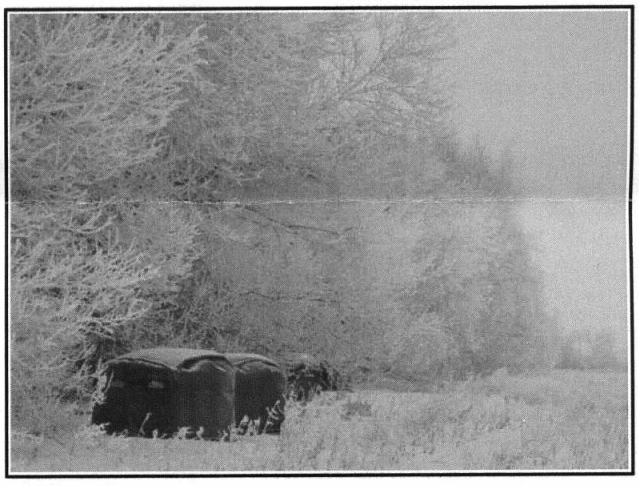
Red River Apiarists Association

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 2005

THE BEE CAUSE



Special Points of interest:

PROGRAM:
The February 8th program will a presentation from Mr. Rasoul Bahreini of Iran has agreed to make a presentation on varroa mite controls used in his country.

NEXT MEETING: Date is February 8th,7:30 pm @ the River Heights Community Center. Located at 1370 Grosvener street.

Presidents Comments

The days are getting longer and the bees as well as the beekeepers are beginning to look for signs of an early spring. However it may not be around the near corner so it is time to do something else like: a) Attend the MBA conference at Polo Park on February 7th and 8th b) Attend the dinner and auction on the 7th and have a great time c) Learn how to keep the hairy rascals out of your hives from a Conservation Officer d) Learn better/smarter ways to identify Varroa and AFB situations e) Talk bee talk with your fellow Manitoba beekeepers and you will learn at least one new idea/approach to beekeeping. The price of honey by the barrel is down from what it was in September, and it may stay that way until the ultra filtered honey from offshore that has arrived in North America is used up. It is discouraging to be making a nickel a pound on a sale. A few pieces of news from the recent America Beekeepers meeting in Reno, Nevada that may have implications for us are: a) A shortage of bees for pollination across the USA, b) Pollination fees up to $150/hive for a 2 hive set per acre of Almonds,
c) Traits of Africanisation appearing not only in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and southern California, but also in Florida and Georgia) Smaller honey crops across the USA e) Shortage of queens across the USA. Some of that news may impact on those Manitoba beekeepers that plan to import queens from down below, as quality and quantity may be compromised due to supply and demand pulls east and west as well as north and south. Prairie reared queens are likely to be superior for quite a few years, and certainly safer in regard to genetic history.

Members should check that their membership in RRAA has been renewed for the year 2005, as our year runs from January to December.

Remember to occasionally bring along a prize for the Raffle research draw at our monthly meetings. The Variety of things available always puts more tickets In the pail. Valentines Day is always a good time to Remember your Honey with something special, so don't Forget to get a Honey of a Present.

Best hopes for a lot less snow to shovel in February.

Charles Polcyn

RRAA Executive Members

President: Charles Polcyn
Ph 284-7064
845 kebir
Winnipeg,MB
Email: charlespolcyn@yahoo.com.

