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Hivelights is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter).

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

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Publication Mail Agreement number

43070512

ISSN 1489-730X

Hivelights

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Alberta T2H 2H4

geoff@honeycouncil.ca

www.honeycouncil.ca

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Winter 2026 Vol 39 #1

Funded by the
Government
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Canada



Cover Picture: Bee foraging on pollen patty

Photo Credit: Canadian Honey Council

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Design and Production Burke Group
Advertising enquiries Geoff Todd
Publisher Bunker to Bunker Books Inc.

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Canadian Honey Council Report



With 2025 now in the rearview mirror, I want to reflect on some of the major events that impacted the beekeeping sector. After a long and exhaustive scientific review of the possibility of importing packaged bees from the United States, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency determined that there were still risks to the domestic stock that could not be mitigated at this time. What I thought was extremely important was the fact they agreed that any new scientific information could be submitted at any time thus ensuring that, if things change, beekeepers will not wait for an extended period of time for a review to be completed. It was my hope that this decision would have tempered the discussion concerning US stock but instead it only served to create an unwanted divide amongst Canadian beekeepers. It does raise a perplexing question: Do beekeepers across Canada feel this one issue is important enough to create alternate voices for a small but important national industry? The CHC has always strived to be the unifying voice of the industry, relying on the commercial beekeeping sector across Canada to provide guidance and perspective. This process has worked well since 1973 when the Canadian Beekeepers' Council was formed.

In February of 2025 the CHC reviewed its strategic plan and five key initiatives were determined to be priorities:

1. Strengthening Trade & Market Stability
2. Investing in Innovation & Technology
3. Enhancing Sustainability & Environmental Resilience
4. Workforce Development & Industry Representation
5. Strengthening Consumer Trust & Market Positioning

It was about this time (Feb) the USA began instituting its tariff regime which added a layer of difficulty in dealing with all matters, a problem that still exists today.

The uncertainty is prevalent in many business decisions, and the upcoming CUSMA negotiations may have dramatic impacts on the sector.

When spring came, Canada experienced one of the worst over-winter losses in history as nearly 40% of the honeybee colonies were lost. Provincial variances ranged from 12.9% to 44.7% with varroa and associated viruses listed as the main cause of the loss. Still, it is important to note that despite many difficult years, the total number of colonies in Canada is trending upwards. While every beekeeper in Canada is hoping for that silver bullet product that will end the varroa threat once and for all, products are entering the market that will help in the battle. The CHC is doing its part by maintaining its registration of oxalic acid and by submitting a label expansion for oxalic glycerin pads. (At this time, we are still awaiting PMRA approval)

In trying to address some of the industry's concerns particularly related to honey imports and pricing, the CHC successfully applied for a Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program grant to explore and incorporate options for financial sustainability that extends beyond reliance on government programming. Ultimately, it will look at the key elements and linkages within the Canadian honey industry that impact resource and financial capacity to address current and future industry issues.

It will also document feedback regarding:

- challenges facing the industry,
- current resource and capacity gaps to address issues, and
- opinions on potential restructuring scenarios.

Finally, it will outline high-level operational challenges to move forward with any potential resource/capacity restructuring scenarios. Moving forward, are beekeepers interested in establishing something like the National Honey Board

in the USA? Is there interest in consolidating research capabilities and funding and to what degree? These are ideas that could shape the future of the industry for years to come.



Rod Scarlett,
Executive Director, CHC

Tropilaelaps

first came to attention of beekeepers when it was first discovered in 1961 in the Philippines. In the past sixty plus years it has expanded its territory but it has only been in the past few years that beekeepers in North America have awakened to the possible threat. It may take another sixty years to get here or it may come far, far quicker. We don't know, but the CHC, along with the Provincial Apiculturalists, CFIA, Canada Border Services, Chief Veterinarian Officers and others are working on an all-encompassing strategic plan. The plan includes four priority areas:

1. Prevention
2. Provincial action plans/
Industry direction
3. Mitigation
4. Impacts

Provincial Associations will be asked for input on all four areas as we prepare for Tropilaelaps, but it could also apply to incursions of other pests or diseases.

Finally, with BeeTech 2026 on the horizon, and our AGM, I would like to thank Jeremy Olthof and Rodney Reid for their time on the Board and their outstanding contribution to our work. To all, I hope 2026 gives you better honey prices, fewer stock losses, no labour issues, health and happiness.

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Regional Reports



Atlantic



Rodney Reid

Over the past three years, Atlantic Canada's beekeeping sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience, collaboration, and adaptability. Beginning in 2023, the region saw renewed national engagement as beekeepers gathered for workshops, AGMs, and technical meetings across all four provinces. These events strengthened connections between provincial associations and reinforced the importance of shared learning, research, and industry development.

Weather variability quickly emerged as a defining theme. In 2023, Nova Scotia experienced early season drought followed by a wet spring, while New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island also faced inconsistent conditions. Despite this, blueberry pollination across the Maritimes was successful, with growers reporting strong yields due to the absence of frost. Cranberry pollination followed with only minor delays. AGMs brought changes of directors, as they usually do, in both NS and NB, bringing new energy and different perspectives to provincial boards, and the Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture continued to support the region with updated best practice resources.

In 2024, a mild winter set the stage for a productive AGM season. Bee Tech in Calgary brought together beekeepers from across the country, highlighting the value of national collaboration. Nova Scotia focused on livestock insurance, honey marketing, and improved communication tools, while New Brunswick saw strong turnout at its AGM. Prince Edward Island emphasized education, queen rearing, and outreach through Agriculture in the Classroom. The Atlantic Bee Tour, hosted in New Brunswick, provided hands on learning and strengthened regional relationships. Honey yields across the Maritimes were average to above average, supported by consistent summer weather and a quiet hurricane season.

By 2025, beekeepers across the region reported improved overwintering success and strong early season colony buildup. Pollination crops were ahead of schedule, and growers noted excellent yields. However, the summer brought significant climate related challenges. Much of Atlantic Canada experienced drought conditions ranging from "abnormally dry" to "exceptional," with widespread impacts on forage availability. Wild blueberry yields in New Brunswick dropped sharply—by as much as 70% in some areas—reflecting the broader agricultural strain.

Smoke, heat, and poor nectar flows reduced honey production in several regions, requiring supplemental feeding during what would normally be peak flow. Despite these pressures, beekeepers adapted through careful monitoring, flexible management, and strong community support.

Conclusion

Through every challenge—from wet springs to wildfire smoke—our beekeepers have shown remarkable adaptability and commitment to their craft. The future of beekeeping in Atlantic Canada will depend on this same spirit of cooperation, curiosity, and community.

Serving as CHC Atlantic Director has been an honour. Throughout these three years, Atlantic beekeepers have shown exceptional dedication, leadership, and resilience. As I conclude my term, I extend my sincere thanks to the provincial associations, the CHC Board, the Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture, and the many beekeepers who shared their insights, time, and passion. I look forward to supporting the industry in new ways and watching the next chapter unfold. Long may your big jib draw.

Québec



Maggie Lamothe Boudreau,
agr., M. Sc.
Les Apiculteurs et
Apicultrices du Québec

Chères apicultrices, chers apiculteurs,

Alors que l'année 2025 s'achève, il est clair que le secteur apicole québécois a traversé une période charnière, marquée à la fois par de fortes pressions économiques et par des décisions structurantes qui auront un impact durable sur l'avenir de notre industrie.

Une conjoncture économique exigeante

L'année 2025 s'est inscrite dans un contexte agroalimentaire particulièrement difficile au Québec. Les entreprises agricoles ont dû composer avec un conflit tarifaire majeur, poussant l'Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) à réclamer une aide financière directe pour les secteurs touchés. À cela se sont ajoutées des prévisions préoccupantes quant au revenu net agricole, avec des baisses projetées importantes par rapport aux années précédentes.

Une initiative structurante : la Chambre de Coordination et de Développement

L'un des faits marquants de 2025 demeure la continuité de la démarche entreprise en vue de la création d'une Chambre de Coordination et de Développement (CCD) pour la filière apicole québécoise. Cette initiative répond à des enjeux fondamentaux auxquels notre industrie est confrontée, notamment l'augmentation de la mortalité hivernale des colonies, la baisse de productivité et la pression exercée par les importations massives.

Le 16 décembre 2025 a marqué une étape déterminante avec la tenue d'une séance publique devant la Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec, dans le cadre de la demande d'accréditation officielle. La future CCD aura pour mandat de représenter formellement les apiculteurs, de soutenir et d'orienter la recherche appliquée en apiculture, et de promouvoir activement les produits de la ruche québécois, notamment à travers la marque « Miel 100 % Québec ».

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Un financement transitoire provenant du fonds de défense professionnelle de l'UPA permettra de soutenir le démarrage de la Chambre pour les deux prochaines années. L'établissement d'un financement durable pour les Apiculteurs et Apicultrices du Québec (AADQ) demeure toutefois une priorité pour assurer la stabilité et l'efficacité de cette nouvelle structure.

Recherche

La modernisation du Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault (CRSAD), seul centre de recherche apicole au Québec, continue d'être identifiée comme une priorité incontournable pour l'avenir de notre filière. Les AADQ, l'UPA, l'Université Laval et la Table filière apicole poursuivent leurs démarches auprès du ministre de l'Agriculture afin de réaffirmer l'importance d'investir dans un centre de recherche apicole fort et moderne. Un tel investissement vise à améliorer les connaissances scientifiques sur l'abeille, à accroître la compétitivité des entreprises apicoles, à soutenir la formation et le transfert de connaissances, à contribuer à la réduction de la mortalité des colonies et à encourager la relève en apiculture.

Regarder au-delà de nos frontières

L'année 2025 a été marquée par une volonté affirmée de renforcer la collaboration et les échanges interprovinciaux. À l'échelle canadienne, l'industrie apicole analyse activement les meilleures avenues pour encadrer et faciliter la circulation des abeilles et du matériel vivant entre les provinces, tout en accordant une attention particulière aux enjeux sanitaires, qui demeurent au cœur des préoccupations lors de tout mouvement d'abeilles.

Dans cette optique, les travaux préparatoires à l'organisation du symposium *Pollinisation et Innovation*, prévu pour janvier 2027, ont été amorcés en collaboration avec le Conseil canadien du miel et le CRAAQ. Cet événement vise à créer une plateforme d'échanges et de transfert de connaissances entre apiculteurs nord-américain et possiblement mondial dans un contexte où les enjeux liés à la pollinisation prennent une importance croissante pour l'agriculture canadienne.

