring? So, as we all sit with bated breath awaiting the harvest that is yet to be, stay optimistic – we all need money to live but it isn't everything – we were all born naked with nothing and that is how we will leave. The life we live is a gift – lets give back to those around us, to those that we care about and the complete stranger. May all our epitaphs read, “My life was better because (Your Name) was a part of it.”

British Columbia

No report at this time.

The advertisement is for Dancing Bee Equipment, featuring a yellow and black header with the company logo. The logo includes contact information for Port Hope and Winnipeg. The main product is the 'Hogg Comb Honey System', which is described as a 'Ready to go! Place on a strong colony to produce delicious comb honey.' The ad lists features: 'Coated with pure beeswax', 'Efficiently produce comb honey', 'Comes fully assembled', and 'Readily accepted by bees'. It also mentions that the kit includes 40 cassettes in 10 frame honey supers, each yielding a 10-12 ounce section. The bottom of the ad provides online shopping information, a Canadian flag with '100% Canadian Made' text, and a Facebook link.

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Cover Story

Harry Meier

I have been trying to find out a little more information about the beautiful apple blossom photo I had sent you. A great history resource - "Women of Pender Harbour" published in 1990 by the Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society has a large collection of stories and photos documenting the pioneering families and memorable events from "yester-year". One of these young families left England about 130 years ago and is part of this story.

The vacant overgrown corner of the property where this old red fleshed apple tree is located is in Pender Harbour, about 45 minutes drive from Sechelt, B.C. The "present day" owners of this plot of land and their neighbours concur that the original owner of the cottage that was on the property belonged to a grandson of an adventurer from England. He and his wife and young family began their new start in Canada in the Gastown area of Vancouver in 1888. Five years later this couple with their five children and belongings rowed 4 days to Pender Harbour and settled at Irvine's Landing. By 1900 two additional children were born into the family, and then 6 years later in 1906 pre-empted land further up the coast on Nelson Island. The family homesteaded their 160 acres with their 7 children and established a large fruit orchard, berry farm and garden, that was augmented with fishing and hunting. fast forward to the latter 1940's when a grandson of this pioneer family and his wife purchased a cottage in the Pender Harbour area, and



this is where the old, bear damaged apple tree is today. No one knows for sure where the tree originated, and the bees are not concerned about who planted the seed or the tree. They are just happy that it was blooming and providing fresh pollen for their colony. Our Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Association have two club members that live in Pender Harbour, about 1 km. from this tree, so this "busy forager" is quite likely from either Jim or Rob's hives. This summer I'll try to check on the apples before the bear does, and try another photo of that branch. ■

Williams Racing Welcomes Honibe® as Official Partner

Williams Racing is delighted to welcome Honibe (pronounced honey-bee) as an Official Partner of the team ahead of the 2021 FIA Formula One season.

With a focus on quality and purity, Honibe creates convenient honey-centric solutions for consumers to solve ailments and promote wellness using Honey For Health™. The company's mantra is to deliver honey in innovative and convenient products that contribute to your health and wellness in a way that only honey can: purely, naturally, effectively, and with the fewest ingredients possible.

The partnership will focus on broadening the awareness of the Honibe brand globally through the reach of Formula One and Williams Racing, providing a platform for growth. The essence of the partnership comes from a commitment to support the validation and credibility of the full range of Honibe products, identifying and showcasing use cases to demonstrate the benefits of Honibe products to all and for all.

Honibe will have prominent branding on the FW43B, appearing on the nose, headrest surround area and be on the sleeve of our race drivers, George Russell and Nicholas Latifi, and senior personnel's team kit from the Bahrain GP onwards.

Tim Hunt, Commercial and Marketing Director for Williams Racing, said: "I am delighted to welcome Honibe as a new Official Partner of Williams Racing. The journey we are embarking on with Honibe is unique and built around a shared agenda to deliver sustainable business growth. Honibe focuses on how social and environmental responsibil-



ity play a role in business and we look forward to working together to uncover shared opportunities within the partnership. With Honibe coming from the Dorilton-owned group of companies, this partnership is another demonstration of the new commercial direction for Williams and we look forward to creating a unique integrated approach that helps grow Honibe's audience on a global scale by demonstrating the benefits of their products to all and for all."

John Rowe, CEO of Island Abbey Foods® says this unique partnership supports Honibe's mission to bring natural honey products to every family. "We believe in the natural healing powers of honey," says Rowe. "We have been successful in providing consumers with convenient honey-based solutions to promote health & wellness while retaining all the benefits of honey. We are very excited with the partnership with Williams Racing as it aligns with our efforts to extend our reach to other markets and further drive our goal of promoting Honey For Health™ around the world." ■

U.S. Beekeepers Anti-Dumping Case

Submitted by Rod Scarlett, CHC

On June 4, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) unanimously determined that there was a reasonable indication that unfairly traded imports of raw honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, Ukraine, and Vietnam were injuring the U.S. industry producing raw honey.