1st Vice President: Heather Laird
Ph 475-2307
1003 Jessie Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1A1
Email: hlaird@mb.sympatico.ca

2nd Vice President: Judith Roe
Ph 895-2266
Winnipeg , MB
Email: N/A

Secretary: Ron Rudiak
Ph 326-3763
Box 1448
Steinbach, MB R0A 2A0
Email: manbeekr@mb.sympatico.ca

Treasurer: Dennis Ross
Ph 878-2924
Group 40, Box 20, RR2
Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0
Email: rosskr@mb.sympatico.ca

MBA Delegate: Jim Campbell
Ph 467-5246
Box 234
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Email: jaycam@mb.sympatico.ca

Reporter: Ron Rudiak
Ph 326-3763
Box 1448
Steinbach, MB R0A 2A0
Email: manbeekr@mb.sympatico.ca

Past President: Jim Campbell
Ph 467-5246
Box 234
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Email: jaycam@mb.sympatico.ca

Newsletter : Dan Lecocq
PH 255-1043
166 Desjardins Dr
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3X 1M6
Email: dnlecocq@mts.net

Red River Apiarists' Association

Red River Apiarists' Association
Minutes of the General Meeting Jan. 11, 2005

Charles Polcyn opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with 23 members and guests present.

Minutes: Referring to the minutes of the December meeting, as circulated in the January Bee Cause, Charles asked if there were any errors or omissions. No errors or omissions were noted.
Moved by Herb Schon and seconded by Ted Scheuneman that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Financial Report: Dennis Ross circulated a detailed financial report for 2004.
Moved by Jack Boyer and seconded by Walter Wright that the report be accepted as presented. Carried

Remembering Henry Wiebe: Charles Polcyn, Walter Wright and others talked about Henry and remembered a few of the things that he was noted for. Walter assured Henry's son, Kyle, that someone would look after the bees when it becomes necessary. At this time Kyle had not decided what should be done with them in the future.

Election Committee Report: Jim Campbell, Charles Polcyn, John Speer and Walter Wright reported that all executive positions had a volunteer except for the position of 2nd Vice-president. They would accept a volunteer.

The positions have been filled as follows:
President - Charles Polcyn
1st Vice-president - Heather Laird
Secretary - Ron Rudiak
Treasurer - Dennis Ross
MBA Delegate - Jim Campbell
Newsletter - Dan Lecocq
Reporter - Ron Rudiak
Past President - Jim Campbell

Ken Rowes moved to accept the slate as presented. Seconded by Herb Schon. The motion was accepted.

MBA Convention: This event will be held at the Canad Inn (Polo Park), February 7 and 8, 2005. Jim provided us with a summary of the program, costs and activities.

Depressed Honey Prices: Ron Rudiak gave an overview of the reasons that imports and defaults on payments of duties on offshore honey are causing major problems for US and Canadian honey producers.

Tsunami Victims: Walter Wright put forward a motion asking if there was something that we could be doing to aid the victims of this disaster. Seconded by Gilles Lantagne. It was agreed that the executive would discuss the matter and provide information to RRAA members.

Program: Sue Cobey's video on artificial insemination.

Loonie Draw:

Weather Stick (Canadian Product) donated by Walter and won by Ted Scheuneman

Wrist/Neck/Ankle/Knee Warmers, donated by Ted Scheuneman, were won by the following:

Continued from page 2

Nelson Szwaluk
Eugene Kostecki
Dennis Ross
Roy Adams
Walter Wright
Gilles Lantagne (Hat & Warmer)

Barbecue Kit, donated by Ron, was won by Jack Boyer

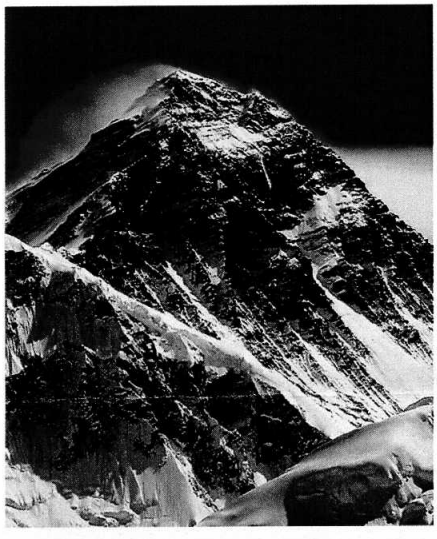
The jar of pure (US) buckwheat honey, donated by Charles was won by Ted Scheuneman

The Mexican honey, donated by Charles, was won by Wayne Campbell

The Loonie Draw added $16.00 to our general account.

