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PO Box 914, Station T Calgary,

Alberta T2H 2H4

geoff@honeycouncil.ca

www.honeycouncil.ca

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Canada

Cover picture: Two important elements of fall feeding regime - water and protein. Apiary near Irvine, Alberta.

Photo by James Campbell, Stonewall, MB



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2023 Directors • Canadian Honey Council / Conseil Canadien de Miel

Chair

Jake Berg

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission

Box 4031,

Melfort, SK. S0E 1E0

C: 306- 921-8360

E: sjbeez@hotmail.com

1st Vice

Jeremy Olthof

Alberta Beekeepers Commission

RR 1

Tees, AB T0C 2N0

T: 403-872-4607

E: teesbeesinc@gmail.com

2nd Vice

Maggie Lamothe Boudreau

Les Apiculteurs et Apicultrices du Québec

266, 9e rang

Saint-Adrien d'Irlande, QC G6G 5R6

C: 418-331-0527

E: maggielamotheboudreau@gmail.com

3rd Vice

Rodney Reid

Atlantic Beekeepers

PO Box 258

Bishop's Falls, NL

A0H 1C0

C: 709-290-5262

E: rodneyreid@live.ca

Director

Micheal Yaremcio

BeeMaid Honey

C: 780-603-4594

E: m.yaremcio@hotmail.com

Director

Osee Podolsky

Manitoba Beekeeper's Association

119 Main St W

Ethelbert, MB

R0L 0T0

C: 204-647-2265 T: 204-250-3960

E: oseepodolsky@hotmail.com

Director

Stan Reist

B.C. Honey Producers

Box 160

Coombs, BC V0R 1M0

B: 250-954- 1717 C: 250-741-4582

E: flydutch@telus.net

Director

Ron Greidanus

Alberta Beekeepers Commission

Box 1581

Stettler, AB T0C 2L0

W: 403-323-0234

E: rongreidanus@gmail.com

Director

John Van Alten

Ontario Beekeepers Association

1006 Concession 8 West RR.3

Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

T: 905-659-9058 C: 905-536-6371

E: john@dutchmansgold.com

CHC OFFICE

Rod Scarlett

Executive Director

#218, 51519 RR 220

Sherwood Park, AB T8E 1H1

T: 877-356-8935 C: 780-498-0231

E: chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca

Hivelights Magazine Editor & Advertising Sales

Geoff Todd Box 914, Stn. T., Calgary, AB T2H 2H4

C: 403-512-2123 E: geoff@honeycouncil.ca

Design and ProductionCapital Colour

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Canadian Honey Council Report



Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC



From all appearances it looks like this year's honey crop may be a little above average. What this means however, is a little unclear. In 2022, Canada's honey production dropped to just over 73 million pounds down substantially from 88 million pounds in 2021. A best guess would place production levels in the low 80 million pound range which is certainly better, but not a bumper crop situation. Some regions of Canada had very poor production, others above average as weather seemed to be the deciding factor in most cases.

Early indications are, at least up to early October, the honey market is stagnant. Very little of the new year's crop is moving and very few offers are out there. Packers in the United States are claiming that they have warehouses full of high-priced honey and will not be bidding up the market until some of that stock is depleted. This, coupled with Japanese packers continued insistence on testing for quinclorac in Canadian honey at the extremely low default maximum residue level of 0.01 ppm has resulted in significant amounts of honey previously destined to Japan now seeking alternative markets. A backlog in the Canadian honey market may have some serious implications for beekeepers, especially those in need of some quick cash.

On a good note, on May 10, 2023, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food announced a temporary increase to the interest-free limit for advances under the Advance Payments Program (APP). The change will help agricultural producers with significant financial challenges, including high input costs and

rising interest rates. The interest free limit has been further increased to \$350,000 for the 2023 program year. This is the portion of advances on which the Government of Canada pays the interest on behalf of producers.

Under the APP, you may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000,000 per program year, with:

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Other federal government programs such as AgriInvest and AgriStability may be helpful and provincial programs may also prove beneficial. Hopefully, the lull in sales will not last too long and honey pricing will not take too much of a hit.

This fall's marketing issues only serve to highlight the precarious situation Canadian beekeepers face. It is absolutely essential that efforts to find additional markets for our premium quality product produced continue or be enhanced. Asia will be a focus, but markets in the European Union and the United Kingdom seem to be slowly expanding. While the Canadian Honey Council continues to look at ways to expand the market for Canadian honey, it may be individual producers, willing to take the time and risks who lead the way. If we can be of any assistance in your marketing efforts don't hesitate to reach out. ■



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Regional Reports



Atlantic



Rodney Reid

The weather was last reported to be a challenge for beekeepers in Atlantic Canada, well this report also comes back to the weather. It has been a wet season for most; however, honey yields are reported to be average or slightly above, and most crops appeared to rebound, even with the spring droughts and the wet season. A common theme for the region has been lots of discussion about the long swarm season. Swarms started late, due to the

extreme spring weather patterns for many, but swarms are still happening now in September as I am writing this report and beekeepers are still finding swarm cells as they prepare hives for winter.

Some areas of NS experienced severe rains in July which washed some apiaries away and created wet areas that haven't dried out, making moving hives and harvesting honey a challenge for some.

NL has seen the hiring of a full-time provincial apiarist, which is a change from being a part-time position. This is a welcomed change that will support its growing varroa-free community.

In early September, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Apimondia 48th Congress in Chile which didn't disappoint. The opportunity to connect with the international community while sharing information about the Canadian industry and connecting with the Chilean community. There were a variety of presentations, and I was able to attend a few. Also, it was great to build relationships and network with some old and new members of the Canadian beekeeping community while there.

Québec



Maggie Lamothe Boudreau

Production de miel :

L'été de cette année s'est avéré être une période fort fascinante, marquée par des variations climatiques notables qui ont influencé la production de miel au Québec. La floraison abondante des pissenlits a offert une récolte intéressante. Cependant, il est indéniable que les mois de juillet et août ont été extrêmement pluvieux, ce qui a conduit à une faible récolte de nectar pour

nos abeilles. Ces conditions météorologiques exécrables, associées à des températures fraîches, n'ont laissé aucun répit aux abeilles, les obligeant à puiser dans leurs réserves. En conséquence, certains apiculteurs québécois ont dû intervenir en cours de saison pour nourrir leurs colonies et éviter qu'elles ne succombent à la famine.

En dépit des recommandations de notre équipe technique apicole, certains apiculteurs qui ont retardé la récolte des hausses à miel d'automne semblent avoir été récompensés par une récolte exceptionnelle en septembre. À l'heure où ces lignes sont écrites, l'automne semble étrangement ressembler à l'été que nous aurions dû avoir : des températures chaudes, peu de vent et peu ou pas de pluie.

Gestion du varroa :

Nous avons été témoins d'un développement remarquablement rapide des colonies au printemps, malgré la persistance du temps frais jusqu'en juin. Cela a favorisé la croissance des populations de varroa. Néanmoins, il semble être maîtrisé dans la plupart des exploitations apicoles québécoises. Cependant, il est impératif de rester vigilant, car une négligence dans le suivi de ce parasite pourrait rapidement lui permettre de dépasser les seuils d'intervention.

Coûts :

Enfin, nous sommes heureux de vous annoncer que le rapport final de l'étude "Étude technico-économique de secteur - Production apicole au Québec", réalisée par le Centre d'Études sur les Coûts de Production en Agriculture (CECPA), est désormais accessible au grand public. Vous y trouverez des informations précieuses pour identifier les domaines dans lesquels votre entreprise apicole pourrait améliorer sa rentabilité et à quel prix votre miel devrait être vendu. Voici le lien pour y accéder : <https://www.cecpa.qc.ca/publications,2>

Gouvernement :

À l'instar de l'année précédente, malgré nos multiples démarches auprès des gouvernements, peu d'actions concrètes ont été entreprises pour soutenir notre secteur. Nous attendons avec impatience de voir comment les autorités répondront à nos besoins, car il est essentiel de rappeler que les pollinisateurs demeurent la pierre angulaire de notre sécurité alimentaire.