En conclusion

Malgré un contexte économique difficile, l'année 2025 restera une année de mobilisation et de vision pour l'apiculture québécoise. Les démarches entreprises, tant sur le plan de la structuration de la filière que du soutien à la recherche et à l'innovation, témoignent de la détermination collective du milieu à assurer la pérennité, la compétitivité et la prospérité de notre industrie.

Je tiens à remercier l'ensemble des membres pour leur engagement et leur confiance, et je me réjouis de poursuivre ce travail collectif au cours de l'année à venir.

Dear Beekeepers,

As 2025 comes to a close, Quebec's beekeeping sector has experienced a pivotal year, shaped by both significant economic pressures and key structural decisions that will have a lasting impact on the future of our industry.

A Challenging Economic Environment

The year 2025 unfolded within a particularly difficult agri-food context in Quebec. Agricultural businesses were required to navigate a major tariff dispute, prompting the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) to call for direct financial assistance for affected sectors. This situation was further compounded by projections for net farm income, with significant declines anticipated compared to previous years.

A Structuring Initiative: The Coordination and Development Chamber

One of the defining developments of 2025 was the continued progress toward the creation of a Coordination and Development Chamber (CDC) for Quebec's beekeeping sector. This initiative addresses fundamental challenges facing the industry, including increasing winter colony losses, declining productivity, and growing pressure from large-scale imports.

A major milestone was reached on December 16, 2025, with a public hearing held before the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec as part of the formal accreditation process. The future CDC will be mandated to formally represent beekeepers, to support and guide applied research in beekeeping, and to actively promote Quebec hive products, particularly through the "100% Quebec Honey" trademark.

Transitional funding from the UPA's professional defense fund will support the initial implementation of the Chamber over the next two years. However, establishing sustainable long-term funding for Les Apiculteurs et Apicultrices du Québec (AADQ) remains a priority to ensure the stability and effectiveness of this new structure.

Research

The modernization of the Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault (CRSAD), Quebec's only apicultural research centre, continues to be identified as a critical priority for the future of the sector. The AADQ, UPA, Université Laval, and the Apiculture Value Chain Table are continuing their efforts with the Minister of Agriculture to reaffirm the importance of investing in a strong and modern apicultural research centre.

Such an investment aims to strengthen scientific knowledge of honeybees, enhance the competitiveness of beekeeping operations, support training and knowledge transfer, contribute to reducing colony mortality, and encourage the next generation of beekeepers.

Looking Beyond Our Borders

The year 2025 was also marked by a clear commitment to strengthening interprovincial collaboration and exchanges. At the national level, the Canadian beekeeping industry is actively examining the most effective frameworks to regulate and facilitate the movement of bees and live material between provinces, while maintaining a strong focus on biosecurity, an issue that remains central to any movement of bees.

In this context, preparatory work has begun for the *Pollination and Innovation* symposium, scheduled for January 2027, in collaboration with the Canadian Honey Council and the Centre de références en agriculture et agroalimentaire du Québec (CRAAQ). This event aims to create a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among North American and potentially global beekeepers, at a time when pollination-related issues are becoming increasingly important for Canadian agriculture.

In Closing

Despite a challenging economic environment, 2025 will be remembered as a year of mobilization and forward-looking vision for Quebec's beekeeping sector. The initiatives undertaken, both in structuring the industry and in supporting research and innovation, reflect the collective determination of our community to ensure the long-term sustainability, competitiveness, and prosperity of our industry.

I would like to thank all members for their continued engagement and trust, and I look forward to continuing this collective work in the year ahead.

Ontario



Albert Devries

Ontario recently held their AGM and fall conference in Guelph at the end of November. It really was a great event. It started out with a commercial beekeepers round table meeting which was well attended. The following two days were made up of many relevant and thought provoking presentations. Geoff Williams gave a presentation about *Tropilaelaps* mites. So much thought and research is going into this subject currently. As we gain more knowledge beekeepers will have a better understanding of how this pest will affect us if it makes it here. The OBA has gained new board members. James Clarkson, Grace McKinney and Heather



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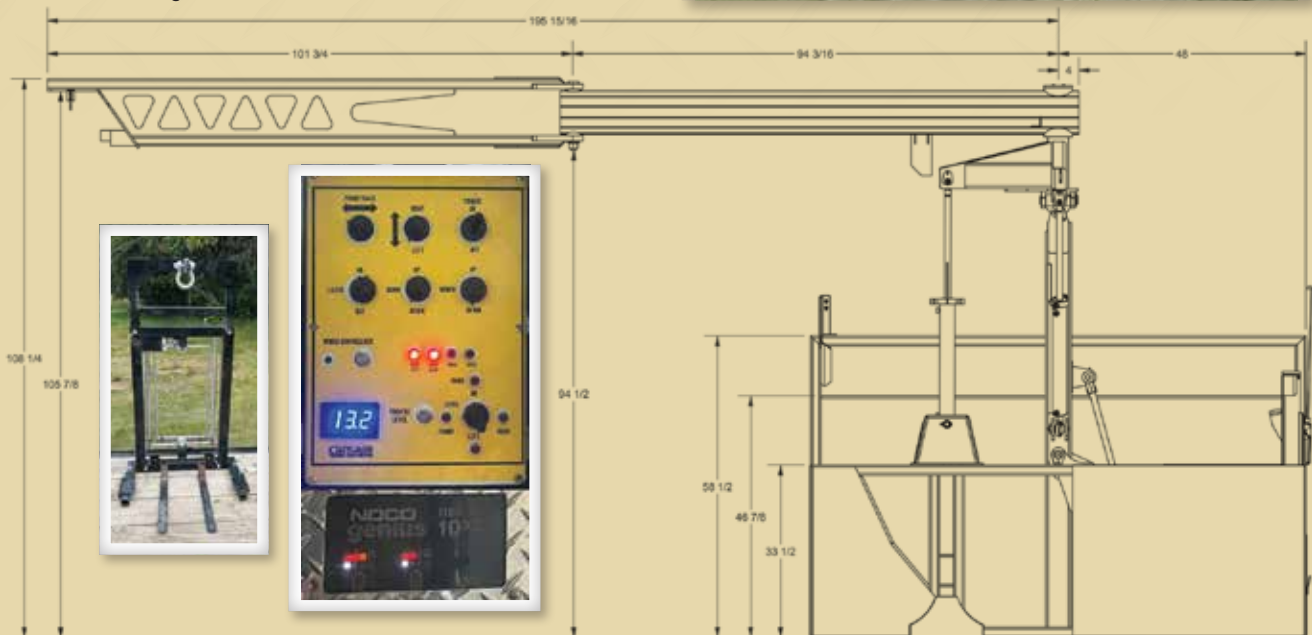


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Pickett have been newly elected to the board. Tom Congdon and John Espadero were re-elected. Thanks to those who stood for elections and those to agree to serve.

The conference finished with a tour of the New Honey Bee Research Center at the University of Guelph. Finally the university has a facility worthy of the people that work there. Now that the building is almost complete and moving in is underway much work will need to be done creating new systems and setting up all the new equipment. I think a busy winter is ahead.

Britteny Kyle the new TTP lead is transforming the Ontario TTP. Programs are being developed and sponsors are being lined up. There seems to be many things to look forward to. Beekeepers across Canada can sign up for the Hive Minds Webinar Series : Bridging the Gap Between Science and Beekeeping. The series will run live Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm starting January 7 and running to April 22. Much more information can be found on the Ontario Beekeepers TTP webpage. This promises to be an interesting and informative series. Lastly I wish those that have read this far a good winter. I'm looking forward to some time away from beekeeping but I also know before long I'll be looking forward to being back in our bee hives.

Manitoba



Osee Podolsky

The Holidays have come and gone and we are now into 2026. 2025 feels as though it came out as a wash in Manitoba. the 2025 provincial honey production average was 150.4Lbs per hive which is down approximately 20Lbs per hive from normal, although with provincial hive numbers cresting over 119,000 colonies the increase in hive numbers has offset the lower production numbers resulting in close to average gross honey production.

This sounds fine and dandy, but the reality is the price of honey has not increased the match the cost of running a beekeeping operation. I've heard beekeeper after beekeeper singing the same tune "we're just not getting enough money for our honey". We can all argue until we're blue in the face about US package bees, offshore bee imports, local self-sufficiency, queen genetics, hygienic traits, treatment regimes, Tropi-Mite, and overwintering strategies. We can have the best bee stock, with the best queen genetics and hygienics, the best treatment regimes, perfect colony management, a solution to the threat of Tropi-Mite, the perfect overwintering strategy, and it all doesn't matter if we go broke doing it. Beekeepers are surviving on depreciation, a financial recipe for disaster, "just cut your expenses" is touted as a solution to low honey prices, all while beekeepers have already trimmed every expense possible. We're business owners not a charity. We're here to earn a living that should match the hard work and long hours we put in. We don't go out and lift 70lb honey boxes in +34 degree weather with 90% humidity for 10 hours because it's fun, we do it to turn a profit.

On average Canada produces 90 million pounds of honey, the retail market totals around 35 million pounds of demand and the industrial is around 30 million pounds, leaving a 25 million pound surplus for export on average. As of August 31 over 17 million pounds of foreign honey has been imported. Wouldn't you agree that there is a fundamental problem when more cheap "honey" has been imported from foreign countries into Canada than the entire province of Manitoba produces? All while beekeepers are sitting on honey in their warehouses, it seems nobody wants and are unable to sell even at these abysmally low prices? We need to work together as an industry for a solution, Canadian consumers should be consuming Canadian honey and Canadian honey only before all else. Especially when the too much of the honey we're competing against isn't even honey.

I wish everyone the best in 2026.

Saskatchewan



No report at this time.

Alberta



No report at this time.

British Columbia



Jeff Lee

BC Director's Report for CHC Hivelights, Winter, 2025

This is that much looked-for and appreciated time of the year when bee yard work is over, the extractors have been cleaned and stored, and we can turn our minds to winter maintenance and repair work.

It's also a time for catching up on all those personal things I sometimes forget to do in the midst of a frenetic bee season. For Amanda and I, this means a much-needed vacation.

It is a function of a commercial honey operation, I think, that time down only comes for us in two ways; an unexpected breakdown or forced shutdown, and a winter break when the tempo of everything mercifully slows down. We don't want the first option, and the second one only comes – at least for me - when summer in Canada isn't present. However, I am not complaining.

BCHPA Motion on Honey Bee Stock Imports

At our AGM in late October in Salmon Arm the BCHPA membership unanimously supported a motion by Peter Awram aimed at ensuring Canada protects its bee industry from accidentally importing the *tropilaelaps* mite.

