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Canadian Honey Council Report



Rod Scarlett,
Executive Director, CHC

The introduction of a tariff on honey exported to the United States caught the industry by surprise and prompted the CHC to take immediate action. The CHC submitted a report to the federal government outlining the short- and long-term impacts, as well as the broader implications of tariffs for other related and interdependent industries and commodities. The Board also developed a strategic plan addressing the current tariff situation, with short-, medium-, and long-term initiatives.

Strategic Plan

Short term Initiatives

- Press release issuing a public challenge for corporate sourcing of honey.
- Encourage 'buy local and read the label' through media interaction.
- Advocate for the immediate testing of imported honey by CFIA with publication of results in a timely fashion.
- Educate the public about the honey industry, tariff implications, and the import/export situation.

Mid Term Initiatives

- Pursue Agri-marketing opportunities, both domestic and international.
- Development of a tariff relief package for small independent beekeepers.
- Promote clearer labelling of ingredients with CFIA.

Long term/on-going Initiatives

- Pursue improvements to the BRM suite of products including Agri-stability and Agri-recovery.
- Engage with the appropriate federal Ministers, relevant MPs and provincial Ministers and bureaucrats to ensure that they have a broad understanding of the industry while fostering relationships that will last beyond the current issues.

Our press release on the impacts that tariffs are having, and will have on the industry, garnered international attention, and other organizations both provincially and nationally were able to piggy-back on the momentum it created. Work on this issue is continuing and will continue until such time as the impacts of the tariffs are mitigated. Solutions may be difficult to obtain, but hopefully all parties involved in the trade dispute will find common ground because we do not want to lose access to the US market.

Pursuant to our strategic plan, we continue to urge CFIA to up its game and test more

imported honey. Is honey fraud an issue? – Of course it is. Can all imported honey be prevented from coming into Canada? – Of course not. But more vigorous testing by CFIA is something the CHC has been lobbying CFIA about for over a decade and that because our work, CFIA became the first government agency in the world to test for adulterated honey and post the results of those tests.

Earlier this year I wrote about how I believe that one of the greatest long-term threats to beekeepers, particularly those who are commercial beekeepers, is the establishment of maximum residue levels (MRL) for out of hive products in honey. Unfortunately, the establishment of an MRL for glyphosate in Japan and Europe is only the precursor of things to come. Recently, Japan proposed draft standards for certain agricultural chemicals - Chlorantraniliprole, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Fenazaquin, Thiobencarb, and Tiadinil. With each chemical an MRL has been suggested for honey and honeycomb. Fortunately, most of the chemicals listed are not widely used in Canada but one, Chlorantraniliprole was used on about two million acres on the prairies. Its usage will probably not increase, and it is likely that testing will be under any proposed MRL but that is only part of the concern. How many more costs will producers have to incur as the list of products that need to be tested grows and grows.

It is my understanding that work is being done to develop standards for testing for out of hive products in Europe, but that could leave the Canadian beekeepers at a serious disadvantage since the use of agricultural chemicals is quite different here than in Europe.

Finally, communication with the membership has come under scrutiny. One of the ways I plan to help members know what the Board is up to is to make my comments in Hivelights just a little bit longer and try to explain more ways the CHC is working for the betterment of the industry. As many of you know, we spent a lot of time and money last year and this year on registering the use of oxalic glycerin pads. For some operations this has saved tens of thousands of dollars. Earlier this year, the Pesticides Regulatory Directorate (formerly PMRA) initiated a review of oxalic dihydrate for which the CHC is the registrant. Again, keeping oxalic acid available to beekeepers across the country is paramount and saves money for all but it does come at a cost as the review has meant hiring a consultant and

paying PRD review fees. Of course, we ensured the fumagilin remained on the market when its registration became available. Currently, we are engaged in a study to see if formic acid could be produced more economically here in Canada rather than importing it from the United States.

These are just a few of the initiatives that we did on our own. However, working with and through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, we are now able to impact broader agricultural policy. Not only do we sit on the CFA Board of Directors we have participation in the policy committee. Through CFA we were able to meet with the officials overseeing the Agri-Stability program to discuss issues some beekeepers were experiencing regarding structural change. As a result, AAFC has indicated they will provide more information to both accountants and businesses about the implications the current policy. The CHC was one of twelve national commodity organizations participating in the Tri-National Accord meetings in Calgary and will once again be participating both at the AGM and at Lobby Days.

Work by our Tropilaelaps steering committee is ongoing and a great deal of progress has been made.

- a) heightened monitoring in the E.U.
- b) assisting in the education of PA's and industry on the pest biology, monitoring and potential control including funding participation in a Tropilaelaps workshop in Georgia
- c) active ongoing participation with CFIA (part of our working group) and successful communication of our concerns including working on the process of possibly getting the Tropilaelaps listed as immediately notifiable
- d) direct CFIA communication to the Canadian Border Services Agency regarding port protocols and the suggestion of having industry development of awareness campaigns
- e) formulating meetings with Canadian associations and ports to develop a Tropilaelaps mite port action plan
- f) proposed discussions with CBSA on other possible entry surveillance issues

This is just a brief overview of some of the work of the CHC Board. Please do not be afraid to contact your Provincial representation for more details if you so wish.

Canadian Honey Council

CORE PRA PRINCIPLES

- cannot be an industry lobby group;
- any import levy has to be matched with an equivalent domestic levy on Canadian products; and
- the domestic levy can fund any promotion and research initiative but the import levy has to be directed to “generic” promotion and research – not just Canadian.

PRA BENEFITS

A national PRA that includes import levies could:

- promote natural honey to consumers;
- advance technology;
- link producers with supply chain stakeholders;
- expand markets;
- conduct research for the industry as a whole.
- support existing provincial and/or national programs as well as leverage funds from government programs;
- enhance industry data to see if actions are meeting objectives; and
- increase a national organization’s ability to produce outputs in both official languages.

CHC Exploring Options to Meet Unprecedented Challenges



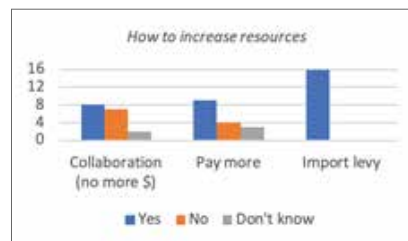
THE CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL (CHC) PROJECT “FINDING A BETTER PATH FORWARD – CULTIVATING SOLUTIONS TO CHALLENGES FACING THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY” HAS ENTERED THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF ITS 18-MONTH TIME FRAME. ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND OUT IF BEEKEEPERS THINK THERE IS ENOUGH FUNDING WITHIN THE INDUSTRY TO MEET CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING CHALLENGES.

INITIAL FEEDBACK FROM BEEKEEPERS SUGGESTS TWO BROAD PRIORITIES – BEE HEALTH AND INDUSTRY PROMOTION/MARKETING. A MAJORITY OF THOSE SURVEYED THOUGHT FUNDING IS ADEQUATE FOR BEE HEALTH.

At the same time, most beekeepers say more needs to be done to promote Canadian natural honey and identify adulterated honey imports – two “top of mind” issues in light of recent U.S. tariffs on Canadian honey.

The CHC has set a comprehensive and ambitious five-year strategy focused on five key priorities. To proactively support these priority areas, and recognizing survey respondent interest in some form of levy on imported honey (inset),

the industry should consider a revenue stream incorporating import levies similar to the US National Honey Board.



In Canada, Promotion and Research Agencies (PRA) operate under the guidance of the Farm Products Council of Canada. Currently, three PRA entities exist – one for each of the

beef, pork, and hemp industries. While a PRA can operate regionally, an import levy can only be assessed on a commodity by a *national* PRA.



Canadian Honey Council

APPLYING FOR A PRA

An application for a honey industry PRA must go to the Farm Products Council and include:

- rationale/purpose for establishing a PRA;
- industry profile and production data;
- identity of organizations/legislation with existing/potential levy collection mechanisms;
- description of existing and/or proposed promotion and research activities; and
- demonstration of support from industry stakeholders in favour of establishing industry PRA.

FUNDING FOR A PRA

Options include:

- new financial support from beekeepers (domestic levy) combined with an import levy;

OR

- realignment of existing provincial association funds as "seed money" to facilitate an import levy;

OR

- a combination of the two.

Conceivably, funding could be bolstered by other beekeeper groups since a PRA presents a conduit for collaboration to efficiently support research/actions, leverage government support, and grow all aspects of the industry (e.g., products and services beyond honey production).

What's the buzz?



The background paper also outlines potential high-level interactions between CHC and a PRA operating independently with separate Boards of Directors – CHC focused on policy and industry lobby efforts, and the PRA focused on promotion and research actions.

This project is not intended as a PRA application.

However, an industry background paper was prepared for FPC that outlines some elements required of an application to solicit their feedback on:

- the adequacy of the document to support an application
- a proposed "domestic levy" mechanism based on a per hive assessment similar to provincial beekeeping association membership structures
- the scale(size) of beekeeping operations required to indicate support to establish a PRA.

Possible domestic levy mechanisms and projections

Set a levy (e.g., one cent per pound) on all Canadian honey sold by a beekeeper above a certain threshold – perhaps 100,000 pounds. So, commercial operations would be assessed but not smaller operations. If done nationally, an identical levy could also be set for imported honey. This would require legislative authority in each province and a way to track honey sales by beekeepers through packers and the sales network, similar to the US system.

Set a levy on a per hive basis using existing provincial association membership fee mechanisms. A threshold would apply here as well. Only hives registered in a province that exceed the threshold would be used to calculate this levy. Provincial associations could use their existing legislative authority and assess an additional fee on registered hives above the threshold, or redirect existing revenue to the PRA as an "equivalent" to a one cent per pound levy on honey imports.

Calculations using the per hive approach suggest a \$1 to \$1.50 per hive levy could be equivalent to a one cent per pound import levy. An import levy might generate \$250,000 to \$300,000 annually depending on the amount of honey imported. A domestic levy total revenue estimate cannot be calculated without knowing the number of hives registered in a province that exceeds the production threshold.

Estimate of bee colonies required to produce 100,000 pounds of honey; highest hive production values from Statistics Canada reports

Province	Production (pounds)	Hives Required	Threshold (rounded)
PEI	66	1,515	1,500
Nova Scotia	38	2,632	2,600
New Brunswick	52	1,923	1,900
Quebec	91	1,099	1,050
Ontario	121	826	800
Manitoba	178	562	550
Saskatchewan	205	488	475
Alberta	133	752	750
British Columbia	79	1,266	1,250

Next steps

- Provincial beekeeper association Boards of Directors will be asked if they support the idea of proceeding with a PRA application, knowing that a decision to create a PRA is not binding until the application process is complete, which might take 3 to 4 years.
- Board members will rely on feedback from beekeepers in their provinces.

PROJECT FUNDING PARTNERS

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THROUGH AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA'S CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PROGRAM (CASPP).



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Commercial Pollination

The Missing Pillar of North American Food Security

North America's food system depends on a biological infrastructure that receives far less attention than the roads, railways, ports and processing facilities that support it.

North America is investing billions of dollars to strengthen food security, increase agricultural productivity and make our food system more resilient. Yet one of the most fundamental components of that system receives remarkably little attention: the commercial beekeepers who provide pollination services to agriculture.

This deserves a serious reconsideration.

Commercial honey bees are not simply producers of honey. They are a critical component of agricultural infrastructure. Their pollination services support the production of fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and numerous other crops across North America.

When that infrastructure is healthy and economically sustainable, its contribution is largely invisible.

When it begins to fail, the consequences are anything but invisible.

Beekeepers across North America are confronting severe colony losses, increasingly complex pest and disease pressures, emerging threats such as *Tropilaelaps*, economic pressure on their operations and growing concerns about adulterated honey entering the marketplace. These challenges are occurring simultaneously, and their cumulative effect threatens the sustainability of the commercial pollination system.

This is no longer simply a beekeeping issue.

It is an agricultural productivity issue.

It is an economic issue.

And ultimately, it is a food security issue.

The infrastructure comparison

Consider the response that would follow if another essential component of agriculture suddenly lost 40%, 50% or even 60% of its productive capacity.

If grain storage, transportation infrastructure, livestock production capacity or agricultural processing experienced losses of that magnitude, governments would regard the situation as an economic emergency. Research, financial assistance, infrastructure investment and regulatory resources would be mobilized.

Commercial pollination deserves comparable recognition.

The difference is that a highway, railway or grain terminal is readily understood as infrastructure. The biological infrastructure provided by millions of managed honey bee colonies is much less visible.

That invisibility should not be confused with lack of importance.

Without financially sustainable commercial beekeeping operations, there cannot be a dependable commercial pollination system. And without dependable pollination, the productivity and reliability of significant portions of North American agriculture are at risk.

The industry has identified the problems

The beekeeping industry is not waiting for someone else to identify these challenges.

Organizations across Canada and the United States have been working collaboratively through initiatives such as the North American Bee Strategy, the Canadian Bee Roundtable and numerous national, regional and provincial/state organizations.

The priorities are increasingly clear: protecting honey bee health; preparing for existing and emerging pests and diseases; strengthening research and surveillance; addressing honey adulteration and market integrity; improving coordination between industry, researchers and governments; and ensuring that commercial beekeeping remains economically viable.

The challenge now is translating that recognition into a broader food-security strategic framework.

Five priorities for North American food security

Once commercial pollination is recognized as agricultural infrastructure, several priorities follow.

1. Make commercial pollination part of food-security policy.

National and regional food-security strategies should explicitly recognize commercial pollination and honey bee health as components of agricultural infrastructure. Food security is not simply about producing more food; it is also about protecting the systems that make production possible.

2. Establish sustained funding for bee-health research and preparedness.

North America needs sustained investment in pest and disease surveillance, emerging threats such as *Tropilaelaps*, *Varroa* management, applied field research, diagnostics and coordinated data collection. The objective should be to identify and address threats before they become widespread agricultural crises.

3. Expedite responsible regulatory review of bee-health tools.

Research has little value if effective tools cannot reach beekeepers in a reasonable timeframe. Regulatory systems should examine whether existing processes can respond more efficiently to emerging bee-health threats while maintaining appropriate standards for safety, efficacy and environmental protection.

4. Treat honey authenticity as a food-system and producer-protection issue.

Honey adulteration is more than a problem for honey producers. When legitimate producers compete against adulterated products, the integrity of the marketplace is undermined. North America needs effective systems for detecting adulteration, enforcing standards, improving import surveillance and protecting consumers and legitimate producers.

5. Put commercial beekeeping at the food-security table.

The people who operate the pollination infrastructure need a permanent voice in discussions involving food security, agricultural resilience, climate adaptation, crop productivity, agricultural research, biosecurity, trade and rural economic development.

The industry does not need another invitation to explain that bees are important. It needs recognition that commercial pollination is an essential component of the agricultural system itself.

A different way of thinking about “Save the Bees”

The phrase “Save the Bees” has successfully brought public attention to pollinators. But for commercial agriculture, another message deserves equal attention:

Save the Beekeepers.

Healthy bees require healthy, sustainable beekeeping businesses.

The commercial beekeeper is the human component of the pollination infrastructure. If those businesses cannot survive economically, the colonies they manage cannot provide the pollination services agriculture depends upon.