Pour toute question, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec votre association d'apiculture.

Honey Production:

This year's summer has proven to be a particularly fascinating period, marked by significant climate variations that have influenced honey production in Quebec. The abundant blooming of dandelions has provided an interesting harvest. However, it is undeniable that the months of July and August were extremely rainy, resulting in a meager nectar yield for our bees. These unfavorable weather conditions, coupled with cool temperatures, provided no respite for the bees, forcing them to tap into their reserves. Consequently, some Quebec beekeepers had to intervene mid-season to feed their colonies and prevent them from succumbing to famine.

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Despite the recommendations of our beekeeping technical team, some beekeepers who delayed the harvest of honey supers for the fall seem to have been rewarded with an exceptional harvest in September. As of the time of writing, autumn oddly resembles the summer we should have had: warm temperatures, little wind, and minimal to no rainfall.

Varroa Management:

We witnessed remarkably rapid colony development in the spring, despite persistently cool weather until June. This fostered the growth of varroa mite populations. Nevertheless, it appears to be under control in most Quebec beekeeping operations. However, it is imperative to remain vigilant, as neglecting the monitoring of this parasite could quickly lead it to exceed intervention thresholds.

Costs:

Lastly, we are pleased to announce that the final report of the "Technical and Economic Study of the Beekeeping Sector in Quebec," conducted by the Center for the Study of Production Costs in Agriculture (CECPA), is now available to the general public. You will find valuable information to identify areas where your beekeeping business could improve profitability and determine the appropriate pricing for your honey. Link : <https://www.cecpa.qc.ca/publications>,²

Government:

Similar to the previous year, despite our numerous efforts with the government, few concrete actions have been taken to support our sector. We eagerly await how the authorities will respond to our needs, as it is crucial to emphasize that pollinators remain the cornerstone of our food security.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your beekeeping association.

Ontario



John Van Alten

To date, the reports I am hearing from beekeepers around the province is that the honey crop is average to above average in most regions, with some regions having too much rain and others not enough. Varroa seems to be managed, however with our later harvest the treatments are possibly getting on a bit late.

The OBA tech transfer team has had challenges getting funding for projects. A letter was sent from the OBA chairman to the membership requesting donations to keep the TTP supported while waiting for word from several proposal for alternate funding. This has become an issue since OMAFRA pulled its core funding several years ago and it seems that proposals for projects have not been approved at the rate that they formerly were.

We were saddened to hear of Dianne Krout's passing. Dianne was a pillar in the Wellington County Beekeeper's Association as well as a prominent OBA member. She was one of the architects of the Wellington wrap project that produced corrugated black polypropylene winter wraps. All the profits from this project went to support our TTP team.

OMAFRA did a follow up inspection this fall for the areas with high EFB. To date the results show that EFB has been cleaned up. That is good news for next year when we need to send many more loads of bees into blueberry in Eastern Canada.

The OBA is making inroads with other agricultural associations to repair some of the relationships that came under strain during the neonicotinoid crisis. We need to be able to work with agriculture so that we can appreciate their needs and they can understand ours as well. Perhaps there are some shared concerns that we can work collaboratively with other commodities on.

Finally, our AGM will be held in Peterborough Ontario on Nov. 23-24. All welcome. Details will be available on our website.

Manitoba



Osee Podolsky

The summer started off in drought like conditions in Manitoba. This hurt a large portion of the earlier canola and caused it to abort blossoms early due to stress. The middle of honey flow brought cooler weather and much needed rains. The later canola fields and alfalfa crops flourished in this weather. Overall honey crops seem to range from marginally below average to marginally above average depending on area.

Overall hive health seems to be good although there did seem to be a trend of elevated mite levels but not concerningly high. Beekeepers are confident in the condition of their hives going into winter. If honey prices would return to normal it would relieve most of the undue stress in the industry at the moment, but I digress.

Saskatchewan



Jake Berg

As September draws to a close, we still haven't had a killing frost in my area of Saskatchewan. The bees are still coming in with yellow faces every day, gathering pollen and a small amount of nectar. They have been bringing in a small trickle flow for over a month now. The hives are well prepared for winter with this extended pollen flow this fall. They've been brooding quite a bit which on one hand seems to be a great thing, but on the other is a bit concerning. We do have some elevated mites in some hives, so if they're still brooding they will be definitely growing mites again. I am worried that there are a lot of mites growing in that brood. We are going to oxalic acid vape them but, I'm unsure if that will be too little, too late.

The honey market has definitely softened. As of late September, I've heard offers as low as \$2.20 a pound but have not heard of any honey actually moving at this price. Unfortunately, this just seems awfully low compared to where we were year ago. I'm unsure if the market has softened that much or if we're just in the post harvest lull where no honey is moving and everyone's trying to find the actual price of bulk honey.

I hope the price will strengthen some then possibly settle for early part of the winter at around \$2.50. I do believe that to stay profitable, we probably need to be close to that \$2.50 mark with the cost of everything increasing in the last couple of years.

The SBDC will be holding its Annual Convention & Tradeshow in Saskatoon November 16, 17 and 18th. I hope to see you there.

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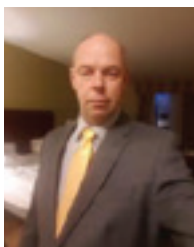


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Alberta



Ron Greidanus

In 1978, my mom and dad decided to split up the beekeeping business that my dad, uncle and cousin had started. Each of the three partners had gotten married and were looking at starting their own families. To split up was a proactive succession plan of sorts. Jay Dejong stayed in Brooks, Norman Greidanus also stayed in Brooks for the time being (He later moved to Moronville) and Sidney Greidanus moved to High River, Alberta.

That was the fall of 1978. I still remember 1979 – it was a good year. Bees made a lot of honey prices were good. The splitting of the partnership was a good move. The future was perfect as it always is.

Then the 1980's struck. I was oblivious to the high interest rates, the foreclosure of homes, the National Energy Policy and all the other monumental economic changes that happened in that decade.

I don't remember the specific years but I remember 1982, I was 12. My dad sent me to the bees with a couple of college students to help them harvest the honey. My job was to space the frames in the boxes when the empties were put on the hives and to close the hives. I hated the job. The bees didn't like the frames moving and would fly up and sting me in the fingers. 1982 is the year that the storm clouds started brewing on the horizon – tough times ahead.

My dad bought the first Cowan inline extractors and a Massey Ferguson 210-4 tractor for \$8000 – my mom was so mad. How could we afford it?

In 1984 I remember listening to my dad negotiating with Jack Grossman for that last ¼ cent per pound for honey. I remember Leo (one of the college students) brag that he had made 80 pounds per hive that year and he was getting 32 ½ cents per pound.

One fall, it must have been 1986 or later because we were wintering all our bees and buying sugar water to feed. We had produced 5 or 6 loads of honey and needed 3 loads of sugar water. One load of sugar water cost just as much as one load of honey.

What is the point of my reminiscences? The point is we have been in this place before and we will be here again. Today, I will put the last tarp on the last hive in my operation in preparation for winter. My seasonal employees are going home in a few days. The season is over. Did I have a good crop? Did I have a poor crop? – It doesn't matter if it is sitting in the shop unsold.

Honey prices tend to follow a ten year cycle, spike to crash and then a slow recovery to a price spike. The good news is that the cure for low honey prices are low honey prices and high honey prices are the nemesis of high honey prices. It's supply and demand pure and simple.

Just like in the 1980's as interest rates climbed and honey yields were stifled, prices low, the industry survived to thrive. What we are experiencing today is very similar to what was being experienced then. Its going to create some belt tightening. There will be sleepless nights. We are all going to have to take a hard look at how we operate our business's.

I have a couple of suggestions that I remember from the 1980's.

