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Canadian Honey Council Report



In February of this year the Canadian Honey Council and CAPA held a joint national conference, BeeTech, that from all accounts was very well received by beekeepers, presenters and trade show participants. Our Board was torn as to whether this should become an annual event or a biannual event. It was determined that we will host a full scale event every second year but in the interim years we will run a smaller scale event. We are pleased to announce that CAPA and ourselves will be hosting our respective AGM's and a seminar event in Ottawa, February 6-8, 2025 at the Lord Elgin Hotel. The CHC AGM and Board meeting will be held on the 6th and seminars will take place on the 7th and the morning of the 8th. The agenda for the seminars are being worked on but they will be a mix of scientific presentations and beekeeper panels. Topics currently under consideration for discussions include Tropilaelaps, interprovincial movement for pollination, stock replacement, labour, and of course, governmental relationships. I would expect a program should be finalized by the end of October/early November. Registration will be limited to 100 people. Please check our website for updates and further details. (www.honeycouncil.ca)

Initial reports across the country indicate that while colony numbers increased this year, honey production was down. In some cases, reports of almost 50% less honey production than normal occurred. While stock replacement issues certainly impact honey production, it is becoming more apparent that weather-related problems compound the issue. Rain, wind, smoke, and excessive heat all played a part in the reduced honey production this year.

One of the unfortunate consequences of decreased honey production is the increased demand for honey

imports. Less than a decade ago, Canada exported nearly twice as much honey as we imported. In 2023, we had a 90-million-pound crop but we imported slightly more than we exported. The majority of that import was Brazilian "organic" honey, however American honey and honey from Thailand, India and Vietnam were also significant contributors. Combined, the latter three countries exported about 4 million pounds of "honey" to Canada. Honey adulteration is a world-wide problem and the CHC continues to pressure CFIA to do more comprehensive testing of honey to ensure what is imported, is truly honey.

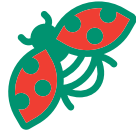


Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC

There are some changes proposed to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program that could have implications for beekeepers so as things progress, we will be updating the website. There is an article in this edition of Hivelights that provides an overview of some of the new program designs. Working on behalf of the industry, members of the CHC labour committee are providing input on various aspects of the new program.

Finally, after years of delays the submission for oxalic glycerin pads has been submitted to PMRA. The CHC will do its best to try to fast-track approval as there is a need for this product as soon as possible. I would like to thank all those involved in getting this to the finish line including the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, Dave Stotesbury and Lynae Ovinge.

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Proposed changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program for Agriculture

By: Rod Scarlett

This spring the government announced that they were looking at some substantial changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) and it is important that beekeepers understand what is going on and to distinguish if, and how, the changes will impact them.

At full implementation, the new stream will replace the four existing TFW Primary Agriculture sub-streams. It will be delivered under two sub-streams: The Bilateral Country Agreements category for workers entering from countries with signed agreements with Canada (e.g. existing SAWP countries); and The Open-Source category for workers entering into Canada from countries without country agreements.

- The new stream includes the following occupations, which represented over 106,000 LMIA positions in 2023 (Annex C) seasonal and full-year positions in all primary agriculture commodities;
 - select seasonal fish and seafood processing jobs; and,
 - select seasonal primary fruit and vegetable processing jobs.
- Under the new stream, TFWs will receive a new sector-specific work permit (valid up to two years) which will allow workers to change jobs and move to another employer with an LMIA, without having to apply for a new work permit.
- It is also proposed that employers will receive re-fillable LMIA's, that can be used to support re-occurring seasonal work over a 2-year period, along with the ability to refill positions.
- In Quebec, the TFW Program is jointly administered with the Ministère de l'immigration, de la francisation et de l'intégration. The co-management of the Program may lead to a difference in stream requirements and timelines, that will be specific to positions located in Quebec.

To help ensure that there is limited disruption to workers and employers as they move to new stream requirements, ESDC will seek to develop a transitional measure strategy for select features of the new stream.

- ESDC's objective is to begin transitioning employers and workers under existing TFW Program Streams to new stream features starting as early as 2025, with full implementation of the new stream as early as 2027.
- This gradual approach will help ensure that employers and workers can take advantage of new stream benefits earlier, while also ensuring a smooth transition to the new stream.
- Key areas for discussion include:

Wages: Developing a gradual approach to move SAWP and Agricultural Stream employers to a new market-based approach.

Deductions: Developing a gradual approach to increase SAWP and Agriculture Stream worker deduction amounts to better reflect current housing rates and employer costs.

Employer-Providing Housing: A gradual approach to move employers to updated housing requirements.

Health Care: Developing consistent requirements across SAWP and the proposed new occupations under the new Program stream.

At full implementation

The objective is to fully implement the new stream and sector-specific work permit as early as 2027.

While many aspects of the new stream will be subject to discussion with stakeholders, key features of the stream and are likely to include:

- **Sector-specific worker permits**, which gives TFWs the ability to work in any occupation included under the new stream and move to another employer with an open LMIA, without having to apply for a new work permit.
- **Re-fillable LMIA's** that support re-occurring seasonal work over a 2-year period, along with the ability to refill positions within a 2-year validity period.
- **Market-based TFW wages and deductions.**
- **Updated employer-provided housing requirements** to ensure greater protections and safety to workers.
- **Continuation of no cap on the percentage of TFWs employed at a worksite.**
- **Priority work permit processing** for workers entering under country agreements.
- **Standardized and mandatory employment contracts**
- **Continuation of the LMIA processing fee exemption for Primary Agriculture work only.**

Consultations have already begun on components of the new proposed programming with housing already complete.

Further discussion papers will be will also be shared for feedback in the coming weeks on the following topics:

- Occupational Scope.
- Stream-Specific Work Permits.
- Transportation.
- Wages and Deductions.
- Healthcare Provisions.

Please feel free to contact the CHC office with any comments or suggestions you may have.

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Regional Reports



Atlantic



Rodney Reid

Reports are coming in that the honey harvest of Atlantic Canada is average or above. The summer weather has been consistent, and the region's warm fall is helping with the honey harvest as beekeepers prepare for overwintering and varroa treatments in the maritime provinces. The hurricane season has been quiet as I write this report, and hopefully, it stays that way.

Buzzing Budgets: Unpacking Beekeeping Costs in the Maritimes

Join the Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture and Dalhousie Extended Learning for a one-day workshop titled "Buzzing Budgets: Unpacking Beekeeping Costs in the Maritimes." This comprehensive one-day workshop is designed for new or aspiring beekeeping entrepreneurs. The workshop features three sessions, each led by industry experts, covering various aspects of the beekeeping business. This course is ideal for anyone looking to build their beekeeping business on a strong financial foundation. For more details, please visit Dalhousie Extended Learning.

The NBBA Student Scholarship

The New Brunswick Beekeepers Association Scholarship is a merit award given annually for \$500 per successful applicant. Final submissions must be submitted by January 1st. For more information, check out <https://nbba.ca>.

Wishing you the best as you move into the winter season which also includes times for AGMs and workshops.

Québec



Maggie Lamothe Boudreau,
agr., M. Sc.

Production de miel :

L'été 2024 a offert une saison fascinante, marquée par des variations climatiques significatives influençant la production de miel au Québec. La floraison abondante des pissenlits a permis une récolte prometteuse, mais les mois de juillet et août, particulièrement secs, ont réduit la disponibilité du nectar. En conséquence, de nombreux apiculteurs ont dû nourrir leurs colonies pour prévenir une famine. Aux États-Unis, le prix du miel a baissé à **2,52 \$ par livre en 2023**, contre **3,01 \$ en 2022**, mais une hausse est attendue cette année en raison des récentes conclusions

sur leur programme anti-dumping. Pour plus d'informations, consultez : <https://www.bakingbusiness.com/articles/62108-higher-honey-prices-expected-in-wake-of-anti-dumping-findings>

Climat :

Alors que nous approchons la fermeture des ruches, l'automne se montre aussi sec que l'été. Cette météo facilite le nourrissage, mais les températures anormalement chaudes augmentent la consommation de sirop, ce qui est préoccupant pour les apiculteurs.

