



The **BEE CAUSE**

The Official Publication of the Red River
Apiarists' Association

<http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/>

May 2002

Free to Members

Volume 5: Issue 5

important Dates:

Next Meeting Date is:
14 May 2002
7:30 PM Upstairs Meeting Room

Program: University of Manitoba Research
Program Update by Robyn Underwood

Door Prize: Door Prizes for the 14 May meet-
ing will be announced at the meeting.

Meeting Location:

River Heights Community Centre
1370 Grosvenor St.
(Intersection of Oak & Grosvenor
Door Prizes will be offered, Guests are
welcome and free coffee will be avail-
able.

The Bee Cause Newsletter is published by the
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per year excluding June, July, August and De-
cember.

Membership in the **Red River Apiarists' As-
sociation** is \$20.00 per year and includes a
subscription to the **Bee Cause**.

Web Site at: <http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/>

President's Comments

I continue to be pleased with our meeting turn-
out. It is great to have a bunch of enthusiastic
people seeking friendship and advise. I appreci-
ate your feedback as well! Together we can
keep improving our information flow so we
benefit from each other. Thanks to Rhéal for the
mini workshop information on feeding of medi-
cations, etc. Sorry to Rhéal for having to cut the
session short. Thanks for reminding us that
medication mixture is 1:8 and feeding is every
4-5 days. Check the medication instructions
please. Also thanks to Ron and Ted for the re-
search they are doing in heating formic acid to
ensure even distribution in over wintered hives.
Sounds like a great kill rate for varroa doesn't
it?

We had some special guests at the April meet-
ing. Gave us a time to reflect on the history of
our Barry Fingler Memorial Trust research
fund. Thanks to Marian Fingler, Derrek Fingler,
Karen Karlberg and Robyn for attending. They
are family of the late Barry Fingler. Thanks to
Ken Fehler for the fresh produce door prizes.
Herb Schon and Dennis Ross provided snacks
along with Kens spiced sausage. By the way, if
you have some extra items that could be do-
nated to RRAA for door prizes, please give me

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*Summer
Faster
Dug*

*Starbuck
Phil Veldhuis*

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a call. Congratulations to the winners. Ron will have the names in the minutes.

Got your taxes in on time this year? I filed over the Internet this year using Quick Tax and the Netfile option. This is easier than shipping off all the paperwork. Somehow it always seems to be a last minute job though doesn't it? However, now that you've recognized several areas in your bookkeeping that need attention, why not get the upper hand. Keep all invoices and receipts. Remember to keep track of distance traveled for business in a separate logbook. In addition, carry a large envelope in your vehicle. Whenever you have a purchase, toss the receipt into the envelope. At the end of the year, everything will be together. The next task will be to remember where you stored the envelope!!!

As we move along into May, the scenery around us is continually changing. And thank goodness, since the snow didn't seem to want to leave in mid April! Just a reminder again, spring treatment is critical to get the upper edge on the health of our colonies. Hopefully you are already treating using the 2002 recommendations.

For our June 15 Picnic at Phil's, remember it starts at 2:00 p.m. rain or shine. Will be great to see his beekeeping yard, and information on Queen Rearing. See the ad in this newsletter. Hopefully the later date in June will be warmer than our previous picnic dates.

Later this summer, we will be looking for ideas on how to improve our 2002 Honey Show show. If you can help, please give one of the executive a call. See you at our May 14 Meeting, or the June 15 Picnic!!! By the way the next regular meeting will be September 10, 2002

Jim Campbell

Barry Fingler Memorial Trust Fund

Finding funds to support research is linked to the legacy of a Manitoban. At the April meeting of the Red river Apiarists Association, Jim Campbell reminisced about the research fund that is available for a variety of projects. The fund began several years ago in memory of a beekeeper responsible for initial designs of over-wintering facilities for honeybees.

Jim identified the Manitoba Beekeepers Association started an endowment type fund in memory of a former Extension Apiarist, Barry Fingler. Barry died after his battle with cancer in May of 1995. In June 1981, Barry became the extension apiarist in Manitoba, working with Don Dixon. Barry attended University of Manitoba in 1972, where Dr. Cam Jay introduced him to bees. This changed his study direction and resulted in Barry majoring in Entomology, which led to his completing a Master of Science degree in 1980 under the guidance of Cam.

Barry joined the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in 1981. Jim noted that in September of that year Barry got inducted into the world of the "Honey Show". The show was held at Polo Park Shopping Centre in the early 80's and Barry helped with honey judging and the observation hive display.