- 1) Your neighbour is not your enemy. Work together to market your honey, buy the inputs, replenish your operations. Your stronger when you work together than if you go it alone.
- 2) Packers are not the enemy – they are our staunchest supporters, even though it may not feel like it. But then, who needs facts when you have feelings. The packer buys our honey and markets it through the grocery store. They have massive lines of credit to buy that honey and with interest rates going up, the cost of carrying inventory is eating up the profit margin at an astounding rate. There will be a move to 'just in time' purchasing. As a supporter of your packer customers, perhaps consider

extending payment terms of 30 days to 60 days. Better to have sold and get paid than to hold out for the last penny and not make a sale or not get paid.

- 3) The largest expenses in a beekeeping operation are labour, sugar, medicine and fuel. Lets not save on labour, but the rest, laser focus to address necessity. This means monitoring and not just treating profilactically.
- 4) Promote and use your own product. Everyone has a tight budget these days. Mom is buying groceries on the Home Equity Line of Credit. Charities are going to be hard up for funds to stay afloat. Perhaps, having jars of honey as a fund raiser item may be a strategy to move product and to promote consumption. We all benefit if the disappearance rate of honey increases from 900 grams per person per year to 1100 grams per person per year.

We are going to get through this. It's hard to stay optimistic when you walk into the shop and see a thousand unsold barrels sitting in your shop from this year and last... but this too shall pass and one day the barrels will be sold.

Alberta



Jeremy Olthof

With the current honey market softening to levels that has all beekeepers nervous the work of CHC will be increasingly important. This work, specifically expanding markets for Canadian Honey is an extremely difficult one as it is often costly and difficult to see direct reward for that cost. Recently CHC was approached by a division within the federal government to discuss the possibility of a commodity levy within our industry. This levy would go directly to research and marketing and

would be managed by a separate board of directors apart from CHC. In a world of skyrocketing costs, I understand that most of you will have no interest in another levy. I will start by saying that this would be a levy on all honey trade within Canada, domestic, import and export. According to STATS CAN in 2021 Canada imported 18,077,905 lbs of honey...that's approximately 27812 barrels of honey. Canada exported 16,184,134 lbs, resulting in Canada becoming a net importer of honey in 2021. Total production of honey within Canada in 2021 was 89,773,000. On a side note, it will be interesting to see if those numbers flip again which I believe they will. So back to my point; What would a penny a pound gets us at 18 million pounds imported plus 73 million sold domestically (89 million minus the 16 million exported) The answer is just over a million dollars. For context the entire CHC budget is less than \$300,000. Sounds easy right? (Insert laughing emoji or your favourite laughing gif here). Speaking to other commodity groups that have implemented this it was long and painful and probably costly. We would need unanimous consensus from all provinces plus that of importers and domestic packers. Still sounds easy right? So what I am asking is over the next few months as we gather for our respective AGMs please take the time over a beer or two to debate the merits of proceeding with this enormous task AND clearly communicate with your CHC delegate which way your province should go.

Our push for national tech team funding has hit a bit of a stumbling block, whether it's a result of Trudeau stumbling through another apology or the Canadian beekeeping industry having a bit of a bounce back year it seems to have fallen off the radar of federal politicians for the time being. Rest assured CHC is dedicated to push for federal funding to support our provincial tech teams and the important work they do to improve our industry.

Since CFIA recently announced that another Risk assessment will be done for package bees from mainland US, CHC felt it necessary to send a

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letter requesting that a regionalized approach (that is like that of Australia) be considered as part of this risk assessment. A group working with the CBF and supported by the ABF and AHPA also submitted a large package of documents to CFIA for their call for new science. These documents can be found on the CBF website and provide a unique perspective from beekeepers and scientists from the United States

Work continues on Beetech 2024 and I hope to see everyone out for an amazing national conference. For anyone in Alberta I want to encourage you to consider joining the CHC as this position is up for election at our AGM. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

British Columbia



Stan Reist

That time of the year, we are all scrambling to finish getting the crop off and treating our bees and finish the extracting. This has been a great year for honey production in B.C. Some of the individuals who have commented on it said - Stan I have 18 hives and I only put 7 into the bush but that was 4 to many. What am I going to do with all this honey that I'm still extracting?

Stan this was the best crop in 40 years, it was really great. It seems, that the flow started and it didn't give up. One lady up in the Courtney area said you put empty boxes on and they fill them and you just keep removing and adding boxes. The Fireweed this year was mainly water white.

A lot of beekeepers are commenting on the mite or lack of mite population. For some reason the presents of mites seems lower this year and I'm not sure what's going on there. We will find out when the testing happens this fall. When the brood nest reduces and the mites can't hide, we will see the true numbers of mites and how effective your treatments were.

The forest fire season this year was quite devastating. For a lot of B.C. residents it did not go well and we all feel for their losses. We all feel the loss of lives of the forest fire crew members who were killed doing their job. We have beekeepers in the interior who have lost their hives to wildfires and at this time it might be limited to the Kelowna area. Right now I am looking for beekeepers who have lost hives and equipment to assemble numbers to be ready in case there is compensation available for replacement of losses. Some had lots of smoke days but no losses and they still got good honey crops. Others had a slow start to the season in the northern regions but again they had a good crop.

There have been some recent publications on EFB, the use of Fungicide's and the results of their effects on the hive for survival. From my point this is all good, except what matters to me is, how do I put my hives into pollination, get them out, still have a hive to get a crop and make it through the following year? All of the research is beneficial and we need it, but if we have beekeepers not doing pollination because of concern for their hives then we need to figure out how to have good hives after pollination.

I am in the process of putting my report together for the AGM which is about to happen Oct 13th and 14th in Abbotsford. It is taking place at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre. It starts on Friday with the business day which runs until 4 Pm and then we open the trade show and meet and greet. Saturday is the education day and we have 9 education secessions starting at 8.30 in the morning until 5pm. Sunday will be breakouts and workshops. We have an excellent line up of speakers for the education day.

The rains have returned the big storm has resulted in about an inch of rain over five days and we can handle that. The ground can soak that up and now is ready for more rain. Our wells have held up but a lot of other people are on trucked water for the last two months.



Our Hive is Growing!

We hope that all CHC members had a successful 2023 season. Here at Bee Maid, our hives are growing, and we're thrilled to share some exciting updates with you! It has been a busy construction season at our processing facilities, and we're making some significant changes to ensure a sweet and prosperous future for our organization.

Expanding in Spruce Grove

At our Spruce Grove facility, we are in the midst of a major expansion that will shape the way we operate and serve our valued members and customers. The expansion project will add a generous 53,000 ft² to our existing space, bringing with it a wave of improvements and opportunities.

What's in store for Spruce Grove?

- *Bee Supplies Store:* Get ready for a brand-new Bee Supplies store that will cater to all your beekeeping needs.
- *Expanded Blow Mould Area:* We're making room to improve and streamline our blow mould processing.
- *Increased Space for Raw Honey and Drums:* With the expanded footprint, we will be positioned to grow our intake in the coming years.

Our construction team is working diligently, and we anticipate the completion of this project by early 2024.

Winnipeg's New Beginning

Meanwhile, our Winnipeg Bee Maid plant, with its rich history dating back to the 1950s, has served us well but is nearing the end of its useful life. Expanding within the existing locale proved challenging, leading us on an extensive search for a new home that could meet our processing needs and provide convenient access for our members, employees, and shipping partners.

The search led us to the St. Boniface Industrial Park, where we embarked on construction for the new 128,000 ft² facility and we're proud to report that it's on track for completion in April 2024.

What to expect from Winnipeg's new building:

- *Expanded Bee Supplies Store:* Offering more space and an even wider range of beekeeping supplies and equipment.
- *Ample Office Space:* To support our growing team and improve our operational efficiency.
- *Room for Processing and Storage:* We're creating plenty of space for honey processing and member drum storage.

Celebrate with Us in 2024

In 2024, we will have not one but two reasons to celebrate. Bee Maid Honey will mark its remarkable 70-year anniversary, a testament to the dedication of our members and Canada's love for our honey. Additionally, we'll be opening the doors to our newly expanded Spruce Grove facility and our brand-new Winnipeg building.