Vol de ruches :

Le vol de ruches reste un problème récurrent au Québec. Plusieurs apiculteurs ont signalé des vols de ruches et de miel à l'Association québécoise, incitant des démarches auprès du ministère de l'Agriculture pour explorer des solutions à long terme. Ce sujet sera discuté cet hiver au sein de l'Association et du Conseil canadien du miel. Si vous avez subi des pertes, veuillez en informer l'Association pour une meilleure compréhension de la situation provinciale et nationale.

Apiomics :

Les apiculteurs du Québec sont fiers d'annoncer l'obtention d'un soutien financier important pour le projet **Apiomics**. Ce programme innovant utilise des outils génomiques pour améliorer la santé et la productivité des abeilles, en favorisant des colonies plus résistantes aux maladies et mieux adaptées aux conditions environnementales. Ce projet, qui inclut plusieurs éleveurs de reines québécois, vise à offrir des solutions sur mesure pour les apiculteurs.

Rencontres Sentinelle Santé des Abeilles :

Cette année, plusieurs rencontres ont été organisées pour suivre de près la santé des ruches québécoises. Ces rencontres permettent aux vétérinaires et autres responsables d'intervenir rapidement en cas de crise sanitaire.

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

Honey Production:

The summer of 2024 has been a fascinating season, marked by significant climatic variations that impacted honey production in Quebec. The abundant dandelion bloom allowed for a promising harvest, but the particularly dry months of July and August reduced the availability of nectar. As a result, many beekeepers had to feed their colonies to prevent famine. In the U.S., honey prices dropped to **\$2.52 per pound in 2023**, down from **\$3.01 in 2022**, though a price increase is expected this year due to recent anti-dumping findings. For more information, visit: <https://www.bakingbusiness.com/articles/62108-higher-honey-prices-expected-in-wake-of-anti-dumping-findings>.



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Climate:

As we approach the end of the season, the fall remains as dry as the summer. This weather makes feeding easier, but the unusually warm temperatures increase syrup consumption, which is concerning for beekeepers.

Hive Theft:

Hive theft continues to be a recurring issue in Quebec. Several beekeepers have reported hive and honey theft to the Quebec Association, prompting actions with the Ministry of Agriculture to explore long-term solutions. This issue will be discussed this winter within the Association and the Canadian Honey Council. If you have suffered losses, please inform the Association to provide a clearer picture of the situation at the provincial and national levels.

Apiomics:

Quebec beekeepers are proud to announce that they have received significant financial support for the **Apiomics** project. This innovative program uses genomic tools to improve bee health and productivity by promoting colonies more resistant to diseases and better adapted to environmental conditions. This project, which involves several queen breeders in Quebec, aims to offer tailored solutions to beekeepers.

Bee Health Monitoring Meetings:

This year, several meetings were held to closely monitor the health of Quebec's hives. These meetings allow veterinarians and other responsible parties to respond quickly in case of significant health issues.

For any questions, don't hesitate to contact your beekeeping association.

Ontario



Albert Devries

This season's persistent rain in Ontario has greatly impacted honey production. Wet weather has kept bees from foraging, reducing nectar collection, while fewer flowers bloomed due to excess moisture. As a result, honey yields are lower than usual, and the damp has accelerated the decay in some old painted boxes.

Despite the challenges earlier in the season, the fall in Ontario has been unusually pleasant, offering a surprising boost to honey production

if you didn't already have your supers off. Some beekeepers resuppered their hives after stripping them the week before. Warmer, drier weather has allowed bees to forage more freely, and late-blooming plants like goldenrod and aster have provided a valuable source of nectar. Beekeepers have reported good honey yields from these plants, helping to make up for the shortfall caused by the wet summer. Even with the extra boost from the nice fall weather most beekeepers expect this year's honey crop to be below average. As always, there seems to be exceptions and there are little pockets that have had an absolutely wonderful year producing honey too.

The Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) is actively exploring new ways to fund its initiatives to support beekeepers across the province. With rising costs and increased challenges facing the beekeeping industry, the OBA is looking into grants, partnerships, and alternative revenue streams to ensure continued advocacy and education. Interested parties are also reminded of the upcoming fall Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will take place in Niagara on November 15th and 16th. The AGM will offer opportunities to discuss these funding strategies, network, and attend panel discussions focused on improving hive management and sustainability. Hope to see you there.

Manitoba



Osee Podolsky

Mites seem to be the hot topic in Manitoba this fall. Many operations seeing high mite loads coming out of honey flow. And other operations seeing high mite loads after treating post-harvest. Many beekeepers are still continuing treatments well into October to try and combat mite loads that just don't seem to be dropping very well. Additionally pre wintering deadouts seem to be high in operations this fall, deadouts seem to be symptoms of queenless hives that either had queens fail and were unable to supersede or cells that failed to hatch or successfully get mated. Honey production is down across Manitoba for the most part with the stressed crops and starting and stopping honey flow contributing to it.

Saskatchewan



Jake Berg

The initial crop report in Canada seems to indicate that the 2024 crop was somewhat smaller than normal, particularly in the prairies where crops were down around 25-30%. Because of this, hopefully the price of honey will strengthen to somewhat compensate for the smaller poundage available for sale this year in Canada.

EFB (European Foulbrood) has been larger than normal problem this year in Saskatchewan. There were fairly widespread EFB outbreaks across the province throughout spring and summer, with no rhyme or reason to where or when it would pop up. The only silver lining to the EFB outbreak was that Dr. Sarah Wood from the WCVI was able to set up some field trials for multiple different antibiotics and their efficacy with EFB. I believe Sarah and her students will be presenting the results at the SBDC convention in Saskatoon in November.

The SBDC's annual convention is being held in Saskatoon on November 14, 15, 16. For more information go to the SBDC website: saskbeekeepers.com.

Alberta



Jeremy Olthof

Wrapping up the year with mixed feelings once again this year, we started out with high hopes for a bumper crop and was quickly reminded how fast things can change. Despite a poor crop it has been a long time since I've been this optimistic going into winter. I firmly believe this is a result of our aggressive use of oxalic/glycerine pads immediately following our spring treatment. Approval for this treatment is finally on PMRAs desk and we expect approval prior to next season which will allow for companies to begin producing options for those that don't want to mix their own concoctions. The Alberta Tech team is planning to look at several different application methods next spring so please reach out if you have any input. The long-awaited risk assessment should be made public any day now which will make for an interesting year for the CHC board either way. Work continues

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on developing both the North American Bee strategy and the proposed Promotion and Research agency (PRA). For any producers in Alberta interested in joining the CHC board this would be a good year as board training will be done this fall. The CHC AGM will be held in Ottawa and Apimondia is in Copenhagen next September so lots of travel opportunities.

Alberta



Ryan Hicks

Our season is quickly coming to an end in Alberta. There are reports of guys having everything wrapped and starting to think about winding down. For the most part, it's been a disappointing season, so I know we'll be happy to tuck this one away as a memory. It was an early dry spring, followed by a wet and cool June which gave way to a very hot July. In the Peace Country, a significant heat wave hit just as the Canola started to bloom, and in my opinion stagnated our honey flow. Unfortunately the heat wave lasted until the canola was done blooming, and then adjusted down to what would have been prime honey making weather! Except we had no flowers left.

Without a truly viable synthetic chemical that will drop our mite counts like the good old days of the 20teens, it seems our industry is destined to spend falls vaporizing with oxalic acid. It's been a fairly warm fall, with limited frost, so there has been an abundance of brood which makes that method a bit of a challenge in that it's looking likely that we'll need to do 6-8 rounds to knock the mites back.

There is reason for optimism though, as the risk assessment is due to be released later this fall. I'm hopeful that the science will show that with the proper mitigation, American packages may be a viable option for stock replacement. CFIA will do there due diligence, but as winter mortality seems to be on an upward trend, it becomes that much more important to have as many safe options for replacement as we can get. I'm slowly learning (if only I'd been told by the old guard) that splitting strong hives late in May and the first week in June makes it exceedingly difficult to pull off an average crop. For the time being though, it is the best option, as keeping numbers firm within an operation has to come first, or it becomes a slippery slope.

British Columbia



Jeff Lee

This has been a challenging year for many of British Columbia's beekeepers, similar in concert to what our prairie colleagues have encountered.