During the mid 80's several issues confronted the Canadian beekeeping scene. Barry's background in wintering bees assisted the industry coping with the search for improved sustainability, especially since the border was closed to importation of bees due to disease. During this time, Barry made several presentations to the Red River Apiarists' Association, with information on over-wintering buildings, proper medications, and spring management. He also participated in teaching the course at the University for "Beginning Beekeeping". Jim noted that during his visits to Barry in the hospital, these memories were fondly relived. He also

noted Barry had strong family ties as they discussed caricatures on the hospital wall calendar created by his niece Robyn.

Jim commented that during his recent discussion with Don Dixon, he was reminded that although the current fund stands at \$43K, we have channeled about \$75K through the fund since it was started. MBA has assigned about \$10,000/year for each of 2001 and 2002 for research. Previously about \$10 K supported earlier research of indoor over-wintering. Income for the fund comes from several sources. Fees for Tracheal Mite sampling are directed to BFMT amounting to about \$1200-1500/year. Individuals donate directly. Jim pointed out that the RRAA collects money from door prize draws and auctions too.

The fund supports many of the interests Barry had, in addition, funds go to U of M where Barry got his degree. Current benefactors include Dr. Rob Currie and grad students at U of M: Robyn Underwood – Treatment for Varroa in indoor over-wintered colonies using formic acid; David Ostermann-Evaluating the impact of varroa, nosema, chalkbrood, tracheal, formic acid, etc.

Don pointed out initially we thought the fund could get charitable registration status, but to no avail. However, at the last MBA Board meeting, we looked at a new Federal Tax Credit Program that would allow MBA to issue tax credits to individuals contributing to research projects (about 35% rebate).

Don Dixon reminded me we continue to keep the Barry Fingler legacy alive as we present his name throughout the year. The Research Auction at the annual MBA convention contributed about \$1300 in 2002 to the fund. In addition, the MBA membership application form has a line item for people to contribute. The board also reviews the fund at every meeting.

Jim Campbell.

MANITOBA EXTENSION REPORT

Rhéal Lafrenière
Extension Apiarist
Manitoba Agriculture & Food

Now that spring is almost in the air, it is certainly time to starting thinking about spring management and more specifically disease and pest management. In the last issue of Manitoba Beekeeper, I wrote about how antibiotics work to control AFB. I would like to continue on that subject by reviewing the codes of good practice when it comes to using antibiotics effectively and safely, such as the amount of antibiotic used per application and methods of application. But before I get too far into the subject of antibiotics, I would just like to remind the readers that we continue to accept honey bee samples for honey bee tracheal mite (HBTM) analysis and that the cost of analysis is still \$5 per 100 bee sample. We will also continue to provide at no extra charge analysis for nosema disease and varroa mite infestation. When submitting samples, please assure that the bees in the samples are completely submerged in alcohol and that each container is well labelled (i.e. beekeeper's name and sample number). We ask that you use 60-70% grain alcohol or rubbing alcohol. Please do not submit your samples in windshield washer fluid, antifreeze or wood alcohol, as these fluids do not adequately preserve the bees for us to do a proper analysis. If you are sending the sample via the post or bus, please assure that the sample containers are leak proof and are not easily broken, such as glass. Urine sample containers from hospitals and/or other screw-cap plastic containers have worked well for us in the past.

BEAT THE RUSH - SEND IN YOUR SAMPLES EARLY!

It is important to note that when I refer to antibiotics I am specifically talking about to oxytetracycline hydrochloride or often referred to simply as oxytetracycline (OTC), which is

the active ingredient in products like Terramycin, Oxytet, Oxysol, and Foulbrood mix and currently the only registered antibiotic to be used for the control of AFB and EFB. The information provided is therefore only applicable to OTC and the practices described.

The following feeding recommendations for administering antibiotic for the prevention of AFB and EFB are based upon OTC formulations containing 55 mg of active ingredient per gram of antibiotic, for example 25 g of oxytetracycline hydrochloride in a 454 g package of Oxytet-25 S. At this time we are still advocating prophylactic treatment of antibiotic for disease prevention. We may at some time in the not so distant future quit recommending antibiotic treatment for colonies that do not show signs of AFB or EFB.