Stay tuned for more updates and announcements regarding open houses and festivities. It promises to be an unforgettable year filled with sweet moments and shared memories.



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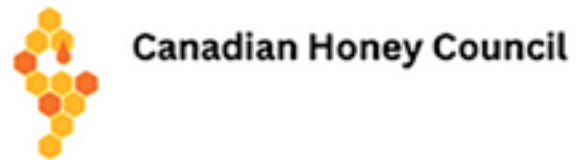


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UPDATES FROM APIMONDIA

The 48th Apimondia Congress was held in Santiago, Chile earlier this month and the Canadian Honey Council had a booth at the Api-Expo and Rodney Reid and myself were the Canadian delegates for the General Assembly. The congress site was about 2 miles from any hotel so transportation to and from the site was done by Uber since no shuttles were arranged. The congress centre was a little disjointed as the expo facility was in a separate building from all scientific presentations. The CHC booth was quite visible and was fairly busy throughout the show. Most of the inquiries centered around Chilean stock exports and we were lucky to have representatives from Dancing Bee and Stanabbey in attendance. 500 honey packets, copies of Hivelights and Export catalogues were distributed and everything was gone by shows end. About 20 jars of Canadian honey was also displayed and many thanks to those who supplied those samples. Special thanks to John Van Alten and Tim Wendell who helped work the booth when either Rodney or myself were away.

The General Assembly was a long affair and the only real substantial thing that happened was the voting for the host of the 50th congress in 2027. Dubia and Tanzania were the only two bidders with Tanzania winning. Jeff Pettis was elected President for another 4 year term. I myself, did not attend any of the scientific presentations but delivered three talks on honey adulteration, Canadian stock requirements and importing queens and packages. There were about 20 or so researchers and beekeepers from Canada in attendance and a good number of those researchers presented. I believe they announced the total registrations at around 2600. The next congress is in Copenhagen in 2025.

Submitted by Rod Scarlett

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Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists
Preliminary report on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2023)

Prepared by CAPA National Survey Committee and Provincial Apiarists: Gabrielle Claing (chair), Julie Ferland, Melanie Kempers, Paul Kozak, Derek Micholson, Chris Maund, Cameron Menzies, Colette Mesher, Nuria Morfin, Samantha Muirhead, Medhat Nasr, Steve Pernal, Jason Sproule, Paul van Westendorp and Geoff Wilson

This report presents the **preliminary data** collected by the provinces of Canada regarding honey bee losses for the winter of 2022-2023. The final data will be published in the annual Statement on honey bee wintering losses in Canada. There may be 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 that were used in the survey were as the following:

- 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 questionnaire of colony loss and management 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:

$$\text{Percentage Winter Loss} = \left(\frac{\text{Sum of the estimated total colony losses per province in spring 2023}}{\text{Sum of total colonies in operation in each province for 2022}} \right) \times 100$$

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 are done 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 (2022-2023) by province

Province	Total number of colonies operated in 2022	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 2022	Number of respondents' colonies that were alive and viable in spring 2023	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	Data unavailable at this time									
Prince Edward Island	6 000	2 801	email	50	15 (30%)	1	2 639	1 407	44%	46.7%
Nova Scotia	28 670	4 484	online	46	20 (43%)	50	18 349	15 479	64%	15.6%
New Brunswick	13 406	3 106	email, postal, telephone	31	13 (42%)	50	9 220	7 084	69%	23.2%
Quebec	57 892	9 454	online	129	77 (60%)	50	34 016	28 461	59%	16.3%
Ontario	102 562	36 645	online, telephone	208	74 (36%)	50	35 304	22 690	34%	35.7%
Manitoba	103 841	32 974	online, email	173	59 (34%)	50	46 305	31 601	45%	31.8%
Saskatchewan	102 000	29 414	online	124	64 (52%)	100	31 879	22 686	31%	28.8%
Alberta	286 534	112 103	online	169	78 (46%)	100	171 573	104 447	60%	39.1%
British Columbia	64 000	17 436	online	312	70 (22%)	20	14 980	10 899	23%	27.2%
CANADA	764 905	250 956		1242	470 (38%)		364 265	244 754	48%	32.8%

How Honey Protects Both the Brain and the Heart

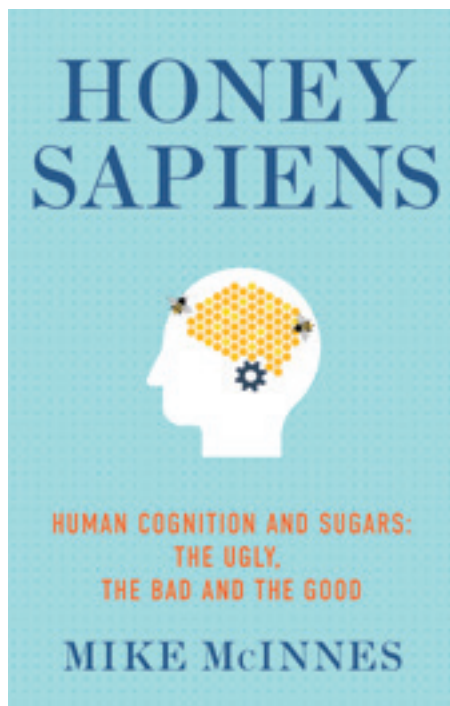
By Mike McInnes

“.... Further, the results do not support the consideration by policymakers and those who issue guidelines to designate honey as a free sugar....” (Ref No 1).

Honey has had an undeservedly bad press as just another ‘free’ (refined) sugar, like table sugar and fructose, since the 1960s, yet as I show in my book *Honey Sapiens*, it is a very different substance with protective rather than damaging effects.

Canada has been one of the leading countries globally in the quest to understand the metabolism of sugars and carbohydrates in the human diet. It has pioneered research that will help to prevent and treat the tide of metabolic illnesses afflicting humanity that result from excess glucose in the human circulation. These illnesses include heart disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease and autism spectrum disorders.

In 1923, two researchers at the University of Toronto, John James MacLeod, a Scottish biochemist, and Frederick Grant Banting, a Canadian medical scientist, were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for their development of insulin. In July 2023, another mile-



stone in the prevention of metabolic diseases was published by a group of scientists at the University of Toronto in the journal *Nutritional Reviews*. The group, led by Professor Amna Ahmed, blazed a Western trail in the field of cardiometabolic (heart) health that is groundbreaking in pointing the way forward to a healthier metabolic future for our species after decades of colossal decline. The group examined hundreds of honey studies, case reports, reviews, and other interventions and selected 81 reports in full total, from which 18 controlled trials were deemed to be of high enough quality to be included in a meta-analysis. (ref no 1) The results of their review were stunning.

Overall honey was shown to reduce fasting glucose, total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, fasting triglycerides and alanine aminotransferase – all biomarkers of heart ill-health – and to increase high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, a positive indicator of heart health. It is difficult to overestimate the health benefits for the heart of consuming

40 grams of honey daily for a period of just 8 weeks. No drug produced by any global pharmaceutical company in the history of medical interventions has or is likely ever to match this outcome, whether antihypertensive, diuretic, hypoglycaemic, hypolipidaemic or other. I defy any health professional or academic to offer another such example.

Why has honey had a bad press?

Studies indicating the metabolic benefits of honey are not new; they have been appearing regularly from non-Western universities, and indeed been published in Western peer-reviewed journals, for two decades from all around the world, but have been almost universally ignored because of honey’s dismissal as a ‘free’ sugar just like any other.

The history of this dismissal lies with unsubstantiated health claims more than 60 years ago. In 1958 an American physician, Dr Clinton Jarvis, wrote a book of folk medicine: *A Vermont Doctor’s Guide to Good Health*. In the book Jarvis claimed without evidence that honey and cider vinegar could cure a variety of diseases, including arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure. The book was a bestseller and sold a million copies but in 1960 all copies were seized by the FDA and destroyed, and the FDA dismissed its claims as quackery. From then until now the notion that honey may possess any health benefits has been regarded as a myth, and anyone who suggested otherwise was dismissed as unscientific. In my decades as a pharmacist, I never met a health professional who did not insist that honey was devoid of any such benefits and was essentially the same as refined sugar in the same quantity. However, from the early 2000s new studies began to emerge from around the world – China, Japan, India, Korea, Malaysia, Middle East, Africa and South America – that showed honey was metabolised very differently to refined sugars and that the major influences were the polyphenols and bioflavonoids with which it is richly endowed.