Between a wet spring and a sharply dry summer, which resulted in lower and darker honey yields, particularly in eastern and northern B.C., a heavy wasp population and a noticeable difficulty in getting mites under control, beekeepers are facing the potential for higher winter mortality. This may be a year that many beekeepers wish for a "re-do".

It is not all bad news in B.C. The feared Asian Giant Hornet failed to make a reappearance, and Paul van Westendorp, the provincial apiculturist, says that in Washington the lack of any finds of this threat has resulted in state officials there shutting down their monitoring program.

In the Lower Mainland beekeepers reported slightly better yields, and were less bothered by wasps than those elsewhere in B.C.

Here's a look at some of the things going on in British Columbia right now:

BC Honey Producers Association AGM

The annual meeting of the BCHPA is on October 25-27 in Vernon. It includes an introductory meeting for new beekeepers, along with the business day on Friday. This year we have three elections taking place. Heather Higo, our president, terms out and will become past president. Irene Tiampo, our treasurer for the last decade, has also signalled she'd like to retire. And the Canadian Honey Council director's position is up for election. Stan Reist, the long-serving CHC rep, stepped down earlier this year due to a serious health conflict and has indicated he won't run again. I have been filling that position on an interim basis. If the members see fit, I wish to continue to serve in that position.

The theme of our AGM education days is "Bee Connected" and features a number of speakers on queen breeding and queen health, a look at the new AFB vaccine, progress on alternative miticide treatments, including work by Simon Fraser University's Erika Plettner, and factors influencing feed quality. Our speakers include AAFC's Steve Pernal, the recently-retired Rob Currie, California beekeeper Jose Uribe and others.

Risk Assessment on US package bees expected

We've been told that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's long-awaited findings on the risk assessment on US package bees is expected sometime in October. There is supposed to be a 60 period for public comments. If the assessment is made public before the AGM, I am certain there will be a discussion among members about the path forward.

The BCHPA membership has had a motion in place for a number of years opposing the reopening of the Canada-US border in the absence of science-based reporting and analysis by CFIA. Should CFIA believe the risks to the health of the Canadian beekeeping industry that led to the border being closed are mitigated, the membership may modify its position.

Small Hive Beetle Update

This year the provincial government conducted a spring survey to quantify the prevalence of Small Hive Beetle in B.C. This follows finds of the pest in 2015, 2018 and 2023. First discovered in Abbotsford in 2015, it resulted in quarantines that disrupted interprovincial movement of hives returning to Alberta for canola pollination.

The beetles appear to be coming into the Lower Mainland farm areas as a result of US migratory beekeepers placing hives along the border. A number of BC blueberry growers along the border have periodically contracted these hives as a way of reducing costs, not realizing the danger the beetle poses to B.C.'s beekeeping industry.

This spring van Westendorp conducted surveys of target areas in the Lower Mainland. The inspections abated during the honey season, but now he expects we could see a rise in the number of discoveries as beekeepers prepare their colonies for winter.

Here's van Westendorp's findings so far:

- 2,427 colonies inspected March 15 to July 01.
- 33 colonies inspected August 09.
- A total of 11 beetles were detected:
- April 9 - 5 beetles in one apiary, Langley
- April 16 - 2 beetles in one apiary, Langley
- April 23 - 1 beetle in one apiary, Langley



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- June 20 - 1 beetle in one apiary, Pitt Meadows (-Colonies had been moved from Langley to Pitt Meadows)
- July 1 - 1 beetle in apiary near Canada-US border, Aldergrove
- August 9 - 1 beetle in apiary near border Aldergrove
- When a beetle was detected, all colonies within the apiary were inspected, placed under a “no-movement” order and re-inspected two weeks later.
- All infestations have been resolved.

van Westendorp believes the conditions in BC do not lend to SHB being able to successfully overwinter, but he considers the beetle to be a pest worth keeping an eye on.

Tech Transfer Program

Like most TTPs in Canada, B.C.’s program has been working on several summer projects. It is also facing similar financial pressures as other provincial groups, as government funders either end or redraw support. B.C.’s tech transfer program has moved to a project-based funding model, using contributions from private or not-for-profit agencies to help stretch diminishing provincial and federal support.

The projects include assessing hygienic behaviour; re-evaluating mite economic threshold levels, and building an expansive online beekeeping course hosted through one of B.C.’s universities.

On the project revisiting what constitutes an economic threshold for mite damage, that level has been considered to be about three per cent. However, Nuria Morfin, the TTP lead, has been working with a number of beekeepers who she says are diligent about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. Her research is leading her to conclude that a more accurate threshold should be one per cent. In some cases this summer she has witnessed mite counts of 10 per cent.

“It is concerning because those are beekeepers who are proactive and on top of things! I do think we need to work on IPM and how we do things,” she told me.

van Westendorp has also raised concerns about high mite levels being experienced by northern B.C. commercial beekeepers, similar to what is being experienced by some operators in Alberta.

On a political note, this fall we are heading for a provincial election on Oct. 19. What that means for B.C.’s beekeeping industry is unclear. The BCHPA’s TTP has been supported in the past but at this point the province has moved its agricultural priorities and policies elsewhere. The association is still hopeful, however, that continued provincial support for extension services offered by the TTP can continue. However, no changes are expected while the election period is on and an interregnum or hold on government announcements, is in place.

Bee Maid



Our Hive Expansion is Complete!

We hope all Canadian beekeepers had a productive 2024 season! It has been a busy year for us at both our Winnipeg and Spruce Grove locations as we completed a new build and a significant expansion. Here’s a look at what’s buzzing at our facilities:

Spruce Grove Expansion



Marina Oirik

At our Spruce Grove facility, we’ve added an impressive 53,000 ft² to the existing building, bringing our total space to 138,000 ft². This expansion allows us to better serve our valued members and improve operations.

Key highlights include:

- A brand-new **Bee Supplies store**, catering to the diverse needs of the beekeeping community, with an even wider range of products.
- Expansion of our **Blow Mould Area**, which enhances our blow moulding capabilities, an essential part of our production process.
- The increased space will enable us to **scale up intake** in the coming years, ensuring we can meet future demand.

Winnipeg’s New Hive

When expanding our previous Winnipeg location wasn’t possible, we embarked on a new build in the St. Boniface Industrial Park. This new facility was completed in May and is now fully operational, handling processing and packaging.

Key features of our Winnipeg build include:

- A larger **Bee Supplies store**, offering a broader selection of equipment and supplies for beekeepers.
- Enhanced space and layout for **honey processing and drum storage**, providing the capacity to grow alongside intake increases.
- Additional **office space** to accommodate all of our staff and improve overall efficiency.

Customer Appreciation Days

To celebrate our exciting year, all three Bee Supplies stores—in Spruce Grove, Tisdale, and Winnipeg—will be hosting **Customer Appreciation Days**. Be sure to contact your nearest store for more details on the festivities!

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A snapshot of parasite and pathogen prevalence in Canadian apiaries

By: Alison McAfee & M. Marta Guarna

The national honey bee health survey,¹ which ran from 2014-2017, laid important groundwork for documenting the prevalence of parasites and pathogens in Canadian honey bee colonies. But patterns of disease agents may change over time, and here we present pathogen and parasite data acquired through the BeeCSI research project² (led by Amro Zayed and Leonard Foster) and new analyses spearheaded by Marta Guarna,³ which adds to the picture. These data show that BC appears to be a pathogen and Varroa hotspot, at least in the Lower Mainland (where the sampling took place), and that *Vairimorpha apis* (formerly *Nosema apis*) may not be as rare in Canada as we previously thought.