That is why the discussion needs to move beyond bees as an environmental concern or honey as an agricultural commodity.

The issue is much larger.

Commercial pollination is agricultural infrastructure.

The conversation North America needs to have

Canada and the United States have sophisticated agricultural systems and enormous capacity for research, innovation and investment. The question is whether we will apply those capabilities proactively to the biological infrastructure on which a significant part of that system depends.

The beekeeping industry has identified the threats. Researchers are working on solutions. Industry organizations are collaborating across borders.

What is needed now is for governments, agricultural organizations and the broader food industry to recognize commercial pollination as a fundamental component of food security and incorporate it accordingly into policy, investment, research and preparedness.

The objective is not simply to recover from the next catastrophic colony-loss year.

It is to build a North American pollination system capable of meeting the demands of agriculture for decades to come.

Food security depends upon more than the food we produce. It depends upon the infrastructure that makes that production possible.

Commercial pollination is one of those essential infrastructures. It is time for North America to treat it that way.

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Regional Reports



Atlantic



Lauren Park



After some higher losses in parts of the Atlantic region, bees have rebounded well. There are significant regional variations in hive strength and honey crop this season. Many beekeepers are still pulling honey supers making it too early to project the crop, but it is likely to be average at best. Much of the Atlantic region enjoys long mild autumns, and it isn't uncommon for the season to extend this late. The variability is also true of

mite levels and there is lots of end of season prep still to do. After a devastating drought in 2025, some crops including apples and wild blueberries have rebounded better than expected.

It is a challenge to write the latest information in these columns without it becoming irrelevant before publication. I highlighted previously that Rod Scarlett and I had the opportunity to shape phase 1 of the Next Policy Framework through the CFA summer meetings in Halifax in July. While there were opportunities for good conversations with industry leaders, provincial/territorial ag ministers and others, the tariff situation unfolded a few days later and overshadowed many of these conversations. Even though the Atlantic Region is the least directly impacted in the tariff situation, we stand with the Canadian industry and support the work being done to mitigate the impacts. When challenges arise for the industry, there is opportunity to capitalize on the spotlight, bring together the perspectives from coast to coast, and work together as a true national organization rooted in continuous improvement and the betterment of the industry.

Thanks to the PEIBA for hosting the 2026 Atlantic Bee Tour, a biennial summer gathering of beekeepers focusing on learning, farm touring, and camaraderie. PEIBA invited guests Amanda and Jeff Lee from BC and had updates from government, extension, CHC and others. It was a great couple days on Prince Edward Island.

Québec



Maggie Lamothe Boudreau,
agr., M. Sc., Représentante
du Québec au Conseil
canadien du miel

Alors que la saison apicole tire à sa fin, les Apiculteurs et Apicultrices du Québec (AADQ) poursuivent leur travail sur plusieurs dossiers importants pour l'avenir de nos entreprises. Voici quelques nouvelles du Québec que je souhaite partager avec vous.

Le Québec vous accueille en janvier 2027

Je vous invite à réserver les 29 et 30 janvier 2027 pour le Symposium national canadien

et salon d'exposants sur la pollinisation, au Centre des congrès de Lévis. Organisé conjointement par le Conseil canadien du miel, les AADQ et l'Association canadienne des apiculteurs professionnels, cet événement sera une belle occasion de réunir apiculteurs, chercheurs, fournisseurs et producteurs agricoles.

Le programme concerne principalement les innovation en pollinisation et abordera les pratiques, les technologies en pollinisation, la préparation de colonies performantes, les stratégies économiques en pollinisation commerciale et les défis à venir. Des présentations en français et en anglais, avec interprétation simultanée, permettront de faciliter les échanges entre les participants de partout au pays.

J'ai très hâte de vous accueillir au Québec et de partager ces deux journées avec vous. Les renseignements sur le programme, l'inscription et l'hébergement sont disponibles sur le site du Conseil canadien du miel :

<https://honeycouncil.ca/pollinationsymposium2027/>

Une nouvelle étape pour la coordination du secteur

Le projet de Chambre de coordination et de développement apicole (CCD), dont je vous ai parlé dans mes précédents rapports, franchit une nouvelle étape. La Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec a autorisé sa création. Les travaux se poursuivent avec les quatre organisations partenaires : les AADQ, Citadelle, le CRSAD et le CRAAQ.

L'objectif demeure de mettre en place un financement stable et récurrent pour soutenir la recherche et le développement du secteur. Pour nos entreprises, il s'agit de pouvoir travailler collectivement sur des priorités qui répondent aux défis rencontrés dans les ruchers.

La mise en place de la structure et l'élaboration du règlement sur les contributions sont encore en cours. Le mécanisme de financement vise les producteurs détenant 200 ruches et plus en production. C'est un travail important, qui demande du temps, mais qui nous rapproche d'un outil durable pour notre industrie.

Des services-conseils adaptés à l'apiculture

Dans le cadre des consultations sur le prochain Programme services-conseils, nous avons soulevé un enjeu bien connu de nos producteurs : l'existence d'un programme ne garantit pas l'accès à des spécialistes disponibles et familiers avec l'apiculture.

Le manque d'expertise agronomique spécialisée, la disponibilité des intervenants et les frais de déplacement limitent encore l'accès aux services. Nous souhaitons que le prochain programme tienne davantage compte de nos réalités, notamment pour la gestion des colonies, le renouvellement des reines, la pollinisation, l'hivernage et l'adaptation aux changements climatiques. Les besoins en santé des abeilles doivent également être pris en compte dans les programmes concernés.

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Des préoccupations commerciales partagées

Les conséquences possibles des barrières tarifaires américaines sur le miel canadien demeurent préoccupantes. Même les entreprises qui vendent principalement au Québec pourraient subir les effets d'une accumulation des stocks au Canada et d'une pression accrue sur les prix du miel en vrac.

Nous avons porté ces préoccupations auprès de l'Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec (UPA). Ce dossier rappelle à quel point les marchés des différentes provinces sont liés et pourquoi la collaboration entre les associations provinciales et le Conseil canadien du miel est essentielle.

Nos prochains rendez-vous provinciaux – AGA JIA

L'assemblée générale annuelle des AADQ aura lieu le 19 février 2027, suivie de la Journée d'information apicole le 20 février, à l'hôtel Le Concorde, à Québec. Ces rencontres permettront de poursuivre les discussions sur nos dossiers collectifs et de partager des connaissances utiles à nos entreprises.

Je tiens à remercier les administrateurs, les membres de nos comités et nos partenaires pour le travail accompli. Votre implication nous permet de faire avancer des dossiers qui dépassent les moyens d'une entreprise seule.

Je vous souhaite une bonne préparation à l'hivernage et, surtout, un peu de repos après cette saison bien remplie. Au plaisir de vous retrouver à Lévis en janvier!

As the beekeeping season draws to a close, the Apiculteurs et Apicultrices du Québec (AADQ) continue their work on several important issues for the future of our businesses. Here are a few updates from Quebec that I would like to share with you.

Quebec welcomes you in January 2027

I invite you to mark January 29 and 30, 2027, on your calendars for the Canadian National Pollination Symposium and Trade Show at the Lévis Convention Centre. Jointly organized by the Canadian Honey Council, the AADQ and the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, this event will be a wonderful opportunity to bring together beekeepers, researchers, suppliers and agricultural producers.

The program will focus primarily on innovations in pollination and will cover pollination practices and technologies, preparing strong colonies, business strategies for commercial pollination and the challenges ahead. Presentations in French and English, with simultaneous interpretation, will facilitate exchanges among participants from across the country.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you to Quebec and sharing these two days with you. Information on the program, registration and accommodation is available on the Canadian Honey Council website:

<https://honeycouncil.ca/pollinationsymposium2027/>

A new step in coordinating our sector

The Chambre de coordination et de développement apicole (CCD), which I have discussed in previous reports, has reached a new milestone. The Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec has authorized its creation. Work is continuing with the four partner organizations: the AADQ, Citadelle, the CRSAD and the CRAAQ.

The goal remains to establish stable, ongoing funding to support research and development in the sector. For our businesses, this means being able to work collectively on priorities that address the challenges we face in our apiaries.

Work to establish the structure and develop the contribution regulation is still underway. The funding mechanism is intended for producers with 200 or more hives in production. This is important work that takes time, but it brings us closer to a lasting tool for our industry.

Advisory services tailored to beekeeping

As part of the consultations on the next Programme services-conseils, we raised an issue that our producers know well: having a program in place does not guarantee access to specialists who are available and familiar with beekeeping.

The shortage of specialized agronomic expertise, the availability of advisors and travel costs continue to limit access to services. We would like the next program to better reflect our realities, particularly in colony management, queen replacement, pollination, overwintering and adaptation to climate change. Bee health needs must also be addressed in the relevant programs.

Providing better support to beekeepers means giving them practical tools to improve colony survival and the profitability of their businesses.

Shared trade concerns

The potential effects of U.S. tariff barriers on Canadian honey remain a concern. Even businesses that sell primarily in Quebec could feel the effects of a buildup of honey stocks in Canada and increased pressure on bulk honey prices.

We have raised these concerns with Quebec's Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA). This issue reminds us how closely provincial markets are connected and why collaboration between provincial associations and the Canadian Honey Council is essential.

Our upcoming provincial events

The AADQ Annual General Meeting will take place on February 19, 2027, followed by the Beekeeping Information Day on February 20, at Hôtel Le Concorde in Quebec City. These gatherings will allow us to continue discussing our shared priorities and exchange knowledge that is useful to our businesses.

I would like to thank our directors, committee members and partners for their work. Your involvement helps us move forward on issues that go beyond what any one business can accomplish on its own.

I wish you all a smooth preparation for overwintering and, above all, a little rest after this busy season. I look forward to seeing you in Lévis in January!

Ontario



Albert Devries

Again the weather for the later half of the summer has been variable here in Ontario. The area around Ottawa saw too much rain while west of London was too dry. Random thunderstorms made a big difference in honey yield and hive health. While some beekeepers saw good honey yields most are below average. Beekeepers I've been able to talk to say heavy winter losses and they need to split hives to make up numbers negatively influenced honey yields as well as the weather. Bulk honey prices remain strong as demand is good and supply is limited.

On September 10th Premier Doug Ford announced the appointment of Sam Oosterhoff as our new Minister of Agriculture. Oosterhoff is the MPP for Niagara West. Trevor Jones the former AG minister has moved to head the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. We thank Trevor for his work and look forward to working with Sam. The OBA is



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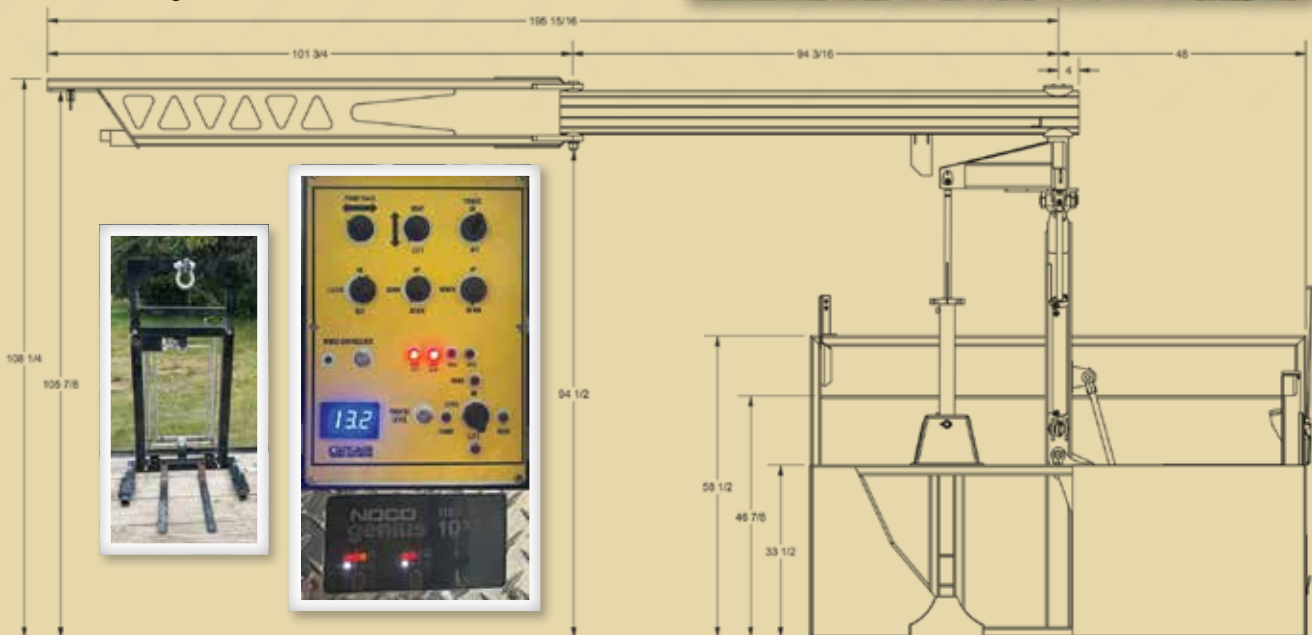


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also working with Agricorn with the hope of improving the risk management products offered. In the past the products offered didn't offer much value to beekeepers. Hopefully changes can be made making them more useful to our unique agricultural sector.

The OBA is holding their 2026 AGM and fall conference at the Horseshoe Valley Resort November 27&28. I look forward to catching up with fellow beekeepers and hearing presentations about recent research that has been done. The conference is always a good way to cap off the year. It also is a good time to think about what changes we could make to improve our practices while the past year is still fresh in our minds. I hope to see you there.

Manitoba



Mike Grysiuk

Hello, everyone,

By the time you receive this report, Manitoba will have experienced a summer of extreme weather, ranging from a slow, late start to an unusually early end to the season.

Unfortunately, for many of us beekeepers, it has been a year they would rather forget.

Most beekeepers appear to have had very little honey to show for their efforts this season, with some reporting the poorest honey crops they have experienced in their careers. Coming out of spring, there were high hopes for a productive year, but the bees struggled to build up as expected. High humidity during the honey flow created additional challenges, and pesticide applications for weevil control added further stress. While it is difficult to attribute the poor crop to any one factor, it appears that a combination of unfavourable weather conditions and other environmental pressures contributed to the disappointing results.

Honey extraction proved to be another significant challenge this year. High humidity made drying honey difficult, adding considerable time and effort to an already demanding process. Despite these challenges, we worked hard to extract and prepare our honey for market while navigating an increasingly uncertain trade environment.

The introduction of U.S. tariffs created additional pressure across the industry. Many initially rushed to ship honey to the United States ahead of the anticipated tariffs. However, that opportunity was short-lived. There was also considerable speculation that the U.S. market would see an influx of honey but reports of poor honey crops south of the border suggest that American producers have faced many of the same challenges as Canadian beekeepers, if not worse.

With poor honey production across much of Canada and ongoing uncertainty surrounding international trade, honey prices have experienced significant increase. The impact of tariffs and changing market conditions has added another layer of uncertainty for producers, making it increasingly difficult to plan for the months ahead. At this point, there is little clarity on how long the tariffs will remain in place or what their long-term impact will be on the Canadian beekeeping industry.