Ron Rudiak, RRAA secretary

Did you know that the first person to climb Mount Everest's summit in 1953. was a **beekeeper** by the name of Sir Edmund Hillary from New Zealand?



Cargill Introduces Likewise Honey Product

Cargill is marketing what it terms an "affordable alternative" to honey that "matches the sweetness, taste, color and mouthfeel of USDA Grade A Honey."

The product, named Likewise(tm) Honey Product, was unveiled in July at a food technology show. Cargill says Likewise(tm) offers a 1:1 replacement for honey and can easily be substituted in existing products. "It can also be used in new or reformulated products to get the same great taste of honey while ensuring formulation competitiveness," according to a Cargill press release.

At the food show, Cargill showed off Likewise (tm) in the company's Wasabi Ginger, Thai Mellon, and Spicy Peanut sauces. "All of Cargill's sauces balance the richness of honey with the sassiness of spice," said the release. "The company's new honey product imparts a great honey taste and perfect consistency for dipping sauces, salad dressings and grilled meats.

"We are excited about the opportunity of working with our customers to help them explore the many possibilities of using Cargill's Likewise(tm) Honey Product," said Anne Mollerus, innovation manager, Cargill Sweeteners North America. "This is a great tasting, affordable honey product that will benefit food processing and foodservice customers."

OSOYOOS MAN FINED $10,000 FOR ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF BEES

On January 20, 2005, Dudley Paul Gottfriedson of Osoyoos was convicted in provincial court of one count of violating the Honeybee Importation Prohibition Regulations, 1999 made under the Health of Animals Act resulting in a $10,000 fine.

On May 28, 2003, the accused attempted to import 8,416 queen honey bees, valued at $84,160, into Canada from the United States. Canada Border Services Agency Inspectors discovered the bees upon a secondary examination of the vehicle. The bees were destroyed immediately after seizure except for a sample that was retained as evidence.

The Health of Animals Act and related regulations prohibits the importation of live honey bees from the United States except under certain limited conditions. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for enforcing a variety of legislation including the Health of Animals Act and Regulations in order to deliver inspection and related services that contribute to improving the overall integrity of the food safety, consumer protection, plant protection and animal health systems.

MBA Resolutions for CHC

(by MBA rep Jim Campbell)

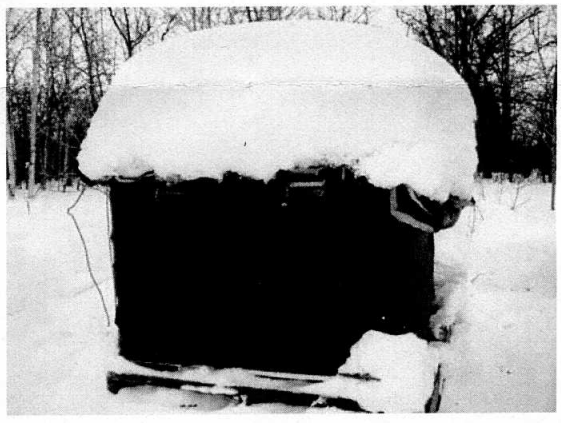
The Canadian Honey Council (CHC) is being asked to consider Manitoba's request for a review of the Apistan Label, plus a request for an additional product to treat antibiotic resistant American Foulbrood.

The CHC will be holding their Annual Meeting in early February. Normally, delegates from across Canada bring issues and resolutions to the table for presentation. The approved resolutions set the agenda for CHC for the next year.

The directors of Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) received approval from its members at the recent Annual General Meeting to work on a couple of issues over the next year. One of the major concerns for beekeepers is the development of antibiotic resistant American Foulbrood in some operations in the North West part of Manitoba.