The recipe for preparing and treating colonies with antibiotic is as follows: thoroughly mix a 454 g package of antibiotic with 3.5 Kg of icing sugar (i.e. 1:8 ratio by weight). The antibiotic icing sugar mixture should be prepared in a dark coloured container and should be stored either in the refrigerator or a dry, dark, cool place. When treating a colony, do not put the antibiotic mixture over the centre of the hive as it may fall down between the frames and kill the unsealed brood. Place the mixture across the frame top bars at the front and/or back of the hive (i.e. over the end bars). The first antibiotic treatment would generally occur within the week after installing the packages or unwrapping the wintered colonies. Spring packages or small colonies should receive 14 g (i.e. 1 tablespoon) of antibiotic mixture per treatment, whereas strong colonies should receive 28 g (i.e. 2 tablespoons) per treatment. Usually three treatments at 4-5 day intervals are required in the spring and fall. In order to prevent possible contamination of marketable honey, all antibiotic treatments should stop at least 4-6 weeks before the main honey flow. All honey or syrup stored in the colony

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during the antibiotic treatment period should not be used for human consumption!

Other methods of feeding OTC to honey bees are through sugar syrup and extender patties. Both these methods are used by beekeepers and if done properly will work as well as dusting. My only reservation about these techniques is that it is much easier to deviate from the recommended treatment, which often results in over-treatment or under-treatment. For example antibiotic in sugar syrup treatment, it is known that the OTC will readily break down in syrup, especially when exposed to light. Even in the hive (i.e. dark and 34°C) OTC will generally breakdown between 5-9 days at best. It is also considered less reliable because it is based on the amount of syrup consumed. Colonies are notoriously variable in taking syrup and may ignore it altogether if resources are available elsewhere. As for extender patties, this method involves incorporating the antibiotic into a soft patty made of Criso® and sugar. In this preparation, the antibiotic remains stable over a long period of time, which raises concerns of residues in the honey. It may also increase selection pressure on disease, which would likely encourage the development of antibiotic resistant strains of the disease. For those reasons, I would prefer to extend the details of how to use these techniques on a more personal basis. Give me a call and I would be glad to discuss your options and provide you with the procedures that have had the greatest success.

One final announcement, in response to the discovery of fluvalinate-resistant varroa mites last fall, we have requested for the Emergency Use Registration of CheckMite+™ Bee Hive Pest Control Strip™ (active ingredient - coumaphos) for spring 2002. All honey bee colonies operated in the municipalities along the border would be considered high risk and therefore would require treatment with an acaricide other than fluvalinate this spring. We therefore estimate that we would require

10,000 CheckMite+™ strips to treat the 5000 colonies in the potential infected zone. We have asked that beekeepers operating in the south central area not to sell or move bees outside the area. We are also asking all beekeepers that currently do not operate colonies in the municipalities adjacent to the Canada/USA border to continue to stay away from these areas. Given that CheckMite+™ has never been registered in Canada and no data exists regarding its efficacy under Manitoba conditions, Manitoba Agriculture and Food will document the effectiveness of this product and provide that information to Bayer to support possible future registrations.

HAVE A GREAT SPRING!

Red River Apiarists' Association Minutes of the Regular Meeting - April 9, 2002

The regular meeting of the RRAA was held at the River Heights Community Club on April 9, 2002 with 39 members and guests present. **Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.**

Minutes:

Moved by Herb Schon and seconded by Brian Schewfelt that the minutes be accepted as circulated. Carried

Barry Fingler Memorial Trust Fund: Jim introduced the family of the late Barry Fingler to our members and guests. Jim recalled some of the enjoyable RRAA activities in which Barry took part. A trust fund was initiated as a memorial to the good will created by Barry in the beekeeping community. Today the fund stands at \$43 thousand dollars and has been used for several research projects to date. The fund continues to grow as it gathers donations from Manitoba beekeepers.

Meeting Topic for May 14.

Research projects at the U of M

Discussion:

June 15th Picnic - include map and instructions in the May newsletter.

Honey Promotions at Kildonan Place and St. Vital Shop-

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ping Centre

- The MBA will celebrate 100 years of service to the bee-keeping industry in 2003
- The Manitoba Queen Breeders Association has been organized to research and improve locally produced queens and distribute genetically improved stock to Manitoba beekeepers.
- Apiary site registration in the province of Manitoba.
- The Mex - Swap program makes available much needed workers in the farming industry.

Loonie Draw:

Ken Fehler donated three prizes which were awarded to Steve Rohatynsky, Emil Rekrut and George Chwist

Formic Acid Research Project Supported:

On behalf of the RRAA Jim Campbell presented a cheque for \$100.00 to Ted Scheuneman and Ron Rudiak for their continuing project with electronic vaporization of formic acid for the control of varroa and tracheal mites.

