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Canadian Honey Council Report



Rod Scarlett,
Executive Director, CHC

It would be nice to have official overwintering report numbers but as of the end of June, nothing has been made available. My sense is that losses will be down from last year's historic highs but still in the area of 30%. What is becoming abundantly clear is that despite the efforts of beekeepers to address varroa, there seems to be other components impacting overwintering success. The same beekeeper using the same products, feeding and treating identically will have significantly different results from yard to yard. Beekeepers themselves have given me many varying explanations but there does not seem to be consensus on a specific cause, be it virus loads, pesticide residues, stock variations or other environmental concerns. Until we are able to pinpoint a cause, or come up with a new active ingredient that is 100% effective in killing varroa, much more work needs to be done in identifying the root cause.

In addition to consultations on a new policy framework the federal government announced the creation of a National Food Security Strategy. The strategy has four main pillars:

- More grocery store competition, more choice, lower prices
- Process more food closer to where it's grown
- Grow fruits and vegetables year-round
- Lowering prices by cutting red tape

For beekeepers there were two major oversights in the strategy. One was the significant contribution of temporary foreign workers to achieve the goals outlined. The second, and perhaps more important, to prevent cheaply priced foreign imports, particularly those that are fraudulent, from entering the market. The Canadian Honey Council has already drawn attention to these oversights and will be working with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and other like-minded organizations concerned with this issue. While billions of dollars have been allocated to the strategy, if assurances can't be given to the access of labour and the prevention of cheap fraudulent food products entering the Canadian market, then the success of such a program will be limited.

The HoneyBee Health Coalition, of which the Canadian Honey Council is a member,

has released the ninth edition of the Tools for Varroa Management Guide. The guide provides information on the latest tools and options for beekeepers in the United States and Canada to keep bees healthy and manage varroa mites, which spread disease within and among honey bee colonies. The full guide is available free of charge at the Honey Bee Health Coalition's website: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/>

In a worrying development, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published a call for expressions of interest inviting interested parties to submit any existing data relevant to several active substances that are currently undergoing a targeted review of maximum residue levels (MRLs). The below products, with the exception of terbufos, are all used in Canada. The concern is that if MRLs are set for these products, not only will testing for honey sold to the EU have to meet the MRL, other countries, including Canada, could adopt similar MRLs which will result in significantly more testing and damage the reputation of honey. This is particularly concerning given the fact that these are out-of-hive products that beekeepers have no control over.

Products the EU are investigating to set an MRL for that are not approved for usage in the EU.

Carbaryl - Carbaryl is a widely used carbamate insecticide that kills insects by inhibiting acetylcholinesterase, affecting both pests and non-target organisms. It is used to control a broad range of pests, including aphids, fire ants, fleas, ticks, and spiders, and is applied on crops, home gardens, lawns, and ornamental plants. It is also used in orchards to thin fruit tree blossoms. Carbaryl is available in sprays, dusts, granules, and water-soluble packages, and over 190 products containing carbaryl are registered for use.

Methoprene - Methoprene is an insect growth regulator that prevents insects from maturing and reproducing by mimicking juvenile hormones rather than killing them directly. Methoprene is widely used in mosquito control programs. It is also used in flea control for pets, fly management on livestock, and in home insect sprays and baits.

Phorate - Phorate [ISO] is a highly toxic organophosphate pesticide available as an ISO-certified reference standard for laboratory and regulatory use.

Pyrasulfotole - Pyrasulfotole is a selective, post-emergence herbicide used to control a wide range of broadleaf weeds in cereal crops like kochia, buckwheat and cleavers. It is widely used throughout Canada and is sold under the brand name Infinity by Bayer. It is also used by the forest industry and is considered a possible replacement for glyphosate.

Quinclorac - Quinclorac is a synthetic auxin herbicide that disrupts plant growth by interfering with protein synthesis and hormone balance, leading to weed death. It is primarily used in residential and commercial turf, golf courses, sports fields, sod farms, parks, and roadsides. It is effective against crabgrass, sedges, clover, dandelion, and over 200 other broadleaf and grassy weeds. Quinclorac is sold and manufactured under the following names:

- **Drive** – widely used for post-emergent control of crabgrass, sedges, and broadleaf weeds in turfgrass areas
- **Armortech** – manufactured by companies including Albaugh, BASF, and NuFarm
- **Q-Ball** – another commercial formulation available from multiple manufacturers
- **Quinstar** – also produced by Albaugh, BASF, and NuFarm

Saflufenacil - Saflufenacil is an organic compound classified as a herbicide of the pyrimidinedione chemical class. Saflufenacil is currently registered for use to control broadleaf weeds in lentils, soybean, barley, canary seed, chickpea, field corn, sweet corn, oats, dried field peas, wheat (spring, durum and winter) and in chemfallow. It is the active ingredient in the herbicide end-use product, Detail manufactured by BASF.

Terbufos - Terbufos is a chemical compound classified as an organophosphate, designed to control pests that affect crops such as maize, potatoes, beans, peanuts, bananas, citrus, coffee, and sunflowers. This product is not registered in Canada.

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Regional Reports



Atlantic



Lauren Park

As we all await the publication of the 2025 CAPA report on overwintering losses, the season is moving along and hive health reports across the Atlantic region have a high degree of variability and range from 20-55%-. All 4 Atlantic provinces struggled through some level of 2025 drought, and in Newfoundland it was followed up by a long winter and a very late spring. Prince

Edward Island anticipates high losses after relatively low losses last year, while New Brunswick will be well below the Canadian average after high losses last year. Nova Scotia is seeing their highest losses since 2010, and many operations will be working to rebuild. Losses in the region seem to correlate with drought-stricken areas. Although this is not good news, there could be some optimism that the losses may correlate to extreme weather more than disease and pest pressures.

The end of June brings the end of wild blueberry pollination in the east. The pollination weather started off cold but improved for most of the bloom time. The cold weather impacted the honey yield during pollination and had a negative impact on the leafcutter bees used in NB as they are very temperature sensitive. Overall, early reports indicate that fewer bees were used to pollinate wild blueberries across the region. In most cases this was due to drought, not to hive losses. The demand for bombus bees continues to grow.

2026 also marks a summer full of meetings. Halifax is lucky to host the Canadian Federation of Agriculture summer meetings (which CHC will attend as a member) alongside the federal, provincial and territorial ag ministers in July. These meetings in the east will allow Atlantic Canada the opportunity to promote our regional beekeeping industries and the Canadian bee industry more broadly. The meeting will culminate with the 'Halifax Statement' of pillars that will define the next policy framework of programs from 2028-2033. As phase 1 of (broad) consultations transitions into phase 2 of (more specific) consultations, beekeepers across the country should use this opportunity to emphasize the fundamental importance of the bee industry in the Canadian agriculture landscape in their own areas. By some metrics, our industry is seen as small, but when you consider the intersections that exist between bees and fruit, vegetable, forage, and oilseed crops (all major domestic

and export commodities) we punch well above our weight. Of course, our honey industry adds incredible value as well. It is easy to write to Canadian beekeepers that our industry should be central in the next policy framework, but it is a bigger task to position ourselves that way nationally.

The meeting calendar also includes the Atlantic Bee Tour which will be on PEI over the August long weekend for 2 days of learning and community. I am looking forward to connecting with beekeepers across the region at this event and am grateful to PEI for taking on the task of hosting this year. It is sure to be a memorable couple of days.

Wishing everyone a successful summer season.