Back on April 21, 2021, the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) and Sioux Honey Association (SHA) filed petitions with the ITC and Department of Commerce (DOC) for relief from dumped imports of raw honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

On May 18, 2021, the DOC published a notice initiating the investigations in the Federal Register, with estimated dumping

margins of 9.75 to 49.44 percent for Argentina, 83.72 percent for Brazil, 27.02 to 88.48 percent for India, 9.49 to 92.94 percent for Ukraine, and 47.56 to 138.23 percent for Vietnam.

DOC is scheduled to issue preliminary determinations of dumping in mid-November, at which point preliminary duties will go into effect, and importers will be obligated to begin paying cash deposits at the time of importation.

The American Honey Producers are accepting donations to offset the cost of bringing the anti-dumping action forward and if you would like to contribute you can send your donation to:

The American Honey Producers Association
PO. Box 435
Mendon, Utah 84325



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Honey Trade Statistics

submitted by Stephen Page

Honey Exports to Canada

	2020/Jan		2020/Feb		2020/Mar		2020/Apr		2020/May	
	C\$	KG	C\$	KG	C\$	KG	C\$	KG	C\$	KG
Total	2,864,090	593,332	3,433,797	763,545	3,550,690	746,988	2,492,646	509,136	3,904,133	761,872
Japan	1,316,494	268,316	1,712,091	334,134	1,336,579	256,167	1,214,342	253,276	2,609,445	497,967
United States of America	1,186,743	249,303	1,491,192	378,534	2,018,118	464,507	1,060,839	210,962	1,158,604	239,579
China	27,228	6,041	159,302	28,519	29,171	5,373	152,375	26,558	22,666	4,121
Hong Kong	58,071	10,559	1,181	212	1,006	177	0	0	448	81
Korea, South	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	160,480	40,120	0	0	160,480	20,033	0	0	80,240	14,589
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	61,385	10,049	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kuwait	37,481	6,859	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	56,396	19,760	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taiwan	3,668	427	6,696	1,217	0	0	4,212	766	7,689	1,398
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	48,061	15,370	0	0
Barbados	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,625	2,169	0	0
Bermuda	2,669	362	2,129	296	4,893	626	0	0	8,583	1,163
Singapore	0	0	4,428	805	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	9,487	1,240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,926	2,892
Viet Nam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	215	35	261	46	199	36	192	35	453	73
Laos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	167	21	121	22	40	5	0	0	79	9
OTHER	2	0	0	0	204	64	0	0	0	0

	2020/Jun		2020/Jul		2020/Aug		2020/Sep		2020/Oct	
	C\$	KG	C\$	KG	C\$	KG	C\$	KG	C\$	KG
Total	3,159,395	635,517	2,313,012	386,340	4,847,186	1,016,975	4,556,213	947,256	3,846,067	759,291
Japan	1,801,930	372,720	1,491,681	255,653	633,477	100,081	845,842	135,698	1,407,732	245,634
United States of America	938,814	185,126	442,415	57,420	3,825,018	847,966	2,768,787	635,426	2,049,975	444,350
China	324,652	59,956	240,000	46,268	167,135	26,861	25,688	4,349	257,229	43,214
Hong Kong	1,035	194	1,944	366	429	78	522,996	94,191	634	115
Korea, South	0	0	89,779	18,084	89,779	18,084	359,117	72,336	110,728	22,304
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	109,080	19,833	4,222	767	0	0
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,760	1,398	0	0
India	70,312	13,180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kuwait	0	0	22,746	4,051	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taiwan	0	0	5,114	636	7,339	1,367	2,400	436	2,520	540
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barbados	13,032	2,824	0	0	0	0	10,421	1,933	0	0
Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,078	434	0	0
Singapore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,063	921
Lebanon	0	0	12,366	2,248	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	0	0	4,954	901	0	0	0	0	11,764	2,139
Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Viet Nam	0	0	0	0	14,400	2,618	0	0	0	0
Philippines	7,163	1,152	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	1,774	670	0	0	1,902	288	0	0
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	573	90	239	43	483	81	0	0	321	58
Laos	1,631	232	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	186	31	0	0	40	5	0	0	101	16
OTHER	67	12	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0