There is some hope on the horizon, however. Discussions surrounding potential provincial government assistance offer a degree of optimism for an industry facing considerable financial and operational challenges. Continued dialogue with government will be important as we work toward meaningful support and explore ways to help beekeepers navigate the current economic and trade pressures.

Overall, this has been an exceptionally challenging season for Manitoba beekeepers. Between poor honey yields, unpredictable weather and ongoing tariff concerns, producers have faced challenges on multiple fronts. As we move toward the end of the season, the focus will be on assessing the losses, addressing the industry's immediate needs and looking ahead to a more favourable year.

Thank you, everyone, for your time, continued dedication and hard work throughout this difficult season. I know many of us are ready to put this year behind us and look forward to better days ahead for Manitoba's beekeeping industry.

Saskatchewan



Jake Berg

What strange weather we have had this year!! We had a late, cold spring, an extremely wet, humid June, not a drop of rain in July and then large amounts of rain in late August. This unusual weather pattern has left the prairies with a below average honey crop. The initial reports are somewhere in the 30% below average range.

Because we had a lower than normal honey crop, I believe we could see \$2.75 for the 2026 crop, by as early as mid winter. I have not seen the export status for August yet, but I think Canada has probably exported close to 11 million pounds of honey to the USA (which is about the annual amount of honey that is exported to USA) before the tariffs came into effect in August. This coupled with a below average honey crop in the prairies should place Canada in a honey shortage and drive the price upward over the next couple of months.

Alberta



Lorne Prins

Turbulent and Unsettled are two words that come to mind when reflecting on the summer and fall of 2026. Weather was consistently inconsistent – with producers across Alberta collectively facing all weather concerns simultaneously. In the end the resulting honey yields reported were consistently low – some estimates at 30% below average across the province – with only a few fortunate producers

reporting a good to great crop.

Concerns about honey production were overshadowed by the looming tariff threat – a threat that became a reality in August. The threat of, and eventual implementation of tariffs, have had wide ranging effects including:

- American buyers bought a very large quantity of honey off the prairies in the period leading up to the tariff deadline (total quantity and impact is not yet known)
- Media bombarded the honey industry. I personally fielded dozens of interview requests, as did many other beekeepers and industry spokespeople. We know that this media attention created a surge of demand for Canadian honey, with many direct to customer sellers realizing very strong sales this August. We are hopeful that this trend will continue to create strong demand for domestic honey.
- Media attention allowed the Canadian honey industry to bring attention to the quantity, quality and point of origin of honey imported into Canada, and a challenge was issued to the companies that import honey to consider Canadian honey first. It is my opinion that despite the tariff concerns, the



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conditions exist for Canadian honey producers to realize healthy prices for the 2026 crop, however tariffs must be resolved in order to stabilize prices in the long term.

Reports from across the province suggest that producers are seeing manageable mite loads and generally healthy bees heading into the fall; and with wrapping starting soon I for one am looking forward to the change of pace winter brings.

British Columbia



Jeff Lee

This summer has been a mixed bag for B.C. beekeepers and the provincial honey industry. From US tariffs to wildfires in the central Okanagan to challenging high mite loads following on a good winter overwintering, beekeepers have had much to pay attention to.

Fall harvest crop report

Much of the province has reported average or above-average yields in honey. Beekeepers in the Peace, central plateau and Cariboo, southeast corner, Vancouver island and even the urban-dense Fraser Valley reported to me that they had decent crops.

Many areas had adequate moisture at the right time and enough heat to encourage nectar-producing crops such as alfalfa, rabbitbrush, clover, sweet clover and snowberries.

The one caveat to that is any area of the province that had significant wildfires. Yields in the south, central and north Okanagan were severely disrupted by the wildfires around Kelowna, Vernon, Armstrong and Kamloops. Major wildfires in the Fraser Canyon, Clinton and Okanagan areas created significant smoke blankets that caused bees to park on their doorsteps or stay close to home.

Major pollination companies that support the blueberry, cranberry and bush fruits in the Fraser Valley reported decent income from multiple sets, but for those who moved into honey in the Peace region after missed significant crops due to an early honey flow in June and mid-July. Beekeepers going after prized fireweed reported decent crops of this fickle forage.

I've had increasing reports of high varroa mite issues as we head into fall and winter. The low overwintering mortality, combined with mild spring and summer led to large populations of bees. This created the opportunity for a boom in mites. A number of beekeepers have consequently reported difficulty in getting levels down well into September. This may be a setup for a poor overwintering report for next spring.

U.S. Tariffs effect on B.C.

The imposition of 50% tariffs by US President Donald Trump on Canadian honey is having a limited effect on B.C. honey producers. That is because, unlike our counterparts in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, our producers in B.C. largely do not export to the US. Ours is a province largely made up of smaller operations, and the vast majority of honey produced here is consumed within the province.

However, there is concern that if the trade war with the US continues, export producers will need to further develop domestic markets. This could create competition for shelf space in B.C. stores, and result in price fluctuations.

With honey yields in the prairie provinces low this year and much of the crop already sold to U.S. importers before the tariff started, the potential for problems in B.C. is somewhat mitigated. But a prolonged trade war may change the outlook for next season.

Loss of B.C.'s Bee-Friendly Minister

Premier David Eby called a snap provincial election on September 22 has led to a decision by one of the most honey bee-friendly politicians in the province to not seek re-election.

Lana Popham, the provincial Minister of Agriculture, had earned the moniker "the Bee Lady" by media covering the Legislature for her considerable understanding and support for honey producers and beekeepers. Over her three terms in government and two terms in opposition she had defended and supported the honey industry, and was responsible for the initial funding of the B.C. Honey Producers Association's Tech Transfer Program. Her efforts also spurred growth and support for the honey industry through her "Grow B.C., Feed B.C., Buy B.C." program. Many honey producers carry the "Buy B.C." logo on their products.

Popham was also an ardent supporter and protector of the province's groundbreaking Agricultural Land Reserve, legislation that since the 1970s has protected classified agricultural land from wanton commercial, industrial and residential development.

She leaves at a critical time for the future of both the BCHPA's TTP and the ALR system. The TTP will run out of funding by the end of 2027 without continued support, and the ALR system is under attack from developers who want to weaken rules governing what agricultural land can be used for.

The BCHPA will honor Popham at its AGM in Nanaimo on Oct. 23, which ironically will be her last full day acting as minister before the election the following day.

BCHPA AGM

The BCHPA's annual general meeting is in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island on Oct. 23-25 at the Coast Bastion Hotel. We're continuing our focus on Canadian speakers and advancements and have in our lineup Ian Stepler (Manitoba), Dani Glennie (Saskatchewan), Lorne Prins (Alberta), Nuria Morfin (Manitoba), Heather Broccard-Bell, (Ontario) and Leonard Foster (B.C.) Fahim Raza of the BC TTP will also give updates on the many projects he's working on.

We've also had significant uptake for our trade show, with vendors from across the country.

The BCHPA will also hold elections for positions of President, 2nd Vice-President Treasurer, CHC representative and one Director at Large.

A Visit To Prince Edward Island Beekeepers

Lastly, a report on my visit to PEI, where Amanda and I were keynote speakers at the Atlantic Bee Tour. This is a rotating Maritime provinces conference, and it was PEI's turn to host it.

We had the opportunity to share how beekeepers in B.C. practice the craft. Although the framework for beekeeping doesn't really change from province-to-province, we're different from PEI in our climate, geography and markets.

We visited two commercial operations, Cape Road Honey and PEI Bees, each who were different in their modes of operation.

I also had the opportunity to meet with my new Atlantic CHC counterpart, Lauren Park and discussed many issues affecting the Canadian industry, including the tariff threats, goals and operations at the CHC, and the federal/provincial negotiations.

As always, feel free to contact me at: jeff@honeybeezen.com, 604-328-5028.



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Introduction – A Dramatic Sea Change is on the Horizon

A sea change faces the International Honey Market after decades of deeply depressed prices which have brought beekeepers to the edge of a devastating collapse. It is a result of the cumulative consequences of an international market plagued by “multiple modern modes of adulteration” (MMA) of honey, antidumping orders, the emergence of tariff wars, global climate change, and reduced productivity. International awareness of, and opposition to, MMA has grown both scientifically and legally.

As we write, the U.S. 2026 honey crop is estimated to be less than 100 million lbs., provoking a surge in both demand and prices. White Sage has reached USD \$3.50/lb. White Clover from Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota is being offered at \$2.50/lb., and Orange honey at \$3.00/ lb. This is an unusually small crop, and demand and prices will likely continue to soar.

Both the North American and European honey crops are coming to their conclusion, and South America’s are on the horizon. Existing inventories also bear upon market demand and prices.

Observers see clearly that a collapse in honey prices, correlated adulteration and a flood of export of such pseudo honey, led to a collapse in production of authentic honey, as the incentive to produce eroded and beekeepers faced bankruptcy. The anguish of domestic beekeepers as they are compelled to sell their bees has been palpable.

The year 2026 has also been plagued by international tariff turmoil. American beekeepers support antidumping and other tariffs and introduced the concept of a temporary moratorium on honey imports, as indicated in their comments on the Section 301 tariffs. However, honey importers and packers are requesting relief from Section 301 tariffs, while supporting an increase in the assessment rate for the National Honey Board. Perspectives have strongly diverged.

Foreign honey companies continue their acquisition of honey packers and also accelerate their acquisition of beekeeping operations. Those interests seem to have integrated operations from which they can manipulate and control the honey market. More economists and government officials are aware of this monopolistic movement in the honey industry. We anticipate that unless this tendency is corrected, and adulteration in its many modes is punished and prohibited, prices will remain stagnant.

U.S. Honey Prices and Imports

U.S. honey production was down 14 percent in 2025, totaling 116 million pounds. There were 2.41 million colonies

producing honey in 2025, down 7 percent from 2024. Yield per colony averaged 48.0 pounds, down 7 percent from 2024, and producer honey stocks were 34.8 million pounds on December 15, 2025, down 15 percent from a year earlier (USDA NASS Honey Report).

With a vastly diminished 2026 American crop, prices of U.S. White honey were surging in August. Texas Tallow in the Light Amber range has been offered at \$3.00/lb. A combination of factors, including extreme heat in the summer months, has led to a smaller crop.

Import prices for main sources of honey for the U.S. vs. the prices paid to beekeepers (not the local farmers market retail prices) are drastically low. Chart 1 shows prices paid to U.S. beekeepers vs. prices paid to exporters for foreign honey.

Comparing honey prices to the consumer price index, from 2021-2025 the consumer price index rose 18.8%. Looking at the graph of prices paid to beekeepers over 10 years (Chart 3), we see that the starting and ending price for White Dakota Clover was unchanged at \$2.00/lb. This represents a decline of remuneration for beekeepers.

It peaked briefly in January, 2022, and has declined since. Dr. Daberkow often points out that when a product like honey is being sold below the cost of production, the product is adulterated, not authentic. In previous charts we compared the price sold at retail with the price sold by packers to retailers and found a small gap, whereas prices paid to beekeepers had a wide gap with packer’s prices. This suggests that not only are the beekeepers being disadvantaged but so are retailers.

Domestic Honey		Imported Honey	
Dakota Clover White	\$1.75/lb.	India	\$.065/lb. FOB
		Vietnam	\$.056/lb. FOB
Specialty honeys	\$2.60/lb.	Argentina	\$1.15/lb. FOB
		Brazil	\$1.92/lb. FOB

Source: National Honey Report data

Chart 1 Average prices of U.S. domestic vs. imported honey in July 2026

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Canada

Shortages of white honey are also affecting the European market, which is strengthening week by week. Besides the global weather disasters, the imposition of duties is creating irresistible upward push. Legal actions are unfurling.

During the past three years, the total volume of U.S. imports of honey has increased significantly (Chart 4). Concerns about the imposition of increased tariffs in 2026 have resulted in more honey coming in from India and Argentina in the first 6 months of 2026. The IEEPA tariffs imposed during 2025 resulted in the payment of additional 20-30% duties as well as efforts to build up inventories in advance of the continuous threat of increased tariffs.

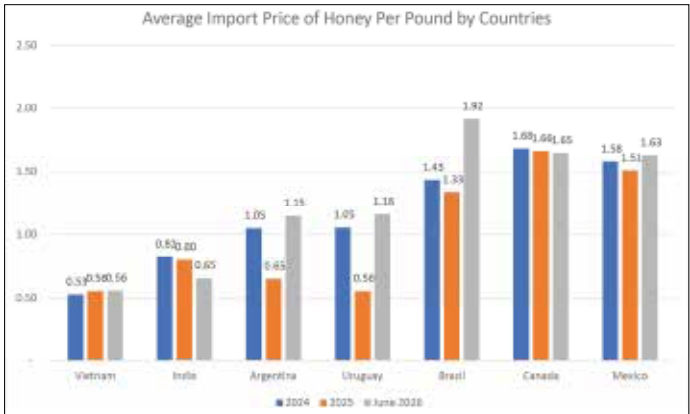


Chart 2 Average price of U.S. honey imports 2024-2026

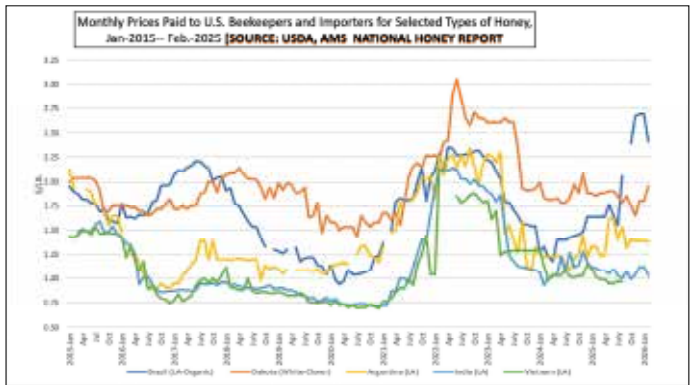


Chart 3 Monthly prices paid to U.S. beekeepers and importers 2015-2025. Prepared by Dr. Stan Daberkow, Economist Emeritus, USDA (ret.).

U.S. Honey Imports from all countries in pounds (millions)			
2023	2024	2025	2026 June YTD
439.152	561.905	540.314	286.508

Chart 4

U.S. Imports of Retail Packaged Honey

It is also notable that the U.S. market for imported, retail packaged honey reached about \$36,000,000 (FOB not including duty, tariffs, freight or import costs) for the first half of 2026, with over 100 countries exporting, including New Zealand,

Turkey, Egypt, India, and China. Comb and retail packaged honey are not subject to antidumping duties, a clear advantage for this classification.

The price at a grocery retail store for 2 lbs. of Egyptian honey in August 2026 was \$10.00, or \$5.00/lb. If we look at the average cost of Egyptian retail packaged honey in 2026, it was \$4.59/lb. FOB (National Honey Report data). We have to wonder, where is there a profit in such transactions, when the cost of freight, tariffs, insurance, trucking, storage and other services greatly add to the cost of the product before it reaches the store shelf? Some foreign producers are known to receive export incentives in order to increase the amount of foreign exchange coming in to their country. Imported packaged honey currently represents a competitive threat to beekeepers and the U.S. honey industry.