Québec



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

L'été 2026 a été marqué par d'importantes avancées pour l'industrie apicole québécoise. En parallèle des activités de production, plusieurs dossiers structurants ont progressé grâce au travail des Apiculteurs et Apicultrices du Québec (AADQ) et de leurs partenaires. Ces initiatives visent à renforcer la recherche, améliorer la représentation de la filière et préparer l'avenir de l'apiculture québécoise.

Chambre de coordination et de développement

Le projet de Chambre de coordination et de développement (CCD) apicole a franchi une étape déterminante au début de l'été. Le 4 juin dernier, les AADQ, le CRSAD, la coopérative Citadelle et le CRAAQ ont présenté conjointement le projet devant la Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec.

La rencontre s'est déroulée dans un climat très positif et aucune opposition n'a été formulée. Les documents demandés ont été déposés et les partenaires ont répondu aux questions de la Régie. Nous espérons recevoir une décision au cours du mois de septembre.

Si le projet est approuvé, les prochains travaux porteront sur la rédaction des règlements généraux et du code de déontologie de la Chambre. La mise en œuvre graduelle de cette nouvelle structure est prévue pour 2027. Son objectif sera de soutenir le développement de la recherche, du transfert de connaissances et de la promotion de l'industrie grâce à un financement stable et durable.

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Symposium canadien sur la pollinisation – 29-30 janvier

Les préparatifs du Symposium canadien sur la pollinisation progressent également à bon rythme. L'événement, organisé conjointement par le Conseil canadien du miel (CHC), la Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) et les AADQ, se tiendra au Centre des congrès de Lévis à la fin de novembre 2026.

Le comité organisateur travaille actuellement à l'élaboration du programme scientifique ainsi qu'au recrutement de conférenciers provenant du Canada et de l'étranger. Les thèmes abordés porteront notamment sur la santé des abeilles, les technologies appliquées à l'apiculture, les services de pollinisation et les innovations destinées aux producteurs.

Afin de favoriser les échanges entre les participants francophones et anglophones, le comité évalue également l'utilisation d'un système de traduction simultanée assistée par l'intelligence artificielle. Cette solution permettrait d'améliorer l'accessibilité tout en maintenant les coûts à un niveau raisonnable.

Représentation et dossiers réglementaires

Les AADQ poursuivent leurs représentations auprès des différents ministères et organismes gouvernementaux sur plusieurs dossiers importants pour les entreprises apicoles.

Les discussions se poursuivent notamment concernant les nouvelles normes d'hébergement des travailleurs étrangers temporaires, la réglementation entourant leur mobilité, ainsi que le développement d'une formation adaptée à la réalité des apiculteurs pour l'obtention de la certification relative à l'utilisation des pesticides.

L'association continue également de collaborer avec l'Union des producteurs agricoles afin que les futures réglementations tiennent compte des réalités des entreprises apicoles québécoises.

Biosécurité

La biosécurité demeure une priorité pour l'industrie. Bien que le varroa reste le principal parasite auquel les apiculteurs sont confrontés, les travaux se poursuivent avec le Conseil canadien du miel et les différents partenaires afin de préparer le Canada à une éventuelle introduction de l'acarien *Tropilaelaps*.

Les discussions portent notamment sur les mesures de surveillance, les protocoles d'intervention et les stratégies de détection précoce afin de protéger le cheptel canadien.

Regard vers l'avenir

Les derniers mois démontrent une volonté claire de poursuivre le développement de l'industrie apicole québécoise par la collaboration. Que ce soit par la création de la Chambre de coordination et de développement, l'organisation du Symposium canadien sur la pollinisation ou les nombreux travaux de représentation, les AADQ poursuivent leurs efforts afin d'offrir aux producteurs des outils et des conditions favorables au développement d'une apiculture forte, innovante et durable.

Je profite de cette occasion pour souhaiter à tous une excellente fin de saison et beaucoup de succès dans vos entreprises.

The summer of 2026 has been marked by significant progress for Québec's beekeeping industry. Alongside the busy production season, several major initiatives have moved forward through the work of Les Apiculteurs et Apicultrices du Québec (AADQ) and its partners. These efforts are aimed at strengthening

research, improving industry representation, and supporting the long-term development of beekeeping in Québec.

Beekeeping Coordination and Development Chamber

The Beekeeping Coordination and Development Chamber (CCD) reached an important milestone at the beginning of the summer. On June 4, the AADQ, the Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault (CRSAD), the Citadelle Cooperative, and the Centre de référence en agriculture et agroalimentaire du Québec (CRAAQ) jointly presented the project before the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec.

The hearing was very well received, and no opposition was expressed. All requested documents have been submitted, and the partners have responded to the Board's questions. We are hopeful that a decision will be rendered in September.

If approved, the next phase will focus on developing the Chamber's bylaws and code of ethics. The new structure is expected to be implemented gradually beginning in 2027. Its purpose is to provide stable, long-term funding to support research, knowledge transfer, and industry development.

Canadian Pollination Symposium – January 29–30, 2027

Planning is also well underway for the Canadian Pollination Symposium, jointly organized by the Canadian Honey Council (CHC), the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA), and the AADQ. The symposium will be held at the Lévis Convention Centre on January 29–30, 2027.

The organizing committee is currently developing the scientific program and inviting speakers from across Canada and abroad. Topics will include honey bee health, technologies for modern beekeeping, pollination services, and innovations that support commercial producers.

To encourage participation from both English- and French-speaking delegates, the organizing committee is also evaluating the use of artificial intelligence for simultaneous translation. This innovative approach would improve accessibility while helping to keep costs at a reasonable level.

Advocacy and Regulatory Affairs

The AADQ continues to represent Québec's commercial beekeepers on several important regulatory issues with provincial ministries and government agencies.

Current discussions include proposed housing standards for temporary foreign workers, regulations affecting worker mobility, and the development of a training program specifically adapted to beekeepers for pesticide certification.

The association also continues to work closely with the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) to ensure that future regulations reflect the realities of Québec's commercial beekeeping operations.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity remains a top priority for the industry. While Varroa destructor continues to be the primary pest affecting honey bee colonies, work is ongoing with the Canadian Honey Council and other partners to prepare Canada for the potential introduction of *Tropilaelaps* mites.

Discussions continue on surveillance measures, emergency response protocols, and early detection strategies to help protect the Canadian honey bee population.