Program:

Formic acid: Ted Scheuneman and Ron Rudiak described the operation of their precision evaporator for formic acid to control mites in colonies of honey bees. An operational model was set up as a demonstration.

Rhéal Lafrenière reviewed the drug feeding recommendations for 2002. It is important to ensure that three treatments are given, using the recommended amount, 4 - 5 days apart. After a week or ten days the oxytet breaks down and cannot suppress AFB which may lead to poor control. A two week time period is much too long to be effective. The antibiotic does not destroy AFB but suppresses its growth progress allowing worker bees to remove traces of infective material from the hive without spreading the disease to developing larvae.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

Items for Sale:

Presenter Wanted:

Roma Falsarella, teacher at Precious Blood School, St. Boniface, 233-4327 is looking for a French speaking Beekeeper to do a presentation on Bees and Honey for her class. If you can help, please call her and arrange a time. Please let Jim Campbell (467-5246) know if you agree to help her, so he will stop looking for a presenter.

Desperate Requirement for Buckwheat Honey:

Pierre Charbonneau desperately wants 8 to 10 barrels of buckwheat honey. Please pass this message on to anyone who may be interested in making a sale. Pierre may be reached at 1-450-295-2667.

Bee Keeping Equipment For Sale:

Bottom boards and lids - \$2.00 each.
Styrofoam hive inserts - \$0.50 each.
Brood frames with bees - \$25.00 each; available late May.

Call Paul Gregory at Interlake Forage Seeds (204) 372-6920 or email: info@interlakeforageseeds.com

Bee Keeping Equipment For Sale:

Nucs for sale.
Over wintered hives for sale.
2-Frame Extractor (Hand Operated).
Marine Type storage containers; one 8 x 40 holds up to 1200 supers, one 8 x 20 holds up to 600 supers. For further info call Rod Boudreau at (204) 885-3344 or email: ggoldrod@shaw.ca

Bee Keeping Equipment For Sale:

Total equipment for a 5 colony apiary (no bees), in good condition. Many extras. Will sell individually or as a package. Prices negotiable. For further info contact Jack Edge at 166 Lockwood Street, Winnipeg MB, R3N 1R8. Phone 204-489-7561 or email at edgej@bytebenders.com

Bees and Equipment For Sale:

New standard screened bottom boards, hot dipped in paraffin to prevent wood rot for years, with entrance reducer and metal mite tray for easy mite counts, reduces waxmoth as well. With galvanized screens \$45.00, with stainless wire mesh \$57.00. Limited number of healthy nucs from April 15 to end of May. Bees on 4 very good frames with brood on at least two of them. Each nuc comes with a 2001 over wintered Manitoba queen; only \$100.00 Contact Ted at (204)338-6066 between 1800 and 2100 hours.

Bee Keeping Equipment For Sale:

34 pollen traps for sale at \$5.00 ea. and a Cowan 15 frames per minute uncapper at \$2000.00. Contact Alex Remkes at (204) 866-3234.

Bees, Bee Keeping Equipment and Bee Suits for Sale:

Overwintered hives and new queen nucs for Sale. Also equipment for Sale from bottom boards up to top covers with everything needed in between. Complete 100 % cotton bee suits for Sale, along with bee tight veils. Contact: Charles Polcyn at (204) 284-7064 or email at charlespolcyn@Yahoo.com

Editor's Comment

Well, this is it for another month. My apologies for being unable to get more information and site map for the field day coming up in June. We may have to do a special mailing.

Doug



Manitoba
Beekeepers'
Association

Summer Field Day

Saturday, June 15th, 2002

At Phil Veldhuis' farm, Starbuck, MB

Planned Events: starting at 2 pm.
Queen rearing and incubation demonstration.
Tour of honey house and wintering facilities.
Scheduled Fly-past, Blue Jay Airlines, Cam Jay, Head Pilot.
Equipment demonstrations.
Leafcutter bee incubation, shelter, and field tour.
Catered light dinner at 5 pm.

Directions to Phil's farm:

Starbuck is 22 km (approx. 14 miles) SW of Winnipeg
on Hwy. 2.

From Starbuck: 4 miles south on P.R. #332, then east
1.5 miles.

From Brunkild: go north on P.R. #332 until you reach
P.R. #247, then proceed 2 miles west, 2 miles north, and
1.5 miles east.

Signs will be posted.