The motion was framed around asking the Canadian Honey Council to lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to conduct new risk assessments for any country that is currently able to export package honey bees and queens to Canada. This was aimed largely at Australia, New Zealand, Italy and Chile and other countries currently allowed to send us packages.

Awram, one of the larger commercial operators in B.C., engineered this motion out of a concern that CFIA has never conducted a risk assessment on New Zealand bees, according to requests for information he had made to the government. He was also concerned about the potential for the *tropilaelaps* mite to gain entry to Australia, given that it is already established in nearby Asian countries. His research questioned whether the risk of *tropi* mites has been factored into any of these permits.

Anyone who pays attention to British Columbia beekeeping issues will know that the BCHPA has long had a motion on the books supporting the continued closure of the US border to package bees as long as CFIA determines, using science-based principles, that there is an unacceptable risk to Canadian bee health. The new risk assessment released last year in which CFIA determined that the US border should remain closed reaffirmed our position.

At the AGM I spoke up in favour of Peter's motion. I argued that essentially "what is good for the goose is good for the gander", and that if we were going to put the US through such an analysis, all other nations importing bees into Canada should also follow suit. And if that meant that we lose access to stock if the same risk profile emerges, then so be it. We were careful not to let the motion be seen as back-door support for reopening the US border, and we remain supportive of CFIA's recent decision. We feel that all other countries must also meet this scientific analysis for entry.

It didn't escape the attention of our members that a *tropilaelaps*-infested nest nearly made it to US shores this fall; the discovery and subsequent eradication of the nest on a cargo ship bound for



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New Jersey just proved that Canada could get a tropi infection from US sources, just like it did with varroa destructor mite more than 35 years ago.

Some folks in the US seem to think that the tropi mite is more likely to come to North America through Canada given that we accept package bees from elsewhere in the world. But I believe work now being done in Canada to develop a risk mitigation strategy against infection from troplaelps (including the work by Saskatchewan Provincial Apiculturist Geoff Wilson) will help protect us from that potential.

What is clear to my BC members is that we need to be vigilant about the health of our stock, and as much as possible reduce the need for package bees to come into Canada. This means being more reliant on locally-produced stock and an expanded queen-breeding industry while at the same time insisting on a very high health inspection bar for admitting import stock to Canada.

I relayed the motion to the CHC, which in turn conveyed it, along with similar motions from other directors, to CFIA. The CHC was also present at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's Hill Day meetings in late October. You may find elsewhere in this publication reports on communications the CHC has had with federal officials.

Tech Transfer update

Fahim Raza, the lead for the BCHPA's tech-transfer program, is always busy. But if all goes well, 2026 will be an extraordinarily research-heavy time for him.

The TTP is in the middle of a winter queen-banking research project in collaboration with Leonard Foster's lab at UBC and with support from a number of BC queen breeders. Results for year one won't be known until spring at earliest.

Fahim is also working to obtain funding for a second year of research into prevalence of American Foulbrood spores in honey. In my last report I noted he had received 95 samples from 45 different operations and that preliminary findings should be available in 2026.

Two new projects Fahim hopes to support in 2026 involves looking at queen supercedure rates during colony treatments with formic acid, and further research into the issue of European Foulbrood-like symptoms affecting colony health.

Strictly speaking, the second project is not completely new; the BCHPA has helped support research into EFB-like symptoms in colonies exposed to blueberry pollination. It is also an area of research done elsewhere in Canada.

Given that some 94% of Canada's blueberries come from BC, and that the province's beekeepers are major contributors to the pollination landscape, such new research into EFB and colony health will invariably be valuable to farmers.

The project involving formic acid and queen supercedure intends to look at the production (or suppression) of queen mandibular pheromones during exposure to formic treatments. There have been anecdotal reports that queens are sometimes replaced by a colony during such periods.

On awards and retirements

Lastly, I was able to at long last present Stan Reist, the former CHC director for BC, the Fred Rathje award. The CHC voted to give it him last year but he suffered a serious health issue and was unable to be present until our AGM in October. His health has much improved and in a very emotional moment climbed the podium stairs to accept his much-deserved award.

At the same event we honored Paul van Westendorp as BC's retiring provincial apiculturist. He was given a lifetime membership to the BCHPA. No shrinking violet, he immediately joined the board of the Boone Hodgson Wilkinson Trust Foundation, a research funding arm of the BCHPA.

As of this writing the provincial government has not yet announced a replacement for Paul. Their vetting process for a new PA continues.

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Primary Culture of Honey Bee Kenyon Cells for Insecticide Research and Agriculture Applications

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Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are capable of a wide range of complex behaviours, including foraging and scouting for nest sites. These behaviours rely on their ability to memorize landmarks and learn the location of resources (Johnson, 2023). Although small, the honey bee brain is highly sophisticated. However, its functions can be altered by exposure to neurotoxic insecticides. While considerable work has evaluated the effects of lethal and sublethal doses of neurotoxins on honey bees, such as neonicotinoid insecticides, we still lack an *in vitro* assay to study both their impacts and the underlying mechanisms (Morfin et al., 2019; Tosi et al., 2022). Developing a honey bee brain cell culture system would help address this gap and provide a valuable tool to investigate how neurotoxins affect neural function.

Within the honey bee brain, the mushroom bodies are the regions linked to learning and memory. The neurons responsible for processing information are known as the Kenyon cells (KCs) (Fahrbach, 2006; Johnson, 2023). Over the summer of 2025, research focused on how to isolate KCs from the mushroom bodies of honey bees and establish a primary KC culture to test the neurotoxicity of neonicotinoid insecticides.

To establish a primary culture of KCs, we used worker bees to dissect their brains. Each bee was immobilized on ice for a short duration, followed by the decapitation and dissection process. The isolated brains were transferred to the cell culture lab, where the use of various enzymes was tested to digest the brain tissue, resulting in a pool of dissociated brain cells. We conducted trials to establish the most effective digestion time and enzyme type.

Another factor considered was the environment within the cell culture plates, including the nutrients required for cell growth. The initial challenge was getting the cells to adhere to the plate's bottom, a necessary step in evaluating their health and growth potential in culture. This was accomplished through testing various coating products, resulting in cell adhesion. Being able to adhere lead to some cells showing processes, extensions that neurons use to communicate with each other (Figure 1). To confirm these cells are neurons, immunofluorescence was performed using an antibody for tyrosine hydroxylase (TH, a dopaminergic neuronal marker) combined with DAPI (DNA dye). Figure 2 highlights how we were able to successfully grow and isolate a neuron, stained by DAPI and TH. This signifies that the isolated cell was a living dopamine-producing neuron in the primary culture.

Establishing a primary culture of honey bee KCs has significant applications for understanding how sublethal doses of neonicotinoid insecticides affect brain function and behaviours, or how they interact with other biotic and abiotic stressors. This research can help investigate the cytotoxicity of neonicotinoids on KCs, ultimately informing strategies to protect honey bees and reduce the off-target impacts of insecticides. Future directions include developing a consistent protocol to establish a primary cell line from the brain tissue based on the results we have now. This would enable the initial testing of neonicotinoids, eventually leading to an effective assay for determining cytotoxicity.

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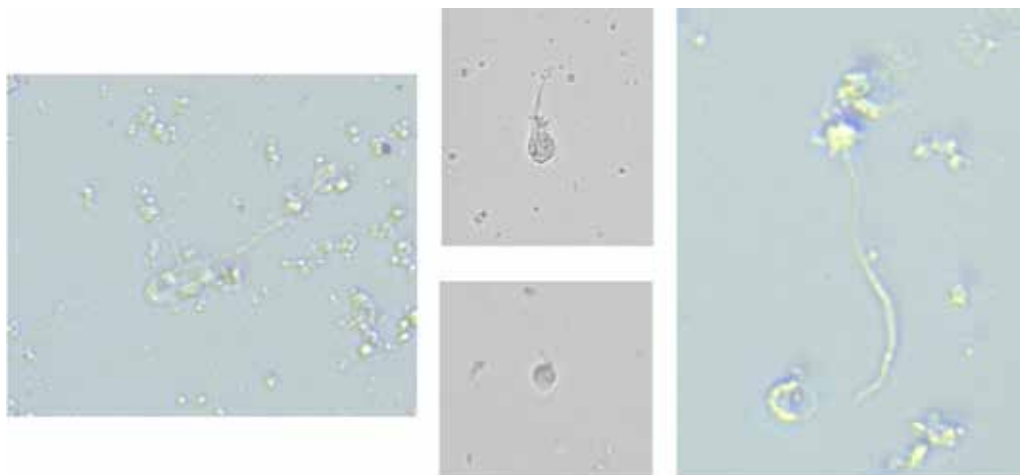


Figure 1 Primary culture of honey bee cells exhibiting properties of Kenyon cells. Brightfield microscopy images displaying neurons with visible processes.

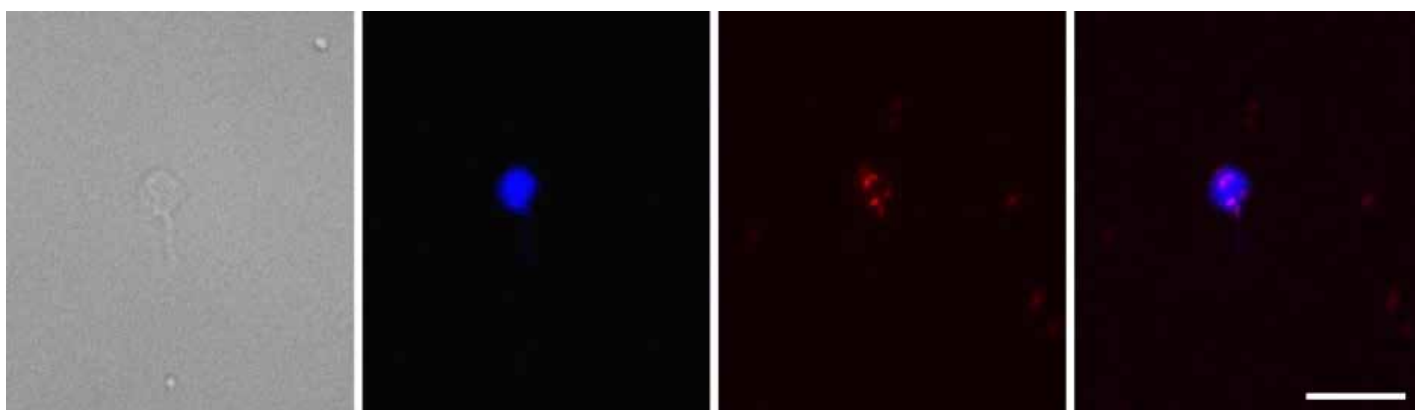


Figure 2 Neuron imaged using immunofluorescent. Stained with DAPI (blue), tyrosine hydroxylase (TH, red). From left to right (brightfield, DAPI, TH, DAPI + TH). Scale bar = 20µm.