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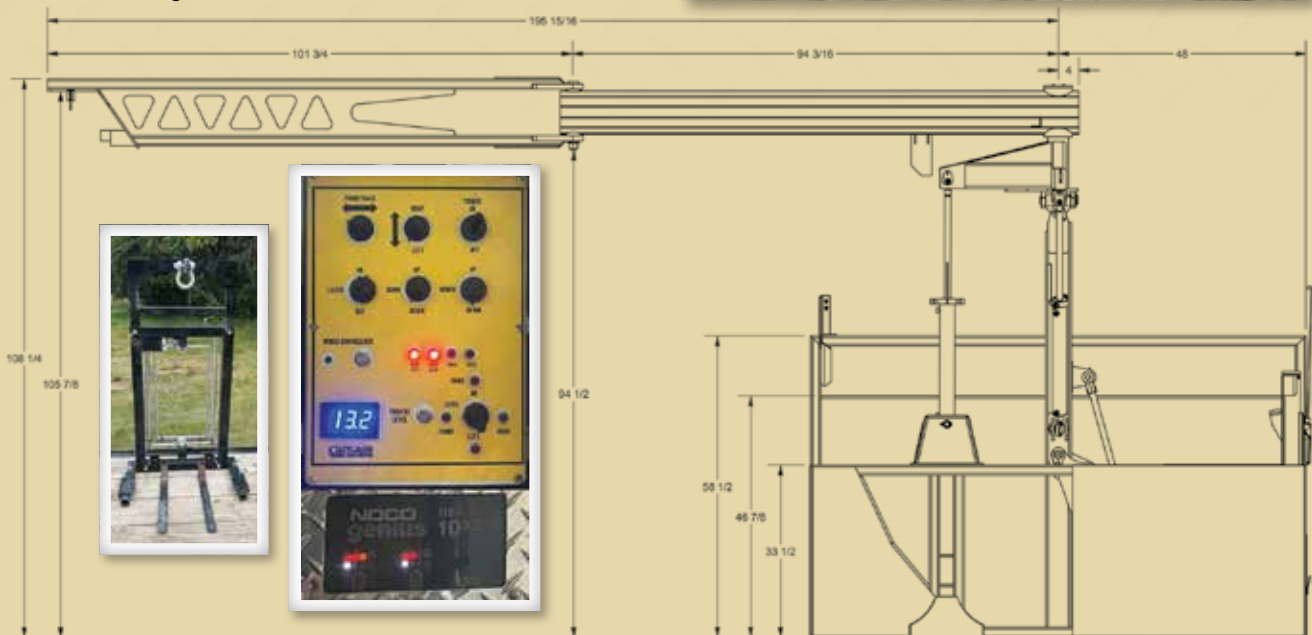


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Looking Ahead

The past few months have demonstrated the industry's commitment to moving forward through collaboration. Whether through the development of the Beekeeping Coordination and Development Chamber, the organization of the Canadian Pollination Symposium, or continued advocacy on behalf of producers, the AADQ remains focused on providing Québec beekeepers with the tools and support needed to build a strong, innovative, and sustainable industry.

On behalf of the AADQ, I wish everyone a successful end to the season and continued success in your beekeeping operations.

Ontario



Albert Devries

The long drawn out spring seems to have resulted in much higher winter bee mortality. Hives that were alive in March died by May. It is likely the problem extends back to the fall. The weather was warm and dry but frost had killed the plants and brood rearing stopped early. The warm weather allowed bees to fly well into November looking for something to forage on to no avail. The winter clusters had many old bees. It seems a drawn out cold spring proved to be too much and many hives died. Even after the dandelions had finished blooming many hives were on the brink of starvation. Now that summer is here so is better weather and nectar. It seems losses have stabilized and splits are becoming queenright. Let's hope July is kind and we get some honey.

I would like to congratulate Paul Kelly and his team at the Luckevich Pinch Honey Bee Research Centre located at the University of Guelph. They had their grand opening at the end of June. There was a lot of planning and thought that went into building this world class facility. I'm thankful for the generous donors that made it possible. In the end, it cost far more than expected. I'm glad to see a facility that matches the quality of the people that make it work.

I wish everyone a good summer and many full boxes of bees and honey.

Manitoba



Mike Grysiuk

Hello All, by the time everyone receives this report Manitoba's had the spring of no other on record! It went from winter to summer and back to winter and now we're receiving cooler temps for spring and a tonne of rain but not in all areas. Crops for the most part are seeded, and some areas drowned out and reseeded won't be an option.

By the sounds of things, the spring buildup was nonexistent do to the cold spring, and bees have dwindled backwards if they weren't strong enough. Lots of beekeepers that wintered outside waited to unwrap to try and help with the dwindling and late pollen. The overall losses were on the high side for Manitoba with many making late splits almost to July as we speak. The overall probably will be below the normal do to the higher-than-normal losses and high bee replacement for honey production.

On the bright side of the industry the honey prices are rising due to the world changes on trade so keep our fingers crossed! Thanks everyone for your time and looking forward to the summer!

Saskatchewan



Jake Berg

The promotion and research agency study is underway. The consultants are compiling the information that was collected this past winter. They will be coming back to producers sometime early this fall with what they have heard and will be looking for more input from beekeepers from across the country. When the consultants come back to the beekeepers of Canada, please let your voice be heard, as to what your preference would be if this scenario was to go forward.

The unofficial Saskatchewan winter loss is currently sitting at 30%. This is higher than anyone would like to endure. It would be nice to report lower winter losses one year, but unfortunately, these numbers seem to be a reoccurring trend.

As of mid-June, I've heard rumours of forward contracting for the 2026 crop at \$2.30/pound for bulk honey in Western Canada. This is definitely an upswing from pricing from the 2025 crop. Hopefully, with this being forward contracting pricing, the trend will continue upward.

The Saskatchewan Beekeeper's Development Commission recently had their annual summer field day. On June 20, beekeepers from across the province meet at From Hives to Honey in Clavet, Saskatchewan. The event was very well attended this year, with about 180 participants coming out for the day. It was a great time for networking and catching up with fellow keepers. Thanks to Simon and Dan LaLonde and their family for hosting.

Alberta



Kevin Nixon

We are in the midst of moving bees into canola pollination here in Alberta so my time for writing is limited. I am hearing honey prices are climbing so that is encouraging. The big news in Alberta these days is the Alberta Beekeepers Commission has hired a new Executive Director. Please join me in welcoming Barbara Engelbart McKenzie.

We look forward to working with her and continuing with the great things Connie has done for the commission. With that I also would like to thank Connie and wish her all the best in her retirement. With consultations ongoing with the federal government for the NPF it is my hope the CHC will be actively involved and have direct contact with government during this process so the needs of the Canadian beekeeping industry will be heard. The Alberta Beekeepers Commission is also voicing the needs of the Alberta beekeeping industry during the consultations as well. If our organizations don't speak up for the industry and build relationships directly with government and policy makers then who will? Even though we have things in



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Bee Science

APP-14-IN-N01-12/25

common with other commodity and general farm organizations, I believe it is still important to not always be riding on others coattails and also speak up for ourselves. Hope everyone has great crops and good bees going into the winter.

British Columbia



Jeff Lee

My summer report comes as many beekeeping regions in BC still benefit from cooler, milder winter and spring weather patterns, and reports of higher overwintering success than in previous years. The jury is still out on whether that will translate into higher honey yields.

Initial Overwintering Loss Survey – Great News



Abigail Chapman

The new chief apiculturist, Abigail Chapman, has just finished compiling initial results of her overwintering loss survey for 2025-26, and the results are remarkable. This year marked the first time that the province opened the survey to all beekeepers (in previous years it was limited to those with 10 or more colonies.)

Strikingly, she received responses from 908 beekeepers, representing data from more than 30,000 colonies put into winter in the province. This is a significant jump in the number of respondents (in previous years the apiculture department targeted a few hundred beekeepers for the survey, but less than one third of those actually responded.)

This year, the far more robust responses have shown BC had an overwintering loss of 24 per cent. This is the lowest loss rate since at least 2020. Last year, by comparison, the loss was 42.6 per cent, on an estimated provincial population of 85,000 colonies.

Chapman said the data has been submitted and will be included in the CAPA preliminary report, and she will be putting out a BC-specific report with more details in the next month on the provincial apiculture website and circulated through the clubs and associations.

Provincial Disease Alerts

Chapman has also made some renewed efforts at reaching out to beekeepers over a variety of disease reports.