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Indeed, it may now be stated that honey is the most potent anti-diabetic and neuroprotective brain fuel known to humankind. In my book *Honey Sapiens*, drawing on the many studies mentioned, I show that, if we replace refined sugars in foods and drinks with honey, we can prevent (though not treat) the metabolic diseases that are now affecting so many of us, including obesity and type 2 diabetes, and the neurodegenerative conditions Alzheimer's disease and autism spectrum disorders. Indeed, I show that both obesity and type 2 diabetes are themselves associated with brain shrinkage and cognitive decline. This claim for honey's benefits may seem extravagant, but the science is clear and growing rapidly.

In contrast with refined sugars, honey, via its battery of bioflavonoids sourced from wild plants in a partnership developed over 100 million years of coevolution, protects the essential enzyme glutamine synthetase from degradation. This enzyme is the key to providing the brain with energy and it is overwhelmed by the consumption of too much refined sugar and carbs. In this sense honey, the only 'good' sugar, is neuroprotective and enhances human cognition.

Glutamine synthetase is also essential in converting excitotoxic glutamate to benign and beneficial glutamine, in both brain and body. In the brain, glutamate destroys nerve cells (neurones) and glutamine protects them.

Glutamate is likewise emerging as a major negative influence on cardiovascular health and glutamine as positive, showing that cognition

and heart health are profoundly correlated. In June 2023 a joint study by Beijing University in China and Stanford University in America and published in the *Lancet* concluded that cognitive decline was associated with an increasing number of heart-related health issues. (Ref No 2)

Congratulations to Canada, a country that has, for over a century, been ahead of the game in researching the interrelationship between cardiac and cognitive health. As the Canadian authors may have concluded: Honey sugars are good and not 'free' – they are policed by the many bioflavonoids in honey to protect the honeybee's (and therefore human) cardiometabolic and cognitive health.

© Mike McInnes 19th August 2023
"Hammersmith Health Books"

Honey Sapiens: Mike McInnes - Book2look

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BOOK REVIEW

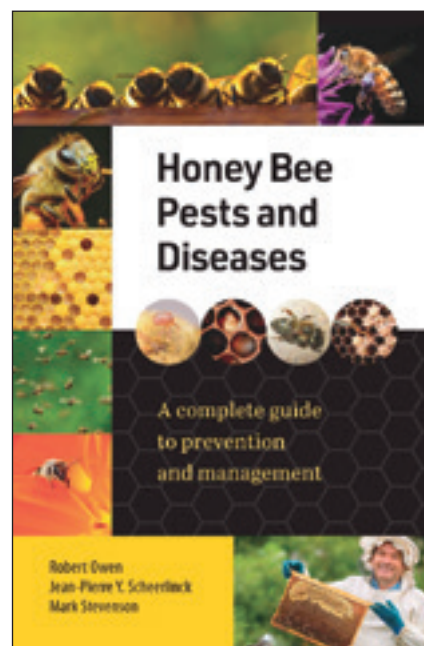
Canadian Honey Council

Honey Bee Pests and Diseases provides up-to-date information on the management of honey bee diseases found globally, not just in the U.S., Europe, or Australia. It is an important guide to keeping hives healthy and producing.

Honey Bee Pests and Diseases:

- Is a key guide to beekeeping issues for both hobby and professional beekeepers.
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- Tackles the issues of pathogens and treatments from the viewpoint of how the bees become infected.
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- Includes handy appendices with a diagnostic table and a pest management table.
- Is fully illustrated with photos, tables, and graphics.

Honey Bee Pests and Diseases will be published October 31. It is available wherever you buy books.



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Duties include but not limited to, feed and care for honey bees, replacement of hives and production of nucs, moving hives, supering hives, detect and report hive health and apply correct disease cures and/or controls, bee yard maintenance, keep field and/or production records, harvest honey, working on extracting line, cleaning extracting equipment and honey house, raise queens, assemble and maintenance of bee equipment, drive and maintain vehicles, other duties as assigned. Work is very physically demanding, with long days and heavy lifting. The job is located 2 hours north of Winnipeg in the RM of Fisher NE 33-23-1W in Fisher Branch, MB. Send resume by mail to Box 328 Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0 or email anita@ifsltd.ca

Help Wanted: Spiritwood (SK)

Jewitt Honey Farm, Apiary Labourers May 1st – September 30th Responsibilities will include but not limited to; assemble equipment, unwrapping hives, bee yard maintenance, moving hives, cleaning deadouts, cleaning extracting facility, painting, making nucs, supering hives, harvesting honey, extracting honey, feeding bees. Will be required to work some evenings and weekends, work is physically demanding with heavy lifting, cannot be allergic to bees, a valid SK driver's license would be an asset \$15.00-\$16.50/hr. depending on experience, willing to train, potential to earn bonuses.

Apiary Labourers 2 Full-Time Seasonal Positions for 2024 May 1st – August 30th Responsibilities will include but not limited to; assemble equipment, unwrapping hives, bee yard maintenance, moving hives, cleaning deadouts, cleaning extracting facility, painting, making nucs, supering hives, harvesting honey, extracting honey, feeding bees.

Will be required to work some evenings and weekends, work is physically demanding with heavy lifting, cannot be allergic to bees, a valid SK driver's license would be an asset \$15.00-\$15.50/hr. depending on experience, willing to train, potential to earn bonuses.

Apiary Labourers 2 Full-Time Seasonal Positions for 2024 July 1st – August 30th Responsibilities will include but not limited to; bee yard maintenance, moving hives, cleaning extracting facility, painting, supering hives, harvesting honey, extracting honey, feeding bees. Will be required to work some evenings and weekends, work is physically demanding with heavy lifting, cannot be allergic to bees, a valid SK driver's license would be an asset \$15.00-\$15.50/hr. depending on experience, willing to train, potential to earn bonuses.

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Help Wanted: Souris (MB)

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pending on experience. 1-2 years experience preferred. Operating a forklift is an asset. A valid driver's license and the ability to speak English is an asset. Duties include assisting with feeding, bee hive maintenance and treatments, moving hives, harvesting and extracting honey, and winter preparation and some building of new hive equipment. Contact Irwin or Joan Harlton, Harlton Apiaries, Box 644 Souris (MB) R0K 2C0 204-483-2382. Or email: harltonapiaries@mymts.net

Help Wanted: Rocanville (SK)

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APIARY TECHNICIAN (7 months)

6 seasonal positions available from March 21 - October 21 (2024).

Reporting to work at B. Strong Apiaries Ltd. 1 mile southwest of Rocanville, Sk. (NE 17-16-31 W1)

Wages dependent on experience (\$17.00 - \$22.00) Possible production bonus at end of the season.

Duties include but are not limited to: Unwrapping/wrapping hives, colony manipulation, application of honeybee treatments, making nucs, supering, maintaining equipment and a clean shop, pulling and extraction of honey, moving and feeding hives, keeping accurate and up to date yard records, etc.

Requirements: -Minimum of 2 years beekeeping experience. -Must not be allergic to honeybee stings.

-The work is physically demanding, applicants must be in strong and active physical condition to maintain the safe work environment. -Required long hours and occasional weekend/holiday work (minimum 40hours a week). -Must work well with others, and able to work long hours in the heat. -Ability to speak English is an asset but not a requirement.

APIARY WORKER (6 months)

4 seasonal positions available from April 21 - October 21 (2024).

Reporting to work at B. Strong Apiaries Ltd. 1 mile southwest of Rocanville, Sk. (NE 17-16-31 W1)

Wages dependent on experience (\$16.00 - \$20.00) Possible production bonus at end of the season.