	2020/Nov		2020/Dec		2020 Full Year		Dec Prices		2020 Average Prices
	C\$	KG	C\$	KG	C\$	KG	per pound		per pound
Total	5,671,424	1,011,299	6,732,400	1,177,757	47,371,053	9,309,308	\$ 2.60		\$ 2.31
Japan	3,936,347	690,777	5,428,759	951,790	23,734,719	4,362,213	\$ 2.59		\$ 2.47
United States of America	1,242,056	225,932	1,180,073	204,252	19,362,634	4,143,357	\$ 2.63		\$ 2.12
China	195,446	35,372	47,026	8,750	1,647,918	295,382	\$ 2.44		\$ 2.54
Hong Kong	85,893	11,481	14,435	2,490	688,072	119,944	\$ 2.64		\$ 2.61
Korea, South	0	0	21,133	3,920	670,536	134,728	\$ 2.45		\$ 2.26
Germany	178,534	42,296	0	0	579,734	117,038			\$ 2.25
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	113,302	20,600			\$ 2.50
United Kingdom	1,080	199	19,163	3,484	93,388	15,130	\$ 2.50		\$ 2.81
India	0	0	0	0	70,312	13,180			\$ 2.42
Kuwait	0	0	0	0	60,227	10,910			\$ 2.51
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	56,396	19,760			\$ 1.30
Taiwan	8,446	1,152	5,424	986	53,508	8,925	\$ 2.50		\$ 2.73
Greece	0	0	0	0	48,061	15,370			\$ 1.42
Barbados	9,158	1,684	0	0	45,236	8,610			\$ 2.39
Bermuda	4,298	695	0	0	25,650	3,576			\$ 3.26
Singapore	0	0	15,427	1,930	24,918	3,656	\$ 3.63		\$ 3.10
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	21,853	3,488			\$ 2.85
United Arab Emirates	4,934	897	0	0	21,652	3,937			\$ 2.50
Guyana	0	0	0	0	15,926	2,892			\$ 2.50
Viet Nam	150	27	0	0	14,550	2,645			\$ 2.50
Philippines	4,673	720	0	0	11,836	1,872			\$ 2.87
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	3,676	958			\$ 1.74
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	143	19	200	36	3,279	552	\$ 2.53		\$ 2.70
Laos	0	0	684	110	2,315	342	\$ 2.83		\$ 3.08
France	0	0	76	9	810	118	\$ 3.84		\$ 3.12
OTHER	266	48	0	0	545	125			\$ 1.98

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Announcing Nod Apiary Honey Bee Health & Education Centre

NOD is excited to announce that our Head Office location is set to move to larger facilities in Quinte West from Frankford Road, Frankford to Sidney Street, Trenton.

The Bee Protection Business is a Buzzing Success

The new facility will have quick and easy access to HWY 401 with up to 21,000 square feet, which makes it nearly three times larger than the previous space. The new facility will provide NOD staff with much-needed space to accommodate its astronomical growth.

A Brand New Indoor / Outdoor Education Centre

Over the next few months NOD will continue to work with local contractors to give the building a face-lift to inspire creativity and productivity that reflects the innovative culture of NOD. The facility features technology-enabled conference rooms and hexagon stations where teams can collaborate. An exciting addition to the new HQ will be NOD's future Honey Bee Health & Education Centre, offering mentorship and educational resources to the local community and our international partners.

NOD's current home at 2325 Frankford Road, Frankford will continue to operate as a secondary GMP manufacturing plant. Everyone at NOD is looking forward to when we can all come together and celebrate the opening of the new facility! ■



Nod Expands Team With Honey Bee Health Researcher

We are proud to announce the addition of Dr. Heather Broccard-Bell to the NOD Apiary Products Ltd. team as our new Honey Bee Health Researcher. This is an exciting and inspiring time for us, as we expand our team to deepen our commitment to innovation, quality and education for the betterment of the global beekeeping community.

Dr. Broccard-Bell will assist the company in establishing the NOD Apiary Honey Bee Health & Education Centre that will provide hands-on beekeeping courses through mentorship. This new endeavour aligns perfectly with Dr. Heather Broccard-Bell's new role and her passion for delivering interactive educational lectures on Honey Bees. Dr. Broccard-Bell has devoted many years to teaching and researching Honey Bee Health, making her a fantastic fit to lead NOD's research and education programs. Visit our website to read the press release.

Please join us in welcoming Heather to our team! ■





Preliminary report on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2021)

Prepared by CAPA National Survey Committee and Provincial Apiarists: Julie Ferland and Gabrielle Claing (co-chairs), Melanie Kempers, Karen Kennedy, Paul Kozak, Rhéal Lafrenière, Chris Maund, Cameron Menzies, Samantha Muirhead, Medhat Nasr, Lynae Ovinge, Steve Pernal, Jason Sproule, Paul van Westendorp, Geoff Wilson and Shelley Hoover

This report presents the **preliminary data** collected by the provinces of Canada regarding honey bee losses for the winter of 2020-2021. The final data will be published in the annual Statement on honey bee wintering losses in Canada. There may be minor discrepancies between results in the preliminary and final reports.

Methodology

Beekeepers that owned and operated a specified minimum number of colonies (Table 1) were included in the survey. The survey reported data from full-sized producing honey bee colonies that were wintered in Canada, but not nucleus (partial) colonies. Thus, the information gathered provides a valid assessment of honey bee losses and commercial management practices.

The common definitions of a honey bee colony and a commercially viable honey bee colony in spring were standardized as follows:

- Honey Bee Colony: A full-sized honey bee colony either in a single or double brood chamber, not including nucleus colonies (splits).
- Viable Honey Bee Colony in Spring: A honey bee colony that survived winter, with a minimum of 4 frames with 75% of the comb area covered with bees on both sides on May 1st

(British Columbia), May 15th (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince-Edward-Island and Quebec) or May 21st (Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador).