Earlier this year she issued at least two advisories to beekeepers in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island areas warning of the discovery of American Foulbrood outbreaks. These notices were issued to beekeepers within a five kilometre radius of the confirmed findings. While the province has had the ability to issue such cautionary notices in the past, I can't remember the last time such notices were done.

AFB findings are not uncommon, but the decision to issue public notices about this highly contagious disease highlights and backstops the importance of the province's mandatory Animal Health Act requirements that beekeepers and their yards must be registered.

The notices remind beekeepers of the signs of AFB and what to do if they are found. But Chapman is very sensitive to the impact such public notices can have. In an email to me she said her department is "considering how to balance sharing disease outbreak information to help inform bee health with protecting the confidentiality of beekeepers in those areas and avoiding unnecessarily causing negative impact to businesses."

BCHPA spring events and upcoming Annual General Meeting

The B.C. Honey Producers Association converted its long-running semi-annual spring meeting to a series of regional field days. This year the events were in the Lower Mainland area of Vancouver, the Sunshine Coast and on Vancouver Island.

A total of 143 people participated in the field days, which were themed around teaching integrated pest management, varroa control and bee yard practices. Notably, more than 60 per cent of the attendees were new or beginning beekeepers, and there was a high degree of interest in learning proper varroa control. The new oxalic acid pad treatment method newly-licensed by the CHC was also taught.

The BCHPA has also announced an initial lineup of speakers for its AGM in Nanaimo on Oct. 23-25 at the Coast Bastion Hotel. In keeping with our continued focus on Canadian speakers and advancements, we've contracted for talks from Lorne Prins (Alberta), Dani Glennie, (Saskatchewan), Ian Stepler (Manitoba), Nuria Morfin (Manitoba), Heather Broccard-Bell, (Ontario) and Leonard Foster (B.C.) Fahim Raza of the BC Tech Transfer Team will also give updates on the many projects he's working on. We will also have a special guest, Wolfgang Wimmer, the designer of a heat treatment method for varroa control. We will add more speakers as the summer rolls on.

The BCHPA will also be holding elections for positions of President, the 2nd Vice-President position vacated by Abigail Chapman; Treasurer, CHC representative and one Director at Large. President Steve Clifford has announced he is stepping down to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

New Links Between BC Blueberry Pollination and European Foulbrood

A study on whether there is higher incidences of EFB during highbush blueberry pollination in B.C. has now been published. Dr. Alison McAfee, working with Amanda Gregoris, Jeff Pettis, Dr. Chapman, Patricia Wolf-Veiga, Dr. Foster, Heather Higo, Julia Common and several others published the findings in PeerJ.

Dr. McAfee said in a recent post to the BCHPA that while there were some correlations between colonies having higher EFB incidence post-pollination, not all beekeepers were affected. She also noted that "varroa infestations, not EFB, was tied to smaller brood areas. Varroa should remain a priority pest to manage." The study also looked at the effect of protein supplementation during pollination.

The full published article can be found here: <https://bit.ly/4gf298W>

As always, I can be reached at jeff@honeybeezen.com or Ph: 604-328-5028.



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Saskatchewan Honey Producer wins Gold at London International Honey Quality Competition 2026



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Honey Fraud

Excerpts from CFIA's Food Fraud Annual Report 2024-25

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is Canada's leading authority on food fraud oversight.

This report summarizes the work that the CFIA did to prevent misrepresented food from being sold in Canada between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, unless otherwise indicated. Here's what the work included:

- running awareness campaigns that reached thousands of people
- participating in international activities aimed at preventing fraud before it reaches our borders
- completing several research and method development projects
- testing 886 samples for authenticity, in 2 categories:
 - o 246 marketplace monitoring samples (also referred to as targeted surveys)
 - o 640 targeted inspectorate samples
- performing 362 label verifications, including basic label verifications and net quantity verifications
- taking enforcement action that prevented over 150,000 kg of misrepresented food from being sold in Canada

Overall, compliance rates were similar to [previous years](#). These are the highlights of the results:

- there was an increase in the compliance rate for grated hard cheese authenticity testing
- olive oil had the lowest compliance rate for authenticity testing, whereas fish, fruit juice, maple syrup and meat had the highest
- grated hard cheese, fish and other expensive oils had the lowest compliance rates for label verifications, while organic fresh fruit and vegetables and other foods had the highest
- **Honey:** 81% of the results were satisfactory (66/81), 19% of the results were unsatisfactory (15/81)

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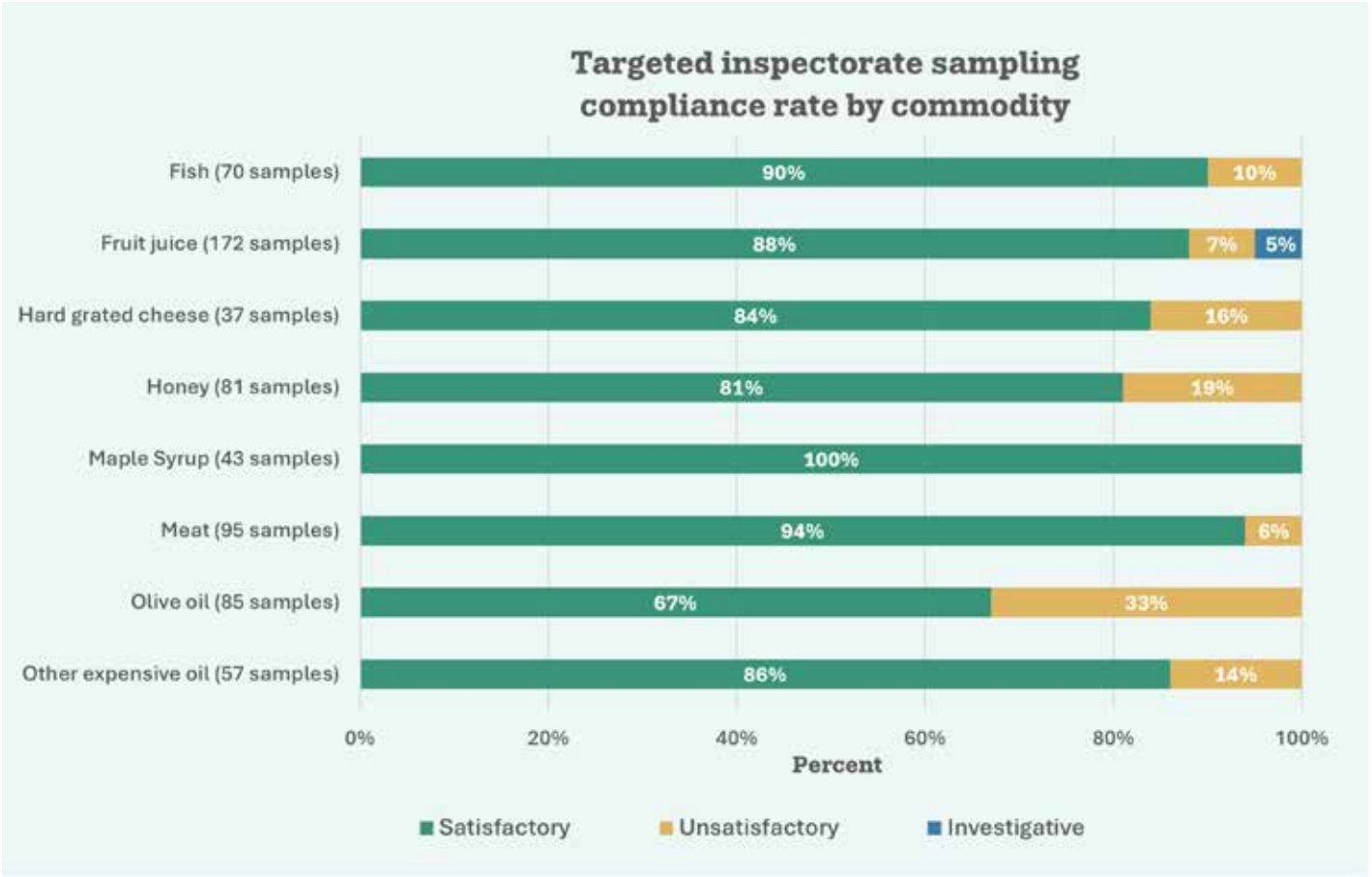
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FOCUS ON CANADIAN