Duties include but are not limited to: Assisting apiary technicians in the unwrapping/wrapping of hives, colony manipulation, application of honey bee treatments, making nucs, supering, maintaining equipment and a clean shop, pulling and extraction of honey, moving and feeding hives, safely securing truckloads of honey/equipment, etc.

Requirements: -Must not be allergic to honeybee stings.

-The work is physically demanding, applicants must be in strong and active physical condition to maintain the safe work environment. -Required long hours and occasional weekend/holiday work (minimum 40hours a week). -Must work well with others, and able to work long hours in the heat. -Ability to speak English is an asset but not a requirement.

APIARY WORKER (3 months)

6 seasonal positions available from July 3rd - September 15 (2024).

Reporting to work at B. Strong Apiaries Ltd. 1 mile southwest of Rocanville, Sk. (NE 17-16-31 W1)

Wages dependent on experience (\$16.00 - \$20.00) Possible production bonus at end of the season.

Duties include but are not limited to: Cleaning warehouse at start of season. Daily upkeep and maintenance of extracting area/honey house, extraction of honey, cleanup after extraction season, painting of honey supers, painting and other general upkeep of the honeyhouse. etc.

Requirements: -Must not be allergic to honeybee stings. -Required long hours and occasional weekend/holiday work (minimum 40hours a week). -Must work well with others, and able to work long hours in the heat. -Ability to speak English is an asset but not a requirement.

Contact Lance Strong: bstrongapiaries@outlook.com, fax resume to (306)645-4591

Help Wanted: Nipawin, (SK)

Yves Garez Honey Inc, P.O Box 2016, Nipawin, SK, S0E 1E0 seeks employees for the March 2024 to October 2024 season at facilities located 10 km North-East of Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

Good work ethics, health and stamina essential, for hard work, heavy lifting, long days including some weekends. Those allergic to bee stings and work need not apply.

-3 Apiary Supervisors (NOC 8252) with 5 years experience in handling bee hives including unpacking and packing, checking, feeding, medicating, cleaning, moving, splitting, supering, raising queens, as well as harvesting and extracting honey. Wages \$ 20.00 to \$ 25.00 per hour, depending on experience.

-8 Apiary Technicians (NOC 8431) with 2 years experience working with bees. Wages \$ 17.00 to \$ 20.00 per hour.

-4 Apiary Workers (NOC 8431) No experience required. We will train successful applicants in Honeybees and Hive manipulation. Wage start at \$ 15.00 per hour.

email: yves@garezhoney.com Contact: YVES GAREZ. Phone: 3068627700

Help Wanted: Tees (AB)

TEES BEES INC. (Alberta), requires:

Three APIARY TECHNICIANS (NOC 8431) with a minimum of 2-3 years (seasons) experience working on a Canadian style commercial apiary in the min. capacity of Apiary Worker or General Farm Worker with employment March thru October 2024 (\$15.65-\$19/hr depending on exp. with possible bonus) (40+ hrs/wk); Duties include: caring for honeybee colonies in the appropriate manner; coordinating the production of replacement bees and equipment; recognizing, reporting, monitoring hive health issues and applying appropriate treatment/controls; harvest and fill honey barrels and containers; supervise small teams of workers; driving and daily maintenance of vehicles; operate and maintain other apiary equipment; conduct bee yard maintenance; keep some field production records. A motor vehicle operator's licence with no serious infractions, recognized by the Province of Alberta and major insurance companies is required.

Nine APIARY WORKERS (NOC 8431) with a minimum of 1 year (season) experience and with employment March thru October 2024 (\$15.65-\$17/hr depending on exp. with possible bonus) (40+ hrs/wk); Duties include caring for honeybee colonies in the appropriate manner; assisting Technicians with bees and equipment; assisting with harvesting honey; assisting with the bee yard and equipment maintenance.

All wages are negotiable based on experience and productivity. Applicants must be able to work in the presence of honey bees. 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. Ability to speak English is an asset. Contact Jeremy Olthof at 23318-Hwy 50, Tees, AB; mail to RR1, Tees, AB T0C 2N0; or email at teesbeesinc@gmail.com.

Help Wanted: Argyle (MB)

Grysiuk Apiary Inc. requires 9 full time seasonal apiarists in Argyle, MB. wages are \$16.00 - \$18.00 per hour
▶ pag. 23



Microbial Myths

True or False? If microbes don't colonize, they aren't effective.

It's true that some beneficial microbes, such as Lactobacilli in probiotics, are aimed at replenishing native bacteria that colonize (or continue to populate) the gut. However, many bacteria have demonstrated their ability to impart positive effects even though they are transient and do not remain in the digestive tract or the rectum for extended periods.

You may have wondered why probiotics for humans are often recommended daily. This is because beneficial microbes that do not colonize the gut need to be replenished. Even bacteria that do colonize the gut face overwhelming circumstances that often disrupt their natural balance. For example, when honey bees face several environmental stressors such as transportation, dearth,

supplemental feeding, pathogens, parasites, exposure to toxins and antibiotics, these all negatively impact a flourishing microbiome.

When good bacteria are diminished, it leaves holes or gaps for harmful bacteria to move in. Imagine your honey bee's gut is a big neighborhood; we want our society to have plenty of helpful neighbors that shield our community when hard times come. Unfortunately, when environmental stressors come along, some of the helpful neighbors (bacteria) will die or dwindle in numbers until they can no longer take up residence like they used to. When this happens, it leaves a hole or a gap, like a vacant house. That empty space is an opportunity for pathogens to take up residence. This is why it's crucial before, during, and after stressful times like pollination, when your bees face a deluge of stressful circumstances, that their gut's microbiome is fortified with good neighbors (bacteria) to help them get through the tough time ahead.

depending on experience (possible bonus) Job is physically demanding, must help with wrapping, feeding, making nucs, supering, pulling honey, honey extraction, medicating hives and winter preparation. Start date is March 1, 2024 - November 15, 2024. Please apply by email: acgrysiuk@shaw.ca mail: Contact, Calvin, 83 Acheson Dr., Winnipeg, MB. R2Y 2E8. Phone: 204-831-7838

Help Wanted: Granum (AB)

SUPERNUC APIARIES located near Granum, AB (251032 TWP RD 104) has the following positions for the 2024 season.

APIARY TECHNICIAN (NOC 8431) 1 position; wage starting at \$16.52 - \$22.00/hr

APIARY WORKERS (NOC 8431) 2 positions: starting at \$16.52 - \$20.00/hr,

Needed full time (45+ hrs/wk) from Mar 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024. Apiary technicians must have a minimum of 3 seasons of full-time experience in a Canadian commercial apiary and have the ability to supervise/train staff, have knowledge in commercial hive management for pollination, honey production and queen-rearing and the ability to assess hive health and care for them in the appropriate manner. Apiary workers must have a minimum of 1 season full time experience in a Canadian commercial apiary. Duties include assisting technicians with beehive maintenance and treatments, building and repairing bee equipment, moving hives, harvesting and extracting honey, and winter preparation. Some evening, night and weekend work will be required. Accommodations are available. A valid driver's license and the ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit and accustomed to working with honeybees. No educational requirements. All wages are negotiable based on experience and productivity. Bonuses may be available. Email resumes to aovinge@gmail.com or mail to Box 133, Granum, AB T0L 1A0.

Help Wanted: Ardmore (AB)

T'N'T Apiaries require:

An Apiary Foreperson (NOC 82030) for full time (40+ hrs/wk) year round employment (\$20.00-\$25/hr depending on experience. Bonus possible). Applicant must have a minimum of 5 years (seasons) full time in a Canadian style commercial apiary environment with a minimum of 3 years (seasons) working as an Apiary Technician.

Duties include:

- Caring for honeybee colonies in the appropriate manner
- Coordinating the production of replacement bees & equipment.
- Recognizing, reporting, monitoring and controlling hive health issues.
- Harvest & package honey, pollen & beeswax.
- Supervise & train workers.
- Drive (including std transmission & medium duty trucks) & daily maintenance of vehicles.
- Operate & maintain other apiary equipment (including forklifts, chainsaws & pumps)
- Conduct bee yard maintenance.
- Keep field and/or production records.
- Interact with external farm personnel.