Acknowledgments

This project was funded by the Faculty of Science Interdisciplinary Research Grant, University of Manitoba and the Canadian Bee Research Fund. We would like to thank Lauren S. Peters for assistance with the brain dissections as well as teaching how to handle the bees in a safe and respectful manner. We would also like to thank Shirley Morris for their assistance with maintaining the cells and immunofluorescence experiments.

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Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists

CAPA News



CAPA Statement Regarding Non-participation in the Recent CFIA Risk Assessment

Because we have received inquiries regarding the recent CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) risk assessment on the importation of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) packages from the United States of America, we wish clarify to our members, the beekeeping industry and other stakeholders, that the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA), as an organization, did not participate or provide comment on the assessment. The CFIA and the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) were notified of this decision in writing. The CFIA was informed on September 3, 2024, and the

CHC was informed on September 17, 2024. CAPA does not represent any government regulators at any level and is not involved in regulatory decisions. Any questions regarding regulatory decisions should therefore be directed to the appropriate authorities. CAPA reaffirms its support for the Canadian beekeeping industry and reiterates its willingness and commitment to engaging constructively with the industry and other stakeholders, grounded in a shared understanding of our respective roles.

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

IPM Committee

In 2024, the IPM Committee discussed updates on the expansion of Oxalic Acid (OA) label use and noted the recent uptake in use in Canada. The committee also received updates on numerous varroa control research activities in Canada, including but not limited to: the collaborative efforts between the University of Saskatchewan (SK) and Manitoba (MB) Knowledge & Research Transfer Program (KRTP) testing VarroSan® (OA + glycerin) effects during a winter treatment window; SK Tech Adaptation Team testing VarroSan® during honey flow; Simon Fraser University and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) trials on the 3C active ingredient; and continued testing RNAi technology (Norroa™) testing in Manitoba and Ontario. The committee also noted several new product registration submissions to the PMRA, including VarroSan®, Apivar® 2.0, Amiflex® and Apiguard®. (*Since then, Apivar® 2.0 and VarroSan® have been approved for use in Canada for the upcoming 2026 season.)

The committee also tracked the miticide resistance testing that occurred across the country in 2023 and 2024, including: British Columbia (BC) and Alberta (AB) documenting signs of amitraz and pyrethroid resistance; MB using bioassays and genotyping, as well as following up on high-mite-load New Zealand packages; Ontario (ON) finding reduced amitraz

efficacy, prompting genotyping plans for 2025; and Atlantic Canada reporting effective varroa management, for now quelling immediate concerns of reduced amitraz efficacy. Off-label miticide use remains a concern to the committee in light of the Health Canada inspections which found unauthorized OA + glycerol use.

Due to concerns about the emerging pest *Tropilaelaps* mite, training and workshops will be held to prepare for potential outbreaks. The IPM committee recommended CAPA generate a committee specific to *Tropilaelaps*, which was since established.

National Winter Loss Committee

In 2024, the National Survey Committee largely focused on refining the annual winter loss survey. Core questions were revised to streamline data collection while allowing provinces to add region-specific queries. CAPA continued the practice of releasing a preliminary report early in the season (July 10, 2024) to assist industry responses to media inquiries, followed by a final report on December 13, 2024. While the full colony loss report for the 2024/2025 winter is not yet available, the preliminary report is available on the CAPA website at <https://capabees.com/capa-statement-on-honey-bees/>.

The survey covered 384,104 colonies, representing 47% of all managed colonies in Canada. The national winter loss rate was

34.6%, exceeding the historical average of 27.7% (2007–2023), with provincial losses ranging from 9.8% to 61.3%. Despite this, the total number of colonies increased by 3.6% during the year, continuing the upward trend of hive growth in the country (a 35% increase since 2007) reflecting beekeepers' efforts to continually rebuild stocks.

Top reported causes of colony losses varied by province but impacts from weather/climate and poor queens seem to have been more important across the country. Most beekeepers report that they monitor for varroa mites but some provinces showed gaps in consistent monitoring. The most commonly reported mite treatments were amitraz, formic acid, and oxalic acid. Registered antibiotics were the primary treatment for brood diseases and nosema, although application methods and timing differed across provinces.

CAPA, along with Provincial Apiarists (PAs) and researchers, continues to promote integrated pest management (IPM) and best management practices (BMP) to help beekeepers maintain healthy colonies and reduce winter losses

Non-Apis Committee

The Non-Apis committee notes the ongoing issue of incursions of non-native bumble bee species in Canada particularly due to accidental escapes from greenhouses. Many of its members are actively working on *Bombus impatiens* (Common Eastern Bumble Bee) issues. In response to concerns about *B. impatiens* escapes near BC greenhouses, meetings were held in 2024 with suppliers of *Bombus* “quads” and regulators. Suppliers agreed to review protocols, with Koppert planning to phase out *B. impatiens* in favor of native *B. vosnesenski*. Regulatory frameworks and ongoing monitoring are being explored to prevent non-native species establishment. University of British Columbia researchers formed a working group to coordinate research on *B. impatiens* in the Pacific Northwest. Surveys show its rapid spread near greenhouses, raising ecological concerns. Although suppliers are shifting to native species, education and improved control measures are urgently needed to prevent further dispersal. Committee member Dr. Vicki Wojcik is reviving efforts to establish a Canadian pollinator policy, similar to the U.S. model, by engaging the CHC and AAFC.

The committee also noted that producers of managed alfalfa leafcutter bee face pest control challenges after the registration of the pest control product (Dichlorvos) for the parasitoid wasp *Pteromalus venustus* was canceled. Cultural and mechanical control measures are somewhat effective, but do not provide adequate control. Research into new alternative control products is ongoing.

Africanized Honey Bees Committee

In 2024, the Africanized Honey Bees Committee tracked the ranges Africanized honey bees (AHBs) in the U.S. and scientific literature regarding SNP testing (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism). AHBs are currently confirmed in several U.S. states and ranges are slowly expanding northward, especially in California. The recently completed CFIA risk assessment

on U.S. honey bee package imports reaffirmed the ban on importing packaged bees from the U.S., but importing AHBs via queens and packaged bees from other countries remains possible. The committee is concerned about accurate identifying and monitoring of AHBs as recent genetic studies show that hybridization of AHBs with European bees complicates detection. Consequently, standard mitochondrial DNA tests may miss AHBs due to genetic admixture.

Detecting AHBs using mitochondrial DNA or morphometrics is unreliable due to hybridization and maternal inheritance. SNP-based tests on the other hand offer greater accuracy by analyzing nuclear DNA. Recent studies show high accuracy with reduced SNP sets, making SNPs the emerging gold standard albeit it being the more costly method.

A 2016 survey found AHB mtDNA in 8.2% of Canadian apiaries, but SNP testing showed low African ancestry, suggesting no established AHB population. A 2024 study confirmed AHB genetics are rare in Canada. Nonetheless, accidental importation is still possible. The committee concludes that a national AHB monitoring system and alternative queen sources may be a desirable option if AHBs become prevalent in supplier regions.



Importation and Bee Movement Committee

In 2024, the Importation and Bee Movement Committee (BIMC) focused on addressing importation concerns and facilitating communication between CAPA and key stakeholders like the CFIA. For instance, the CFIA requested information from the BIMC to better inform their evaluation on a 30-mile exclusion zone around sites in which Africanized honey bee genetics have been detected (in 2023, the exclusion zone was reduced from 50 to 30 miles). Africanized bee genetics was a consideration in the risk assessment on U.S. honey bee package imports which CFIA released on November 7, 2024 and while CAPA itself did not participate in the revision process of the risk assessment, individual members and provinces may have contributed entirely independently, within their respective roles in apiculture.

Dialogue between the BIMC and CFIA remained active in 2024. For example, building on a letter the BIMC wrote to

CFIA in 2023 regarding the risk of imports from Ukraine in light of concerns of importing *Tropilaelaps mercedesae*, CFIA suspended all Ukrainian honey bee imports in June, 2024. The BIMC acknowledges these decisions are also a result of CFIA's own rigorous epidemiological risk assessments. Other conversations between the two organizations included: Small Hive Beetle (SHB) larvae found by CFIA inspectors in a queen shipment from California, prompting quarantine and re-caging and imported New Zealand packages having elevated varroa mite levels. The BIMC looks forward to working with Dr. Scott MacFarlane who now leads CFIA's honey bee files, succeeding Dr. Connie Rajzman.

*By: Cameron Menzies, CAPA NEWS editor,
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BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL APICULTURIST UPDATE



Spring Survey – Winter Mortality

Colony mortality following last winter was estimated at 42%, a significant increase over 2024 when colony losses were estimated at 25%. Factors including varroa mites, weak colonies in the fall, poor queens and weather were listed as the primary causes of colony mortality in both years. The reason for the difference in winter mortality remains unclear.

2025 Beekeeping Production

BC's final production estimates of the 2025 beekeeping season are not available at the time of writing this update. Preliminary reports indicate a below-average production season for most regions. Drought and extended periods of smoky conditions due to forest fires are believed to have been the main causes of poor production. Beekeepers have also reported ongoing struggles with varroa control due to reduced efficacy of Apivar and some other miticides. Insufficient application of IPM principles may have also contributed to lower production results.

Staff Changes – Tech Transfer Program

After Dr. Nuria Morfin accepted a position with the University of Manitoba, changes were applied to BC's Tech Transfer Program. While Nuria has remained Chair of the Steering Committee, Dr. Fahim Raza was appointed as

Technician in Apicultural Research. Fahim and his team have been busy with a diverse set of projects over the summer season with results expected to be presented at the AGM of the British Columbia Honey Producers' Association in late October.

BC Provincial Apiarist

After my official retirement on August 1, 2025 the Ministry initiated the process of finding a replacement. About 18 applications were received but the vetting process eventually brought the number down to three. While remaining outside the selection process, I have been told that the final selection will take place at the end of October and the appointment of the new PA shortly thereafter. In the meantime, I have agreed to continue diagnosing disease samples, edit various extension materials and be involved in the annual production survey.