The colony loss and management questionnaire was provided to producers using various methods of delivery including mail, email, an online and a telephone survey; the method of delivery varied by jurisdiction (Table 1). In each province, data were collected and analyzed by the Provincial Apiarist. All reported provincial results were then analyzed and summarized at the national level. The national percent winter loss was calculated as follows:

Percentage Winter Loss

$$= \left(\frac{\text{Sum of the estimated total colony losses per province in spring 2021}}{\text{Sum of total colonies in operation in each province for 2020}} \right) \times 100$$

Preliminary results

The survey delivery methods, size of beekeeping operations and response rate of beekeepers for each province are presented in Table 1. It is important to note that the total number of colonies operated in a province reported by this survey may vary slightly from Statistics Canada official numbers. In some provinces, the data collection periods for the provincial database and the Statistics Canada report at different times of year. This can result in minor discrepancies between the official Statistics Canada total number of colonies and this survey's total reported colonies per province.

Table 1: Survey parameters and honey bee colony mortality (2020-2021) by province

Province	Total number of colonies operated in 2020	Estimated number of colonies lost based on the estimated provincial winter loss	Type of data collection	Number of beekeepers targeted by survey	Number of respondents (% of participation)	Size of beekeeping operations targeted by survey (# colonies)	Number of respondents' colonies that were wintered in fall 2020	Number of respondents' colonies that were alive and viable in spring 2021	Percentage of surveyed colonies as a proportion of the total number of colonies in the province	Provincial Winter Loss including Non-viable Colonies
Newfoundland and Labrador	800	145	Email, telephone, text	12	12 (100%)	20	546	447	68%	18.1%
Prince Edward Island	5 500	883	Email, telephone	50	19 (38%)	1	5 045	4 235	92%	16.1%
Nova Scotia	26 323	3 232	Email	44	18 (41%)	50	16 043	14 073	61%	12.3%
New Brunswick	12 963	1 706	Mail, email, fax, telephone	32	23 (72%)	50	9 788	8 500	76%	13.2%
Quebec	55 508	10 555	Online	118	68 (58%)	50	32 275	26 138	58%	19.0%
Ontario	96 799	16 692	Online, telephone	252	74 (29%)	50	38 704	32 030	40%	17.2%
Manitoba	118 697	18 299	Email, online	166	44 (27%)	50	48 045	40 638	40%	15.4%
Saskatchewan	100 000	13 707	Online	363	129 (36%)	50	59 203	51 088	59%	13.7%
Alberta	288 320	91 843	Online	169	83 (49%)	100	165 323	112 660	57%	31.9%
British Columbia	57 313	18 444	Online	257	86 (33%)	25	19 981	13 551	35%	32.2%
CANADA	76 2223	175 506		1 463	556 (38%)		394 953	303 360	52%	23.2%

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How fondant can help you and your bees



Dara Headshot

Dara Scott, Creator of HiveAlive

Why bother feeding fondant? When can you feed fondant? How can it help your colonies survive? How can it make your life easier? All these questions and more answered below.

But first to the basics. I'll start by saying that 95% of the time, the best thing to feed your bees is their honey. I'll explain why not for 5% of the time later in the article. As you know, most beekeepers feed their bees sugar syrup in the autumn to ensure they have enough food to survive the winter. Normally a 2:1 sugar/water ratio is used, as having less water in the solution makes it easier for the bees to dehydrate the syrup before capping off.

However, there is always a worry that they have not been fed enough syrup to last them through the entire winter and an additional concern is that they might also run out of food in early spring. This can be a big problem if it is a long winter, or if there is a cold snap in the spring. Also, what if winter comes in too quickly before all the syrup is fed? If temperatures are below 10°C the bees will find it too cold to take down any more syrup and the bees won't have enough food to survive.

This is when fondant comes to the fore and takes care of these problems. Fondant is a soft paste of sugar. It is put on top of the colony, either under or over the brood box, so no feeders are needed. It can be used as an autumn feed but is mainly used to top up colonies over the winter when it is too cold to feed syrup or in late winter/early spring when bees are running out of stores and it is still too cold for nectar or syrup. Because it is placed directly over the cluster the bees do not have to leave the cluster to access food, making it easier to reach and minimising energy loss and the chance of starvation.

Fondant is easy to handle and store and causes significantly less robbing than syrup. Quality fondant does not go bad and can be used again the following winter if it is not all used, minimising waste. Any leftover bits of fondant can be melted down with boiling water to make a 1:1 spring syrup feed for when the weather has warmed up.

Fondant is normally made by heating sugar and carefully adding an acidic catalyst, but both the heat and the acid can lead to high levels of hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) which is toxic to honeybees. Baker's fondant is frequently made using this method. HMF is also something you do not want to get into your honey and there are regulations in a lot of countries stating the maximum amount of HMF allowed. The safer and more ideal way to make fondant is by using enzymes as this does not involve the heat or acids that lead to HMF.

Fondant can be sold in large chunks, pails or in sealed bags. The first two are generally cheaper but more labour intensive. Fondant dries out quickly so the beekeeper will have to cover the unsealed fondant in plastic wrap when dispensing to colonies to prevent it from being wasted as the bees avoid dried out fondant. The sealed bags are very handy as they are quick and easy to use, less messy and prevent the fondant from drying out meaning less waste.