Here are the targeted inspectorate sampling results for foods produced in Canada:

- **fish (species substitution):**
94% compliance (30/32)(Table Note*)
- **fruit juice (adulteration with foreign sugars):**
93% compliance (39/42)(Table Note*)
- **grated hard cheese (adulteration with fillers):**
85% compliance (22/26)
- **honey (adulteration with foreign sugars):**
100% compliance (13/13)
- **maple syrup (adulteration with foreign sugars):**
100% compliance (43/43)
- **meat (species substitution):**
91% compliance (60/6)

ENFORCEMENT

In the 2024 to 2025 fiscal year, we prevented over 150,000 kg of misrepresented food from being sold in Canada. These foods were either removed from Canada, voluntarily destroyed or relabelled before sale:
133,420 kg of adulterated honey

Table Note: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/about-cfia/science-and-research-cfia/our-research-and-publications/food-fraud-report-2025#tn4>

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VITA BEE FUMAGILIN - B POWDER 24g	141023	-	-
VITA BEE FUMAGILIN - B POWDER 96g	141024	-	-
VITA BEE FUMAGILIN - B POWDER 454g	141025	-	-
VITA BEE AFB DIAGNOSTIC KIT	141026	-	-
VITA BEE EFB DIAGNOSTIC KIT	141027	-	-

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Vita Diagnostic kits for the early detection of European Foulbrood & American Foulbrood

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From a Simple Idea to Ten Years of Inspiration – The Story of the Little Beekeeping School

TEXT: Andrés Amaya Bríñez, Hisingen Beekeepers' Association

PHOTOS: Beepartners



Sometimes the best ideas begin with something as simple as a child's pride. For me, one such moment marked the beginning of a journey that has since inspired hundreds of children to discover the fascinating world of honey bees.

Eleven years ago, my son David came home from preschool holding a small certificate in his hand. He and his classmates had visited the local COOP supermarket in Bäckebo, where they had learned about recycling, sustainable development, and the importance of caring for our environment. It wasn't the certificate itself that made the biggest impression on me—it was the joy and pride shining in his eyes as he eagerly told me everything he had experienced.

I remember thinking:

"What if children could also discover the amazing world of honey bees in the same inspiring way?"

That simple thought became the beginning of the **Little Beekeeping School**.

A Place Where Curiosity Can Flourish

From the very beginning, the vision was clear. I wanted to create a program where children could learn about honey bees through play, hands-on experiences, and their own discoveries, while gaining an understanding of the vital role pollinators play in food production, biodiversity, and healthy ecosystems.

The primary goal has never been simply to educate future beekeepers. Instead, it has been to spark curiosity, nurture respect for nature, and help children develop a positive relationship with honey bees—one of our most important beneficial insects. When children gain this knowledge at an early age, they also begin to understand how everything in nature is interconnected.

A Success from the Very Beginning

When the first Little Beekeeping School was held, the level of interest exceeded all expectations. The children's questions, enthusiasm, and eagerness to learn clearly demonstrated a strong demand for nature-based educational activities.

Since then, the program has grown year after year. Every summer, new groups of children have had the opportunity to explore the exciting world of beekeeping by observing bees up close, learning how a honey bee colony functions, following honey's journey from flower to jar, and discovering why pollination is one of nature's most essential processes.

Interest has continued to grow, and this year we expanded the Little Beekeeping School from four to six sessions, allowing even more children to participate.

This knowledge becomes increasingly important as climate change, biodiversity loss, and the future of pollinators occupy an ever more prominent place in public discussion.



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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.

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Knowledge That Inspires Engagement

The greatest reward over these ten years has been meeting the children. Their curiosity, imagination, and spontaneous questions make every beekeeping school a unique experience.

Watching a child's fear of bees transform into fascination, hearing them enthusiastically explain queens, worker bees, and pollination to their parents, or seeing the joy on their faces as they taste fresh honey for the very first time—these are the moments that make all the work worthwhile.

Knowledge becomes most meaningful when it is experienced through all the senses. That is why the Little Beekeeping School has always been built around hands-on learning, where children can observe, touch, smell, taste, and ask questions freely. The excitement of discovering something for themselves is the strongest foundation for a lifelong appreciation of nature.

Ten Years of Joy and Hope for the Future

This year, the Little Beekeeping School celebrates its tenth anniversary. Looking back, I feel above all a deep sense of gratitude for all the children and families who have been part of this journey. Every encounter has strengthened my belief that education about bees and nature truly makes a difference.

What began with a small certificate and a simple idea has grown into a program that, for an entire decade, has inspired children to discover what may be nature's most important little heroes.

My hope is that the Little Beekeeping School will continue, for many years to come, to inspire the same curiosity, joy, and respect for honey bees in future generations. After all, the children who learn to appreciate nature today will be the ones who protect it tomorrow.

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Economics of queen overwintering: Supporting beekeepers with home-grown queens

Ongoing research is aimed at increasing the volume of overwintered queens and matching producers and buyers with a new website, www.queenalliance.ca

By Miriam Bixby and Alison McAfee

At the 2025 Bee Tech conference in Ottawa, beekeepers and researchers alike emphasized that expanding production and distribution of regionally-adapted honey bee stock is a top priority. However, seasonal constraints on when queens can mate mean that Canadian queen producers often miss out on the period of highest spring demand. Overwintering larger volumes of queens and selling them earlier in the spring could help rectify this supply/demand mismatch.

Our team is studying cost-effective ways of overwintering queens that could be used to provide early season domestic supply. The overwintering experiments will be used as case studies for an economic analysis of the overall costs and benefits of overwintering queens using different methods in specific regions across Canada, including the Okanagan (BC), Beaverlodge and Lethbridge (Alberta), and Laval (Quebec). Data on the inputs required to overwinter queens (feed, temperature maintenance, medications, labour, and equipment) will enable us to calculate how much it costs to get a queen through the Canadian winter.

Once the cost of overwintering is calculated, we plan to explore the potential revenue streams generated from overwintered queens and nucleus colonies and the opportunities available for beekeepers to diversify their operations' overall profitability. This work will help guide beekeepers who are interested in implementing and optimizing their queen overwintering methods.

We have engaged queen stakeholders across Canada in focus groups and discussions which have resulted in clearly defined, shared objectives within Canada's queen production industry, including: 1) creating a registry of all queen producers in



Canada, 2) supporting queen producers with their marketing and advertising, 3) creating a space for queen producers to share their experience and knowledge, and 4) educating Canadian beekeepers about the value and availability of Canadian-produced queens.