In 2020 and 2021, the research team (including the Zayed lab along with Leonard Foster, Marta Guarna, Shelley Hoover, Steve Pernal, Rob Currie, Pierre Giovenazzo, and their respective groups, in collaboration with the National Bee Diagnostic Center) sampled colonies from one or more operations within BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec and tested them for a panel of pathogens (nine viruses, *Vairimorpha ceranae*, *V. apis*, and *Melisococcus plutonius*, the latter of which causes European foulbrood disease). At the same time, they took samples of adult bees to measure Varroa loads. In total, 240 colonies were tested in each year, with samples pooled in groups of 4 colonies belonging to the same apiaries. The researchers also sampled colonies over time — before, during, and at the end of pollination periods — during which the colonies were moved into yards with different proximities to focal crops (see McAfee et al.⁴ for further details). Here, we highlight the pathogen data from samples taken before the pollination period began, which represents the baseline prevalence in different regions (though there are some seasonal differences in when these samples were taken, with most baseline sampling done in June but sometimes as early

as April or as late as July). For the Varroa data, we show how abundances in all regions change over time, while also assessing samples taken at similar dates to compare prevalence.

There were strong regional differences in the prevalence of three pathogens in 2020 (**Figure 1**; Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV), *V. apis*, and *M. plutonius*) and eight pathogens in 2021 (**Figure 2**; deformed wing virus A & B (DWVA/DWVB), black queen cell virus (BQCV), sacbrood virus (SBV), chronic bee paralysis virus (CBPV), IAPV, *V. apis*, and *M. plutonius*). Among these differences, with the exception of BQCV and CBPV in 2021, colonies in British Columbia consistently had the highest pathogen prevalence. We also looked at virus detections in a different way, by analyzing how many viruses were detected per sample. By this metric, BC again came out in front, with an average of 5.0 viruses per sample, followed by southern Alberta (4.5) and northern Alberta (4.3). All other locations had < 4.0 viruses per sample.

Colonies in British Columbia also had high Varroa loads, especially early in the season when levels in other regions were low (**Figure 3A**). When we pare the data down to look at only samples taken at comparable dates, British Columbia still emerges with the highest or second highest Varroa prevalence, especially in 2020 when it was detected in nearly 100% of samples.

BQCV and LSV were the most prevalent viruses overall and were detected in the vast majority of samples, which agrees with the data from the national honey bee health survey. However, we also found that 18% of samples tested positive for *V. apis* — substantially higher than what was found in the national survey, which ranged from 3.2-10.5% of samples in each year — indicating that this pathogen is not necessarily on its way to becoming obsolete.



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Our data was not collected in a way that is meant to represent the prevalence of pathogens in entire provinces, but it is striking to see such strong differences in the narrow focal regions we tested. The uptick in pathogen prevalence in British Columbia is worrisome, and beekeepers there should be exceptionally vigilant

about minimizing transmission between colonies and monitoring Varroa loads. The high density of beekeepers in the Lower Mainland makes preventative measures, like sterilizing tools or equipment that is moving between apiaries and establishing quarantine sites to keep sick colonies away from others, even more important.

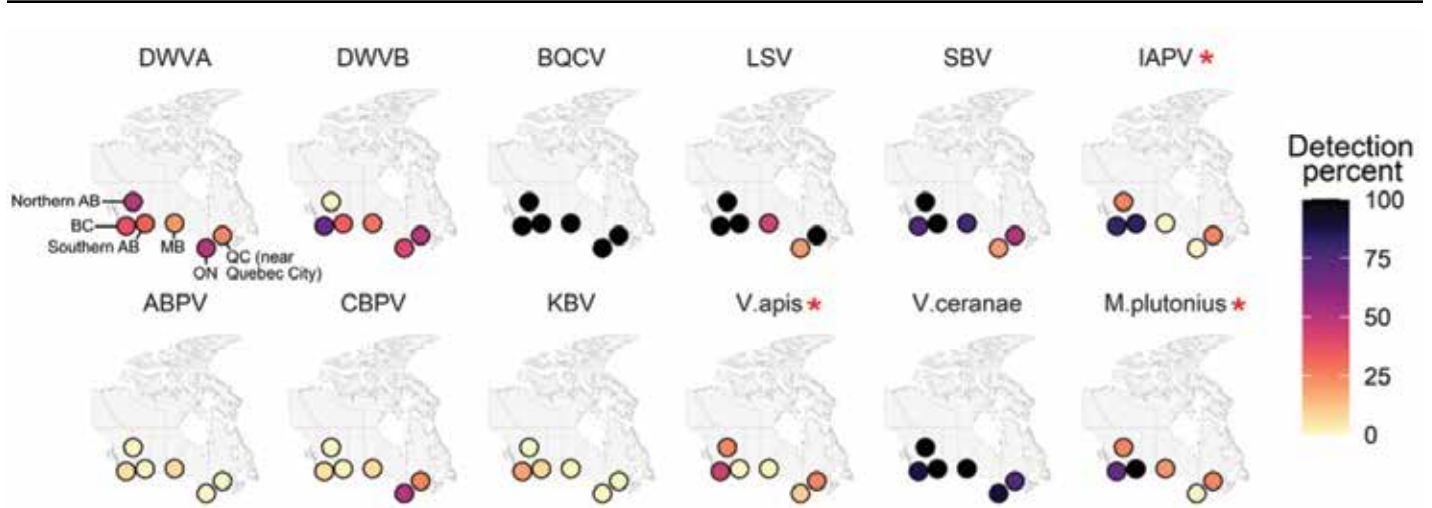


Figure 1. Baseline prevalence of pathogens in 2020. Regions include the Lower Mainland in BC, northern Alberta (Beaverlodge), southern Alberta (Lethbridge), Manitoba (Winnipeg), Ontario (Greater Toronto Area), and Quebec (Quebec City). Red asterisks indicate pathogens with significant differences between regions. The percent scale indicates the regional prevalence (percent of samples testing positive for the pathogen).

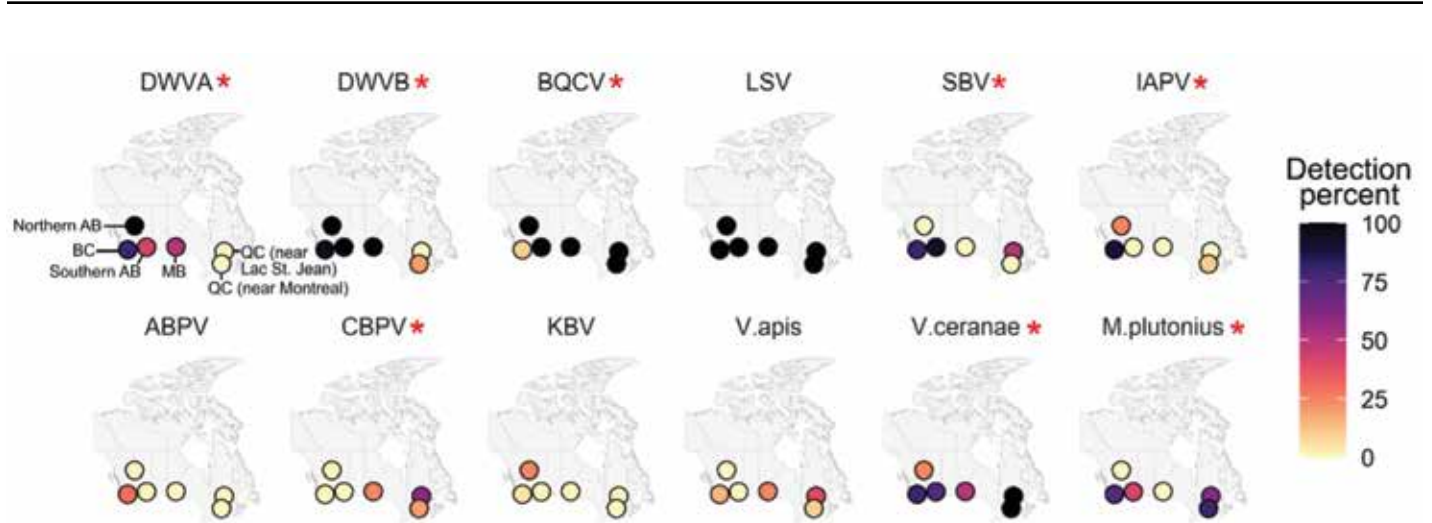


Figure 2. Baseline prevalence of pathogens in 2021. Regions include the Lower Mainland in BC, northern Alberta (Beaverlodge), southern Alberta (Lethbridge), Manitoba (Winnipeg), and two regions in Quebec (near Montreal and near Lac St. Jean). Red asterisks indicate pathogens with significant differences between regions. The percent scale indicates the regional prevalence (percent of samples testing positive for the pathogen).