For fondant wrapped in plastic, a slit will need to be cut into the plastic and this side should be placed over the hole in the crown board and the roof then placed on top. Try to ensure your fondant is as flat as possible to allow the roof to fit on top. Hopefully, this hole is over the



Bees coming up through hole in crownboard to fondant

cluster and the bees will only have to travel a short distance to get the ready-to-use food. If colonies are very weak, if it is very cold, or the cluster is not near the crown board, fondant can be placed directly over



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Fondant directly on top of cluster

the cluster, under the crown board. If using the bags, this can be placed directly over the cluster and if the bag is flat enough the crown board can go directly on top. If it's not thin enough you will need to use an eke or a super on top of the brood box to allow space for the fondant. When placing the non-bagged fondant directly on top the cluster it can be useful to first put on a queen excluder to stop the fondant from turning to goo when the weather warms up and oozing down onto the bees killing them.

Fondant can be added at any stage during the winter. There is nothing more heart-breaking for a beekeeper than to inspect their colonies in spring to find nothing but dead bees, their bums sticking out of cells as they desperately searched for the last scraps of food before the colony completely died out. That is where the beauty of fondant comes in; put it on early in winter, if they don't need it, they won't eat it. If they do need it, they will be eating it and it is very easy to inspect to see how much they have eaten by just lifting off the roof and looking. As the expression goes "it's better for them to be looking at it, than looking for it". If they need more just replace the bag.

The most important time to make sure bees have fondant is just before spring when the colonies are starting to build up but there is still no nectar and it is too cold to feed syrup. This is the point when the bees will be lowest in stores and consuming their stores faster than at any other point over the winter. Feeding fondant at this time of the year is a lifesaver and has prevented so many colonies from dying out due to starvation.

Because fondant doesn't need to be dried out by the bees it can be consumed directly by them. It also takes less work for the bees to use it as drying out syrup is energy consuming for the bees. Drying out syrup also takes up more space as they need extra comb to put small amounts of the syrup in to evaporate. This is one of the reasons why fondant is used by some beekeepers as an autumn feed; more space in the brood box means the colony still has space for brood. There is a myth that bees won't store fondant - they certainly do but only when the weather is warm enough to allow them to do so. Feeding fondant in autumn is very quick and doesn't need feeders and certainly the less robbing compared to syrup is another advantage. In Europe, where fondant has become extremely popular a lot of beekeepers are now using fondant as an autumn feed.

Fondant can also be fed at other times of the year but as I mentioned they will store it when it is warm so one needs to take the same precautions as with syrup to prevent it from getting into the honey. Saying that, it is very handy to feed during the summer as I've mentioned before, no syrup needs to be prepared and no feeders need to be set up.

I nearly forgot to mention why letting the bees only eat their own honey over the winter is only ideal 95% of the time. 1) Locations with long winters: Honey in general have higher ash and mineral content than syrup or fondant. Normally this isn't a problem, but bees need to defecate, in particular the ash, out of their bodies. If they can't get out to do cleansing flights they can't do this and this can stress out the colonies. 2) Honeydew honey: A similar problem caused by not having cleansing flights can be seen with honeydew honey; consumption of this honey can lead to dysentery which can also complicate overwintering. In both of these cases, it is better to feed syrup and/or fondant to avoid the aforementioned issues.

My company, Advance Science, is the company that makes the world's number one feed supplement HiveAlive. After a very successful launch in Europe we are launching our HiveAlive Fondant Patty in Canada and USA this autumn. The HiveAlive Fondant Patty contains the correct dosage of HiveAlive and has added vitamins & amino acids optimised for bee health. It is produced using enzymatic hydrolysis and comes in sealed 1kg bags. The bags are unique in that they are thin and flat to allow easy placement on the colony. Demand for our fondant in Europe went far beyond our expectations and our only challenge was getting the fondant to stores and beekeepers fast enough. We hope that our HiveAlive fondant will become a key tool for beekeeping success in North America. ■



Fondant directly on top of cluster with eke

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Governments Providing Additional Supports for Ontario Beekeepers

New intake to grow beekeeping sector and support bee health

From: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

News release

June 2, 2021 – Woodstock, Ontario – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The Governments of Canada and Ontario are launching a new targeted beekeeper intake to support and strengthen the health of managed honey bees and Ontario's beekeeping sector.

The business of beekeeping plays an important role when it comes to managing bee health and the success of crops on Ontario farms. Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (The Partnership) the new 50 per cent cost share intake opens on June 21, 2021 and will support beekeepers with 10 or more colonies registered with the Provincial Apiarist.

Beekeepers will be able to apply for funding to support honey bee health and business capacity, including the following:

- Purchase equipment to prevent the introduction and spread of disease and increase overwinter survival of bees.

- Sampling and analysis for pests and diseases to increase adoption of integrated pest management and other best management practices.

- Purchase of domestically raised queens to assist in building the resilience of the industry.

- Business supports to help beekeepers grow their business.

Changes being introduced under the new intake include:

- A new maximum will allow commercial beekeepers to receive up to \$10,000 in cost share funding to reflect the higher cost demands of commercial operations (50 colonies or more).