5 APIARY TECHNICIANS (NOC 84120) for full time (40+ hrs/wk) employment (\$17.00-\$22/hr depending on experience. Bonuses possible). February thru November 2024. 1-2 Positions may become year round. Must have a minimum of 2 years (seasons) working full time on a Canadian style commercial apiary in the min. capacity of Apiary Assistant or General Farm Worker.

Duties include:

- Caring for honeybee colonies in the appropriate manner.
- Coordinating the production of replacement bees and equipment.

- Recognizing, reporting, monitoring hive health issues and applying appropriate treatment/controls.
- Harvest and package honey, pollen and beeswax.
- Supervise small teams of workers.
- Drive (including std transmission and medium duty trucks) and daily maintain vehicles.
- Operate and maintain other apiary equipment (including forklifts, chainsaws and pumps).
- Conduct bee yard maintenance.
- Keep some field and/or production records.

6 APIARY WORKERS (NOC 85100) for full time (40+ hrs/wk) employment (\$16.55-\$19.00/hr. depending on experience. Bonuses Possible) February thru November 2024. Applicants must be able to work in the presence of honey bees.

Duties include:

- Caring for honeybee colonies in the appropriate manner
- Assisting Technicians with bees and equipment.
- Assisting with harvesting honey, pollen and beeswax.
- Assisting with the bee yard and equipment maintenance.

All positions may require some evening, night and weekend work. All applicants must be in good physical condition and able to work in a team environment. Preference will be given to those Technicians and Worker applicants holding a motor vehicle Operator's license with no serious infractions, recognized by the Province of Alberta and major insurance companies. Contact Dave Tharle, 44116 - Hwy 659, Ardmore, AB or Box 80, Ardmore, AB. (Fax 780-826-6013) Email: tntapi@mcsnet.ca

Help Wanted: Roblin (MB)

Positions available for 2024. 3012352 Manitoba Ltd. o/a Wendell Honey Box 1439, Roblin, MB R0L 1P0 Reporting to work at Wendell Honey, one-mile East of MacNutt, Saskatchewan.

Transportation provided from there to various bee yards.

18 Full Time Positions available at Wendell Honey in 2024

• APIARIST TECHNICIAN (NOC 84120)

- help with Spring check, hive assessment and manipulation.
- help with pest and disease control.
- help with grafting, making nucs, and raising queens.
- assemble equipment.
- help super hives.
- help harvest honey.
- help keep field production records.
- help maintain bee yards.
- help with Fall feeding, assessment and treatments.
- help to wrap bees.
- team lead/supervise as required
- other duties as assigned

• Positions available from April 8, 2024 to mid-October 2024

- Min. 2 years of experience working with bees necessary.
- Work is physically demanding.
- Wages \$17.00 - \$28.00 per hour depending on experience
- Possible production bonus.

Email Ashley Chamberlain at jobswendellhoney@gmail.com or or phone 204-564-2599.

15 Full Time Positions available at Wendell Honey 2024

• Apiary Worker (NOC 85100) to

- assemble equipment.
- help super hives.
- help harvest honey.
- help maintain bee yards.
- help with Fall feeding.
- help to wrap bees.

- Positions available from May 15, 2024 to mid-September 2024
- No experience required.
- Work is physically demanding.
- Wages \$15.00 - \$20.00 per hour depending on experience
- Possible production bonus.

Email Ashley Chamberlain at jobswendellhoney@gmail.com or phone 204-564-2599.

Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourers, B's Bee Ranch Inc. - Kinistino (SK)

Two Apiary Harvest Labourer positions available for up to 8 months (starting no earlier than March) required for the 2024 season. Labourers perform (but are not limited to) tasks such as assisting with 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.

Availability to work long hours, evenings/nights, holidays and weekends is required. Work is faced paced and physically demanding with heavy lifting. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. Knowledge of the industry, a valid driver's licence and English-speaking skills an asset but not mandatory. Wage starts at \$14.00/hr with subsidized housing option and transportation. Potential for bonuses based on performance, attitude and character. Interested applicants can email a resume and cover letter with references to B's Bee Ranch Inc at beeranch@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: B's Bee Ranch Inc. - Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Workers: Two Apiary Harvest worker positions available for up to 9 months (Feb to November) required for the 2024 season. Apiary 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. Availability to work long hours, evenings/nights, holidays and weekends is required. Work is faced paced and physically demanding with heavy lifting. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. Canadian beekeeping industry knowledge, 12 months experience in Canada, valid driver's licence and English skills required. Wage starts at \$15.00/hr - \$18.00/hr (depending on years of Canadian experience) with subsidized housing option and transportation. Potential for bonuses based on performance, attitude and character. Interested applicants can email a resume and cover letter with references to B's Bee Ranch Inc at beeranch@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourers. Baconian Bee Farm Ltd., located at 102 Ruttle Avenue in Kinistino, Sk., is seeking up to two full-time employees to fill the seasonal positions of Apiary Harvest Labourer for the 2024 crop year. The position consists of work with honeybees. Duties primarily include, but are not limited to assisting with, moving colonies out of and into the wintering facility, feeding and medicating colonies, evaluation and development of colony strength, building and repairing of equipment, harvesting of honey supers, extracting and storing honey, and colony location maintenance.

The successful applicants need no experience to fill these positions, must be able to work outdoors in variable weather conditions, work well with other employees, work in a fast paced and physically demanding environment, and be able to work evenings and weekends

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tonylalondesales@sasktel.net

Tony Lalonde Sales Prt.
 Box 42, Clayton St.,
 Canada S0K 0Y0
 Ph: 306-931-0155
 fax: 931-1646

when it is deemed necessary. The average work day is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week. Wage shall begin at \$14.00/hour. Subsidized housing is available. Potential to earn bonuses based on production and performance. The position is for a term of approximately 7 to 8 months beginning no earlier than March 15, 2024 and ending no later than November 15, 2024. No experience required to fill these positions. To apply for this position, e-mail resume to dionebacon13@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Workers/Technicians. Baconian Bee Farm Ltd., located at 102 Ruttle Avenue in Kinistino, Sk., is seeking up to two full-time employees to fill the seasonal positions of Apiary Worker for the 2024 crop year. The position consists of work with honeybees. Duties primarily include, but are not limited to assisting with, moving colonies out of and into the wintering facility, feeding and medicating colonies, evaluation and development of colony strength, building and repairing of equipment, harvesting of honey supers, extracting and storing honey, and colony location maintenance. The successful applicants must have a minimum of two years' experience in the industry, be able to work outdoors, work well with other employees, work in a fast paced and physically demanding environment, and be able to work evenings and weekends when it is deemed necessary. The average work day is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week. Wages shall begin at \$15.00/hour up to \$18.00/hour depending on years of experience in the beekeeping industry. Subsidized housing is available. Potential to earn bonuses based on production and performance. The position is for a term of approximately 7 to 8 months beginning no earlier than March 15, 2024 and ending no later than November 15, 2024. To apply for this position, e-mail resume to dionebacon13@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourer: Position 1
Bacon Apiaries Ltd, located at 102 Ruttle Avenue in Kinistino, Sk., requires six honey harvest labourers for the upcoming 2024 crop season for extracting honey. Job duties include transporting full supers to extracting room, 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 from the extractor and putting them into supers, stacking supers away, assembling new honey equipment and repairing existing honey equipment. The average work day is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week with wages starting at 14.00/hr to \$17.00/hr depending on experience. Subsidized housing is available. Potential to earn bonuses based on production and performance. The employment term is from July 2nd, 2024 to September 25th, 2024. To apply for this position, e-mail resume to dionebacon13@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourer: Position 2
Bacon Apiaries Ltd., located at 102 Ruttle Avenue in Kinistino, Sk., is seeking up to two full-time employees to fill the seasonal positions of Apiary Harvest Labourer for the 2024 crop year. The position consists of work with honeybees. Duties primarily include, but are not limited to assisting with, moving colonies out of and into the wintering facility, feeding and medicating colonies, evaluation and development of colony strength, building and repairing of equipment, harvesting of honey supers, extracting and storing honey, and colony location maintenance. The successful applicants need no experience to fill these positions, must be able to work outdoors in vari-

able weather conditions, work well with other employees, work in a fast paced and physically demanding environment, and be able to work evenings and weekends when it is deemed necessary. The average work day is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week. Wage shall begin at \$14.00. Subsidized housing is available. Potential to earn bonuses based on production and performance. The position is for a term of approximately 7 to 8 months beginning no earlier than March 15th, 2024 and ending no later than November 15th, 2024. No experience required to fill these positions. To apply for this position, e-mail resume to dionebacon13@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: East of Saskatoon (SK)