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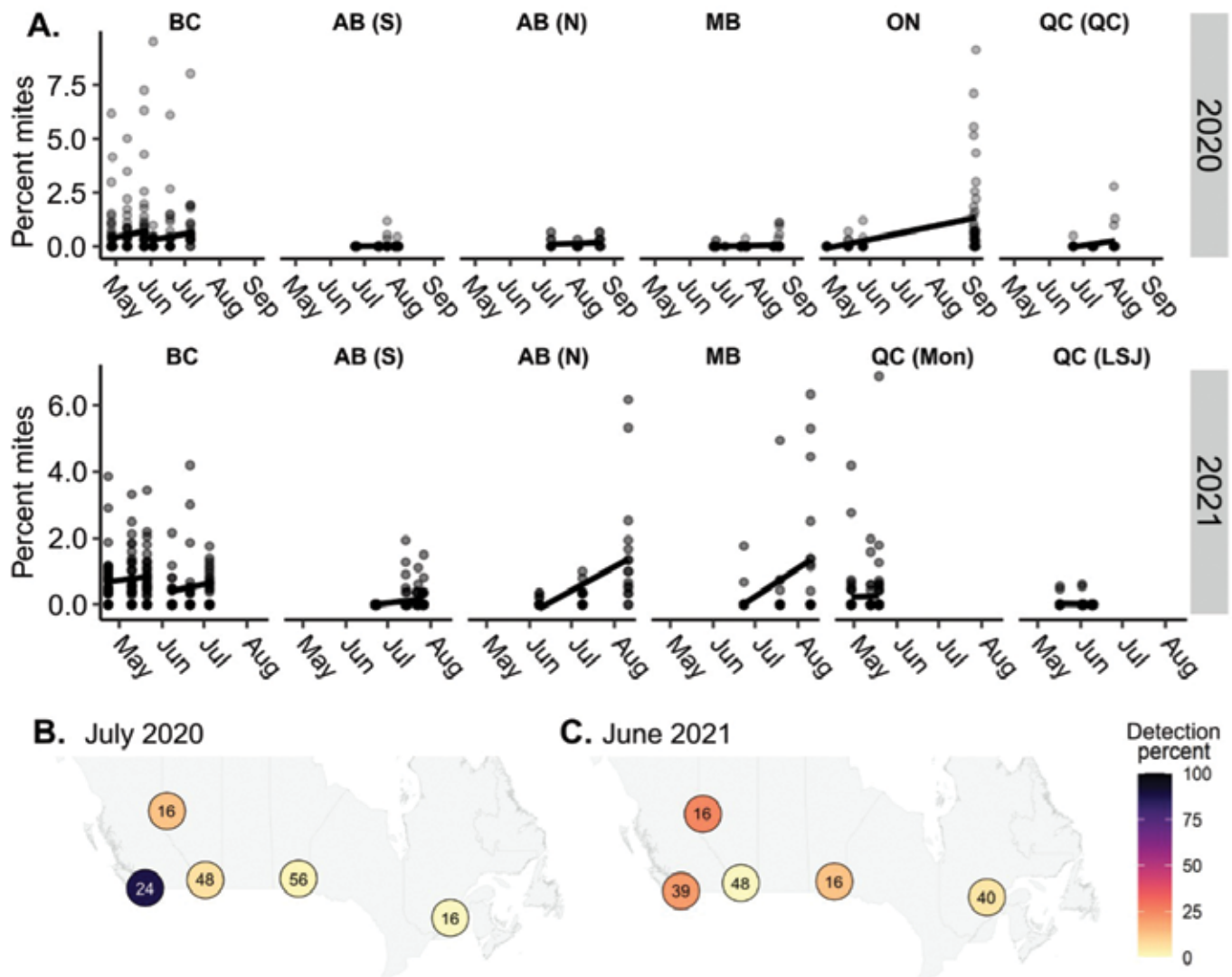


Figure 3. *Varroa* sampling in 2020 and 2021. AB (S) = southern Alberta (Lethbridge area); AB (N) = northern Alberta (Beaverlodge area); QC (QC) = Quebec, near Quebec City; QC (Mon) = Quebec, near Montreal; QC (LSJ) = Quebec, near Lac St. Jean. A) Mite levels expressed as mites per 100 bees (alcohol wash method). B & C) *Varroa* prevalence data was extracted for comparable sampling dates (corresponding to July in 2020 and June in 2020) to better compare regional differences. Numbers inside circles indicate the sample size for each region. Significant regional differences were observed in both years but were most pronounced in 2020, with very high prevalence in BC. This figure also appears in McAfee *et al.* (2024).⁴

Footnotes

1. Final reports from all National Honey Bee Health Survey years can be found at https://www.nwpolytech.ca/nbdc/research/nat_survey.html
2. The BeeCSI work was supported by Genome BC, Genome Quebec, Genome Canada, the Ontario Genomics Institute, the Ontario Research Fund, the Government of Canada (through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), the Genomics Research and Development Initiative, the Canadian Honey Council, and the Ontario Beekeepers' Association Technology Transfer Program.
3. The analyses of regional patterns of pathogen and parasite abundance and prevalence was supported by Genome BC through the Genomic Innovation for Regenerative Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries.
4. McAfee A, Alavi-Shoushtari N, Tran L, Labuschagne R, Cunningham M, Tsvetkov N, Common J, Higo H, Pernal SF, Giovenazzo P, Hoover SE, Guzman-Novoa E, Currie RW, Veiga PW, French SK, Conflitti IM, Pepinelli M, Borges D, Walsh EM, Bishop CA, Zayed A, Duffe J, Foster LJ and Guarna MM. (2024). Climatic predictors of prominent honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) disease agents: *Varroa destructor*, *Melissococcus plutonius*, and *Vairimorpha* spp. *PLoS Climate*. 3(8): e0000485.

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Bees: Queens and Packages

Queens

| | 2024/Mar | | 2024/Apr | | 2024/May | | 2024 YTD to end May | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | C\$ | Quantity | C\$ | Quantity | C\$ | Quantity | C\$ | Quantity |
| TOTAL | 91,928 | 3,393 | 2,130,961 | 56,327 | 7,289,080 | 175,391 | 9,511,969 | 235,111 |
| United States of America | 0 | 0 | 1,482,457 | 35,411 | 6,526,569 | 154,693 | 8,009,026 | 190,104 |
| Italy | 0 | 0 | 148,588 | 4,911 | 366,959 | 10,629 | 515,547 | 15,540 |
| Australia | 81,754 | 3,126 | 182,251 | 7,134 | 148,765 | 3,717 | 412,770 | 13,977 |
| New Zealand | 0 | 0 | 196,719 | 1,780 | 40,382 | 1,036 | 171,502 | 3,083 |
| Denmark | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 556 | 13 | 556 | 13 |

Packages

| | 2024/Feb | | 2024/Mar | | 2024/Apr | | 2024/May | | 2024 YTD to end May | |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG |
| United States of America | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 44,530 | 33 | 146,986 | 600 | 191,516 | 930 |
| Italy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,019,535 | 9,221 | 323,167 | 1,422 | 1,342,702 | 10,643 |
| Chile | 0 | 0 | 704,534 | 3,825 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 704,534 | 3,825 |
| Australia | 0 | 0 | 376,817 | 2,788 | 662,923 | 4,914 | 0 | 0 | 1,039,740 | 7,702 |
| New Zealand | 182,028 | 864 | 808,610 | 7,739 | 1,797,312 | 12,550 | 599,987 | 2,662 | 3,387,937 | 24,815 |
| TOTAL | 182,028 | 864 | 1,889,961 | 14,352 | 3,524,300 | 28,015 | 1,070,140 | 4,684 | 6,666,429 | 47,915 |

Honey bee import trade data shows accelerated queen imports in May and reduced package imports.

The monthly contribution of 175,391 Queen bees brings the total number of Queens arriving this year to 235,111, with 80% of the YTD total arriving from the U.S.

In May, package bee imports added 4,643 one KG package equivalents to reach a YTD total of 47,915, with 51.8 percent from arriving from New Zealand.