*By: Paul van Westendorp, former BC Provincial Apiculturist,
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PRAIRIES PROVINCIAL APICULTURISTS UPDATE

The 2025 beekeeping season began with high winter colony losses across each of the three prairie provinces (AB = 42%, SK = 44% and MB = 43%); driven primarily by varroa and associated viruses. The season was also marked by massive wildfires across Manitoba (MB) and Saskatchewan (SK) that led to some beekeepers seeing reduced foraging and honey production due to heavy smoke conditions. Production was also impacted by prolonged drought conditions in spotty areas across the prairies and a long, rainy spring in some areas of Alberta (AB). Total honey production across the prairies is therefore expected to be below average; however, excellent early-season clover blooms in some areas and late-season rains extending flows in other areas should prevent average yields from being too low.

A growing bee health challenge in recent years across the prairies (and other regions) has been an increase in confirmed, often severe, cases of European Foulbrood (EFB), with the number of EFB cases rising again in 2025. Multiple factors are likely contributing to the rise in EFB, including evolving (more virulent) strains of EFB, nutritional stress due to drought or poor weather and an increased spread of used equipment due to multiple years of high winter losses and more purchases/sales between beekeepers. Beekeepers should be vigilant for any early signs of EFB (and/or American Foulbrood (AFB)) and promptly report those to your provincial apiarist to assist you with nipping the disease in the bud. While this should always be the case, it is especially important nowadays with cases on the rise.

While prairie beekeepers face many challenges, we also recognize the fantastic research being done across the prairies by universities, government, and tech transfer programs. Among other things, this includes research into different EFB strains

and novel surveillance methods, and many active research trials on new varroa mite controls. We are hopeful that some of the recent submissions to Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) will result in new mite control products becoming registered in Canada in the near future.

By: Derek Micholson (MB Provincial Apiarist, Derek.Micholson@gov.mb.ca), revised by Renata Labuschagne (AB Provincial Apiculturist) & Graham Parsons (SK Pollinator Biosecurity Specialist).

ATLANTIC PROVINCIAL APICULTURISTS UPDATE

The beekeeping season in Atlantic Canada began favourably with the exception of New Brunswick (NB), whose beekeepers lost an average of 45% of their hives last winter. Nova Scotia (NS), Prince Edward Island (PEI), Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) fared better with losses of 18%, 23%, and 13% respectively. The approximate 13,000 colonies that died in the region were eventually replaced this spring or by early summer in areas with higher losses or more northern areas with cooler springs. Spring buildup is an important time of year for an Atlantic Canadian beekeeper as they prepare for the lowbush blueberry pollination season.

The 2025 pollination season was generally a success as there were sufficient windows of good flying weather. Many colonies even pulled in a crop of blueberry honey, a welcomed bonus to supplement pollination revenue. After the hives returned home from the crop fields, bees got right to work collecting nectar from wildflowers and planted forage whose nectar flowed agreeably in the early summer weeks. This streak of good fortune soon dried up however, as most of Atlantic Canada sank into what became one of the worst droughts the region has seen in years.

While some nectar continued flowing during the hot and dry late summer weeks, much of the region experienced a dearth. Beekeepers were extra cautious lighting their smokers during this period as apart from PEI, each Atlantic province experienced wildfires. Overall, honey yields are expected to be variable, with drought-affected areas seeing below-average yields. Some late-season nectar flow may help reduce the need for supplemental feeding but the region is not expecting a bumper crop.

As for varroa mites, the pest was reportedly manageable in 2025, with the exception of NL which remains the only province without an endemic population. Beekeepers in the Atlantic region are treating earlier in the season and making concerted efforts to keep mite levels low. Beekeepers are optimistic for a winter of limited colony mortalities, as long as mite levels remain in check and syrup is fed at the right time and in the right amounts.

By: PEI Provincial Apiarist Cameron Menzies, crmenzies@gov.pe.ca.



TECH TRANSFER PROGRAM UPDATE - QUEBEC

The Quebec Technology Transfer Program (TTP) is based at the Deschambault Research Center (CRSAD) in Deschambault, Quebec. It is part of a larger beekeeping program structured around three key sectors: the Research team, the Extension Services team and the Consulting services team. The Research team is involved in a variety of projects, both in basic and applied research. We collaborate with researchers from universities across the province of Quebec, as well as from other parts of Canada and Europe. Most of our projects rely on the CRSAD colonies, and we also work with local beekeepers on specific topics. Our current research focus is selective breeding and the use of genomic tools to improve honeybee stocks, indoor mass storage of honeybee queens during winter, and honey bee nutrition. The Extension Services team was established in 2020 with the goal of supporting knowledge transfer and making research more accessible to the beekeeping community. The team focuses on the dissemination of research findings, outreach to beekeepers, and the delivery of beekeeping training and workshops. It also organizes events and webinars, and develops a variety of educational and informational resources for beekeepers. The team also publishes newsletters on a regular basis. The Extension Services team works in close collaboration with the beekeeping industry (Apiculteurs et Apicultrices du Québec), the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture (MAPAQ), and other stakeholders through the Table filière apicole du Québec. The program operates with the financial support of MAPAQ.



In 2025, our main projects were:

- **Journée apicole 2025:** From Hive to Processed Products, Innovation and Quality. This day of conferences and workshops, organised in collaboration with CRAAQ, focused on honey quality and other hive products. Fundings: Programme Innovation Bioalimentaire 2023-2028.
- **Introductory Workshop on Honey Sensory Analysis.** Led by Lucia Piana, a renowned Italian expert in honey sensory analysis, this training helped participants better identify the flavors and aromas present in honey. They explored the olfactory and gustatory characteristics of Italian monofloral honeys and learned how to detect common defects in honey. Fundings: Réseau Agriconseil de la Capitale-Nationale et de la Côte-Nord.
- **Varroa Treatment Decision Tree.** This tool was created to help beekeepers make informed decisions about varroa control. It includes principles of integrated pest management and monitoring techniques; a summary table of available treatments and their characteristics; and a decision tree designed to identify the most appropriate treatments based on the time of year and various environmental or colony-related factors. This tool was developed in collaboration with MAPAQ and the University of Montréal.
- **Preparing and Marketing Bee Products Guide.** The content of this guide was revised and updated, with new content on sanitary standards for honey extraction, packaging and regulations. Fundings: Programme Innovation Bioalimentaire 2023-2028. Project realised in collaboration with CRAAQ.

By: Martine Bernier, Quebec Tech Transfer Program lead, CRSAD, martine.bernier@crsad.qc.ca.

SHORT NEWS

Congratulations to:

Paul van Westendorp on his retirement from the position of BC Provincial Apiculturist.

Renata Labuschagne on her appointment as Alberta's Provincial Apiculturist.

Britteny Kyle on her new role as Lead of the Ontario Tech Transfer Program.

Bee Tech 2026 Conference

The Canadian Honey Council (CHC) is pleased to announce with the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) that we will be hosting the Bee Tech 2026 – Canadian National Beekeeping Convention in Calgary, Alberta, February 12 – 14, 2026 at the Westin Airport Hotel, Calgary. It is anticipated that Bee Tech 2026 will be the largest ever beekeeping convention and trade show in Canada outside of the Apimondia Congresses.

For registration and more information see link below:
<https://honeycouncil.ca/beetech2026/>

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Joint Statement on Honey Adulteration

Apimondia, BeeLife, EPBA, COPA-COGECA
Submitted by Rod Scarlett CHC

To date, there is no single measure effective enough to control the problem of fraud in the honey sector. The international market will therefore require diversified actions at all levels of authority. A strategic plan needs to be put in place that coordinates the various players. A vulnerability assessment of the market chain must be urgently carried out to identify the different factors that contribute to honey fraud. As we understand, the best way to protect the honey supply chain is to combine organizational and administrative measures with appropriate analysis and controls as indicated by the vulnerability assessment.

A. Honey: Legal framing, knowledge of different types of honey and monitoring of production.

Legislation

A clearer, unique and universal conceptual framework for what we call “honey” is needed. With exceptions (EU, Canada, Australia...) honey standards are not compulsory. Moreover, there is a lack of uniformity in the quality and authenticity control methods between different national standards. However, the documents cited below are much more aligned with the natural characteristics of food produced exclusively by bees than other honey legislations (e.g. China).

Current legislation and international standards

While the definition of honey in CODEX Standard (CODEX STAN 12_1981) gives a useful conceptual framework for the product, it includes only old analytical techniques for detecting fraud. This point is currently discussed.

The Honey Directive (2001/110/EC, amended by (EU)2024/1438) is also based on CODEX definitions but provides more detailed quality parameters. Certain points are currently discussed on the EU Honey Platform.

In 2021, the US Pharmacopeia published the USP Honey Identity Standard in the Food Chemicals Codex. A Honey Expert Panel formed in 2018 was responsible for its preparation.

Since 2019 within the ISO, a working group dedicated to honey, prepared an ISO Standard - Honey Specification. The work took the internationally recognized definition of Honey in the Codex alimentarius as baseline. However, work is still ongoing at present.

To ensure that the international trade of honey meets the most recently drawn up and accepted criteria of the main importing countries (the US and the EU), the products that do not meet these criteria must be withdrawn from the market quickly.

Knowledge of the different honey types

The constitution of a validated database containing a maximum number of quality and authenticity criteria (samples must be taken directly from the hives or we must know exactly the origin and they must not be transformed), ideally linked to a reference honey bank of authentic, non-adulterated honeys is needed. These honeys must come from all the important producing countries and must be produced through good beekeeping practices (e.g. avoiding the introduction of artificial feeding residues).

Requirements for a honey database:

- The sample collection must adequately cover the main geographical and botanical origins, considering seasonal variations to allow the exact knowledge of any natural occurrence of a proposed adulteration marker. The number of samples must be sufficient to achieve the necessary level of the confidence in the results.
- The honey samples should be linked to a standardized international form presenting data related to honey (E.G. time to harvest, geodata...).
- The collection of samples should always be continued.
- The database itself should not be publicly accessible. However, the statistical service that should be built on this database should be available to all official and private laboratories for the evaluation of their honey analyses.
- Beekeeping experts should be directly involved in the control and management of this honey database.

Honey constitutes a very complex matrix, and more information is needed on:

- **pollen in honey** (very important for monofloral honeys): density, sizes, spectrum and natural variability.
- **naturally occurring sugars in honey**, including those present even at trace levels (EU project “Harm Honey”).
- **heating indicators** (HMF, enzymes, etc.) for the determination of acceptable decrease in quality, also considering the possible effects of climate change.

Current situation

The private laboratory sector has developed comprehensive databases to validate its analyses. The largest of these appears to be Bruker’s database for NMR technique.