To this end, our team is compiling a queen producer registry that will have the names of the operations that produce and sell queens in Canada. This database will be made available to queen producers as a means of connection and knowledge sharing within the queen industry. To improve access and visibility of locally-produced queens in the broader beekeeping community, we have also developed a website (www.queenalliance.ca) that lists sources of Canadian queens as well as information about their region, queen origins, and minimum order numbers. The website also features recent queen-related research studies and historical queen importation data.

We welcome all queen producers to get in touch with us so that we can include your operation on the registry and/or on the website. Our goal is to support and facilitate an increasing awareness of Canadian queens, ideally resulting in more domestic queen transactions across the country.

This work is supported by the Natural Resources and Engineering Research Council, Project *Apis m.*, Pollinator Partnership Canada, and generous beekeeper engagement.

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01



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The Competition Bureau and Competition Tribunal will have new funding to investigate, litigate, and adjudicate anti-competitive behaviour. The Bureau will undertake a new study on competition through the food supply chain. It will also continue to respond to practices that may limit competition, like algorithmic collusion.

A more competitive marketplace helps keep prices lower for Canadians.

FOR
YOU

A fairer shake for the independent grocer down the street, more competitive pricing, and fresher local options.

02



Process more food closer to where it's grown

Expanded, targeted initiatives to help small and medium-sized processors modernize and increase productivity, enabling them to compete in the global marketplace while attracting new investment from major manufacturers. Canada will be able to process more of what our farmers grow, create new jobs, economic opportunity and more food self-sufficiency.

This will be complemented by a new initiative by Farm Credit Canada to establish a **\$1 billion Agri-food Project Finance Fund** that backs the kind of food and farming projects that can transform the industry — ones that take real money to build and promise real returns. It comes on top of the **\$2 billion that FCC is investing in Canadian food and agriculture innovation**, with another **\$5 billion committed by a coalition of private sector partners**.

FOR
YOU

More good jobs in the communities that grow our food, and food systems less likely to break when something goes wrong overseas.

03



Grow fruits and vegetables year-round

The Government will invest **\$750 million in controlled environment agriculture** to dramatically expand year-round Canadian production of fruits and vegetables. This includes food production in rural and northern communities.

FOR
YOU

More fresh, reliable, Canadian-grown fruits and vegetables throughout the year and less dependence on imports.



What is controlled environment agriculture?

A way of growing food indoors — in greenhouses, vertical farms, and other enclosed spaces — where light, temperature, and water are carefully managed.

04



Lowering prices by cutting red tape

Removing unnecessary delays by accepting product approvals already done by countries with strong food safety records instead of repeating the same regulatory review here.

Provincially-licensed food businesses including processors will get the help they need to meet federal requirements so that a Canadian product made in one province can more easily reach a shelf in another.

FOR
YOU

Farmers get better access to critical inputs that put more Canadian food on more shelves, wherever you live in Canada.

National Food Security Strategy

The National Food Security Strategy is about giving Canadians more choice, more control, and more affordable locally-produced food on the shelf.

For beekeepers, the strategy provides some opportunities for purchasing new equipment, product development, and entering new markets.

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Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists

CAPA News



CAPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to you as the newly elected President of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA). As we begin this new mandate, I would like to sincerely acknowledge the dedication and leadership of our outgoing Executive Committee. I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Ernesto Guzman, President; Dr. Renata Labuschagne, Vice President; Dr. Shelley Hoover, Past President; Dr. Leslie Holmes, Treasurer; and Dr. Nuria Morfin, Secretary, for their outstanding contributions, which have strengthened CAPA's foundation.

I am also pleased to introduce the new Executive Committee:

- Derek Micholson, Vice President
- Dr. Ernesto Guzman, Past President
- Dr. Abigail Chapman, Secretary
- Alexandra Panasiuk, Treasurer

Our new CAPA Executive remains committed to engaging our entire membership, serving as a collective 'hive-mind' of professional knowledge and expertise. We also look forward to strengthening collaboration and communication with the broader beekeeping industry to support knowledge transfer, address sector challenges, and promote sustainable apiculture in Canada. Please reach out with questions or suggestions. I look forward to working with all of you.

With best regards,

Dr. Pierre Giovenazzo - CAPA/ACPA President

CAPA NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

This is the fifth issue of CAPA News. What began as a simple effort to share CAPA member and association activities with the beekeeping community through online postings has quickly expanded to include print publications in French in *L'Abeille* and in English in *HiveLights*, distribution of links via Bee Culture and CoLOSS.

CAPA's primary published communication with the industry has traditionally been through the annual National Winter Loss Report and the long-running and widely distributed *Honey Bee Pests and Diseases* book. However, there is an iteration of CAPA News that came before this one that is archived in Beaverlodge. As we revive the CAPA News production and continue refining the content of this newsletter, we thank you for your engagement and hope you remain curious and benefit from learning about CAPA's activities and the work of its members.

– *Rassol Bahreini (AB), Cameron Menzies (P.E.I.), Matthew Polinsky (MB)*



2026 CAPA AGM group photo in Calgary



Outgoing CAPA Executive (left to right): Shelley Hoover, Renata Labuschagne, Leslie Holmes, Ernesto Guzman, Nuria Morfin



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List of Registered Pest Control Products and Antibiotics for Honey Bees in Canada

Disclaimer: Table is current as of February 2026 according to information available on Health Canada's Pesticide Products Information Database and Drug Product Database. Product registrations, label requirements, and approved uses may change at any time. For the most current and official information on registered products in Canada, please consult Health Canada's websites: <https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca>; <https://pest-control.canada.ca/pesticide-registry/en/product-search.html>; <https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/dispatch-repartition>.

CLASS	TARGET	TRADE NAME	ACTIVE INGREDIENT	MODE OF ACTION	FORMULATION (DOSE)	REGISTRANT	INFO LINK
MITICIDES	Varroa	Apistan	Tau-Fluvalinate	Inhibiting sodium channel modulators	Strip (10.25%)	Wellmark Int'l / Vita Bee Health	Link
	Varroa	Apivar	Amitraz	Inhibiting octopamine receptors	Strip (3.3%)	Veto-Pharma	Link
	Varroa	Bayvarol	Flumethrin	Inhibiting sodium channel modulators	Strip (3.6 mg/strip)	Bayer Inc.	Link
	Varroa/Tracheal mites	Formic Pro	Formic Acid	Asphyxiation (death from lack of oxygen)	Strip (42.25%)	Nod Apiary Products Ltd.	Link
	Varroa/Tracheal mites	Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS)	Formic Acid		Strip (46.7%)	Nod Apiary Products Ltd.	Link
	Varroa/Tracheal mites	Formic Acid 65%	Formic Acid		Liquid (65%)	Vita Bee Health Canada Ltd.	Link
	Tracheal mites	Formic Acid 65%	Formic Acid		Liquid (65%)	Nod Apiary Products Ltd.	Link
	Varroa/Tracheal mites	Mitegone (Formic acid 65% for use with mitegone kits)	Formic Acid		Pad (65%)	Hoetmer Honey Company Inc.	Link
	Varroa	Oxalic Acid Dihydrate Dihydrate	Oxalic Acid Dihydrate (solution, vaporization and glycerin strip method)	Unknown	Crystal (99.65%)	Canadian Honey Council	Link
	Varroa	Thymovar	Thymol	Unknown	Strip (15 g/wafer)	Andermatt Canada Inc.	Link
	Varroa	Hopguard 3	Potassium Salt of Hops Beta Acids	Unknown	Strip (4 g/strip)	Betatec Hop Products, Inc.	Link
	Varroa	Api Life Var	Thymol / eucalyptus oil / menthol / racemic camphor	Unknown	Strip (76% / 16.4% / 3.8% / 3.8%)	Chemicals Laif S.P.A	Link
	Varroa	Apivar 2.0	Amitraz	Inhibiting octopamine receptors	Strip (3.00%)	Veto-Pharma SAS	Link
	Varroa	Amiflex	Amitraz	Inhibiting octopamine receptors	Gel (1.99%)	Veto-Pharma SAS	Link
	Varroa	VarroSan	Oxalic Acid Dihydrate	Unknown	Strip (18.42%)	Vita Bee Health Canada Ltd.	Link
LARVICIDE	Greater Wax Moth	B402 biological larvicide (Certan)	Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. Aizawai strain ABTS-1857	Ingestion of protein crystals	Spray (10.8%)	Vita Europe Ltd	Link
ANTIBIOTICS	Nosema	Fumagilin-B	Fumagillin Dicyclohexylamine	Inhibiting methionine aminopeptidase 2 enzyme	Powder (21 mg/g)	Vita Bee Health Canada Ltd.	Link
	AFB/EFB	Oxysol-62.5	Oxytetracycline Hydrochloride	Inhibiting protein synthesis	Powder (62.5 mg/g)	Can-Vet Animal Health Supplies Ltd.	Link
	AFB/EFB	Vita Oxytet 62.5	Oxytetracycline Hydrochloride	Inhibiting protein synthesis	Powder (62.5 mg/g)	Vita Bee Health Canada Ltd.	Link
	AFB	Tylan	Tylosin tartrate	Inhibiting protein synthesis	Powder (100 g/jar)	Elanco Canada Ltd.	Link
	AFB	Lincomix	Lincomycin hydrochloride	Inhibiting protein synthesis	Powder (400 mg/g)	Zoetis Canada Inc.	Link