We will continue to work with Stats Can to correct the data points indicating packages arriving in Canada from the U.S.

Regards,

Stephen Page, AAFC – MISB SDAD
Crops and Horticulture Division
Sector Specialist – Honey and Beekeeping

Honey Exports

| COUNTRY | 2024/Jan | | 2024/Feb | | 2024/Mar | | 2024/Apr | | 2024/May | | Total | | May Ave. Price per lb. | YTD Ave. Price per lb. |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | | |
| United States of America | 2,540,914 | 476,317 | 3,081,073 | 584,277 | 4,054,612 | 868,807 | 2,307,023 | 495,595 | 3,190,935 | 599,188 | 15,174,557 | 3,024,184 | \$ 2.42 | \$ 2.28 |
| Japan | 1,030,244 | 148,509 | 2,322,141 | 362,895 | 3,300,079 | 490,991 | 2,281,478 | 354,512 | 1,652,644 | 266,052 | 10,586,586 | 1,622,959 | \$ 2.82 | \$ 2.97 |
| Korea, South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 548,170 | 72,336 | 132,826 | 18,084 | 680,996 | 90,420 | \$ 3.34 | \$ 3.42 |
| China | 5,202 | 946 | 0 | 0 | 13,666 | 2,485 | 150,996 | 27,449 | 7,548 | 1,150 | 177,412 | 32,030 | \$ 2.98 | \$ 2.52 |
| Taiwan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,816 | 694 | 0 | 0 | 152,376 | 27,705 | 156,192 | 28,399 | \$ 2.50 | \$ 2.50 |
| Costa Rica | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 138,822 | 25,248 | 138,822 | 25,248 | \$ 2.50 | \$ 2.50 |
| Hong Kong | 89 | 12 | 1,695 | 308 | 40 | 7 | 87,654 | 15,937 | 0 | 0 | 89,478 | 16,264 | - | \$ 2.50 |
| Greece | 54,912 | 9,984 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54,912 | 9,984 | - | \$ 2.50 |
| Barbados | 0 | 0 | 16,232 | 2,935 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27,547 | 5,010 | 43,779 | 7,945 | \$ 2.50 | \$ 2.50 |
| United Arab Emirates | 4,538 | 783 | 3,288 | 594 | 1,889 | 344 | 0 | 0 | 11,029 | 2,006 | 20,744 | 3,727 | \$ 2.50 | \$ 2.53 |
| Lebanon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19,309 | 3,511 | 0 | 0 | 19,309 | 3,511 | - | \$ 2.50 |
| Bermuda | 0 | 0 | 8,637 | 1,561 | 0 | 0 | 6,853 | 1,234 | 0 | 0 | 15,490 | 2,795 | - | \$ 2.52 |



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Honey Imports

| | 2024/Jan | | 2024/Feb | | 2024/Mar | | 2024/Apr | | 2024/May | | Total | | May Ave. Price per lb. | YTD Ave. Price per lb. |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | C\$ | KG | | |
| TOTAL | 3,941,540 | 466,321 | 4,907,853 | 737,563 | 7,129,867 | 744,964 | 6,086,896 | 994,413 | 5,846,201 | 1,122,851 | 27,912,357 | 4,066,112 | \$ 2.37 | \$ 3.12 |
| New Zealand | 1,604,088 | 31,187 | 927,956 | 16,942 | 3,421,062 | 63,657 | 1,559,871 | 33,786 | 156,334 | 3,594 | 7,669,311 | 149,166 | \$ 19.77 | \$ 23.37 |
| Brazil | 597,523 | 163,723 | 904,366 | 255,728 | 460,229 | 134,955 | 1,188,451 | 361,779 | 1,149,477 | 328,406 | 4,300,046 | 1,244,591 | \$ 1.59 | \$ 1.57 |
| United States of America | 723,779 | 110,736 | 633,121 | 89,917 | 786,631 | 125,565 | 649,261 | 67,765 | 612,841 | 91,901 | 3,405,633 | 485,884 | \$ 3.03 | \$ 3.19 |
| Australia | 146,717 | 13,553 | 806,144 | 63,139 | 588,360 | 25,020 | 672,583 | 58,977 | 513,807 | 53,296 | 2,727,611 | 213,985 | \$ 4.38 | \$ 5.79 |
| Thailand | 152,729 | 29,460 | 316,358 | 90,837 | 330,703 | 84,428 | 750,133 | 190,479 | 242,787 | 44,969 | 1,792,710 | 440,173 | \$ 2.45 | \$ 1.85 |
| Greece | 277,923 | 53,688 | 211,741 | 44,095 | 328,165 | 66,520 | 122,876 | 23,458 | 313,175 | 63,411 | 1,253,880 | 251,172 | \$ 2.24 | \$ 2.27 |
| India | 19,185 | 4,517 | 144,079 | 43,108 | 77,355 | 22,096 | 535,262 | 137,183 | 408,948 | 115,866 | 1,184,829 | 322,770 | \$ 1.60 | \$ 1.67 |
| Spain | 14 | 0 | 50,722 | 10,297 | 340,230 | 71,533 | 17 | 3 | 654,651 | 137,872 | 1,045,634 | 219,705 | \$ 2.16 | \$ 2.16 |
| Saudi Arabia | 287 | 6 | 298,357 | 15,451 | 106 | 7 | 29 | 18 | 514,736 | 45,756 | 813,515 | 61,238 | \$ 5.11 | \$ 6.04 |
| Türkiye | 4,680 | 199 | 71,449 | 5,693 | 102,051 | 9,635 | 46,112 | 4,413 | 443,087 | 64,934 | 667,379 | 84,874 | \$ 3.10 | \$ 3.57 |
| Argentina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 386,846 | 78,609 | 236,037 | 57,257 | 622,883 | 135,866 | \$ 1.87 | \$ 2.08 |
| Lithuania | 0 | 0 | 96,016 | 21,338 | 202,888 | 40,600 | 0 | 0 | 89,990 | 18,560 | 388,894 | 80,498 | \$ 2.20 | \$ 2.20 |
| Germany | 34,128 | 4,380 | 52,058 | 21,552 | 180,277 | 36,531 | 207 | 7 | 120,030 | 20,301 | 386,700 | 82,771 | \$ 2.69 | \$ 2.12 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 0 | 123,677 | 36,679 | 101,959 | 25,053 | 0 | 0 | 52,318 | 7,765 | 277,954 | 69,497 | \$ 3.06 | \$ 1.82 |
| Vietnam | 200,465 | 26,401 | 7,276 | 1,364 | 36,399 | 6,960 | 48 | 11 | 31,347 | 4,130 | 275,535 | 38,866 | \$ 3.45 | \$ 3.22 |
| Poland | 102,932 | 21,128 | 37,091 | 2,816 | 7,904 | 1,041 | 9,196 | 4,537 | 2,857 | 345 | 159,980 | 29,867 | \$ 3.76 | \$ 2.43 |
| China | 4,021 | 116 | 11,293 | 561 | 54,417 | 13,875 | 48,394 | 20,448 | 681 | 12 | 118,806 | 35,012 | \$ 25.80 | \$ 1.54 |
| Bulgaria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 292 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 102,943 | 19,590 | 103,235 | 19,639 | \$ 2.39 | \$ 2.39 |
| Cuba | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100,990 | 36,040 | 100,990 | 36,040 | \$ 1.27 | \$ 1.27 |
| Italy | 4,487 | 503 | 15,546 | 713 | 18,248 | 552 | 40,774 | 3,357 | 12,719 | 412 | 91,774 | 5,537 | \$ 14.03 | \$ 7.53 |
| United Kingdom | 492 | 12 | 76,981 | 2,633 | 10,597 | 140 | 2,633 | 114 | 236 | 7 | 90,939 | 2,906 | \$ 15.32 | \$ 14.22 |
| Lebanon | 4,801 | 293 | 57,204 | 6,484 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 749 | 171 | 62,754 | 6,948 | \$ 1.99 | \$ 4.11 |
| Hungary | 1,794 | 106 | 0 | 0 | 23,918 | 2,920 | 36,958 | 2,452 | 0 | 0 | 62,670 | 5,478 | - | \$ 5.20 |
| Portugal | 0 | 0 | 25,138 | 2,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24,929 | 2,100 | 50,067 | 4,200 | \$ 5.40 | \$ 5.42 |
| Austria | 4,021 | 283 | 6,186 | 449 | 9,460 | 675 | 39 | 1 | 12,493 | 896 | 32,199 | 2,304 | \$ 6.34 | \$ 6.35 |
| Israel | 30,598 | 3,110 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,598 | 3,110 | - | \$ 4.47 |
| Moldova, Republic of | 0 | 0 | 8,074 | 2,963 | 20,250 | 8,134 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28,324 | 11,097 | - | \$ 1.16 |
| Serbia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,454 | 2,715 | 20,454 | 2,715 | \$ 3.24 | \$ 3.42 |
| Romania | 12,999 | 1,044 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,891 | 675 | 0 | 0 | 19,890 | 1,719 | - | \$ 5.26 |
| Taiwan | 11,150 | 1,715 | 79 | 2 | 1,035 | 93 | 100 | 3 | 6,697 | 548 | 19,061 | 2,361 | \$ 5.55 | \$ 3.67 |
| France | 210 | 11 | 9,558 | 832 | 7,013 | 1,136 | 249 | 15 | 592 | 146 | 17,622 | 2,140 | \$ 1.84 | \$ 3.74 |
| Zambia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12,689 | 1,375 | 12,689 | 1,375 | \$ 4.19 | \$ 4.19 |
| South Africa, Republic of | 0 | 0 | 12,495 | 1,371 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12,495 | 1,371 | - | \$ 4.14 |
| Yemen | 479 | 10 | 948 | 84 | 10,253 | 1,763 | 296 | 14 | 48 | 3 | 12,024 | 1,874 | \$ 7.27 | \$ 2.92 |
| Mexico | 75 | 4 | 1,201 | 79 | 1,983 | 157 | 770 | 83 | 1,023 | 9 | 5,052 | 332 | \$ 51.67 | \$ 6.92 |
| United Arab Emirates | 214 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 3,651 | 1,017 | 601 | 88 | 67 | 5 | 4,543 | 1,118 | \$ 6.09 | \$ 1.85 |
| Iran | 0 | 0 | 159 | 34 | 240 | 126 | 3,120 | 1,570 | 525 | 60 | 4,044 | 1,790 | \$ 3.98 | \$ 1.03 |