Monitoring of honey production

To detect economic anomalies and to determine critical control points, a comprehensive view of the situation in different honey-producing and exporting countries is necessary, both from a production and commercial point of view:

- National socioeconomic situation (political stability, economic situation, corruption index, etc.);
- Course of the annual honey season in the major production regions (climate events);
- Environmental conditions (presence of pesticides, etc.) and health conditions, including the presence of pests and predators that may impact production. Evolution of the number of hives and hives owned by beekeepers for whom honey production is an important source of income;
- Beekeeping techniques used to produce honey (feeding products, methods, etc.);
- Cost of production/hive for stationary and migratory beekeeping operations;
- Number of intermediaries and transparency of the supply chain from the beekeeper to the consumer or exporter;
- Market prices in the country, price formation, and trade policies (duties, antidumping measures, etc.)

To date, only general data has been transmitted to the FAO. The above-mentioned information and data should be centralized through the creation of a global honey observatory, an ambitious but essential goal.

B. Honey Fraud

Legislation

FAO CODEX

In November 2024, **CAC47** (Codex Alimentarius Commission 47) adopted the **Guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud** and will meet in 2026 for final approval.

The European Union

The EU developed specific legislation on Food Fraud (an intentional act of non-compliance) with the violation of the rules referred to in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Current situation in EU

Honey has been considered a safe commodity, so the sector is not highly regulated from a food safety perspective. Due to this fact, very few controls were done before 2022. A decision was taken in the EU to focus on Vulnerability Assessment of Critical Control Points (VACCP). VACCP is like HACCP but about vulnerability to food fraud at each step of the production and market chain. The EU coordinated action “From the Hives” was put in place in 2021 (“Coordinated performance of official controls” Regulation EU 2019/1873). Additionally, the EU changed the burden of proof; the country exporting to the EU having to demonstrate that the exported honey is compliant with the EU legislation (Authenticity certification Regulation EU 2022/36).

The United States

The United States Code (U.S.C.) §342 (USCODE, 2011), by Title 21 – Food and Drugs, Chapter 9 – Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act, Subchapter IV provides the legal frame for food fraud in the US.

Current situation in the US

The US has implemented an anti-dumping system aimed at preventing honey sold at prices below its production cost from entering its market. In this situation the greatest challenge has always been verifying the country of origin of honey and establishing whether the product falls within the scope of the anti-dumping order. ICP-MS methodology has been used to test the origin of honey and to create a map of the major transshipment points. More recently, authorities incorporated NMR plus sugar profile testing to improve the work done with ICP-MS.

The Expert Panel formed by the US Pharmacopeia will be soon publishing the Honey Fraud Mitigation Guidance in the Food Chemicals Codex.

Generally, seeking regulatory changes is a long and difficult process. This does not mean it should not be pursued, but we should be aware that it is a long-lasting procedure with scarce short-term results to prevent fraud. Governments are often too slow to act, while fraudsters are very fast. While legislative aspects are an essential basis for action, other equally important and more rapid measures such as inspections, analyses and audits should not be neglected.

Modes of fraud

Although the various forms of fraud in the honey market are well known, one must always keep an eye out for possible changes by following literature, conducting internet searches and listening to whistleblowers and experts.

Modes of Fraud:

- Violation of the definition of honey by adding foreign elements (sugar syrups, pollen, dyes, enzymes...), or by removing natural constituents (filtration of pollen, use of resins to lighten the color, etc.), or by using artificial processes to replace the work of bees (vacuum dehumidification ...);
- Falsification of administrative documents;
- Mislabelling the geographical or botanical origins;
- Intentional labelling errors (weight, address, etc.).

Control authorities and laboratories must have a comprehensive knowledge of the process used by the fraudsters (technologies to produce syrups, use of multiple raw materials, multiple adulteration modes ...) to characterize markers. New adulteration modes or materials constantly appear and may change the presence of markers. The detection strategy must always be adapted to recognize the evolving nature of fraud.

The access of fraudsters to relevant information (control plans, international syrup data base with the markers...) must be restricted to avoid or at least to limit measures to circumvent controls by fraudsters.

To enable the sector to better demonstrate the negative impact of fraud on beekeeping and therefore on pollination services, it needs also better data collection on the beekeeping sector.

Current situation

In the US, GFSI Food Fraud Requirement collect data from public sources to make the fraud searchable and trackable. It includes incidences of fraud and inference records - inferred due to other sources of information, probably knowledge, subject matter expertise.

The Food Fraud Database was initially created at USP but is now held by FoodChainID.

In the EU, the Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN) facilitate the exchange of administrative information and cooperation between Member States on official controls in the agri-food chain (incidents of cross-border nature only).

Knowledge of the supply chain and fraudsters

It is important to map the supply chain with the countermeasures (see the work done by the European Commission in annex).

In reference to the vulnerability assessment, it is also necessary to identify and typologize the fraudsters and the fraud events (occasional, occupational) and it is also important to evaluate supplier practices (supplier verification processes) (historical data).

EU legislation

All countries exporting honey to the EU are now required to provide a positive list of exporters (Listing of establishment Regulation EU 2022/2292). If, during an official inspection, a shipment is found not to comply with the requirements of the EU Honey Directive, the exporter can be flagged in the Member States' information system so that further shipments from the same exporter to other Member States are also subject to mandatory inspection. The fraudsters and all operators are subject to systematic controls so they cannot avoid the measures. Once suspicious, flags are lifted only after 10 satisfactory results.

C. Traceability

Traceability is an essential element to fight against adulteration. A traceability system that follows the honey from its production site to the consumer must be proposed ideally at international level. All the relevant data enabling the correct characterization of the product must be defined. By combining traceability with mass balances, the authorities can recognize the addition of large quantities of syrup to honey. A minimum list of criteria (date, quantity, botanical origin if monofloral, place of harvest, ...) for ensuring good traceability must be defined at an international level. There are several existing examples around the world (e.g. Argentina...). In case a problem is detected (excess or decrease of quantities) a control measure must be triggered (administrative, audit or analytical).

Current situation

A relevant honey exporting country, Argentina, has developed an online traceability system for exported honey linked to the tax administration system. This country exports nearly all its honey and this tool must be used by all the beekeepers producing honey intended for export. Authorities control the system. All steps are registered, and the honey drums are specifically labeled.

In the EU, a specific legislation exists (Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002): Operators are responsible for providing information regarding the transit of the food (source and destination) as indicated in Article 3 of R (EU) No. 931/2011. The amended Honey Directive will make it mandatory to state the exact origin of every honey on the label. In addition, the percentage of the individual origins must be stated on the label.

Some cooperatives already record all information relating to the honey produced by their members, including details such as the beekeeper, the location of the apiary, the date of harvest, and the quantity produced, as well as the botanical origin. In some cases, consumers can access this information, e.g. via QR-codes.

Some international companies are offering their clients to use a block-chain based traceability system.

In the US, a significant part of packers, intermediaries (retail, food service) and consumers recognize and value quality certifications and authenticity testing, sometimes as risk-mitigation and sometimes as an ethical position. Additional certifications (GenuHoney™, or USDA Process Verified) are accepted and are sometimes incorporated into product specifications.

To improve the traceability:

- All beekeepers who sell their honey in drums should register with a unique centralized national system and, if possible, at an international level provide essential information on all their honey batches. In parallel, all non-producing companies that market honey, reselling it in drums or jars, should also be registered in a single centralized national system and, if possible, at international level and contribute essential information on all their honey batches. It seems necessary to at least harmonize the application of customs terminology at international level and the specific regulations on the origin of honey, as well as the monitoring of intra- and extra- market (e.g. EU or US...) mixtures.
- A real time digital registering system for all the operators must be used apart from beekeepers who sell all their honey directly to consumers.
- For honeys produced and imported into the EU, each honey marketed under an identification other than that of the harvesting beekeeper must have an identifier linked to a block-chain traceability system enabling the competent authorities to trace the entire history of the honey back to the harvesting beekeepers or operators in the case of imported honeys. Any personal information that may be included in the traceability system will only be accessible to consumers with the prior agreement of the producers of the batch or batches in question.
- A system like an adapted version of the EU system TRACE or equivalent must be used.

- A standardized labelling for drums (drum labelling and related documents) can be very helpful (Include honey in Annex III of Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004).
- The use of QR codes is a good way to make consumers aware of the traceability efforts implemented for honey.
- Pollen is a natural constituent of honey and one of the best tools to characterize its botanical and geographical origins. This is another reason why pollen must not be removed from honey. To benefit from this tool, validated methodology must be used at international level. In a short future A.I. can play a major role, but experts with a large international knowledge need to be trained.
- A simplified system to give a fingerprint (like NIR) of all the starting batches must be put in place to correctly check the integrity of honey at each point from the beekeeper to the consumers.

D. Effective control tools against fraud

Analytical methods

Nowadays, many methods (single-marker and screening methods) exist to detect adulteration. Therefore, a risk-based testing strategy is required which does not rely on a single method to detect adulteration but rather employs a suitable combination of methods, including the so-called screening methods and the occasional and strategical usage of targeted methods.

Current situation

CODEX only recognizes 13C-EA-IRMS (AOAC 998.12) for the detection of foreign C4 sugars (>7 % = adulterated).

A standard has recently been published for LC-IRMS by CEN (EN 17958:2024), more sensitive than the official test. It is very important to agree on the decision limits for this method.

The Joint Research Center (EU Commission) is working on further developing of improved, harmonized and scientifically accepted analytical methods to increase the capability of official control laboratories to detect honey adulterated with sugar syrups. The lab currently works on LC-HRMS interlaboratory validation of markers of adulteration, standardization and regulatory alignment, and on the optimization of 1H-NMR for the detection of mannose.

Laboratories established different databases for 1H-NMR of different quality. The biggest one is Bruker's Honey Profiling database. This database has more than 28,500 samples with metadata from a broad range of honeys. There are more than 50 countries, 100 monofloral honey types as well as a multitude of different polyfloral mixtures plus different seasons, production years, blends and production methods. This NMR method can also give information on the botanical and geographical origins of the most common honey types.

HPAEC-PAD, a more accessible analysis used for more than 20 years for honey, is dedicated to oligo- & polysaccharides and detects 1% or above presence of corn syrup. However, no ring trials have been performed yet.

DNA method especially the metagenomic and bulk sequencing are provided recently by certain laboratories. However, like for HPAEC-PAD, no ring trials have been performed yet.

Other new techniques are always in development like Orbitrap HR-MS Based Metabolomic, proteomics...