Table created by Rassol Bahreini (Published: Alberta Bee News, March 2023). Updated by the CAPA Integrated Pest Management Committee, February 2026.

CAPA 2025 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES UPDATE

National Winter Loss Committee

In 2025, the National Survey Committee primarily worked on the winter loss survey. A thorough revision of the core questions was completed in order to streamline the questionnaire. Provinces are free to add questions or ask for more detailed answers in their provincial surveys, however the data required for the national report is more concise. All core questions and definitions take into account the large diversity of beekeeping industry profiles and seasonal activities within each province. This year, the minimum number of colonies required to be included in the national report was set to 20 for Newfoundland and Labrador, 25 for Prince Edward Island and 10 for British Columbia. Since 2021, the committee has published an early preliminary report followed by a complete final statement and has also set deadlines after which the report would be published with or without each province's data. In 2025, the preliminary report was published on July 7, which included the winter mortality and methodology used by each province (with British Columbia data missing). It was shared with the industry to help them better answer media inquiries early in the season. The final statement was published on December 17, 2025.

Table 1. Survey parameters and honey bee colony mortality (2024-2025) by province

Province	Total number of colonies operated in 2024	Estimated number of colonies lost based on the estimated provincial winter loss	Type of data collection	Number of beekeepers targeted by survey	Number of respondents (% of participation)	Minimum size of beekeeping operations targeted by survey (# of colonies)	Number of respondents' colonies that were wintered in fall 2024	Number of respondents' colonies that were alive and viable in spring 2025	Percentage of surveyed colonies as a proportion of the total number of colonies in the province	Provincial Winter Loss including Non-viable Colonies
Newfoundland and Labrador	837	108	Email, Phone, Online	21	12 (57%)	20	708	617	85%	12.9%
Prince Edward Island	4 500	1 031	Email, Phone	25	15 (60%)	25	3 985	3 072	89%	22.9%
Nova Scotia	30 873	5 658	Email, Online	48	34 (71%)	50	21 587	17 631	70%	18.3%
New Brunswick	13 778	6 164	Email	40	19 (48%)	50	7 924	4 379	58%	44.7%
Quebec	65 229	15 305	Online	110	68 (62%)	50	39 905	30 542	61%	23.5%
Ontario	83 977	31 357	Online, Phone	223	60 (27%)	50	20 019	12 544	24%	37.3%
Manitoba	114 000	49 162	Online, Phone	208	66 (32%)	50	49 772	28 308	44%	43.1%
Saskatchewan	95 000	41 619	Online	240	76 (32%)	100	37 926	21 311	40%	43.8%
Alberta	303 508	126 920	Online, Email, Phone	154	76 (49%)	100	245 464	142 817	81%	41.8%
British Columbia	84 555	36 003	Online	675	121 (18%)	10	7 769	4 461	9%	42.6%
Canada	796 257	313 327		1 744	547 (31%)		435 059	265 682	55%	39.3% ¹

¹ This number is the total loss calculated over all colonies in Canada.

The full winter loss report is available at: <https://capabees.com/capa-statement-on-honey-bees/>



Integrated Pest Management Committee

The CAPA-IPM Committee met in 2025 to share research updates, review regulatory issues, and connect on shared IPM efforts. In particular, the committee discussed emerging treatment applications in Canadian beekeeping, several new products for *Varroa* control that were approved in 2025, including VarroSan™, Apivar 2.0®, and Amiflex®, and other products which were under review in 2025 such as Norroa™ and oxalic acid–glycerin strips. In February of this year, Health Canada approved and added the oxalic acid glycerin strip method to the existing oxalic acid label. The committee monitored the extensive work done in 2025 on *Varroa*, foulbrood, and *Nosema* management by multiple Canadian universities, tech transfer programs, and federal researchers. This work includes resistance surveillance, new treatment delivery systems, bee breeding, pathogen surveillance, and overwintering studies. Of note, is testing done on a new acaricide (compound 3c), ongoing miticide resistance screening in multiple provinces, trials of

new miticide prototypes, and evaluation of the Dalan American Foulbrood vaccine. The CAPA IPM committee also collaborated with the CHC-Hive Health Committee on pertinent honey bee pest and disease issues.

Tropilaelaps Committee

The *Tropilaelaps* Committee was formed in early 2025 to help CAPA members familiarize themselves with the mite and prepare in case of its arrival. The committee aims to gather and review the latest research on *Tropilaelaps*, share practical, science-based information with beekeepers, and provide guidance on surveillance and management tools. It may also respond to stakeholder requests by offering input on surveillance and response planning, while supporting beekeeper education and proactive approaches to prevention and early detection. Over the past year, the committee has been learning from researchers around the world, including presentations at the COLOSS and Apimondia conferences and online workshops.

A few key takeaways so far:

- Detection: Several monitoring methods are used in places like Thailand, including brood inspections and sticky boards; PCR eDNA testing appears to be the most sensitive detection method – but requires lab work.
- Control options: Formic acid currently looks more effective than synthetic miticides, particularly when combined with brood interruption.
- Low efficacy of some synthetic miticides, including amitraz slow release, has been reported in *Tropilaelaps mercedesae* – Jeff Pettis's recent work revealed that Amiflex may have potential to control the mite.

The committee also reviewed research on several other important topics, including:

- How long *Tropilaelaps* mites are suspected to survive on adult honey bees.
- Evidence that the mites may be able to overwinter in colder regions such as South Korea and Georgia.
- What infestation levels are needed for mites to spread between colonies.

Looking ahead, the committee plans to co-host a national CHC–CAPA webinar focused on *Tropilaelaps* biology, global research updates, potential IPM strategies, and key knowledge gaps for Canada.