May 2024 shows the average price paid for Canadian honey shipped to the US rose 14% to \$2.42 per pound from the previous month's average price of \$2.12/lb. The average price paid for honey exports to Japan in April dropped 4% (\$0.12) from the April average of \$2.94 to \$2.82. Volumes shipped to Japan declined by 25% while volumes to the US rose by 21% over the previous month.

The volume of honey imported to Canada rose by 13% over the previous month, from 994,413 KGs to 1,122,851 KGs

Average import prices maintain the trend towards volatility, dropping 15% from the previous month's average (\$2.78) to \$2.37.

Honey arriving in significant volumes reporting prices under \$2 a pound arrived from Brazil (\$1.59), India (\$1.60), Argentina (\$1.87), and Cuba (\$1.27)

Regards,
 Stephen Page, AAFC – MISB SDAD
 Crops and Horticulture Division, Sector Specialist – Honey and Beekeeping

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Honey Bee Day in Manitoba

By: Jim Campbell

Manitoba's Beekeepers chose a novel approach to celebrating the 10th "Day of the Honey Bee" by combining promoting the industry, drawing attention to challenges faced, while raising research funds, at an over 100 year old venue in the downtown Exchange District of Winnipeg.

The plan to promote public awareness of the importance of the agricultural beekeeping industry (Pollination and Honey Production) came together on Wednesday 29 May 2024. This is the date set aside for Bee Day celebrations in Manitoba and other provinces across Canada. Past celebrations typically centred on education, displaying industry benefits; while for 2024 a different approach was used.

Visitors to the 10th Day of Bee display were rewarded by getting up close and personal to live bees within an observation hive. Volunteer beekeepers representing Brandon Area Beekeepers Association (BABA), Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) and Red River Apiarist's Association (RRAA) kept busy explaining the intricacies of Honey Bee lifecycle including pollination of flowering crops and production of honey. This included equipment beekeepers use and the by-products of the hive, including bees wax for beauty products. Meanwhile at another part of the display, two volunteers were constantly describing the different colours and flavours of honey, and offering samples to taste.

While the traditional educational focus was retained, industry challenges were introduced, thus a new approach was deemed appropriate. The new approach incorporated partnering with a microbrewery in the heart of Winnipeg, while creating an element of fundraising through sharing of profits from sale of food and beverage. Partnering with Little Brown Jug, a local micro-brewery resulted in the celebration taking place in their taproom.

Little Brown Jug Brewing Company (LBJ), founded in 2016, is located in the Winnipeg Exchange District at a red brick structure once housing tenants such as a Motor Coach Company, a Wallpaper Store, and a Design Company. The owners wanted to restore and revitalize the structure while retaining the classic red brick interior and wooden roof beams. Similarly, there was a desire to be part of a green plan to recapture heat from the processing equipment to heat the building in winter and use the concept to cool it in summer. They also wanted to contribute back to the community by bringing people together through gatherings and fundraisers.

The company plans fit the needs of a celebration for Day of Bee; however there was an added bonus for honey producers. LBJ produce a strong Belgian brew named "Golden Ale", which incorporates Honey as an ingredient. Plus there is a Caricature of a Honey Bee on the label. LBJ invites customers into their taproom and production facility, and offers community organizations a venue to meet the public, and share a portion of sales during the



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Saskatraz Hybrid production queens available April 15th to August 15th (\$30 US). These hybrids will produce pure Canadian Saskatraz drones for stud use. All breeding stock tested and certified. Limited number of nucs available in 2024 with Saskatraz hybrid queens. See www.saskatraz.com for breeding information and updates.

Saskatraz stock bred in Saskatchewan for honey production, wintering ability and resistance to mites and brood diseases.



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event. Honey Council groups across Canada may want to test similar promotion option in their respective provinces.

To promote the event, Michael Clark, Chair MBA Pollinator Habitat and Sustainable Initiatives, was interviewed on a morning show of a local TV station. Hon. Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture attended and spoke on the critical role of honey bees at the event meanwhile, Derek Micholson, Provincial Apiarist spoke of challenges facing beekeepers. A wall poster indicated the event was co-sponsored by Manitoba Beekeepers Association, Little Brown Jug, and John Russell Honey Company.

Beekeepers and visitors alike enjoyed socializing by gathering in the taproom and overflowing onto the outdoor patio.



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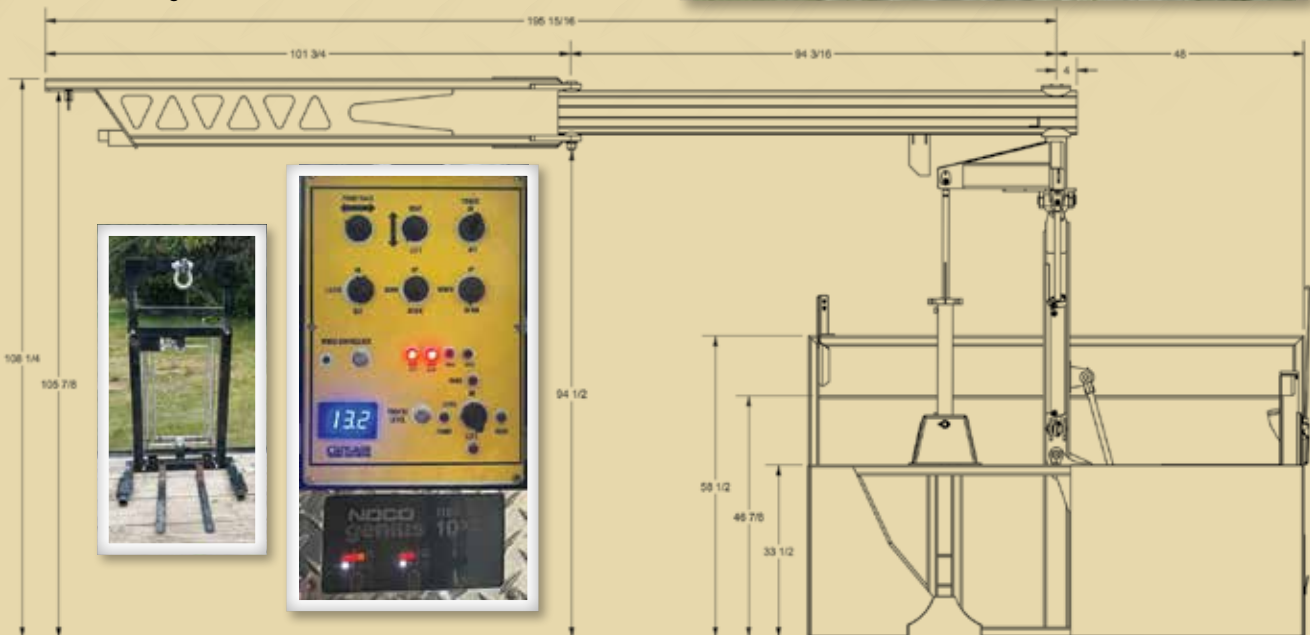