2026 Tariffs and Antidumping Orders

As the whole honey world knows, there have been tremendous conflict and changes in the tariff regimes which apply to honey imported into the U.S. The fluctuating tariffs as well as the MMMA have jointly created a very uneven playing field for imports. After the IEEPA tariffs expired, Section 301 tariffs (on forced-labor grounds) were announced on July 23, 2026. Argentina and India received a 10% tariff, and Vietnam and Brazil got 12.5%.

In July 2026, the National Honey Packers and Dealers Association asked the government to exempt honey imports from the Section 301 tariffs. The American Honey Producers Association proposed that a 6-month ban on all imports of honey from India, Vietnam, Argentina and Brazil be implemented, followed by tariffs of 50% on honey imports from those countries. The perspectives and interests of the packers and importers could not be more different than those of U.S. honey producers.

The U.S. government has announced a 50% tariff on imports from Canada, — discussed later under the heading “Canada.”

Total tariffs (or proposed tariffs) on honey from major exporting countries, duties which must be paid at the time of entry of cargo into the U.S., range from zero to 50%.

Argentina received the following estimated weighted-average dumping margin for the period June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024:

Exporter or producer	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
Asociación De Cooperativas Argentinas Cooperativa Limitada	21.35
NEXCO S.A	0.00
Review-Specific Rate for Non-Examined Companies	21.35

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VITA BEE OXYTET 62.5 100g	140995	127976	5262000
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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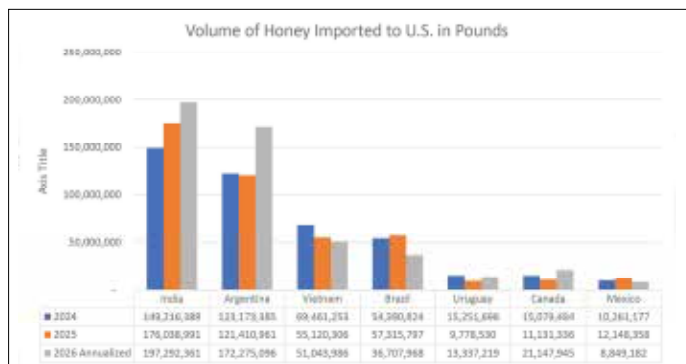


Chart 5 Volume of honey imported to U.S. in pounds from selected countries 2024-2026. Note: 2026 values and volumes are projected based upon the Jan-June period.

October 2026

3

Chart 5 Volume of honey imported to U.S. in pounds from selected countries 2024-2026. Note: 2026 values and volumes are projected based upon the Jan-June period.

In June 2026, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) issued its final results for the second administrative review of raw honey from Vietnam:

- **Mandatory Respondents:** Specific investigated exporters are subject to individual rates of 8.83% and 26.77%.
- **Separate Rate Exporters:** 12 eligible Vietnamese companies received a calculated rate of 14.14%.
- **Vietnam-Wide Entity Rate:** For all other exporters that did not establish separate rate eligibility, a default country-wide rate of 60.03% applies.
- **Section 301 Tariff:** Effective July 24, 2026, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) implemented a new 12.5% blanket tariff on imports from Vietnam following a global forced labor investigation. Honey was not granted an exemption from this measure.

China honey is subject to a weight-based ADD of \$2.63/kg., since Chinese exporters asserted extremely low values for their honey exports which allowed them to effectively skirt antidumping duties.

This unprecedented era of tariff turmoil is ripe with retaliatory processes which threaten global inflation and division among long term allies.

Cost of production and multiple modern modes of adulteration

During the past several decades, the international honey market has witnessed, and leading American beekeepers have observed, the emergence of MMMA. As the Chinese and many others have witnessed, the extraction of immature, green and unripened honey, which does not attain the essential attributes of authentic honey, can result in the production of huge quantities with minimal cost of production. Dr. Gudrun Beck pointed out when NMR testing first emerged that the NMR profiles of immature honey had the same profiles as nectar. Honey scientists studying authentic honey at the American Honey Institute see that ingredients from the bees are transferred to the honey in the production of honey from nectar, and specific chemicals are present in authentic honey. They are exploring novel scientific ways to differentiate mature from immature honey.

In addition is the use of resin technology to remove residues such as illegal antibiotics and offensive flavors which make the honey unmarketable, and can transform dark colors into light colors. The FDA has written a letter stating that any “honey” product processed with resin technology cannot be sold as “honey.”

A new wave of adulteration emerged with the bioengineered sweeteners from beets and rice which can evade detection by the traditional SCIRA test used by the FDA. Even though these alternative sweeteners were being broadly used, availability of the small number of samples of the sweeteners were cut off by Chinese suppliers, so that the database of sweeteners for some detection methods became frozen.

Bernhard Heuvel, President of the European Professional Beekeepers Association, is proposing a U.S. conference to discuss European and North American scientific cooperation in order to expose the modern plague of honey adulteration. We should acknowledge that beekeepers in many countries, including India, strongly object to these modes of adulteration which devastate India’s own production of legitimate honey. Dr. Jeff Pettis, a prominent honey scientist in America and former President of Apimondia, has been crystal clear that we need to prevent illegitimate modes of production. The failure to do so has resulted in the collapse in prices and contributed to the collapse in productivity.

We are launching systematic studies of the cost of production of legitimate, authentic and pure honey. These studies, we believe, will make it crystal clear that the protracted low prices of exported honey, which we have documented, are below the cost of production of authentic honey. Cost of production is being discussed in Europe, Canada, Mexico and the U.S. In Argentina there are experts, led by Dr. Enrique Bedascarrasbure, in the production of authentic honey in tropical and semitropical regions and climates where we hope to understand the cost of production.

Bret Adey, Dr. Stan Daberkow and Bernhard Heuvel are contributing to this effort. The decline of prices paid to U.S. beekeepers over the past decade flies in the face of the increase of the cost of production which is accelerated by the decline in productivity per hive, which fact we have documented for a long time.

Honey producer Chris Hiatt was interviewed on April 10, 2026, on the well-known radio program Freakonomics which described beekeepers’ challenges from food fraud in depth (<https://freakonomics.com/podcast/beeconomics-101/>).

We anticipate that in the future all honey will have to specify both 1) the detailed conditions and place of production; and 2) the modes of production utilized to produce the honey. Such knowledge is essential to assessing the purity and authenticity of the purported honey. This information is a vital complement to the type of advanced traceability system already in place in Argentina. Conditions such as acidity, rainfall, elevation, floral sources, soil content, harvest time, and moisture reduction

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procedure are relevant variables. An outline of an FDA honey research protocol asserted the need for more exhaustive and comprehensive data.

Several years ago, the Joint Research Center in Belgium analyzed honey found in the European market — which is a relatively strict and scientifically advanced market — and found 46% of the honey samples drawn from commercial and retail channels suspicious of adulteration. If the emerging methods of detection, including of immature, green, water unripened honey were used, many scientists estimate that the figure would be 80-95%. (Some Indian and Chinese exporters have admitted to producing 100 and 95 percent, respectively, of their “honey” from unripened nectar.)

China is the largest global exporter of honey, with 386,900,000 pounds exported in 2025 at an average value of \$1.37/kg. or \$0.62/lb. FOB. India is the largest exporter of honey to the U.S. with 176,038,000 pounds exported in 2025 at an average value of \$0.80/lb., which declined to \$0.65/lb. in 2026. These two countries have gained dominant positions by selling at low prices and using multiple modes of adulteration.

During a visit to Belgium, I introduced the concept of MMMA. I also affirmed the fundamental correctness of the Codex statement that honey is a product of “the complete interaction of bees and flowers” which transforms nectar into honey.

India

No country has had a bigger or more devastating impact upon the American honey market than India. We have provided a full range of statistical data on quantities imported from India in previous International Honey Market Reports in this journal.

A news report from India has attracted attention of beekeepers throughout the world, and is being circulated in the U.S., Canada and other countries. In 2025, Indian beekeepers gathered at honey packing factories and demanded the purchase price that they had negotiated previously but which was not paid. They accused the honey exporters of selling adulterated honey by mixing 80% syrup with 20% honey. The cost of the sugar syrup is about 50% of the cost of honey. The beekeepers demanded advanced lab testing such as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance or High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry to detect the adulteration. The President of the Indian beekeeping association claimed that 70-90% of the domestic honey sold in India is adulterated with syrup (Tohit Mullick, Times of India, 3/10/2025). Complaints about adulterated honey in the domestic Indian market were made by a leader of the Bee Farmers’ Welfare Society (MKBWS).

Honey standards

Everyone professes to be for standards. There is a profound illusion that standards will cure the problem of massive amounts of adulteration. Along with the evolving modes of honey adulteration, we have seen evolving, sophisticated modes of detection. Most recently the Hydrophilic Interaction Liquid Chromatography (HILIC) test, with a database of honey and sugar syrup signatures (beet and rice), has been introduced

to address the need to identify new adulterants from rice and beet sources. This test is available from German laboratories, as reported by Dr. Martin Linkogel of QSI.

Standards are only as good as: 1) the validity, depth and breadth of those standards, and 2) the enforcement of those standards by the government, the retailers and food manufacturers. A honey standard should apply equally to honey in its various uses such as consumer retail, food service, industrial, and pharmaceutical.

American beekeepers have written to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services, requesting that the FDA take actions to protect American consumers from fraudulent honey by:

1. Implementing a standard of identity that allows for enforcement actions on economically motivated adulteration (EMA) of honey.
2. Conducting adulteration enforcement using multiple testing and analytical methods, including SCIRA, HPAEC-PAD, LC-HRMS, H-NMR spectroscopy, pollen analysis, DNA barcoding, and proteomics.
3. Collaborating with independent scientists, academic researchers, and industry expert techniques.
4. Increasing the number of samples tested to provide statistically meaningful results representative of the U.S. marketplace.

It was pointed out that the number of samples of imported honey which were tested in a 2025 FDA survey were 50% of total samples collected, when imported honey was 82% of the market in that year. A total of 102 samples were collected, and only 48 were of imported honey. The carbon isotope test methodology which was used, the SCIRA test (AOAC Official Method 998.12), only identifies C4 corn and sugar cane syrups, which are not currently the main mode of honey adulteration.

The Honey Integrity Act H.R.2162 was proposed in March 2026 and is in the legislative process. The Act proposes the use of the USP honey standard.

Dr. Michael Roberts, Executive Director of the Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy, has concluded that merely lamenting the prevalence of honey adulteration is ineffective, and legal measures need to be taken to enforce the regulations against food fraud and strongly punish those who persistently and unrepentantly violate them.

Norberto Garcia has cooperated for a long time in battling the adulteration of honey and we have written and spoken together. Netflix presented the documentary Rotten, whose impact continues. Norberto asserted regarding honey adulteration: «It is fraud and it is a crime.»

The beekeeping community in Europe is concerned about the ISO honey standard and various efforts from China, Great Britain and New Zealand to try to change the definition of honey. Many voices are silent on this subject. The efforts are seen as attempts to change Codex, and are led by China because they want to legalize their modes of production so that they can explode the quantities, collapse the prices, maximize their profit and dominate the world market. One Chinese honey official told us that after the People’s Republic of China was formed, officials wanted to provide cheap sweeteners in huge

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quantities at low prices to satisfy «poor and working people,” but Chinese methods were soon exported to other countries.

National Honey Board

The order that initiated the establishment of the National Honey Board (NHB) in 1984 was passed during a time when U.S.-produced honey commanded about 80% of the U.S. market. In 2026, that share has dwindled to about 18%. Bret Adey, who is a leading beekeeper and a scholar of the history of American beekeepers, has recently brought attention to this history.

Its original objective was the maintenance and expansion of existing honey markets and the development of new or improved markets for U.S. beekeepers. Clearly that mission has been a failure from the perspective of the U.S. honey producer. The market for imported, low priced honey has greatly expanded for many countries, most startlingly for India.

Honey producers recently commented on the National Honey Packers and Dealers’ proposal to increase the assessment collected for the NHB. One such comment: «The NHB’s current use of funds is not aligned with supporting the domestic honey industry and is causing harm to the U.S. honey producers.”

A flood of pseudo honey, first from China and later from India, caused a collapse and stagnation in prices which robbed beekeepers of incentives, in complete frustration of the goals which were explicit at the time of the formation of the NHB. The current American honey market is not a market for authentic honey produced in accordance with the Codex definition.

All this has caused beekeepers to reflect upon the origin of the National Honey Board. The original mandate was a board controlled by beekeepers. All segments of the industry came together to better market authentic honey. The fundamental concern is that the growth of the honey market has been quantitative, not qualitative, and products highly suspected of adulteration are dominating the marketplace. Those who are benefitting financially from fraud will never successfully police themselves. Fraud in the international honey industry has been found in high and low prices, but its impact jeopardizes the individual consumer and global food security because of the essential role bees play in global agriculture.

Science and bees

During the recent two decades, there has been an increase of very interesting science articles about bees, their capacities and their vulnerability. My friend Dr. Eve Menger, former director of the National Science Foundation, sent me an article on the brains of bees and their receptiveness to the environment. Another report described the evolutionary role that bees have played through their interaction with botanical and zoological life and the human brain. The bees’ pollination of diverse fruits led to increased food production and consumption of sugars by humans, which in turn led to the enlargement of the sophisticated human brain. This is also interesting in that the Codex Definition of Honey requires the completed interaction of the bees and nectar, which is essential to the creation of

authentic honey. We note that there are some big players in the international honey industry who would like to throw out this definition.

Federico Berron, who has effectively worked with the Mexican government on behalf of Mexican beekeepers, has pointed out that one of the greatest virtues of bees is their creation of a deeply integrated social network.

Honey exporting countries

Argentina

Argentina has greatly exceeded its 65,000-ton average annual honey export volume and is now consolidating an annual honey export of around 90,000 tons. They expect to finish 2026 with around 95,000 tons of exported honey, with the U.S. market representing around 60 percent of honey exports (about 125 million pounds).

All this growth is backed by a steady increase in the number of beehives, which can be tracked through Argentina’s official statistics. All beehives in Argentina have to be declared and georeferenced through an online registry, a system which was implemented in 2016. In August 2026, an electronic transit document came into effect for honey supers. The European market requires knowledge of the location of the beehives where the honey was produced. It may be the only country with a nationwide honey traceability system. This year authorities are pushing beekeepers to go a step forward and start the traceability system at the apiary and not only from the honey extraction room.

Some favourable winds are that the price of meat is encouraging the increase in the surface of pasture lands, which benefits beekeeping. The fields of sunflowers (due to the war in Ukraine) and canola are also increasing. Weather forecasts are announcing El Niño, which brings floods but also good crops in the central area of the country where the main production of honey occurs.

Meanwhile, the prices of honey are firm and increasing after the last result of the antidumping investigation which resulted in 0 for NEXCO and +17 per cent to all other export companies from Argentina.