Meadow Ridge Ent Ltd East of Saskatoon, Sk.
Contact Albert J Robertson Phone: 3063739140
Meadow Ridge Enterprises Ltd requires help for the 2024 beekeeping season. The contract term is from April 15th to October 31st 2024.
Meadow Ridge Ent Ltd is a commercial beekeeping and queen-rearing operation located 10 miles east of Saskatoon, NW 33 TP 36 RG 3 W 3rd in the RM of Blucher.
Apiary Technicians (NOC 8431): Minimum 1-2 years of beekeeping experience required.
Wage \$15.00 - \$17.00 depending on experience. Potential to earn bonuses.
3 positions to fill. Seasonal full-time(40 hr+/wk).
Duties include spring/fall feeding, unwrapping/wrapping hives, monitoring hive health, assisting in all aspects of queen rearing, and commercial honey harvesting. Fixing and building bee equipment, upkeep of bee sites, and maintenance of work vehicles.
Apiary Supervisors (NOC 8252): Minimum 3-4 years of beekeeping experience.
Wage \$18.00 - \$21.00 depending on experience. Potential to earn bonuses.
2 positions to fill. Seasonal full-time (40 hr+/wk).
Duties include spring/fall feeding, unwrapping/wrapping hives, moving hives, monitoring hive health, assisting in all aspects of queen rearing, and commercial honey harvesting/extraction. Keeping daily records, supervising other employees, fixing and building bee equipment, upkeep of bee sites, and maintenance of work vehicles. A valid Driver's license is required.
All applicants must be able to work with honeybees and not be allergic to bee stings. Will work in all kinds of weather, a repetitive and physical job that will require heavy lifting, reaching, crouching, and standing. Being in good physical condition is required.
Please apply by email to a.j.robertson@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Langenburg and Esterhazy (SK)

Job Openings For Glory Bee Honey Farms (101034244 SK LTD) - 2024
Located in Langenburg and Esterhazy, SK Glory Bee Honey has job openings for Apiary Technicians, Apiary Technician Assistants These positions are available for fulltime (35+hrs/week) from April-October for the 2024 season. Also available is Honey Harvest labourer/ General farm worker positions which is 2-3 months starting July-Sept for 2024.
10 Apiary Technicians (6-8 month position)
2-3 yrs experience necessary to apply.
Jobs include:
• Help with spring check, do hive assessment and manipulation.
• Help with pest and disease control. Help with grafting, building and looking after nucs
• Help queens raise Help with harvest. Help to apply medication and treatments. *Lifting is required
Wages- \$20.00-\$27.00/hr depending on experience
20 Apiary Technician Assistants (6 month position)

Jobs Include:

- Help apiary technicians
 - Assemble equipment
 - Help super hives. Help harvest honey. Help keep field production records
 - Help maintain bee yards Help with fall feeding, assessment and treatments.
 - Help to wrap bees. *Lifting is required
- Wages \$15.00-\$20.00 depending on experience
10 Honey Harvest Labourers (2-3 month position)
- To help with harvest and extraction of honey
 - Work in the bee yards pulling honey
 - Work in the extraction plant Clean honey harvest equipment
 - No experience necessary will train on the job *Lifting is required

Wages starting at \$15.00-19.00/hr depending on experience
Positions available from April 15, 2024 to October 31st, 2024.
Applicants must be physically and mentally fit to work outdoors and with bees.
To apply please email resume and references to: glorybeehoneyfarms@gmail.com for more information.

Help Wanted: Falkland (BC)

General Farm Worker -Apiary
Honey Onyx Apiary Inc.
Main Job Location: 3265 97 Highway, Falkland, British Columbia V0E 1W1 Canada
With beehives in Falkland, Kamloops, Westwood, Lake Country areas and Dawson Creek.
Salary: \$16.75 Hourly (Current Minimum for BC)
Job Type: Full-Time with 45 hours/week- Seasonal/temporary
(50 hours/week In May-June and August)
Worker starts: March 5, 2024 until November 5, 2024
Vacation: 4% in lieu of paid vacation days
Language: English or Spanish
Minimum Education: None
Positions Available: 4
Other benefits: Housing is provided by employer
JOB DUTIES. The following duties will be performed in this position:
-Frames and beehives assembly
-Cleaning and maintenance of the working areas (including the bee yard)
-Nucs reception and insertion in brood boxes
-Queens reception and introduction to nucs
-Nucs/Beehives feeding
-Add supers on crop season
-Suppers loading and downloading
-Beehives movement
-Honey Crop
-Honey Extraction
-Frames cleaning/melting
-Wax melting
-Beehives Sanitary Treatments
-Winter preparation
REQUIREMENTS.
The successful applicant will possess, at a minimum, the following skills and experience:
Proven beehives and honey extraction experience (from 7 months to less than 1 year on apiary type of farm, letter of experience must be provided)
Driving license
Criminal record check will be administered
We would like to thank you for your interest in this position. However, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
How to Apply
Contact: Please send your Cover Letter and Resume to attention of Daniela
Email: honeyonyxapiary@gmail.com

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Course Content

Module 1: Introduction To Honey Bees

In this module, you will learn the fundamentals of honey bees and beekeeping, including what honey bees are, the three castes of honey bees, common tools and equipment needed for beekeeping, and essential terminology you will need to use on the job.



Module 2: Health And Safety

In this module, you will learn how to keep yourself and your co-workers healthy and safe at work. Specific topics include the personal protective equipment (PPE) you will need to wear, apiary safety, and dealing with bee stings.

This module is an introduction to health and safety. You will receive more health and safety training on the job through WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) training and during your employee orientation with your supervisor.



Module 3: Seasonal Management

In this module, you will learn about the seasonal tasks and procedures that are carried out in the apiary. You will also learn how to feed the honey bees, expand colonies, prevent and manage swarms, and winter bees indoors and outdoors.



Module 4: Handling And Moving Honey Bees

In this module, you will learn how to handle bees, calm bees, and move hives.



Module 5: Biosecurity: Keeping Honey Bees Healthy

In this module, you will learn what biosecurity is and why it is important. You will also learn about important policies and measures that are needed to minimize the risk of introducing and spreading pests and diseases to help keep honey bee colonies healthy.



Module 6: Honey Bee Health

In this module, you will learn how to identify signs and symptoms of some of the common types of pests and diseases. You will also learn about the different methods used to monitor and control pests and disease to keep honey bee colonies healthy.



Module 7: Harvesting Honey

In this module, you will learn about harvesting and extracting honey. You will also review methods to prevent robbing during the harvest.



Module 8: Queen Rearing

In this module, you will learn what queen rearing is and how to do it using a starter/finisher method. You will cover concepts such as Queen Cell Building, Grafting and Queen Mating.





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The Canadian Honey Council is the national association of beekeepers representing apiculturists across Canada. The CHC provides a forum where producers, packers, professionals, provincial associations and officials from different levels of government can talk and recommend action in the best interests of the Canadian honey bee industry. Currently, the CHC membership consists of representatives of provincial associations with the total number of beekeepers at approximately 13,000 managing over 810,000 colonies.