

Canadian National Beekeeping Convention

Friday February 13, Blackfoot Crossing Ballroom

8:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast, Presentation Upload

Welcome: Rod Scarlett

KEYNOTE: Geoff Williams, Auburn University

Tropilaelaps: a teeny-tiny mite looming on the horizon (45 min)

Jeff Pettis, Pettis and Associates. Controlling Tropilaelaps and Varroa in package bees: is it possible? (20 min)

Geoff Wilson, Government of Saskatchewan. Tropilaelaps: Preparedness Planning in Canada (20 min)

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Moderator:
Rod Scarlett

10:30 - 11:00 AM Break

PANEL: Tropilaelaps: Phases of invasion – prevention, mitigation, impacts

Panelists – Geoff Wilson, Derek Micholson, Jake Berg, Jeff Pettis

11:00 - 12:00 PM

Moderator:
Geoff Williams

12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch

Marta Guarna, Project Apis m. Colony Losses, Varroa Management, and Economic Impacts: Insights from PAm (15 min)

Renata Labuschagne, Government of Alberta. Bee Health Assurance in Alberta: 2025 Winter Loss Survey and Inspection Update (15 min)

Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Véto-Pharma. Applying Global IPM Strategies for Sustainable Varroa Mite Management in Canada (15 min)

Ernesto Guzman-Novoa, University of Guelph. Effect of pro-vitamin A and other micronutrients on learning, memory retention, and foraging behaviour of honey bees (15 min)

Christine McDonald, Rushing River Apiaries. Building a Buzz: Strategic Social Media for Beekeepers (15 min)

Leonardo Galindo González, Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Using bee pollen for biosurveillance of plant pests (15 min)

Maria Janser, University of Saskatchewan. Honey bees as a Social Animal Model for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (15 min)

Christine Macpherson, University of Guelph. AS Atwal Graduate Scholarship Winner. Modelling Bee-Associated Microbial Ecosystems in vitro (15 min)

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Moderator:
Alvaro De la Mora

3:00 – 3:30 PM Break

Claudia García Figueroa, University of Alberta. Variation in brood signalling of Varroa infestation (15 min)

Jenna Letain, University of Lethbridge. From hive to lab: Designing a rapid detection kit for honey bee viral pathogens (15 min)

Courtney MacInnis, University of Lethbridge. Hot and bothered? How temperature affects the development and infectivity of *Lotmaria passim* (15 min)

Yashoda Wickramasinghe, University of Saskatchewan. From brood to worker: Tracking *Melissococcus plutonius* transmission in honey bee colonies (15 min)

Stephen Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Testing a new vaccine against American Foulbrood disease (15 min)

Thanuri Edirithilake, University of Saskatchewan. Survey of European foulbrood disease and antibody susceptibility of field-isolated *Melissococcus plutonius* in honey bee colonies (15 min)

Danika Strelaeff, University of Manitoba - CAPA MSc Student Merit Award Winner. DWV vaccine: Using Bacteria to protect honey bees from viruses (15 min)

Prabashi Wickramasinghe, University of Alberta - CAPA PhD Student Merit Award Winner. Molecular basis of IAPV pathogenesis and antiviral immune response in *Apis mellifera* (15 min)

3:30 - 5:30 PM

Moderator:
Courtney MacInnis

7:00 PM Banquet (ticketed event)

Featuring Speaker Jeff Pettis

Canadian National Beekeeping Convention

Saturday February 14, Blackfoot Crossing Ballroom

8:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast, Presentation Upload

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Moderator:
Shelley Hoover

KEYNOTE: Karen Pedersen, *Pedersen Apiaries*

Deliberately Deleting Duds: Increasing Honey Production through Selected Breeding (60 min)

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 PM

Moderator:
Renata Labuschagne

Kathryn Knowles, *University of Lethbridge*. Do first impressions matter? How worker retinue response changes over time in queenless honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies (15 min)

Serhii Kondratiuk, *University of Saskatchewan*. Efficacy and safety of repeated oxalic acid dribble treatment on honey bee health and queen quality (15 min)

Brendan Daisley, *University of Guelph*. Identifying the causal agents of idiopathic queen cell failure – an emerging pathogenic threat to queen production in Canada (15 min)

Patricia Wolf Veiga, *National Bee Diagnostic Centre*. Comparison of domestic and imported queens (15 min)

Lindsay Ellis, *University of Alberta* and **Miriam Bixby**, *University of British Columbia*. The use of a novel fusion-fission beekeeping method at controlling *Varroa destructor* in a commercial Beekeeping Setting (15 min)

Olav Rueppell, *University of Alberta*. Queen ovary regression during swarming (15 min)

12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Moderator:
Jeremy Olthof

Stéphane Bayen, *McGill University*. Molecular fingerprinting of honey: towards an integrated assessment of quality, safety, and authenticity (~20 min)

PANEL: Honey audits and innovative testing - What could these do to prevent adulterated honey on the market?

Panelists – Stéphane Bayen, Leonard Foster

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Moderator:
Brendan Daisley

Geoff Williams, *Auburn University*. Advances in varroa IPM: finding alternative options to amitraz (30 min)

Lynae Ovinge, *University of Lethbridge*. Varroa Control in Canada: What Beekeepers Can Use Now and What's Coming Next (15 min)

Rassol Bahreini, *University of Alberta*. Field evaluation of next-generation miticides against *Varroa destructor* (15 min)

3:00 – 3:30 PM Break

3:30 - 4:45 PM

Moderator:
Rassol Bahreini

Brian Manley, *Greenlight Biosciences*. Norroa™: A novel solution to help beekeepers manage varroa mites, a global update (15 min)

Matthew Polinsky, *Manitoba KRTP*. Norroa™: Canadian field trials - experience and next steps (15 min)

Paulo Mielgo, *Vita Bee Health*. New developments in varroa control using sustained release oxalic acid in strips (15 min)

Victoria Ferland, *Université Laval*. Combining Brood Interruption and Oxalic Acid Treatment for Summer Control of *Varroa destructor* in *Apis mellifera* Colonies (15 min)

Alvaro De la Mora, *University of Saskatchewan*. Overwinter efficacy and toxicity of a slow-release oxalic acid-glycerin treatment against *Varroa destructor* (15 min)

4:45 - 5:30

Moderator:
Rod Scarlett

PANEL: Can domestic stock meet pollination demand?

Panelists – Chris Lockhart, Lori Kittilsen, Lorne Prins

Closing Remarks – Rod Scarlett