- The program will continue to provide cost-share funding of up to \$3,500 for operations of less than 50 colonies.

- Under the new intake, applicants can be approved for a maximum of two applications.

- Honey extraction equipment and activities related to COVID-19 recovery are included as eligible expenses. For example, supporting the development of websites for online sales and producing Ontario stock to mitigate difficulty in accessing queens or worker bees due to COVID-19.

- Project eligibility will continue to include multi-year projects to take into consideration the seasonality of the beekeeping industry and the time between purchasing and receiving product (such as honey bee stock, which may be delivered several months after purchase). Due to this seasonality and the length of this new intake, equipment and stock will need to be purchased within the first year of the intake.

Quotes

"Bees are vital to our food system and agricultural sector. Canada's beekeepers need specialized tools to manage and enhance bee health. The Government of Canada will continue to support beekeepers, and ensure they have access to the resources they need as they adapt to new climate realities."

- *The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food*

"We have had a strong uptake from beekeepers under the first intake for help with reducing biosecurity risks, minimizing overwinter loss and managing pests and diseases in managed honey bees. We're taking into consideration feedback from beekeepers and the challenges of the industry — including the impact of COVID-19 — to build on the program and tailor our support to the current needs of the sector."

- *The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs*

"This targeted bee health intake will provide beekeepers in Ontario the opportunity to address biosecurity risks in their operations. Ontario is home to many beekeepers, from those who manage a few colonies to those who keep bees commercially. No matter the size of the operation, the importance of bee health is vital and these funding opportunities are key to support health and sustainability for Ontario's beekeeping industry."

- *Melanie Kempers, General Manager, Ontario Beekeepers' Association*

Quick facts

Under the first targeted beekeeper intake, over \$550,000 was invested into the cost-share funding for 350 projects (including completed projects and those underway), for beekeepers owning more than 20,000 hives across the province.

The Partnership is a five-year, \$3-billion commitment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture and agri-food sectors. This includes a \$2 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

The beekeeper cost-share funding program has a continuous application process, with applications accepted until funding is fully allocated. ■

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Impacts of Covid-19 on Canadian Beekeeping in 2020: Part 1

Prepared by Matthew Polinsky, Miriam Bixby, and M. Marta Guarna

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 introduced challenges to beekeeping operations across Canada. In the fall of 2020, we began a study to gauge the economic impacts of the pandemic on the Canadian beekeeping industry. Surveys in French and English were disseminated by provincial apiculturists. Two hundred and five Canadian beekeepers responded to the survey from across eight provinces (Fig. 1). Fifty two percent of responding beekeepers indicated that their operation primarily focused on honey production and sales, 21% on selling hive products (queens, packages, nucs, etc.) and 17% on commercial pollination (Fig. 2). The survey results highlighted two significant challenges for commercial beekeepers: access to temporary foreign workers (TFWs) and importa-

Figure 1.

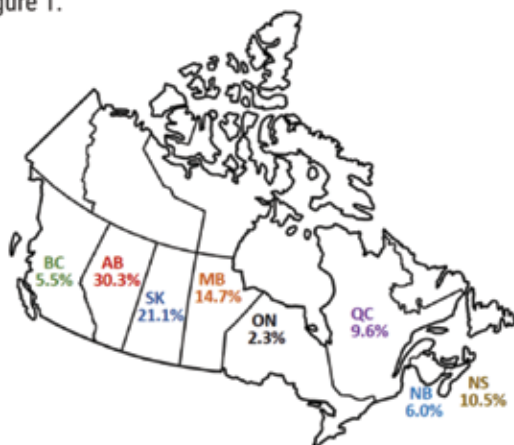


Fig 1. Map with the location of participating beekeepers' apiaries – percent share (n=205).

tion of bees.

When the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic on March 11th, beekeepers were in the middle of a critical period for TFW arrivals for the spring/summer 2020 season. Canadian border restrictions began to cause delays and cancellations of TFW flights on March 18th when foreign nationals were restricted entry into Canada and new border protocols were introduced. The Canadian Honey Council (CHC), other agricultural industry groups, and government worked tirelessly so that some TFWs were granted permission to enter Canada, however, in many cases TFWs were still unable to enter and/or were significantly delayed and in some cases expensive and infrequent charter flights were necessary. Charter flights organized by the CHC were crucial for the industry but did come at a cost of nearly \$200,000 per plane (R. Scarlett, May 2021, personal communication). The majority of our respondents reported being impacted by TFW

Figure 2.