An additional problem arises when a new marker is described in the literature. Fraudsters quickly develop technologies to remove the marker from the syrup. Hence, the disclosure of a new analytical marker may result in a quick reduction in the lifespan of the detection method. This risk can be reduced by:

- not revealing the physical/chemical nature of the marker (which however must be available for confidential assessment in audits or court use), or
- increasing the number of potential markers.
- the use of modern screening methods capable of detecting several markers in one analysis.

Methods based on profile analysis are much more difficult to circumvent.

Requirements for the development of new methods to detect adulteration in honey:

- The lab must achieve accreditation through an independent accreditation body and participate in ring-trials, e.g. ISO 17025.
- The limits of detection/quantification and uncertainty of measurement for interpretation of the results must be fixed.
- The results must be supported by a sufficient number of authentic non degraded and fully traceable samples with their metadata. Conclusions must be drawn with care.
- Thresholds must be established to differentiate between residues resulting from normal bee feeding in accordance with good beekeeping and residues from excessive intentional feeding to increase the honey yield. An updated collection of syrups used to dilute fraudulently honey and syrups used for bee feeding is needed (for spiking experiments).

Audits

While lab testing can be very helpful for the detection of syrup in honey or the occurrence of false declared origins, it has much more limitations to detect fraud linked to the production process, like vacuum dehumidification. Audits can verify if good beekeeping and packing practices are applied.

What can be done?

- Verify stakeholders; check for fake accounts; define geo-referenced harvest locations.
- Mapping of beekeepers and their apiaries.
- Ensure correctness of administrative documents/ internal reports.
- take samples and analyze existing databases.
- Check for the absence of elements (specific equipment, products, etc.) linked to fraud and used, for example, to dilute the honey and/or extract excess water and/or reduce the HMF level and/or add specific elements naturally present in honey (pollen, enzymes, etc.).

It is important to define specific guidelines for the auditors. US Pharmacopeia's Honey Fraud Mitigation Guidance is a very good tool to put in place a strong honey antifraud program. Audits in the honey sector are not so common, and the auditor are confronted to a lot of global challenges:

- Auditors lack of industry specific knowledge about fraudulent practices applied to honey.
- There are special geographical areas of concern. Struggle to keep up with different parts of the world.
- Lack of definition about best practices on current detection methods. This lack of knowledge means that companies cannot be audited on recognized best practices.

Current situation regarding the auditing process:

- Sometimes it is not possible to spend much time on VACCP¹.
- Currently most audits require a traceability exercise and mass balance but without considering fraud.

¹ Vulnerability Assessment and Critical Control Points



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Basic steps	Information needed	Complementary information	Implicated							
			beekeepers	beekeeping associations	operators	laboratories	Auditors	Customs	national authorities	international authorities
Honey	definition								X	X
	composition	link to the botanical origin	X			X			X	X
	analyses	linked to the compound detected, validated				X			X	X
	database	At least most common honey on the market	X	X		X				X
	code of identification	international classification						X	X	X
Beekeeper	Identification	Localisation, hives...	X	X			X	Xe	X	
	Process of production	good beekeeping practice guide	X	X			X		X	
	Feeding	good beekeeping practice guide	X	X			X		X	
	Identification	labeling + sample (simplify analyse)	X			X	X		X	X
	Documentation	place (bot origin), date, quantity...	X				X		X	X
Operator(s)	Identification							Xe	X	Xe
	Process of production	Techniques used...			X		X			
	Input and output	Origin of drums and detail of output (type, quantity...)			X		X			
	Storage	Identification, quantity			X		X			
	Identification of drums	labelling, documentation, analyses			X	X	X	Xe	X	Xe
Controls	Documentation	related to purchases and sales			X		X	Xe	X	X
	Authenticity	related to the honey				X		Xe	X	X
	Adulteration	related to the honey				X		Xe	X	X
	Traceability	related to the honey	X		X		X	Xe	X	Xe
Xe = only for exported honey										

E. A global strategy

The fight against honey adulteration involves a series of actions carried out by those involved in the honey production chain. Depending on where you are in the chain, the actions will mainly relate to data generation, controls or defining what needs to be defined and controlled. Here under is a table showing the different levels of the chain and the actors involved.

Given the complexity of the actions and the number of people and organizations involved, it would be very useful to set up an international task force on honey fraud, involving international bodies and beekeepers.

Some other elements must also be considered to define a continuous way of working:

1. Define and characterize at least the most prevalent honey types on the market and harmonize the rules already present in different countries.
2. Identify potential fraud types, process flows and “innovations”.
3. Assess the evolution of the supply chains complexity and map them out (from production to consumer).
4. Review weaknesses (hot spots) and prioritize them based on the controls and the frauds.

5. Analyze regularly the different geographic origins of honey (political stability, economic conditions, climatic events)
6. Monitor market prices, formation of prices, trade policies (duties, antidumping measures).
7. Typologize fraudsters and fraud events (occasional, occupational).
8. Evaluate supplier practices (supplier verification processes) (historical data).
9. Consider mitigation strategies and optimize the use of resources for results (counter-measures, control systems, monitoring practices, verification tools like supplier audits, authentication methods, laboratory analyses, marketplace monitoring, investigations, traceability systems, mass balances, ingredients tracing, regulatory compliance, training and awareness)
10. Record and analyze incidents.
11. Review and reassess regularly all these points

A collective effort must be made to establish an international framework for combating adulteration. To this end, it is essential that all stakeholders be directly involved and commit to doing everything possible to ensure that this document does not remain a dead letter.

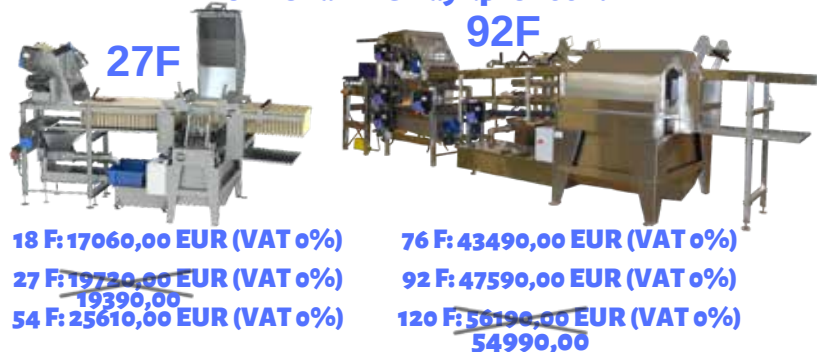


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MADE IN FINLAND

Investigation of *Melissococcus plutonius* persistence in beekeeping equipment in Saskatchewan

Principal Investigators

Dr. Midhun Sebastian Jose, PhD, post-doctoral fellow, Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Saskatchewan, 52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5B4.

Dr. Sarah Wood, MSc, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Associate Professor and Research Chair in Pollinator Health, Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Saskatchewan, 52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5B4

Background:

European foulbrood (EFB), caused by *Melissococcus plutonius*, is a re-emerging disease that severely impacts honey bee health, pollination services, and honey production in Canada. Despite its economic significance, the persistence of *M. plutonius* in potential reservoirs such as beekeeping equipment remains poorly understood, limiting effective prevention strategies. Contaminated beekeeping equipment may serve as a source of colony reinfection, yet the duration of bacterial viability and the efficacy of practical decontamination methods are unclear. To address this knowledge gap, we (1) investigated the long-term survival of *M. plutonius* in brood frames from previously EFB-affected colonies and (2) evaluated chemical and gas-based approaches for beekeeping equipment sterilization.

Method:

1. We assessed the persistence of *M. plutonius* in brood frames collected in May 2025 from colonies diagnosed with EFB in May 2024. One brood frame from each of 31 affected colonies were sectioned into 32 equal pieces, and 8 pieces from each frame were cultured for *M. plutonius*.
2. We determined the decontamination efficacy of both chemical agents (70% ethanol, 10% bleach, 250 ppm hypochlorous acid water, 2% chlorhexidine gluconate soap) by applying 1×10^9 CFU/mL *M. plutonius* to two inch² cloth, wood, metal, matrices, followed by application of the chemical agent for 10 minute and re-culturing *M. plutonius* from each matrix. To test the decontamination efficacy of chlorine dioxide gas, we inoculated 10 wax-drawn frames with a solution of *M. plutonius* (1×10^9 CFU/mL), exposed the frames to chlorine dioxide gas within sealed wooden hive boxes, and re-cultured *M. plutonius* from the frames.

Results:

We recovered viable *M. plutonius* from the brood frames of 17/31 (55%) colonies affected with clinical EFB one year prior. Chemical decontamination reduced *M. plutonius* counts by 50%, 58%, 67%, and 84% in 70% ethanol, 10% bleach, 250 ppm hypochlorous acid water, 2% chlorhexidine gluconate soap depending on the agent and material. In contrast, chlorine dioxide gas was markedly more effective. Frames placed at the center of the treatment box showed complete elimination of *M. plutonius* (100% reduction), while frames positioned at the edges achieved a 90-95% reduction.

Conclusion:

We found that *M. plutonius* can persist in beekeeping equipment for at least one year after recovery from clinical disease, potentially serving as a reservoir for reinfection. This highlights the importance of equipment hygiene in EFB management. Among the decontamination strategies tested, chlorine dioxide gas had highest reduction of viable bacteria, whereas chemical treatments achieved only partial reduction. These results underscore the need for practical, scalable sterilization protocols and further research on long-term bacterial persistence to inform effective EFB prevention.

Help Wanted 2026

Help Wanted: Prince (SK)

Farmer Brown's Honey (Prince, SK) is hiring for the 2026 season.

3 – Apiary Technicians/Workers - NOC 84120 or 85100 Minimum of 1-2 full seasons of apiary experience required. Wage: \$16.50 - \$17.50 per hour to be negotiated. May 1, 2026 - October 2, 2026 Seasonal, full-time Job includes: wrapping/unwrapping hives; spring and fall maintenance, feeding hives, creating nucleus colonies, queen-rearing, supering hives, adding and removing honeys supers (50+lbs) and carrying and stacking on the truck deck; extracting honey; moving hives; maintain bee yards and any other assorted apiary jobs that are required.

2 – Farm labourers: Students and others welcome. Wages: \$16.00 per hour. (Employment period - July 15th – August 30th) This job Includes: harvesting (supering hives, pulling honeys supers (50+lbs) and carrying and stacking on the truck deck and extracting honey. Successful candidates may be required to assist in other apiary/farm tasks.

Requirements: No formal education required but at least a Grade 10 education would be an asset. Have valid driver's licence; have a vehicle to get back and forth to work. Experience driving a standard truck is an asset; to be in good physical condition and to be able to work in a team environment.