Although the destruction of many frames took place last spring, that did not resolve the issue. A fall inspection revealed the disease remained and increased despite spring removal of frames. The MBA board discussed options for the future, including things such as irradiation, prescription use of tylosin, and fall inspection, concluding a short term approach appears to be using something such as tylosin. The board also noted the difficulty predicting operations where rAFB may occur. The directors will be seeking support of CHC to request registration of an additional product for treatment of AFB (i.e. Tylosin, etc) for use by fall 2005.

On another issue, directors have observed conflicting information, which could cause its members concern with Apistan. Obvious confusion in application comes from advertising stating "Leave In: Keep strips in hive for six to eight weeks. Take Out: Remove strips after six to eight weeks to avoid resistance", or "No risk of applying too much, or too little". Another concern centers on the outside temperature for applications. Are there application variances taking into account milder fall temperatures of the coastal regions versus lower temperatures of the central or prairie regions? How long does it take for the chemical to dissipate at temperatures below 10 degrees C? We need products to control varroa, and clear instructions are necessary so we can comply with the regulations. Therefore, MBA has requested CHC to look into this issue, with a resolution requesting a review of Apistan label regarding information and extension.



This is a picture of Jim Campbell's hives, all looks good so far!

NEWS FLASH- LATE BREAKING NEWS

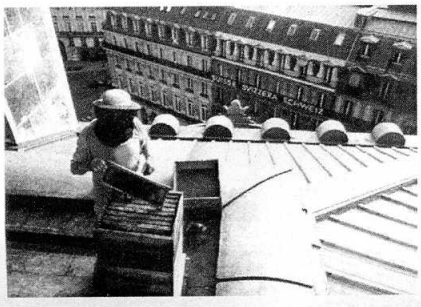
The Manitoba Coopertaive is very happy to report that the Winnipeg plant has just recently received full HACCP(Hasard analysis Critical Control Points) recognition by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
This was a major undertaking for the entire Winnipeg staff and they are to be commended and thanked for their efforts.
Hats off to all the staff with spealcial thanks to the HACCP committee (Mike Seccombe-HACCP coordinator, Randy Lewicki and Dwayne Trickett

The busy bees of Paris

Above the two Paris opera houses, hundreds of thousands of bees yearly produce hundreds of kilos of honey. What's more, the capital's bees make five times more honey than their rural cousins. Jean-François Guyot reports. Buzzing busily aloft Paris' bastions of operatic art and ballet, hundreds of thousands of bees may seem unlikely tenants for the city's two main opera houses but the venues apparently suit their honey-making down to the ground.

The bees produce a delicate, spicy honey that sells at luxury store Fauchon.While stars or divas tread the boards below, more than 500 kilos (1,100 pounds) of honey are produced every year by the 450,000 bees that have lived on the roofs of the baroque Palais Garnier and modern Bastille
Opera houses for about 15 years.

On sale at the Palais Garnier souvenir shop for EUR 11 per 125 grams, this unusual brand of honey with its delicately spicy flavour is also sold by Fauchon, Paris's best-known luxury grocers.



The bees' supervision is a labour of love for 70-year-old Jean Paucton. As a member of the French Beekeeping Society and a retired props man at the Paris Opera, he was responsible for first bringing the bees to the opera houses.

Back in 1983, in the throes of moving into his house in the country, he bought his first swarm of 50,000 bees, but a hiccup forced him to seek
alternative temporary shelter for the hive.

Having obtained the say-so of his bosses, Paucton provisionally stored his bees above the rafters of the Palais Garnier standing 73 metres (240 feet)
over the bustling Parisian traffic.

Paris bees thrive on longer bloom and range of flowers in parks and on balconies.Several weeks later, when he returned to collect them he found the bees had not waited his return to go pollen collecting but had discovered for themselves the abundance of the gardens of the Louvre and Palais Royal,
as well as nearby flowering balconies.