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All units come standard with a rechargeable battery pack and built-in charger plus provisions to wire it to the truck charging system. If ordered soon enough, we may be able to get your order ready by late summer of 2024. Units come fully assembled and are ready for installation. Current pricing (subject to change) is \$47,500.00 (CDN) plus taxes, FOB Brandon, MB.

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Help Wanted 2025

Help Wanted: (AB)

Poelman Apiaries Ltd requires workers for 2025 Season

Fifteen APIARY TECHNICIANS (NOC 84120) 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 November 2025 (\$17.44-\$21/hour depending on exp. with possible bonus) (40+ hours/week).

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 license with no serious infractions, recognized by the Province of Alberta and major insurance companies will be an asset.

Fifteen APIARY WORKERS (NOC 85100) with a minimum of 1 year (season) experience and with employment March thru October 2025 (\$17.44-\$20/hour depending on exp. with possible bonus) (40+ hours/week).

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.

Help Wanted: Tees (AB)

2025 TEES BEES INC. requires:

Three APIARY TECHNICIANS (NOC 84120) 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 2025 (\$17.44-\$21/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 85100) with a minimum of 1 year (season) experience and with employment March thru October 2025 (\$17.44-\$20/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: Granum (AB)

SUPERNUC APIARIES located near Granum, AB (251032 TWP RD 104) has the following positions for the 2025 season. **APIARY WORKERS (NOC 8431) 3 positions:** starting at \$17.44 - \$21.00/hr, needed full time (45+ hrs/wk) from Mar 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025. 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: Argyle (MB)

Grysiuk Apiary Inc. requires **11 full time seasonal apiarists** in Argyle, MB. wages are \$15.80 - \$18.00 per hour 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, 2025 November 15, 2025. Please apply by email: acgrysiuk@shaw.ca mail: 83 Acheson Dr., Winnipeg, MB. R2Y 2E8.

Help Wanted: Souris (MB)

HARLTON APIARIES has 4 Seasonal positions available for the 2025 Season

4 Apiary Workers (NOC 85100) for March or April to end of October 2025

Wages \$15.80 - \$18.00 per hour depending on experience. 1-2 years experience preferred. Operating a forklift, a valid driver's license and the ability to speak English is an asset. Duties include Handle, feed, and care for honeybee colonies, assist in the production of nucs, splits or replacement hives, Recognize and report hive health issues and apply appropriate treatments, move hives, supering hives, Collect and package honey and beeswax, Bee yard maintenance, Manufacture, assemble and maintain hive equipment, Operate and maintain other apiary related equipment, Spring and Winter preparation of hives, heavy lifting required.

Contact Irwin or Joan Harlton, Harlton Apiaries
Box 644 Souris (MB) R0K 2C0 204-483-2382
Or email: harltonapiaries@mymts.net

Help Wanted: Spiritwood (SK)

Jewitt Honey Farm Apiary Labourers

2 Full-Time Seasonal Positions for 2025 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 2025 May 15th – September 15th

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-\$16.00/hr. depending on experience, willing to train, potential to earn bonuses

To apply email resume to jewitthoneyfarm@gmail.com or mail resume to PO Box 969 Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0

Help Wanted: Rocanville (SK)

Apiary Technicians and Workers wanted FOR SUMMER 2025!

APIARY TECHNICIAN (7 months)

6 seasonal positions available from March 21 - October 21 (2025).

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 40 hours 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 (2025).

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 - \$21.00) 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 40 hours 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 (2025).

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 - \$21.00) 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 40 hours 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. Phone: 306-434-8283

Help Wanted: Roblin (MB) 2025

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 2025

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, 2025 to mid-October 2025
- 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 phone 204-564-2599.

15 Full Time Positions available at Wendell Honey 2025

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: Nipawin, (SK) 2025

Contact YVES GAREZ. Phone: 306-862-7700

Yves Garez Honey Inc, P.O Box 2016, Nipawin, SK, S0E 1E0 seeks employees for the March 2025 to October 2025 season at facilities located 10 km North-East of Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

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

3 Apiary Supervisors (NOC 82030) with 5 years experience in handling bee hives. Duties includes unpacking and packing, checking, feeding, medicating, cleaning, moving, splitting, supering, raising queens, as well as harvesting and extracting honey, keeping records, supervising other employees. Valid driver's license required. Wages \$ 22.00 to \$ 30.00 per hour, depending on experience.

8 Apiary Technicians (NOC 84120) with minimum 2 years experience working with bees. Valid driver's license required. Wages \$ 17.00 to \$ 22.00 per hour.

4 Apiary Workers (NOC 85100) No experience required. We will train successful applicants in Honeybees and Hive manipulation. Wage start at \$ 16.00 per hour.

Help Wanted: East of Saskatoon (SK)

Meadow Ridge Enterprises Ltd requires help for the 2025 beekeeping season. The contract term is from April 15th to October 31st 2025. 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. Contact: Albert J Robertson. Phone: 306.373.9140

Please apply by email to a.j.robertson@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourers B's Bee Ranch Inc.

Two Apiary Harvest Labourer positions available for up to 8 months (starting no earlier than March) required for the 2025 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 \$15.00/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: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Workers B's Bee Ranch Inc.

Three Apiary Harvest worker positions available for up to 8 months (starting no earlier than March) required for the 2025 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 \$16.00/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 Labourer Position 1, Bacon Apiaries Ltd, located at 102 Ruttle Avenue in Kinistino, Sk., requires six honey harvest labourers for the upcoming 2025 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 \$15.00/hr to \$18.00/hr depending on experience. Subsidized housing is available. Potential to earn bonuses based on production and performance. The employment term is from June 25th, 2025 to September 25th, 2025.

To apply for this position, e-mail resume to dionebacon13@sasktel.net

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 2025 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 when it is deemed necessary. The average work day is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week. Wage shall begin at \$15.00. 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, 2025 and ending no later than November 15th, 2025. 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 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 2025 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 when it is deemed necessary. The average work day is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week. Wage shall begin at \$15.00/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, 2025 and ending no later than November 15, 2025. No experience required to fill these positions.

To apply for this position, e-mail resume (English only) with subject line 'Work in Canada' to dionebacon13@sasktel.net

Apiary Harvest Workers/Technicians, Baconian Bee Farm Ltd., located at 102 Ruttle Avenue in Kinistino, Sk., is seeking up to three full-time employees to fill the seasonal positions of Apiary Worker for the 2025 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 \$16.00/hour up to \$20.00/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, 2025 and ending no later than

November 15, 2025. To apply for this position, e-mail resume (English only) with subject line 'Work in Canada' to dionebacon13@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Langenburg and Esterhazy (SK)

Job Openings For Glory Bee Honey Farms (101034244 SK LTD) – 2025 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 2025 season. Also available is Honey Harvest labourer/General farm worker positions which is 2-3 months starting July-Sept for 2025.

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, 2025 to October 31st 2025.

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.

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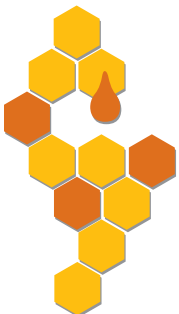
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