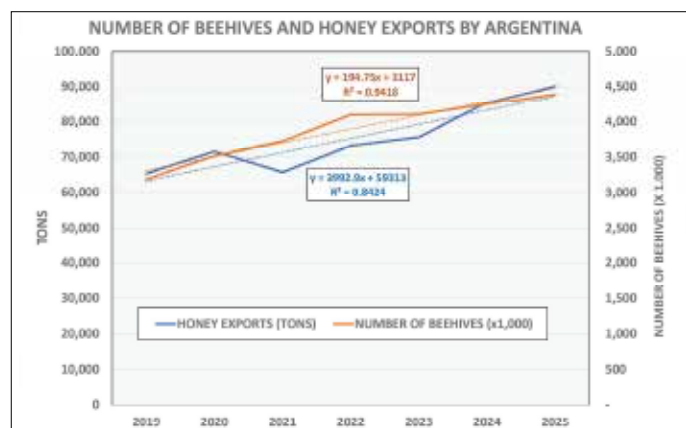


Chart 6 Argentina's exports and beehives

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Canada

On August 22, 2026, the U.S. imposed a 50% tariff on Canada, including on honey. Canada announced retaliatory tariffs on hundreds of products imported from the U.S. Canadian beekeepers indicated that selling packaged honey in Canada is an alternative for them. Phones were ringing in Canada and prices were rising after the first announcement. Beekeepers with contracts in the U.S. were trying hard to deliver prior to any tariff, but the late harvest made things even more difficult. If Canadian honey is excluded from the U.S. market by high tariffs, the repercussions will be unpredictable.

Wet weather has resulted in honey with a high moisture content. The 2026 crop is expected to be small and below normal, with lots of high-moisture honey. A small crop, below normal, with high moisture, is expected in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The U.S. market accounted for 71% of Canada's honey exports by value, and 74% by volume, in the first five months of 2026. U.S. import volumes from Canada declined in 2025 to 11.8 million pounds compared to 15 million pounds in 2024. Between January and May 2026, Canadian honey exported to the U.S. averaged CAD \$2.25 (USD \$1.62) per pound. By contrast, imported honey entered Canada from Vietnam at an average of CAD \$0.97 (USD \$0.69) per pound.

Brazil

Brazil has strict internal controls for certified organic production areas. The apiaries must comply with organic certification requirements, including traceability, evaluation of the surrounding areas, inspections and residue testing.

Brazil's honey industry claims that the beekeeping areas in the Northeast, as well as highland regions and areas surrounded by forests and native vegetation in the Southeast and South, are far from intensive agriculture and have supported reliable organic honey production for many years.

Regarding the current market, it is relatively quiet at the moment. The main crops are now finishing, while the Northeast crop of honey with a higher F/G ratio should begin next month. It is not a particularly large crop, but it normally produces very good-quality organic honey.

Prices for Brazilian honey, mainly organic, averaged \$1.92/lb. FOB in the first half of 2026, a much higher level than the Asian honey exporters achieved.

A new 25% tariff on imports from Brazil was announced by the U.S. in July 2026, including on honey, with the exception of organic honey. Brazil plans to seek a resolution through the World Trade Organization. This tariff is in addition to the existing antidumping duties of about 9% which apply to specific exporting companies. Brazil exports over half of its honey production to the U.S.

Mexico

Mexico's production weakened again as result of beekeepers abandoning areas where the blossoms are not orange or mesquite. With international prices damaged by adulterated honey, they can't build a financially healthy honey enterprise. Use of the

new HRMS-HILIC analysis may help remove syrup sold as honey from the market, which would help Mexican producers of authentic honey.

Prices have risen from 2025 levels and U.S. imports averaged \$1.63/lb. FOB in the first half of 2026.

Europe

Spring European crops in 2026 were mostly very good. Lavender, sunflower and other summer flowers yielded between little and nothing, depending on flowers and areas, but chestnut, mountain, etc. were good.

Later, temperatures were so high during such a long time that vegetation did very poorly. With the addition of forest fires, particularly south of Bordeaux, it became a real disaster. Expectations are that by the end of September production will be better.

Reports have come in that crops in some Eastern European regions have failed.

Beekeepers in France are concerned about prices of Chinese honey coming into Great Britain, with an average price of 1.15€ (equivalent to \$0.60/lb.). A lot of quantities are coming in around 0.8/0.85 €/kg. (equivalent to \$0.44/lb.).

Organic honey

In August 2026, U.S. commercial beekeepers filed a legal complaint against the USDA over the use of National Organic Program labelling on honey produced in foreign countries, and certified in such a way that the imported honey sold at retail uses USDA organic labelling, which is misleading the consumer. The burden of certification of organic honey is more challenging than originally understood.

Macroeconomic Picture

This new era of tariff turmoil is ripe with retaliatory processes which threaten global inflation, currency chaos and division among long term allies. The U.S. and Canada have initiated retaliatory tariffs, the U.S. government is pressing China to cease buying oil from its long term supplier Iran, and embargoes are threatening the delivery of strategic resources essential to advanced economies. Shipping lanes have been flooded and disrupted, and the costs of ocean freight have sharply increased.

The U.S. national debt recently passed the significant amount of \$40 trillion and other economies, large and small, are threatened with their own cascading national debt.

Climate Concerns

As I've written, the consequences of increased volatility, severity and frequency of climate disasters cannot wisely and scientifically be ignored. The U.S. northeast has experienced this summer, as we did two years ago, huge amounts of toxic smoke flowing from Canada's forest fires. A similar phenomenon from western wildfires happened in California in the recent years. Lightning is the common cause of the wildfires.

In Europe fires are burning, affecting France and Spain. Europe is not only caught in growing heat waves for which its infrastructure is unprepared, but its river systems are

drying up from severe droughts. Europe's great rivers are not only an aesthetic treasure but crucial to the economic integration and vitality of Europe's immense, advanced economy.

Naturally, toxic smoke is especially of concern for children and infants, as small particle pollutants can pass barriers and enter into and lodge into brains and other crucial parts of our bodies. What is new is the attention to the complex and pervasive consequences to botanical and zoological life in general. What is now coming under study is the effect on bees. Toxic pollutants, which may include glyphosate, are transferred from the mother bees to their eggs. Mutations are being observed in the passing of genetics from mother to offspring. Science is studying the consequences, as they are becoming impossible to ignore.

The irony persists that the highest concentrations of pollutants, environmental toxicity and climate disasters are in those nations such as China and India which continue to increase production of «honey» and maintain extraordinarily cheap prices as the productivity per hive declines. New toxic processes enter the environments in which bees exist and function. This irony cannot be ignored by agricultural economists. It provides the broader context in which the fate and destiny of beekeeping and pollination reside.

Global beekeepers have to pay attention to these phenomena. Just as glyphosate migrates through vast areas through wind and rain and water systems, the toxicity of large scale forest fires has increasing economic consequences.

In July, 2026, the Associated Press reported: «The contiguous United States sizzled to its hottest month ever in July, 2026, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

July averaged 76.89 degrees Fahrenheit (24.94 degrees Celsius) across the Lower 48 states, eclipsing the Dust Bowl's July 1936 by an eighth of a degree. Records go back to 1895.»

Sixty-five-foot waves crashed into the China-Nepal border in August, as a mountain glacier broke apart resulting in massive damage and loss of life near the roof of the world. Near beautiful Chamonix, France, the Mer de Glace glacier is melting inexorably at a rate of 130 feet (40 meters)/year at this time and has lost 262 feet (80 meters) in the last 20 years.

The physics and chemistry of how heat is trapped by the planet's atmosphere are well known. China and India are epicenters of the generators of heat trapping gases in the contemporary world. This is true despite China's effort to capture the market for alternative sources of energy. The problem for the global community is exacerbated by the fact that there is no Great Wall within which heat trapping gases can be constrained.

We need sober and thoughtful solutions to protect our fragile environments, which are profoundly linked with globally interdependent economies. Economic interests and ecological health are inextricably linked.

The use of advanced science for the creative marketing of honey

Various members of the U.S. and international honey market have asked me to comment on the work we did on using scientific investigations to promote the health benefits of tea. The tea industry presented five symposiums on Tea and Human Health; one was in the Ford Foundation and the subsequent four were in the USDA and involved the FDA. Findings were disseminated internationally, and there was an increase in U.S. consumption of tea and in the varieties offered in the market.

We must stress that this research on health was based upon authentic products, and would be inapplicable if adulterated products were utilized.

With U.S. per capita honey consumption from 1-2 lbs./year, less than a kilo, honey is a small luxury whose price, with creative marketing, can go up substantially. The mountain flowers of Montana, the golden canola fields, the orange groves, the berries, sunflower fields, etc., can be visualized just as the wine industry has presented images of the vineyards across our vast country.

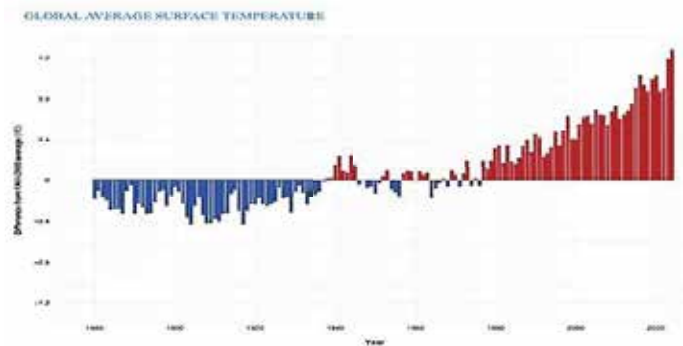


Chart 7: Global Temperatures

Chart 7 Global Temperatures

Ron Phipps founded CPNA International, Ltd., served two terms on the National Honey Board and as a member of the Apimondia Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Economy. He was lead author of the chapter «Marketing the American Honey Crop» in Dadant's Hive and the Honeybee.

He held a fellowship in the National Science Foundation for developing the physics of an Infinite, Open, Integrated Universe. He is President of Chamber Players International and Long Island Concert Orchestra. He has written the Ontological Conjecture which seeks to integrate through Field Equations Causal Orderliness and Infinite Qualitative Diversity in the smallest levels of Being.

Promising phytochemicals that could be added to protein diets to reduce nosema disease and increase populations in honey bee colonies

Wissarut Sukhaket, Paul H. Goodwin, Paul G. Kelly, Kathryn Knowles, Alvaro De la Mora, Tatiana Petukhova, Ernesto Guzman-Novoa

Introduction

Honey bees are the most important and economically valuable of all pollinators. In Ontario, about 50% of managed honey bee colonies are rented out by beekeepers to growers to provide pollination services for several crops, mainly berries. These services are worth approximately 395 million dollars annually (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2017). However, this practice results in many colonies losing bee populations or suffering high levels of nosema disease when returned to their original apiaries (Zhu et al., 2015; Cavigli et al., 2016). This is no surprise because the bees are subjected to stressful conditions, including transportation, nutrient deficiencies due to the quality of the pollen from the crops being pollinated, exposure to pesticides, etc. To counteract these effects, beekeepers supplement their colonies with artificial protein diets to remedy some of the nutrient deficiencies and reduce management-related stresses.

Honey bees meet their nutritional requirements from nectar and pollen of flowering plants, with nectar being the main source of carbohydrates, and pollen being the main source of proteins, lipids (fats), and micronutrients (DeGrandi-Hoffman et al., 2008). Carbohydrates, proteins and fats, are macronutrients, whereas vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals are micronutrients. An alternative approach to improve the health of honey bees is to provide them with phytochemicals, which are plant-derived compounds that provide benefits, such as preventing and/or treating diseases via antimicrobial, antioxidant, immuno-stimulatory and/or anti-inflammatory activity (Negri et al., 2019).

Studies on honey bee nutrition are scarce, particularly on the role of specific micronutrients and phytochemicals that may affect colony populations, health and survivorship. At the University of Guelph's Honey Bee Research Centre (HBRC), we have recently conducted studies which indicate that certain phytochemicals added to artificial protein diets positively influence learning, memory retention and foraging behaviour

of honey bees. Our results demonstrated that the combination of certain phytochemicals significantly increased both memory retention and pollen foraging of honey bees relative to bees fed only a commercial diet (Sukhaket et al., unpublished data). Some of these phytochemicals were β -carotene (a precursor of vitamin A), daucosterol (eleutheroside A, a plant saponine), and terpinen-4-ol (a monoterpene in tea tree oil). Vitamin A, acting as an antioxidant, can reduce the negative side effects of immunity (Tan et al., 2020) and increase disease resistance of vertebrates (Green and Fascetti, 2016), but it has not been studied in bees. Similarly, Daucosterol and terpinene-4-ol, which are immunostimulants with anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial activity, have never been tested in honey bee colonies, although they have been found to reduce nosema disease infections in caged honey bees (Klassen, 2018; Ptaszynska et al., 2020). A systematic understanding of how these phytochemicals contribute to the immunocompetence of honey bees affected by pathologies like nosema disease and how they affect colony populations still needs to be investigated. Therefore, this study used supplemental feeding with β -carotene, daucosterol and terpinene-4-ol, to determine if they can reduce nosema disease levels, increase colony growth and improve colony overwinter survivorship.

Methods

Experimental setup and treatments

Colonies from the HBRC were initially screened for the presence of *Nosema* spp. (nosema disease) early in the spring. Colonies that were positive to *Nosema* infections were equalized to have similar bee populations (Delaplane et al., 2013) and were randomly allocated to the different treatments based on adding or not dietary phytochemicals to an artificial protein supplement. The commercial protein supplement, Feedbee® (Bee Processing Enterprise Ltd., Toronto, ON, Canada), was used to have a consistently balanced diet for all treatments. One-pound (454 g) patties of the supplement were prepared as per the manufacturer's instructions.

► pag. 32

Four treatment groups of colonies were created as follows. Treatment 1 was a negative control (no patty provided to the colonies). Treatment 2 was a positive control, receiving one patty per colony with no additives (phytochemicals). Treatment 3 received a patty of the supplement containing daucosterol and β -carotene. Treatment 4 colonies received a patty of the supplement containing terpinen-4-ol and β -carotene as above. Because the experimental phytochemicals had never been tested in honey bee diets, the doses selected were derived from previous studies that tested them with different organisms (Lee et al. 2007; Klassen 2018; Abdu-Allah et al. 2020). The doses were then adjusted relative to the average body weight of the bees and the estimated patty consumption per colony. Each patty was placed on the top bars of the hive above the brood nest, and the colony was provided with a patty every two weeks during two periods in the spring (May and June). The doses and related data will be published soon in a peer-reviewed journal.

Assessments

Samples of worker bees were collected from each hive two times in the spring (pre-treatment and post-treatment periods) to assess *Nosema* infection intensity (Hamiduzzaman et al., 2012). The post-treatment samples were collected three weeks after patties were provided to the colonies. The pre-treatment samples provided the base line infection level, and the post-treatment samples served to detect changes in infection level due to treatment.

Assessments of brood and bee colony population were performed two times sixty days apart, and then once in the following spring. These assessments evaluated the effect of treatments on colony population size. The difference in colony size between assessments was used to estimate colony growth. During a colony inspection, all frames were removed, and the adult and brood population estimated as per Delaplane et al. (2013).

The rate of winter colony survival for each treatment was determined by counting the colonies that were alive and dead in the spring after the season of treatments. The surviving colonies were evaluated for bee populations.

Results and conclusion

Nosema ceranae infection based on spore counts was reduced by >50% in the colonies treated with the two combinations of phytochemicals (T3 and T4) relative to the controls, which was significant ($p < 0.05$).