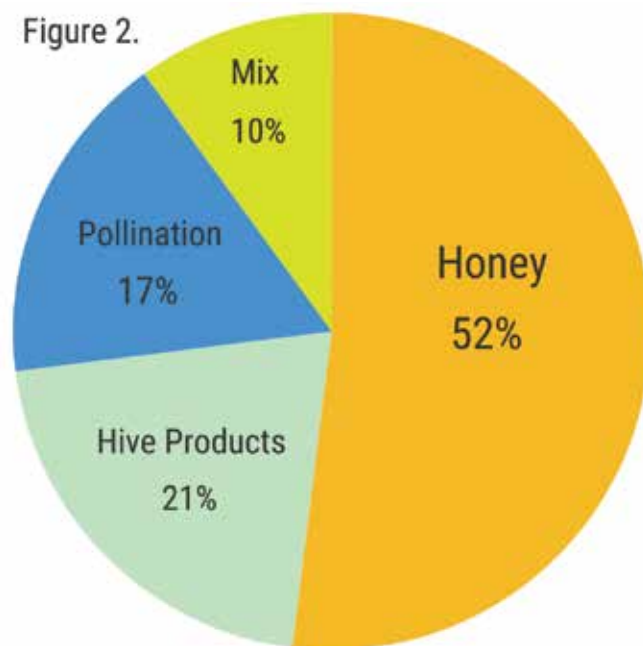


Fig 2. Primary focus of the operation as reported by participating beekeepers.

arrival disruptions. In a typical year prior to Covid-19, nearly 40% of beekeepers who hire TFWs to support their operation hired between 1-5 per season, nearly 30% hire between 6-10, 17% hire 11-15 and the remaining 16% hire 16-25 TFWs each year (Fig. 3). Before 2020, the majority of TFWs hired by surveyed Canadian beekeepers arrived from Nicaragua (40%), Mexico (27%), and the Philippines (18%) (see infographics). In 2020, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of workers from Nicaragua due to unmet expectations of commercial flights resuming service from Nicaragua in the early weeks of the pandemic (R. Scarlett, May 2021, personal communication).

Beekeepers reported that due to the mandatory fourteen-day quarantine period for TFWs who were able to arrive, together with the reduced overall number of TFWs arriving, there was a labour shortage in Canadian apiculture. As a result of Covid-19 disruptions and protocols, beekeepers, along with nearly all employers in the agricultural sector, incurred additional expenses during 2020. These costs included providing on-arrival quarantine housing, paying wages without work, providing access to personal protective gear and implementing other government mandated Covid-19 health measures. Before these Covid-19 related labour disruptions in 2020, studies had already shown that labour short-

► pag. 27

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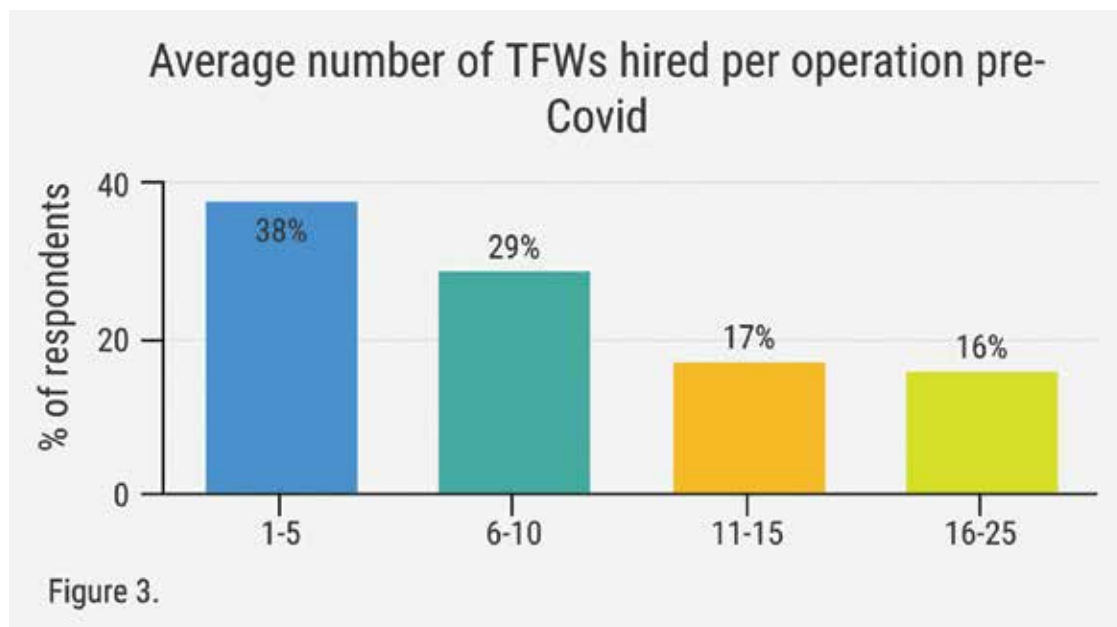


Figure 3. Typical Number of TFWs hired per operation.

ages were a major source of stress in Canadian beekeeping, causing production and expansion delays (CAHRC). Labour shortages in 2018 resulted in an estimated economic loss of 12 million dollars, 6.0% of sales, in the apicultural sector (CAHRC). The ongoing and critical need for dependable labour was reflected in the survey as 86% of respondents reported that they intend to maintain or increase the number of TFWs they hire in 2021. Beekeepers also reported that they anticipate that TFWs would have on-going travel disruptions through the 2021 beekeeping season. Moreover, more than three quarters of beekeepers reported that they expected their operation to be impacted by Covid-19 in 2021.