Canadian Bee Technology Transfer Programs (CAN-BTTP) Committee

In 2025, the CAN-BTTP committee met multiple times to discuss regional challenges, research projects, and communication tools. They also hosted a large online meeting for all tech transfer program team members to foster collaboration and strengthen their professional network. To support this effort, the committee commissioned a CAN-BTTP logo to enhance the identity and visibility of Canadian tech transfer programs, reflecting the research and extension work of CAN-BTTPs across the country. During the 2025 bee season, more than 25 individuals were employed by tech transfer programs across Canada, representing a tremendous opportunity to leverage diverse skills and connections to achieve shared goals. The committee partnered with the CHC and Véto-pharma

to assemble a dedicated team of organizers to plan and host a national webinar on March 15, 2025. A second edition of this webinar series is scheduled for March 18 and 25, 2026, and will be available online for later viewing. While a vast amount of online educational content exists, the goal of this series is to curate practical information specific to Canadian beekeepers that they can put into practice in the upcoming season. Check with your local tech transfer program for links to these videos. Efforts continued to explore a collaborative national CAN-BTTP project, linked with CHC liaisons to advance recommendations from the 2022 Industry–Government Honey Bee Sustainability Working Group. Despite strong industry support, a government funding mechanism has not yet been secured. In December 2025, the co-chairs met with the chair of the Canadian Bee Research Fund to explore potential funding pathways and outlined steps to assess feasibility for future CAN-BTTP joint projects.

Non-Apis Committee

The Non-Apis Committee met in 2025 to review ongoing work related to leafcutter bees, bumble bees, and pollinator habitat initiatives. The committee is pleased to note that research led by Dr. Gail MacInnis on new control products for *Pteromalus venustus*, a parasitic wasp that damages leafcutter bee (*Megachile rotundata*) cocoons, is progressing well. This work is urgent considering Dichlorvos strips to control the pest were deregistered in 2023. Dr. MacInnis's work shows initial promise for essential-oil-based formulations as a chemical control method of the wasp. Data will soon be submitted to PMRA and field trials in AB, SK, and MB with the carrier oils will continue in 2026. Leafcutter bee demand remains strong, with Prairie provinces reporting ~94,000 acres of alfalfa seed production in 2025 with an increase expected in 2026. The market for leafcutter cocoons is therefore steady and climbing with prices around \$100 and higher per gallon. The committee also monitored reports of common Eastern bumble bees (*Bombus impatiens*) observed outside greenhouses in BC in early 2025, suggesting ongoing escapees. The UBC-led *B. impatiens* working group, intended to foster U.S.–Canada collaboration, did not meet in 2025, leaving its future uncertain. Regarding pollinator Habitat Initiatives: A few rural municipalities in Saskatchewan are exploring adding pollinator forage to roadside seeding mixes that they use when construction takes place on their roads. Similar discussions occurred in Manitoba in 2025, though progress has been slow due to cost and weed-management concerns. The committee discussed leveraging seed company donation programs (e.g., West Coast Seeds, OSC Seeds) to support habitat projects.

Africanized Honey Bees Committee

In 2025, the Africanized Honey Bees Committee monitored reports of Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) movements and reviewed the most recent testing research. Africanized honey bees (AHBs) are a defensive hybrid strain of honey bees derived from *Apis mellifera scutellata* that have expanded through the southern United States since their introduction in 1956. They are confirmed in several states including California, Texas, Florida, and Georgia. It is possible AHBs are continuing to

move northward in California but recent research has struggled to accurately verify this through genetic detection. AHBs in California are likely hybridizing with European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), resulting in false positives in the commonly used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test. Adding more confusion is the tendency for alternate genetic testing methods, like nuclear DNA testing, to contradict the level of AHB genetics detected in the same population of bees via mtDNA testing. Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP)-based testing on the other hand, developed since 2015, provides far higher accuracy but is cost-prohibitive. The Canadian National Honey Bee Health Surveys conducted in 2016 and 2017 detected AHB genetics in many Canadian apiaries via mtDNA testing. These same samples were subsequently cleared of Africanization after being analysed with a nuclear SNP test. For Canada, the potential long-term risk of AHB introduction remains as Canadian beekeepers annually import queens from the U.S. Ongoing mitigation requires coordinated surveillance, updated testing standards, and contingency plans to protect Canada's beekeeping industry from accidental AHB introduction.

Bee Importation and Movement Committee

The Bee Importation and Movement Committee continued to work closely with Provincial Apiarists throughout 2025 to address honey bee importation issues, sharing information with the CAPA executive and the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) when needed. A major issue of relevance to this committee for the second consecutive year was high *Varroa* levels in New Zealand package imports. Sampling in one shipment to Manitoba showed infestations up to 7% (1.6% average). The committee shared these concerns with CFIA, who determined that some exporting beekeepers have been misinterpreting Canadian importation requirements, particularly around treatment protocols and maintenance of compliance thresholds. Other importation issues of note were small hive beetle in queen imports from California and import delays with Italian queens after CFIA revoked the traditional shipping route shortly before the 2025 season, which resulted in queen losses. According to CFIA, both issues have since been adequately addressed. Regarding *Tropilaelaps* mite risk, CAPA wrote to CFIA to propose they consider reviewing surveillance measures for imports from Denmark, Italy, and Malta. Overall, persistent issues with *Varroa*, SHB, and emerging *Tropilaelaps* concerns remain areas of continued attention for BIMC, Provincial Apiarists, and the CHC.

Summaries provided by: Cameron Menzies and Matthew Polinsky



First hive check +5 °C, March 19, 2026
Photos: Matthew Polinsky

SHORT NEWS

Dr. Ernesto Guzman was recognized with the CAPA Past President Award as well as the Willie Baumgartner Memorial Award, presented by the Canadian Honey Council (CHC), in recognition of his outstanding contributions to apiculture. The CAPA presented its Student Merit Awards to outstanding graduate students in apiculture research:

- Ph.D. Merit Award: Prabashi Wickramasinghe, University of Alberta
- M.Sc. Merit Award: Danika Strelaef, University of Manitoba
- A.S. Atwal Graduate Scholarship: Christine Macpherson of the University of Guelph

The student award recipients had the opportunity to present their work at the BeeTech Canadian National Beekeeping Convention in Calgary, AB:

Wickramasinghe: Molecular basis of IAPV pathogenesis and antiviral immune response in *Apis mellifera*

Strelaef: DWV vaccine: Using Bacteria to protect honey bees from viruses

Macpherson: Modelling Bee-Associated Microbial Ecosystems in vitro

Congratulations to all the award recipients for their achievements and contributions to advancing apiculture research and education.

In the full-length version of CAPA News available at capabees.com, it includes:

- A list of articles published in 2025 that are authored by individuals who are CAPA members



Student award recipients (left to right).
Prabashi Wickramasinghe,
Danika Strelaef,
Christine Macpherson



Ernesto Guzman receiving the Willie Baumgartner Memorial Award, presented by Pierre Giovenazzo

Editorial Board:

Rassol Bahreini, Cameron Menzies, Matthew Polinsky

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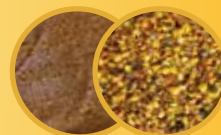
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The Canadian Honey Council is the national association of beekeepers representing apiculturists across Canada. The CHC provides a forum where producers, packers, professionals, provincial associations and officials from different levels of government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

PM 43070512