Bee populations in the colonies increased over the spring for all treatments. However, the number of adult bees and brood increased significantly more with the terpinen-4-ol + β -carotene treatment compared to the controls (by 50% and 60%, respectively) 60 days after the spring treatment ($p < 0.05$). Colonies fed daucosterol + β -carotene had significantly more adult bees than the control colonies ($p < 0.05$), but significantly less than the colonies fed with terpinen-4-ol + β -carotene ($p < 0.05$).

For winter mortality, none of the treatments were significantly different from the controls ($p > 0.05$). However, adult bee populations per colony were significantly higher with the terpinen-4-ol + β -carotene treatment compared to the negative and positive controls, but not with the daucosterol + β -carotene treatment ($p < 0.05$).

In conclusion, this study examined whether supplementing honey bee colonies with a commercial protein diet amended with a combination of dietary phytochemicals could reduce nosema disease and enhance colony populations and overwintering performance beyond protein supplementation alone. The most significant effects relative to the controls were obtained with Feedbee® supplemented with terpinen-4-ol + β -carotene. These effects included reduced nosema disease infection, greater brood and adult bee populations and improved overwintering success based on larger adult bee populations in the following spring. From an applied beekeeping perspective, these results suggest that amending protein supplements with terpinen-4-ol + β -carotene is a promising strategy to enhance colony health, strength and overwintering ability. There were no detrimental effects detected when feeding it to the colonies, and so it may be relatively safe. However, before recommendations for the use of terpinen-4-ol + β -carotene can be made to beekeepers, additional research is needed to determine how colony feeding of terpinen-4-ol + β -carotene can affect other aspects of colony performance, such as honey production, the response of colonies to other pathogens and parasites, and abiotic stress resistance, such as to pollen depletion, pesticide exposure and long-distance colony transportation.

Acknowledgements

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BEE-YOND AMAZING!

Social Impact Award Finalist in BC Food & Beverage Rise Awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2026

Good afternoon, We are so excited to share that Honey Bee Zen Apiaries Ltd. has been announced as a ***Social Impact Award finalist*** in the 2026 BC Food & Beverage Rise Awards! This award recognizes a company that demonstrates a deeply rooted social mission and continuously works to better its community through initiatives, internal practices and stakeholder relationships. Beekeepers and owners, Jeff Lee and Amanda Goodman Lee are beyond honoured and humbled! Nature's Path Organics and Herband Naturals Inc, both of Richmond, are the other finalists in this category with the winner to be chosen by the public through online voting. Can we ask you to please cheer us on by sharing and encouraging your audience, colleagues, friends, and family to participate in the BCFB award voting? Watch for our social media posts, too on Instagram and Facebook! Voting will be open September 14th to September 28th at BC Food & Beverage Rise Awards Voting [1]. Thank you! Sandra On Behalf of Jeff and Amanda of Honey Bee Zen Apiaries Ltd. and Swan Valley Honey Ltd.



[Creston, British Columbia] – Swan Valley Honey and parent company Honey Bee Zen Apiaries Ltd. of Creston, BC have been announced as a Social Impact Award finalist in the 2026 BC Food & Beverage Rise Awards. This award recognizes a company that demonstrates a deeply rooted social mission and continuously works to better its community through initiatives, internal practices and stakeholder relationships.

Honey Bee Zen (HBZ) was nominated for its unwavering commitment to the Kootenays community. This is highly evident as co-owners and beekeepers, Jeff Lee and Amanda Goodman Lee, are recognized for their business values, “We pride ourselves in operating our business with an ethical commitment to the well-being of our society and environment. We are stewards of

BC’s fields, forests and fauna including the honey bee, and we are strong advocates for the well-being of all members of our communities.”

HBZ ethically produces award-winning 100% pure, raw, unpasteurized honey and sustainable hive products in Creston. They also provide pollination services to local orchardists and growers, and make it a priority to work with local suppliers and employ Creston residents who share their values.

Amanda and Jeff are recognized for their active involvement in several community initiatives. Amanda is the President of The East Kootenay Beekeepers, Chair of The Boone Hodgson Wilkinson Trust Foundation, President of The Creston Valley Food Action Coalition, and the Kootenay Representative on the Les Dames BC Chapter Board of Directors. Jeff is the Chairman of Kootenay’s Fields Forward, Director of the BC Honey Producers Association, and BC Director for the Canadian Honey Council.

Most recently and notably, they have proudly supported efforts to raise funds for the Kootenay Farms Food Hub & Innovation Centre, helping ensure that the facility remains a cornerstone of Creston’s food system. Annually, HBZ is committed to donating to Creston’s high school culinary program, sponsoring several community events, conducting beekeeping classes, and hosting school tours.



Jeff Lee and Amanda Goodman Lee

Amanda and Jeff are also highly regarded in the community for providing a living wage to their employees and actively supporting their career development, and as well as helping five Ukrainian families relocate and work in Creston.

HBZ is a finalist in this category alongside Herbaland Naturals Inc. and Nature's Path Organics, both located in Richmond, BC. Amanda says, "Jeff and I are beyond honoured and humbled to be recognized as finalists for the Social Impact Award. This nomination is especially meaningful because our community means so much to us. We are grateful to be recognized in a way that reflects the place and people we care about.

The Kootenays is our home, where our bees pollinate and forage. We live on the farm where we produce our products, so our connection to this place is part of our everyday lives. We are deeply rooted in the community and have built loyal connections and friendships with residents and local businesses.

Whether we are working in the apiary, in the honey house, in our home office, at farmers' markets, or on delivery trips, we cherish this way of life. It allows us to support the bees, the environment, food security, Kootenay residents, and the local relationships that make this community so special."

The 19th annual BC Food & Beverage Rise Awards will present awards to winners in the following categories: Product of the Year, Best in Brand, Emerging Business, Export, Circularity, Indigenous-led Business of the Year, Innovation, Leadership, People's Choice, Social Impact, and Women Entrepreneur of the Year. With the exception of Product of the Year, the winner of each category will be selected by public vote via the BC Food & Beverage website from September 14th to September 28th.

About Honey Bee Zen Apiaries Ltd. And Swan Valley Honey Ltd.

Honey Bee Zen Apiaries Ltd. and Swan Valley Honey Ltd. are the largest producers of local, raw honey in southeastern British Columbia. As the beekeepers, our mission is to ethically produce and source 100% pure, raw, natural and innovative honey bee products from British Columbia and western Canada, and provide pollination and educational services to foster hive health and a thriving industry.

Our vision is to provide award-winning honey products and services while elevating the understanding and appreciation of the essential role of honey bees and beekeepers in agriculture, environmental biodiversity and local food security.

For More Information, Visit:

HoneyBeeZen.com

BC Food & Beverage (BCFB.ca)

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Report from the 14th International Meeting of Young Beekeepers

By Lenka Petric, Team Canada/IMYB Coordinator, and Team Canada members Madeline, Charles and Bridget



In July, three young Canadian beekeepers from Ontario and Nova Scotia travelled to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to represent Canada at the 14th International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB). Madeline from Bethany, Ontario; Charles from Norwood, Ontario; and Bridget from Truro, Nova Scotia, brought their enthusiasm and passion for beekeeping to this unique international event. Madeline and Charles have both participated in Junior Beekeepers programs in Kawartha and Northumberland. Bridget is a fourth-generation beekeeper who grew up around the family apiary, with beekeeping woven into her life from an early age. All three earned their place on the Canadian team through a competitive application process and interviews before a panel of judges. The Team was accompanied by mentors, Lenka Petric and Cassandra Macklem.

This year, we were delighted to have one of our former Team Canada members return to the IMYB in a new role. Malvina Pavon from Vanderhoof, BC, represented Canada at the 2023 IMYB in Slovenia and, this year, was selected as one of 14 facilitators. Facilitators play an important role at the IMYB, helping to support participants throughout the event and contributing to the successful delivery of the program. The facilitator role is open to former IMYB participants aged 18 and over, with candidates selected through an application process.

Madeline, Charles and Bridget spent six months preparing for the IMYB. With the support of their parents, they took part in fundraising and educational activities. Their fundraising efforts included making and selling candles, giving presentations to local service clubs and beekeeping associations, and reaching out to family, friends, and their wider communities for support. Educational activities included virtual Zoom sessions and a dedicated in-person educational weekend focused on practical beekeeping skills. The weekend included hands-on activities such as larva grafting with Jerry Jerrard at Kawartha Lakes Honey and equipment identification and hive management at Dancing Bee Equipment.

The 2026 IMYB was hosted by the Ulster Beekeepers Association and took place at Riddel Hall at Queen's University Belfast, with excursions to Stormont Estate, the seat of government in Northern Ireland, and Belfast City Hall for the closing ceremonies. The event brought together 79 young beekeepers from

26 countries: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Arab Emirates.

The IMYB features a competition where young beekeepers put their knowledge and practical beekeeping skills to the test. Alongside the competition, the event offers a range of social and cultural activities that provide opportunities for young beekeepers to connect with one another, build friendships, and learn more about other cultures and the host country.

In Belfast, from the opening ceremonies, which included a parade of nations, to the closing ceremonies, which featured highland dancers and honored the top competitors and teams, the event provided the young beekeepers with an experience they will remember for a lifetime. Country presentations featuring dances and songs, team-building activities, and the planting of a legacy wildflower meadow brought the young beekeepers together in a celebration of culture, friendship and a shared passion for bees and the environment.



Team Canada at Riddel Hall, Belfast; Madeline Shea, Bridget Matthews and Charles Schulz with mentors Cassandra Macklem and Lenka Petric



Team Canada at Belfast City Hall after learning about their 2nd place win.

For Team Canada, an important part of travelling to the IMYB is the opportunity to learn about the host country, accomplished through visits to historical, cultural and geographic sites. This year the Team visited Titanic Belfast, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Giant's Causeway and the Marble Arch Caves.

The Competition

The competition featured two 50-question multiple-choice tests covering a broad range of beekeeping topics, including bee biology and behaviour, hive management, equipment, and pests and diseases.

Competitors also took part in a variety of practical challenges, including bee anatomy identification using microscopes, identifying beekeeping equipment, frame building, hive box construction, honey tasting, honey label design, and candle making.

The practical beekeeping test was held at the Belfast Beekeepers' Association apiary at the National Trust's Minnowburn site in South Belfast. Competitors had the opportunity to work directly with colonies of *Apis mellifera mellifera*, putting their practical knowledge and beekeeping skills to the test.

TEAM CANADA WON 2ND PLACE OVERALL!

We are incredibly proud of this outstanding achievement and of everything Madeline, Charles and Bridget accomplished throughout the competition. Their 2nd-place finish is a tremendous result and a wonderful reflection of not only their knowledge of beekeeping, but to the time, hard work, willingness to learn, and dedication they put into preparing for IMYB. We could not be more proud of the way they represented Canada.

Thank you to our supporters!

The opportunity to participate in the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers wouldn't be possible without the support of many people, associations and businesses. We are especially grateful to the beekeeping community. This year we raised \$18,000 which covered the team registration fee, and all travel and accommodation costs for the three young beekeepers and two mentors.

A heartfelt thank you to the following organizations and businesses for their generous support of this year's event: Central Ontario Beekeepers Association, Dancing Bee Equipment, Canadian Honey Council, Ontario Beekeepers Association, Nova Scotia Dept of Agriculture, Sileo Apiaries Inc. (Baybees Honey), Dominion and Grimm, Norwood Lions Club, Windrem Farm,

New Brunswick Beekeepers Association, Kawartha Lakes Honey, Durham Region Beekeepers Association, Limestone Beekeepers Association, Auctioneers Association of Ontario, Lindsay Lions Club, Maritime Bee & Agriculture Supplies, Innisfil Creek Honey, Quinte Beekeepers Association, Golden Horseshoe Beekeepers Association, Bethany United Church, East Central Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, Campbellford Lions Club, JM Auctions, and Cool Creek Honey.

Thank you also to the many individuals who supported Team Canada, including friends and family. From generous gifts to our GoFundMe campaign and donations to the COBA auction, every contribution made a meaningful difference. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and enthusiasm shown by so many people in our community.

Attention young beekeepers...the IMYB will be held in Türkiye in July 2027!

This year marked the fourth time that a Canadian team has participated in the IMYB. Teams of three young beekeepers have represented Canada at the IMYB in Slovakia in 2019, Slovenia in 2023, and the UAE in 2024.

Next year, the IMYB will be held in Türkiye, and we are looking forward to putting together a Team. We would love to hear from young beekeepers aged 12 to 17 who are interested in this exciting opportunity. If you know of a young beekeeper who might be interested, please send us an email: macpet@nexicom.net by **December 15, 2026**.

For more information about the IMYB, visit the IMYB website: <https://www.icyb.cz/imyb>. You can read about Team Canada's experience at the IMYB on the Kawartha Junior Beekeepers website: www.jrbeekeepers.ca.

Presentations: If you'd like a presentation about the event at one of your meetings (virtual or in-person), please contact us at macpet@nexicom.net.

READ ABOUT TEAM CANADA'S EXPERIENCE DIRECTLY FROM OUR YOUNG BEEKEEPERS

Madeline:

My time at IMYB was very informative and a great way to connect with other young beekeepers around the world. It was interesting seeing how the Irish Beekeepers work with their hives when we went for a site visit. For the most part it was similar to the way things are run in Canada but with the winter being less harsh in Ireland they don't have to worry about insulating the hives for the colder months. In Ireland they just have to worry about heavy rain and strong winds in the winter months. I will be bringing back better health and safety standards for my hives. I use leather gloves to handle the frames and boxes. In Ireland they use rubber gloves that can be washed thoroughly in between handling other hives, this helps reduce the spread of deadly diseases. The bees are also slightly different then our Canadian bees, the Irish bees are able to handle the tough Irish weather. They can handle the damp wet weather much better than imported bees. I was able to taste honey from around the world, you could taste the difference between each one from where the bees collected their nectar. Nectar collected from certain plants will give the honey a distinct taste and colour. The camaraderie and conversations I had with the other beekeepers was an experience that I will keep with me, and I hope to stay connected with the friends I made. It was a great experience that

has left me with more confidence in meeting new people and trying different things. The opportunity that IMYB has given me is one that I hope many other young people get to experience.

Charles:

Hello, my name is Charles, and this year, I went to the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers. I enjoyed myself immensely and thought that I would write this to spread news of this awesome event to any young beekeepers who would like to attend.

I would like to start by saying that this event was certainly once-in-a-lifetime. Most of my predecessors have included that sentence in their descriptions of the IMYB, but now I understand why! You not only visit a new country, (which is already awesome) but you get to make friends with people from other countries, WHILE BEEKEEPING! Besides that, towards the end of the competition, right before the awards are presented, the host country showcases a bit of their culture. This year, I got to tour Stormont Estate and see Irish dancing! I even made a couple friends!

My learning started as soon as I applied for a spot on Team Canada. I had to prepare a presentation - I did mine on Integrated Pest Management - and complete a zoom interview. In preparation for the competition, our mentors also helped us improve our general beekeeping knowledge and skills, including disease management, bee anatomy, and queen grafting.