Importation of bee packages, queens, and beekeeping materials were also disrupted by Covid-19 travel restrictions. In 2019, Canadian beekeepers imported approximately 41,000 bee packages and over 230,000 queens (S. Page, personal communication with data from Statistics Canada, 2021). In 2020, imports of bee packages were down to just over 13,000 (67% reduction) and the number of imported queens fell by approximately 22,000 (10%) with a 15% decrease in queen imports during the critical spring months of March, April, and May resulting in less time for colony build up, fewer strong colonies to fulfill early pollination contracts and reduced overall productivity. The majority of beekeepers surveyed who were expecting bee packages reported that the bulk of their orders did not arrive, while one third of those who did receive packages reported a delay in more than three quarters of their orders. In addition to labour shortages and bee import disruptions, 25% of beekeepers experienced delays and cancellations of materials due to Covid-19, including: hive resources, feed, honey processing equipment, vehicle and warehouse items.

Forty-nine percent of beekeepers who purchased more Canadian nucs due to shortages of imports in 2020, reported improved health and productivity among the Canadian stock compared to their imported counterparts. In contrast, 22% of the beekeepers reported better health and productivity from the imported bees. While demand for imported bees remains strong and diversifying international suppliers remains important, strategies to strengthen domestic supply chains and support beekeepers who are seeking to implement self-sufficient beekeeping systems would also greatly benefit the Canadian apicultural industry in realizing healthy colonies and stable livelihoods. The Canadian Queen Breeders Guide (Bixby et al, 2018) and a recent costing analy-

sis case study on Canadian queen production (Bixby et al, 2020) have demonstrated the biologic and economic viability and advantages of locally raised bees. Our survey results found that thirty-two percent of beekeepers aim to produce more of their own replacement stock in the future.

The apicultural sector experienced numerous shocks in 2020, including significantly disrupted movement of bees and labour, rapid implementation of new occupational health and safety protocols, adapting hive management systems, and material and equipment accessibility issues. Overall, with labour

disruptions and fewer bees to create and support colonies in the spring of 2020, beekeepers were unable to adequately build up their colonies for pollination or honey production and ultimately reported decreased productivity and revenue. Beyond the immediate and direct effects of Covid-19 disruptions in 2020, a reduction in the number of colonies and decreased colony management can have longer-term impacts that may play out on a multi-year scale and result in higher reduction on colony numbers and productivity in the future. Further analysis of the Covid-19 beekeeping survey data will be forthcoming in the fall/winter of 2021.

Acknowledgements

We thank Rod Scarlett and the Canadian Honey Council for supporting and disseminating our COVID-19 survey as well as many Canadian Provincial apiculture specialists and all participating beekeepers who shared their experiences. This work was supported by the Bee CSI team including Leonard Foster, Amro Zayed, Shelley Hoover, Heather Higo and Julia Common.

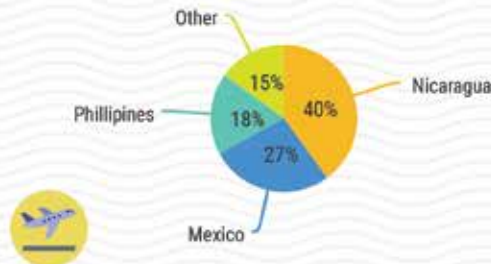
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Impacts of Covid-19 on Canadian Beekeeping in 2020

•The onset of the pandemic disrupted a critical period for TFW arrivals

Home Countries of TFWs in a Typical Year



Despite Covid-19 disruptions in the past year, **86% of respondents with TFWs plan to maintain or increase the number they hire annually**

2019/2020 Queen and Package Bee Imports

Source: Statistics Canada (2021)

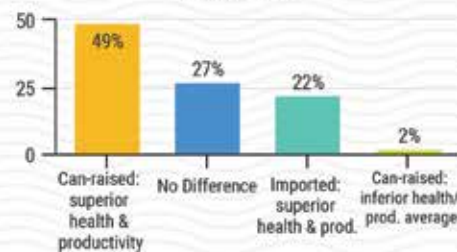
Year	Queens	Packages (kgs)
2019	235,928	41,339
2020	213,947	13,746
Reduction	10%	67%

Decrease of Imports

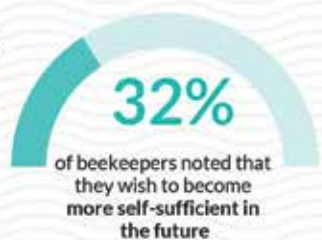
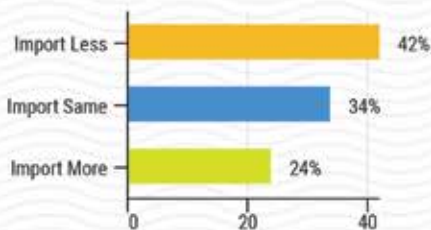


•Beekeepers who relied more on Canadian nucs in 2020 were asked how they fared compared to imports in terms of health and productivity.

Local VS imported bees: better health and productivity



Beekeepers' Intentions to import bees in the future



89% of respondents anticipate pandemic-related disruptions in their operation in 2021.

Infographics prepared by Matthew Polinsky



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