Please do not apply if you are allergic to bees!

Employment Details: part-time, on call

Training is provided on a ongoing basis. Most tasks are performed outdoors in all kinds of weather, work is repetitive and physically demanding.

Work location: SW 14-46-17 W3, #3 Prince School Rd, Hamlet of Prince. The bee yards are located in the RM's of Meota, North Battleford, Turtle River, Round Hill, and Douglas.

Contact Cameron Brown, Phone: 306-386-7953

Mail or deliver your resume with references to:

Farmer Brown's Honey, Site 4 Box 54 RR#3, North Battleford, SK S9A 2X4 or email to: farmerbrownshoney@gmail.com

Help Wanted: Falkland (BC)

General Farm Worker - Apiary - 2026

Contact Daniela, Phone: 250-379-2072

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: \$17.85 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, 2026 until November 5, 2026

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 suppers 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

Help Wanted: Delta (BC)

Beekeeping Advisor for Busy Retail Store

Contact Alissa Cole, Phone: 604-364-1993

We are seeking a passionate person to join our retail team as a beekeeping advisor. If you have a love for honeybees, pollinators, and gardening, and are committed to making a positive impact on the environment, this position is perfect for you!

Job Details

Location: West Coast Seeds/Urban Bee Store: 5300 34b Ave, Delta, BC.

Wage: \$20-24hr based on experience, with opportunity for advancement over time., Hours: Part time or full time available, Perks: Staff discounts on all item, including bees, tools, hive equipment, etc.

An excellent way to keep up with the local beekeeping scene, and constantly expand your own knowledge and skill sets from talking with beekeepers.

Responsibilities

- **Retail:** beekeeping supplies merchandising, customer sales and advising, general customer experience, re-stocking shelves and assisting to maintain cleanliness of store.
- **Warehouse:** order fulfilment, warehouse/stock management, assisting to maintain cleanliness of warehouse.
- Assisting customers with beekeeping and related product questions in-store, over the phone, and via email.

General support for the Urban Bee Division Lead and general Urban Bee/West Coast Seeds operations.

Help Wanted: Fisher Branch (MB)

INTERLAKE HONEY PRODUCERS LTD.

in Fisher Branch, MB has the following positions:

Apiary Technician: 5 positions available for the 2026 season.

Seasonal, full time, days, evenings and some Saturdays. Work is mostly outdoors, so must be able to work under hot conditions. The job starts April 1st July 1st. End date: Sept 10th-November 15th.

Wages \$16.00-\$22.00/hour depending on experience. Performance and/or production bonus may be available. Duties include but not limited to: feed and care for honeybees, 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 maintain bee equipment, drive and maintain vehicles. 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 to anita@ifsltd.ca

Help Wanted: Big River (SK)

West Cowan Apiaries "Quality Northern Saskatchewan Honey" Box 425, Big River, Saskatchewan. S0J 0E0

Apiary Technicians – NOC 84120 – 5 persons required. Must have 2-3 full bee seasons of apiary experience required.

Job Duties: Must be able to work in the presence of honey bees; assist with colony management; honey extraction and processing; queen rearing; to report beehive health issues and apply appropriate disease cures or controls. Feeding hives (Spring and Fall); creating nucs; carrying and stacking honey supers (80+ lbs) to the truck deck; maintaining bee yards; moving nucs inside/outside (Fall and Spring); building of honey supers; lids and bottom boards in the wood shop. Assist in supervising and giving direction to other employees. Keep field and production records; and perform any other apiary jobs that are required.

Wage: \$17.00- \$25.00 per hour (dependent on experience). Job is: Seasonal F-T, Minimum of 40+ hours per week. Length of employment: April 1- November, 2026 (7 months)

Apiary Workers- NOC 85100 – 5 persons required. Must have 1-2 full bee seasons of apiary experience required.

Job Duties: Must be able to work in the presence of honey bees. The cleaning of the entire honey building; carrying and stacking of honey supers; grass cutting around the honey building and yard site; the cutting of the grass in the various bee yards; maintain the bee yards; extracting and processing honey; and any other jobs that are required.

Wage: \$15.50-\$16.95 per hour (dependent on experience). Job length is: Seasonal F-T; Minimum of 40+ hours per week. Length of employment: June 1-October 1, 2026 (4 months)

Training is provided on an ongoing basis. Please do not apply if you are allergic to bees!

All job requirements: You must have a valid driver's license, and vehicle to get back and forth to work. Experience driving a standard truck is an asset. To be in good physical condition and to be able to work in a team environment. Most jobs are performed outdoors in all kinds of weather, work is repetitive, and physically demanding.

Work locations are: SE 14-56-8 W3, our bee yards are located in the RM's of Big River, Shellbrook and Canwood.

Please apply by email to: c.warriner@sasktel.net. Mail or deliver in person your resume with references to: West Cowan Apiaries, Christopher & Lori Warriner. PO Box 425, Big River, SK. S0J 0E0 or phone to set up an appointment to: 306-469-4970.

Help Wanted: Granum, (AB)

SUPERNUC APIARIES located near Granum, AB (251032 TWP RD 104) has the following positions for the 2026 season. **APIARY WORKERS (NOC 85100)** 3 positions: starting at \$17.98 - \$22.00/hr, needed full time (45+ hrs/wk) from Mar 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026. Apiary workers must have a minimum of 1 season full time experience in a Canadian commercial apiary. Duties include assisting 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 (AB)

Poelman Apiaries Ltd requires workers for 2026 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 2026 (\$18 plus to \$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, harvesting and rendering wax.

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 2026 (\$18 plus to \$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 and helping with wax rendering.

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)

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 2026 (\$17.98 - \$22 /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 2026 (\$17.98 - \$21/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 **11 full time seasonal apiarists** in Argyle, MB. Wages are \$16.00 - \$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, 2026 November 15, 2026. 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 2026 Season

4 Apiary Workers (NOC 85100) for March or April to end of October 2026

Wages are \$16.00 - \$19.00 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: Rocanville (SK)

FOR SUMMER 2026!

APIARY TECHNICIAN (7 months)

6 seasonal positions available from March 21 - October 21 (2026).

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 (2026).

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 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 (2026).

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 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.

Email bstrongapiaries@outlook.com or fax resume to (306)-645-4591

Help Wanted: Roblin (MB)

Positions available for 2026

**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 2026

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, 2026 to mid-October 2026
- 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 Wyatt at jobswendellhoney@gmail.com or or phone 204-564-2599.

15 Full Time Positions available at Wendell Honey 2026

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, 2026 to mid-September 2026
- No experience required.
- Work is physically demanding.
- Wages \$15.00 - \$20.00 per hour depending on experience
- Possible production bonus.

Email Shawna Kardux at jobswendellhoney@gmail.com or phone 204-564-2599.

Help Wanted: Nipawin, (SK)

Yves Garez Honey Inc, P.O Box 2016, Nipawin, SK, S0E 1E0 seeks employees for the March 2026 to October 2026 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.

1 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 \$ 25.00 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. Duties includes wrapping and unwrapping Winter packs, checking, feeding, medicating, cleaning, moving, splitting, supering bee hives, raising queens, harvesting and extracting honey, general maintenance of equipment. Wages \$ 20.00 to \$ 25.00 per hour, depending on experience.

4 Apiary Workers (NOC 85100) No experience required. We will train successful applicants in Honeybees and Hive manipulation. Wage start at \$ 17.00 per hour. email: yves@garezhoney.com

Help Wanted: East of Saskatoon (SK)

Meadow Ridge Enterprises Ltd requires help for the 2026 beekeeping season. The contract term is from April 15th – October 31st 2026. 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 Supervisors (NOC 82030): Minimum 3-4 years of beekeeping experience.

Wage \$18.00 - \$21.00 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, 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.

Apiary Technicians (NOC 84120): Minimum 1-2 years of beekeeping experience required.

Wage 15.35-\$17.00 depending on experience. Potential to earn bonuses. 3 positions to fill. Seasonal full-time (40+/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. Fixing and building bee equipment, upkeep of bee sites, and maintenance of work vehicles.

All applicant 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 by email to a.j.robertson@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: 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 2026 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 \$15.35/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: Apiary Harvest Workers B's Bee Ranch Inc. - Kinistino (SK)

Three Apiary Harvest worker positions available for up to 8 months (starting no earlier than March) required for the 2026 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 \$16.35/hr - \$18.35/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 2026 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 workday is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week with wages starting at 15.35/hr to 18.35/hr depending on experience. Subsidized housing is available. Potential to earn bonuses based on production and performance. The approximate employment term is from June 25th, 2026, to September 25th, 2026.

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 (2) full-time employees to fill the seasonal positions of Apiary Harvest Labourer for the 2026 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 \$15.35/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 15th, 2026 and ending no later than November 15th, 2026. 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 (2) full-time employees** to fill the seasonal positions of Apiary Harvest Labourer for the 2026 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 workday is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week. Wage shall begin at \$15.35/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, 2026, and ending no later than November 15, 2026. No experience required to fill these positions.

To apply for this position, e-mail resume (English only) with subject line 'Work in Canada 2026' 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 **three (3) full-time employees** to fill the seasonal positions of Apiary Worker for the 2026 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 workday is 6-12 hours or roughly 30-60 hours per week. Wages shall begin at \$16.35/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, 2026, and ending no later than November 15, 2026.

To apply for this position, e-mail resume (English only) with subject line 'Work in Canada 2026' to dionebacon13@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Langenburg and Esterhazy (SK)

Job Openings For Glory Bee Honey Farms (101034244 SK LTD) – 2026 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 2026 season. Also available is Honey Harvest labourer/General farm worker positions which is 2-3 months starting June-Sept for 2026.

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 \$15.50-\$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 \$15.50-19.00/hr depending on experience

Positions available from April 1, 2026 to October 31st 2026.

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: Spiritwood (SK) Jewitt Honey Farm

Apiary Labourers

2 Full-Time Seasonal Positions for 2026, 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 2026, 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

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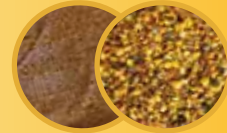
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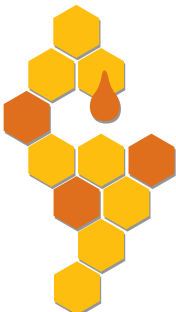
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The Canadian Honey Council is the national association of beekeepers representing apiculturists across Canada. The CHC provides a forum where producers, packers, professionals, provincial associations and officials from different levels of government 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.

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