During the competition we were grouped into teams with students from many different countries. My team had people from 6 different countries, including Canada. I found it interesting how each of us were good at different things. Honey tasting is a good example, because we needed our individual knowledge of different honeys. It was also one of my favourite activities between eating honey and just hanging out with other team members. I was a bit surprised at how well prepared I felt when completing the different challenges. I was able to answer all the judges' questions during the hive inspection portion of the competition but other aspects of it were certainly difficult. I am proud that I was able to represent Canada so well on an international stage, achieving a final result of 4th place individually.

To anyone considering going to the IMYB, it is super worth it. You'll get to go to a new country, you'll get to hang out with people from other countries, and you'll get to beekeep while doing it.

Bridget:

Attending the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers in Belfast was an experience I will always remember. It gave me the opportunity to meet young beekeepers from around the world, take part in a wide range of challenges, and discover how beekeeping differs beyond what I have experienced at home in rural Nova Scotia.

It may sound fairly simple, but one of my favourite parts was the practical competition in the bee yard. I enjoyed being able to work directly with the bees and put my skills into practice. It was also fascinating to observe Ireland's native black bee and to work with a British National hive. Comparing it with the Langstroth hives we commonly use in Canada showed me how differences in equipment can influence the way beekeepers manage their colonies.

I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the written test. It was certainly challenging, but it made me realize that I knew more than I had given myself credit for. That gave me greater confidence in my own knowledge and abilities.



Team Canada with Facilitator Malvina Pavon, Team Canada member at the 2023 IMYB in Slovenia

Microscopy, however, was completely new to me, and I will admit that I found it difficult. I am still wondering what slide number four was as I write this article! I have decided that it may have been part of a honeybee's compound eye. The experience sparked my curiosity so much that I have already ordered a microscope of my own, and I am looking forward to investigating it further.

The IMYB showed me that beekeeping can vary greatly depending on a country's climate, equipment and traditions. I learned a great deal from the other participants, but I was also surprised by how interested they were in my experiences. My peers asked me about our snow, black bears and the forage available to bees in Nova Scotia. Those conversations made me realize that the place I consider ordinary can seem very different and interesting to someone else.

I was also alarmed to hear how serious a concern Asian hornets have become for beekeepers in parts of Europe. You can read articles and watch countless YouTube videos but hearing firsthand how other young beekeepers are dealing with the threat made it feel much more real. It has made me more aware of the issue and more prepared for the possibility that Asian hornets may eventually make their way to Canada.

Personally, the experience made me more independent, mature and confident. Travelling internationally and competing alongside young people from so many countries pushed me outside my comfort zone in the best possible way.

I was incredibly proud that Team Canada placed second overall, and finishing seventh individually meant more to me than simply achieving a good result. The experience taught me that confidence in yourself is just as important as knowledge or practical ability. Before the competition, I often underestimated how much I knew, but being challenged and succeeding alongside young beekeepers from around the world helped me trust my own judgement. I would absolutely recommend the IMYB to other young beekeepers, especially those who may not yet recognize their own abilities. It gives you the chance to test yourself, learn from others and return home with greater confidence in the beekeeper—and person—you are becoming.



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CAPA EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

Dear Canadian beekeeping community,

During the past six months, the CAPA executive has held several meetings mainly to ensure efficient transfer of administrative responsibilities from the previous executive council. Our most recent meeting focused on a recently received proposal from the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council to develop a strategic plan. Our goal is to present an initial strategic plan to our association membership at our upcoming AGM. This year's CAPA AGM is planned for January 28, 2027, which will coincide with the Canadian National Pollination Symposium and Tradeshow on January 29-30, 2027, at the Four Points by Sheraton in Lévis, Québec (<https://honeycouncil.ca/pollinationsymposium2027/>). Lévis is located just across the Saint Lawrence River from beautiful Quebec City. Save the dates, register, and plan your trip accordingly! We have asked our committees for updates on their activities. As always, the most anticipated report is the winter loss report. The preliminary 2026 report is now available here: <https://capabees.com/category/extension/overwintering-losses/>. Thank you to Julie Ferland, Gabrielle Claing, and Anton Grechukha for their dedicated work on this valuable report. At this point, there is little else to report until other committees resume meetings this fall.



CAPA will continue our work and focus on issues that matter to the wider beekeeping industry. I encourage all beekeepers to stay involved with your provincial and national associations, share your concerns, and communicate with your Provincial Apiarists, fellow beekeepers, and other industry stakeholders. CAPA will continue to support opportunities for communication and knowledge exchange within the beekeeping community. Sharing information and working together are particularly important at a time when Canadian beekeepers are facing new trade challenges and the potential arrival of new pests. Thank you to all who contribute their time and expertise to the betterment of the Canadian beekeeping industry.

CAPA Executive, September 2026

Yellow-legged Hornet now established in USA

The invasive Yellow-legged Hornet (YLH; *Vespa velutina* var. *nigrithorax*), first detected in Savannah, Georgia, in August of 2023, continues to expand its distribution in southeastern USA (Otis, 2026). It has dispersed more rapidly to the northeast than to the south, now to Charleston SC, with many more observations over a larger area in South Carolina than in Georgia (Hornet Herald, 2026; Otis, 2026). This year in South Carolina alone, 4000+ overwintered queens were trapped and more than 550 nests had been destroyed by mid-September (Hornet Herald, 2026). In Georgia, more than 50 nests had been located and destroyed as of 29 July (Yellow-Legged Ledger, 2026). In addition, long distance “jump dispersal”, probably by accidental transport by humans of a diapausing queen, resulted in a nest found in northern South Carolina in December of 2025, more than 300 km from the Lowcountry infestation—and after young queens had already dispersed from the colony (Hornet Herald, 2025). As of August 2026, the YLH had also been detected in North Carolina near Charlotte and Greensboro (NC Agriculture, 2026). With so many nests having been discovered over such a large area and many nests going undetected, it is reasonable to conclude that this invasive species is now established in the USA despite extensive efforts to contain it. As was also true with the invasion into Europe, it seems that a single queen initiated the US population, probably in 2022 (Rojas-Nossa et al., 2026). Despite intensive inbreeding, the hornet colonies seem to be surviving and reproducing well. Although

freezing temperatures in winter are expected to prevent YLH survival over most of Canada, there is a low probability that the hornets will survive in coastal British Columbia (Lewis Bartlett, pers. comm.). *References available on the online version.*



Photo credit: Z. Huang

By: Gard W. Otis, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, and Institute of Bee Health, Bern, Switzerland, gotis@uoguelph.ca.

Tropilaelaps: New Insights into a Growing Threat

As a long-standing CAPA member and now leading the research program at PAm, I would like to share progress from PAm-funded research on *Tropilaelaps*, a mite that has not reached North America but is moving in our direction. An earlier version of this article was published in the PAm and Bee Health Collective newsletter, Buzz Worthy News. Project Apis m. is supporting projects that are making real progress, and one area of focus has been research and training on *Tropilaelaps* mites. These mites have not yet reached North America, but the interception of an *Apis dorsata* swarm carrying them aboard a vessel bound for the United States showed us that the pathway for introduction is real. *Tropilaelaps* mites continue to expand their range; as of 2026 they have been confirmed in association with *Apis mellifera* in 13 countries, including recent detections in the country of Georgia, Uzbekistan, South Korea, and Türkiye. This westward expansion has had economic consequences, such as Canada's suspension of honey bee package imports from Ukraine following reports of the mite in nearby countries. Recent research shows that *Tropilaelaps* disperses through more routes than researchers had previously documented: by riding on individual adult bees and by whole colony swarming. Encouragingly, the surveillance and treatment toolkits are catching up. More practical detection methods are emerging, such as rapid brood decapping, demonstrated in a 2024 video by Uzunov et al. (@tropilaelapsinfo on Youtube). PAm-funded work is also mapping out where standard Varroa treatments will and will not work against *Tropilaelaps*, with emphasis on compounds and formulations that are active under the brood cap, where *Tropilaelaps* mites spend more of their time. I invite you to watch PAm's *Tropilaelaps* video series for an introduction to these mites and expert opinions, and to read the PAm blog post for more details on the research highlights from PAm-funded researchers and others. Both are available at www.projectapism.org/tropi-resources and www.projectapism.org/pam-blog/tropimites.

By: M. Marta Guarna, Research Program Director, Project Apis m. (PAm), marta@projectapism.org.

Regional Beekeeping Seasonal Summaries from Provincial Apiarists

British Columbia

The 2026 season started off very well in British Columbia (BC), with strong overwintering and some of the lowest winter losses reported in recent years. A very mild winter and warm spring led to excellent colony build-up, with many beekeepers joking that their biggest problem was having too many bees. Spring weather conditions varied considerably across the province. Eastern regions experienced a wet spring, while Vancouver Island and the southern coast saw very dry conditions through much of the spring and summer. The latter half of the season was also marked by prolonged periods of hot weather and significant wildfire smoke across most of southern BC. Early reports suggest honey production will be highly variable across the province. Some areas are reporting above-average crops, while others, particularly regions affected by drought and heavy smoke, are reporting below-average yields. In many cases, production differences are being seen not only between regions, but even between yards within regions. Similar to recent years, European foulbrood (EFB) continues to be a significant bee health issue in BC, with both the prevalence and severity of cases appearing to increase. While the Lower Mainland remains the

area of greatest concern, cases are also being reported from regions that have historically seen little or no EFB, including communities encountering the disease for the first time. The BC Tech Transfer Program is currently conducting EFB research in the Lower Mainland, where challenges have been most concentrated. We eagerly await the results related to strain diversity, antimicrobial resistance, and potential thresholds in adult bees associated with the development of clinical symptoms. Initial reports suggest blueberry yields will be very low this year. While there has been some blame around pollination quality, similar production challenges in neighbouring Washington State suggest weather and other climatic factors likely also played a role.

Prairie Provinces Joint Report (AB, SK, MB)

The 2026 Prairie beekeeping season saw lower winter colony losses than 2025, averaging 35% in Alberta (AB), 25% in Saskatchewan (SK), and 40% in Manitoba (MB). Mortality was mainly driven by Varroa destructor and its viruses, adverse weather, and queen issues. Cool spring weather in Western Canada delayed buildup, reducing honey production below long-term averages. Although spring Varroa levels were low, populations can grow rapidly; beekeepers using new oxalic acid strips must distinguish between season-long control and rapid knockdown treatments based on monitoring thresholds. European foulbrood (EFB) cases rose and persisted later into the season, likely driven by more virulent strains, weather-induced nutritional stress, and increased equipment trading. Beekeepers are advised to monitor for EFB and American foulbrood (AFB), report cases to provincial apiarists, and practice frame replacement, biosecurity, and integrated pest management. In terms of ongoing research, Western Canadian universities, government, and tech transfer programs focus on EFB epidemiology, diagnostic tools, and new Varroa management approaches to support industry resilience.

Quebec

The 2026 beekeeping season in Quebec (QC) has been marked by various health and management challenges. Early in the spring, an increased risk of colony starvation was reported in some regions. Many colonies, whether wintered indoors or outdoors, appeared to have low food reserves at the beginning of the spring, prompting recommendations for close monitoring and, when necessary, supplemental feeding. Varroa control remains the top animal health priority. Field observations suggest that milder winters and longer brood-rearing periods continue to favour mite survival and population growth. During summer, beekeepers were encouraged to monitor infestations regularly, verify treatment efficacy, and implement integrated pest management strategies, including treatment rotation and routine surveillance of mite levels. QC also continued its surveillance efforts for the Small Hive Beetle (SHB). A few detections were reported in previously known positive operations in Centre-du-Québec, as well as in the Quebec City area (new detection). Beekeepers are encouraged to inspect colonies and stored equipment frequently and to report any suspected detections promptly. Provincial authorities also highlighted the importance of biosecurity, apiary registration, interprovincial movement requirements, and access to veterinary services to help support colony health and reduce disease risks.

Atlantic (NB, NS, PE, NL):

Winter losses in the Atlantic provinces were variable, with Prince Edward Island (PEI) seeing 50% of its hives die while Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) experienced only a 12% mortality. The spring weather in the region was generally cool and rainy which delayed colony build up and winter loss replacement efforts. This cool weather extended into early June when the lowbush (wild) blueberry bloom began, limiting fruit set due to the lack of “flying days” in this critical early bloom period. Of note this year, was the relatively large number of packaged bees Maritime Canadian beekeepers purchased from Chile which arrived in April. Beekeepers reported limited success in getting these packages installed and established as functional colonies by the time the pollination season began. Since mid-June, most of the region has been experiencing healthy combinations of precipitation and heat, save for northern New Brunswick (NB) which is abnormally dry. This is quite a contrast to the summer of 2025 in which much of the Atlantic region experienced moderate to extreme drought—conditions from which it did not fully recover until well into 2026. Beekeepers across the region are reporting good honey flows this summer and honey yields are expected to be at least average. So too, are the loads of pollen coming into hives, facilitating brood production, both summer and now winter bees. Brood disease levels are generally low with Varroa mite levels staying low as well.

Short News

At the University of Manitoba’s Honey Bee Lab, M.Sc. Entomology student, Danika Strelaëff, has been working on a vaccine against the deformed wing virus (DWV).

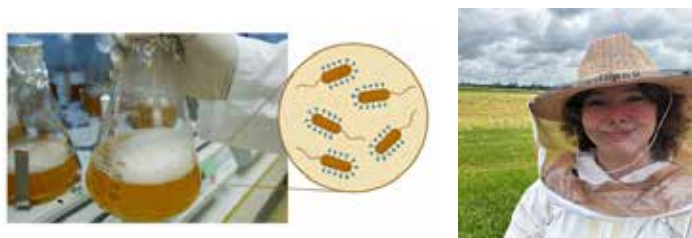


Figure 1. *E. coli* (brown) producing DWV protein (blue).

The vaccine is made using a lab-safe strain of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) that has been engineered to produce a structural protein from DWV (Figure 1). The protein has a proposed function in viral replication, making it an ideal target to slow its spread. The goal is to feed the protein-producing *E. coli* to honey bees, where their immune systems can respond and adapt to the protein, increasing their defences against DWV. Danika began her honey bee experiments in the summer of 2026, where she has investigated the effects of different vaccine concentrations on honey bee survival, as well as vaccination in Varroa-parasitized bees. Early results suggest that even at extremely high doses, the vaccine has not negatively affected bee survival under laboratory conditions. Next experiments will investigate vaccination and exposure to DWV, with results expected in the coming months. If successful, this vaccine could provide a preventative treatment against DWV, reducing the burden that DWV poses to bees and apiculturists alike. Acknowledgements: This project is funded by Mitacs, Project Apis m., and the One Hive Foundation, with industry support from the BC Honey Producers’ Association and the Manitoba Beekeepers’ Association.

Congratulations to Dr. Ernesto Guzman on his retirement from Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences, as well as Director of the Honey Bee Research Centre at the University of Guelph. Ernesto served as CAPA president from 2022 to 2026, and translated CAPA’s Disease and Pest Manual into Spanish.

A Tribute to a Dear Colleague

On July 7, 2026, Samantha (Sam) Muirhead passed away peacefully following her battle with cancer. She had a fulfilling career as a professional Apiculturist and was a long-standing member of CAPA. She started working for the Government of Alberta with the Bee Health Assurance Team in the early 2000’s. Her early years on the team were spent running various experiments, conducting inspections across the province, and presenting to different organisations on honey bee topics. Later, she became Alberta’s first female Provincial Apiculturist. Her career took her to many places across the United States, with New Orleans being one of her favourites, and then Thailand, where she participated in an important *Tropilaelaps* workshop. Sam loved every facet of her career and the people she got to meet in this industry. Everyone who knew or worked with her knew she had a unique ability to draw people in and make everyone feel included and heard. She combined heart and humour flawlessly, making work fun and meaningful whether you spent hours in the lab or working tirelessly in the beeyard in plus 30-degree weather. Being in a beeyard, especially in the fall, was Sam’s happy place. Honey bees taught her how to be patient, calm, and resilient. It was a privilege and a gift to have worked with her, and she will be forever missed.



By: Alexandra Panasiuk, alexandra.panasiuk@gov.ab.ca.

Editorial note:

All newsletter content is contributed by members of CAPA. For the extended version of CAPA News, which includes full references, photos, and additional details, visit <https://capabees.com/capa-news/>



Editorial Board

Rassol Bahreini, Matthew Polinsky, Cameron Menzies, Jemma Todoschuk, Danika Strelaëff

Help Wanted 2027

Help Wanted: Rocanville (SK)

Help Wanted for 2027 - B. Strong Apiaries Ltd. | Rocanville, Sk.

FOR SEASON 2027!

APIARY TECHNICIAN (7 months)

4 seasonal positions available from March 21 - October 21 (2027).

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 - \$22.50) 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)

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 (2027).

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; Same as above ad for (6 month) Apiary Worker

B. Strong Apiaries Ltd. Contact: Lance Strong,
Location: Rocanville, SK

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

Help Wanted: Granum (AB)

SUPERNUC APIARIES - 2027 Season

SUPERNUC APIARIES located near Granum, AB (251032 TWP RD 104) has the following positions for the 2027 season.

APIARY WORKERS (NOC 85100) 3 Positions: starting at \$18.34 - \$23.00/hr, needed full time (45+ hrs/wk) from Mar 1, 2027 through October 31, 2027. 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: Tees (AB)

TEES BEES INC. (Alberta) 2027 Season

TEES BEES INC. is seeking applicants for the following positions:

Three APIARY TECHNICIANS (NOC 84120) with a minimum of 2-3 years (seasons) experience working on a Canadian style commercial apiary operation as an Apiary Technician or in the min. capacity of Apiary Worker or General Farm Worker with employment March thru October 2027 (\$18.34-\$22/hr depending on exp. with possible bonus) (48+ hrs/wk); No educational requirement.

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 working on a Canadian style commercial apiary and with employment March thru October 2027 (\$18.34-\$22/hr depending on exp. with possible bonus) (48+ hrs/wk); No educational requirement. 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.

Two APIARY HARVESTER(S) (NOC 85101) - Wages DOE and positions are open to youth. Hours are flexible and accommodating to school and extracurriculars. The positions are on a seasonal basis from June thru September 2027. Apiary Harvester duties include honey harvesting, collecting & processing of honey and general farmyard duties. No educational requirement. Apiary Harvesters can progress to other farm worker positions.

Wages for all positions are negotiable based on experience and productivity. Applicants must be able to work in the presence of honey bees. Positions may require some evening, night & weekend work. All applicants must be in good physical condition and able to work in a fast-paced team environment. Ability to speak English is an asset.

Contact Jeremy Olthof at 23318-Hwy 50, Tees, AB (location); mail to RR1, Tees, AB T0C 2N0; or email at teesbeesinc@gmail.com.

Help Wanted: Ridgedale (SK)

Apiary Workers - 2027 Season

Contact Joe Edwards, Visit Website

More Information. Silver Fern Honey Farms Ltd is looking for 6 Apiary Workers for the 2027 season. Location of work is 101 Railway Ave, Ridgedale, Saskatchewan.

Depending on experience the wages will range from \$15.75/Hr-\$19.00/Hr. Job duties are assisting the owner and the Foreman in all aspects of maintaining honeybee colonies and harvesting honey.

Help Wanted: Big River (SK)

West Cowan Apiaries is hiring for the 2027 Bee Season - Big River, Saskatchewan

Apiary Supervisor: (NOC-82030) - 1 person required. Must have 3-5 full bee seasons of apiary experience.

Duties include: unpacking and packing, checking hives, feeding, medicating, cleaning, moving, splitting, supering, raising queens as well as harvesting and extracting honey, keeping field and production records, as well as supervising and giving direction to other employees. To monitor bee hive health issues and to apply appropriate disease cures or controls.

Valid driver's license required. Wage: \$21.00 - \$26.00 per hour (dependant on experience) Job is: Seasonal (F-T). Minimum of 40 + hours per week. Length of employment: April 5- November 4, 2027 (7 months)

Apiary Technicians – (NOC 84120) – 4 persons required – Must have 2-3 full bee seasons of apiary experience.

Duties include: to work in the presence of honey bees, wrapping & unwrapping hives, assist with colony management, queen rearing, checking hives, feeding, medicating, cleaning, moving, splitting, supering bee hives. Monitor bee hive health, assisting with harvesting and honey extraction. Fixing and building bee equipment; upkeep of various bee yards; and maintenance of work vehicles. Valid driver's license required. Wage: \$ 17.50 - \$20.00 per hour (dependant on experience) Job is: Seasonal (F-T). Minimum of 40+ hours per week. Length of employment: April 5-November 4, 2027 (7 months)

Apiary workers (85100) – 5 persons required- Must have 1-2 full bee seasons of apiary experience. Duties include: to work in the presence of honey bees; cleaning of the full honey building, carrying and stacking of honey supers, grass cutting around the honey building and yard site; maintain and cut grass in the various bee yards. Extracting and processing honey and any other apiary jobs that are required. Valid driver's license Wage: \$ 16.00 - \$17.45 per hour (dependant on experience) Job is: Seasonal (F-T). Minimum of 40+ hours per week. Length of employment : June 15 – September 30, 2027.

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

Experience driving a standard truck is a asset. To be in good physical condition and to work in a team environment. Most jobs are performed outdoors in all kinds of weather, repetitive work, and physically demanding.

Work locations are: SE 14-56-8 W3, our bee yards are also 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 – to Christopher or Lori Warriner- at PO Box 425, Big River, SK. S0J 0E0 Phone: 306-469-4970 to set up an appointment.

Help Wanted: Argyle (MB)

Grysiuk Apiary - 2027

Grysiuk Apiary Inc. requires 11 full time seasonal apiarists in Argyle, MB. wages are \$16.50 - \$18.50 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 15, 2027 November 15, 2027 Please apply by email: acgrysiuk@shaw.ca mail: 83 Acheson Dr., Winnipeg, MB. R2Y 2E8

Contact Calvin. Phone: 204-831-7838

Help Wanted 2027: Saskatoon (SK)

Meadow Ridge Ent Ltd, Saskatoon, Sk.

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

Wage \$17.00-21.00 depending on experience. Potential to earn bonuses. 4 positions to fill. Seasonal full-time (40+/wk) starting in March 2027 until October 2027.

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. Land Location NW-33-36-3-W3, 10 miles east of Saskatoon, Sk. Email resumes to a.j.robertson@sasktel.net or hr@saskatraz.com Contact: Albert J Robertson, Phone: 3062706627

Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourers - B's Bee Ranch Inc. - Kinistino (SK) - 2027

Two Apiary Harvest Labourer positions available for up to 8 months (starting no earlier than March) required for the 2027 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 fast 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 \$15.70/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

Apiary Harvest Workers, B's Bee Ranch Inc. - Kinistino (SK) - 2027

Two Apiary Harvest worker positions available for up to 8 months (starting no earlier than March) required for the 2027 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 fast 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: Manitoba

Manitoba Ltd NEW RUTHERFORD APIARIES – MANITOBA

New Rutherford Apiaries is seeking one Apiary Supervisor and one Apiary Technician for the 2027 beekeeping season.

APIARY SUPERVISOR – NOC 82030

1 position. Seasonal full-time employment, approximately 8 months, March 8 to November 8, 2027. \$16.70 - \$17.60/hour, 40 hours/week. Additional hours may be required during peak season.

Minimum 5 years commercial beekeeping experience and valid driver's licence required. Must be capable of independently managing commercial bee yards and supervising a small crew.

Duties include assessing colony strength, health and production requirements; feeding and treating colonies; making splits and replacement colonies; queen introduction and queen-rearing work; supering and moving colonies; harvesting and extracting honey; and preparing colonies for winter. Supervisor will plan and direct daily work for up to three apiary employees; assign and monitor work; independently travel to and manage bee yards; make day-to-day decisions regarding feeding, treatment, splitting, supering and honey removal; maintain field and production records; monitor pest and disease controls; and oversee safe use and routine maintenance of apiary equipment.

APIARY TECHNICIAN – NOC 84120

1 position. Seasonal full-time employment, approximately 6.5 months (200 days) March 22 to October 8, 2027. \$16.40 - \$17.00/hour, 40 hours/week. Additional hours may be required during peak season.

Commercial beekeeping experience required. Duties include inspecting colonies and assessing bee health and colony strength; feeding and medicating colonies; assisting with disease and pest control; making colony increases; queen introduction and queen-rearing work; assembling and maintaining beekeeping equipment; moving, loading and unloading colonies; adding and removing honey supers; harvesting and extracting honey; handling honey and beeswax; and cleaning and maintaining apiary equipment and work areas.

Both positions involve physically demanding outdoor work, repetitive lifting of over 50 lbs, and working in varying weather conditions. Weekend and seasonal overtime work may be required.

Please submit a resume outlining relevant commercial beekeeping experience and references to:

New Rutherford Apiaries, Manitoba, Canada, Ph: (204)466-2551 email: mikebeehive1973@gmail.com

Contact Michael Lewis, Phone: (204)466-2551

Help Wanted: Nipawin (SK)

Help Wanted for 2027 season: Nipawin, (SK)

Yves Garex Honey Inc, P.O Box 2016, Nipawin, SK, S0E 1E0 seeks employees for the March 2027 to October 2027 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.

12 Apiary Workers (NOC 85100) No experience required. We will train successful applicants in Honeybees and Hive manipulation. Wage start at \$ 17.00 per hour. Contact YVES GAREZ, Phone: 3068627700, email: yves@garezhoney.com

Help Wanted: Falkland (BC)

Apiary Worker - Falkland, BC - 2027 season

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: \$18.25 Hourly (CURRENT MINIMUM FOR BC), Job Type: Full-Time with 45 hours/week- Seasonal/temporary

(50 hours/week In April, May, June, August and September), Worker starts: March 5, 2027 until November 5, 2027

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: Delia (AB)

MEIJER HONEY FARM is looking for applicants for the 2027 season. All positions are F/T on a seasonal basis from Feb 2027 to Oct 2027. Applicants must be able to work in the presence of honeybees. The position may require some evening and weekend work. All applicants must be in good physical condition and able to work in a team environment.

18 APIARY TECHNICIANS (NOC 84120) F/T (40+ hrs.)/wk.) starting at \$18.34 - \$22.00/hr. depending on experience. (Possible bonus). Must have a minimum of 1 year (season) experience working fulltime on a Canadian commercial Farm. Duties include caring for honeybee colonies in the appropriate manner. Manual labor of apiary. Coordinating the production of replacement bees & equipment. Recognizing, reporting, monitoring hive health issues and applying appropriate treatment/controls. Harvesting honey, extraction, package honey, pollen, and beeswax. Team player who can also work well independently. Drive (including std transmission & medium duty trucks) & daily maintenance on vehicles. Operate & maintain other apiary equipment (including forklifts & pumps). Conduct bee yard maintenance. Maintaining field and/or production records. Monitoring and reporting to management. Contact: Meijer Honey Farm -181072 TWP-RD 32-4 Box 295 Delia, AB T0J 0W0

Email: meijerhoneyfarm@outlook.com.

Help Wanted: Souris (MB)

HARLTON APIARIES has 4 Seasonal positions available for the 2027 Season

4 Apiary Workers (NOC 85100) for March or April to end of October 2027

Wages are \$16.50 - \$20.00 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: Bluffton (AB)

Apiary Worker (NOC 85100) - Dewar Apiaries - 2027 Season

Dewar Apiaries, located at 442072 RR40, Bluffton, AB, is currently accepting applications for 12 Apiary Workers. English speaking workplace. Rural area, remote location. Prefer a minimum of 1 year experience. Wages will be \$18.34/hour.

Must be physically fit, comfortable working with bees and able to work well in a team setting. Applicants should be willing to commit to the whole season.

Duties:

- Hive management
- Building and repair of equipment for hives
- Harvesting honey
- Winter colony preparations

Basic English communication. Alberta or International Drivers License would be an asset. Hours will be between 32-75 hours weekly. Job availability will be between March 15 and November 14, 2027 - depending on weather

Apiary Technician (NOC 84120) - Dewar Apiaries - 2027 Season

Dewar Apiaries, located at 442072 RR40, Bluffton, AB, is currently accepting applications for 2 Apiary Technicians. English speaking workplace. Rural area, remote location. Prefer a minimum of 3 years experience. Wages will be \$18.34/hour.

Must be physically fit, comfortable working with bees and able to work well in a team setting. Applicants should be willing to commit to the whole season.

Duties:

- Hive management
- Building and repair of equipment for hives
- Harvesting honey
- Winter colony preparations

Basic English communication. Alberta or International Drivers License would be an asset. Hours will be between 32-75 hours weekly. Job availability will be between March 15 and November 14, 2027 - depending on weather.

Help Wanted: (SK)

Apiary Technician - Moyer Honey Farms - 2027 Season

6 Apiary Technicians with a minimum of 3 years experience working at a Canadian Apiary.

- Start date April 1st, 2027, to Oct 31st, 2027 (Full-time seasonal position)
- Wage \$17-20 (Depending on experience) (40+hrs/week)

Job duties include but not limited to:

- Working outdoors in all Canadian climates. (Snow, Rain, Sun, Wind)
- Assist with the needs of a colony at every point of the season.
- Assist in recording apiary data and process data to organize equipment for the following apiary visits.
- Assist to apply colony treatments in an appropriate manner/timing.
- Assist making new colonies and care for new queens. - Assist in raising queens
- Assist in moving bees - Work to keep a clean safe work environment.
- Work in supering, harvesting honey, maintain old/new hive equipment, feeding, cutting grass, building bear fences, moving bees, and filling barrels.

Applicants must be in good physical condition. Able to work with bees.

Able to speak English is an asset.

Driver's license is also an asset. Weekend/evening work when required.

Bonuses based on performance.

Apply by Oct 23rd, 2026

Please Contact send CV Derek Moyer

@ moyenhoneyfarms@gmail.com or 306 281 8098



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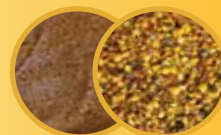
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The Canadian Honey Council is the national association of beekeepers representing apiculturists across Canada. The CHC provides a forum where producers, packers, professionals, provincial associations and officials from different levels of government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