"Honey was flowing in the gutters," he recalled. Today the colony of bees at the Palais Garnier numbers eight hives while four others have been set up
with equal success at the Bastille Opera several kilometres away.

Surprisingly, the bees thrive in central Paris.

"The bees produce five times more honey in the urban environment than in the middle of nature where often single-crop farming is carried out," said
another Parisian beekeeper, Olivier Darne.

"In addition it is hotter in the town and the flowering time of many species
is longer there," he added.

There are plans to extend urban beekeeping in Paris and in provincial cities.Five years ago, Darne took the idea of reintroducing bees to urban areas outside of central Paris with a project to promote their return to
Saint-Denis, a suburb of the capital.
Now the roof of the local town hall also has a population of 200,000 bees that produce 450 kilos of the highest quality honey that has gone on to win
a top accolade at a regional agriculture contest.
With the support of the culture ministry and Paris City Hall, Darne is now working on seeing more beehives installed around Paris including a permanent "wall of honey" in the Marais district in the heart of the capital next
spring.
And the bug is catching on, with other French cities such as Toulouse and Nantes also in the process of setting up urban beekeeping.
November 2004
Doug McRory
Provincial Apiarist
Crop Technology Branch
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
1 Stone Road West
3rd Floor SW
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 4Y2

Genome Map Helping Scientists Build a Better Honeybee

By Jan Suszkiw
January 10, 2005

With a map of the honeybee's entire genetic code in hand, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are pursuing new ways to manage the welfare and productivity of this important insect.

After all, humans have a vested interest in *Apis mellifera*; the honeybee's pollination of 90-plus kinds of flowering crops each year results in yield and quality improvements valued at more than $14 billion in the United States alone. And that's not counting honey, the byproduct of such pollination.

In January, a team led by scientists at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas announced the completion of the first rough draft of the honeybee genome, which is about one-tenth the length of that for humans. Jay Evans and Katherine Aronstein, ARS members on the team, are now using information from the advance to identify immune system genes that keep honeybees healthy. Their efforts come at a time when insect pests, parasites and diseases of honeybees cause an estimated $5 million annually in crop-pollination losses.

Of particular interest to Evans, an entomologist in the ARS Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., and Aronstein, a molecular biologist in the ARS Honey Bee Research Unit in Weslaco, Texas, is characterizing genes involved in potential resistance to the bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae*, which causes foulbrood disease in the insect's larvae. One tantalizing lead is abaecin, a small protein that may be part of a resistance response in some bees to foulbrood infection.

Mapping the honeybee genome opens up other exciting research avenues as well: identifying genetic markers to speed breeding of bees, such as for better winter survival; modeling host-pathogen interactions to better control honeybee disease organisms; and conducting genome-driven studies to fine-tune honey bee nutrition and pollination.

For example, by locating honeybees' olfactory genes, researchers may be able to improve the insect's diet through supplementation or improve its ability to forage for nectar longer.

Read more about the research in the January issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine.

Supplies of honey, maple syrup shorter this season

Friday, November 19, 2004
Ottawa Citizen, Canadian Press
OTTAWA -- Success was a little less sweet for honey and maple syrup producers this year.
"Cool, wet weather cut Canada's output of honey, while maple syrup production also slipped," Statistics Canada said Friday.
"Beekeepers produced 72 million pounds of honey, down five per cent from a year earlier. At the same time, farmers produced nearly six million gallons of maple syrup, a modest four per cent decline."
Honey production fell in two of the three Prairie provinces, which combined represent 81 per cent of the country's output.
Saskatchewan production fell by nearly one-quarter to 15 million pounds, due to a cold spring, followed by a dry spell and later wet weather that hampered nectar collection in late summer.
"Production declined by nearly 20 per cent in Manitoba, where producers hit a five-year low of around 12 million pounds. On the other hand, in Alberta, output was up 14 per cent to more than 31 million pounds."
Ontario, production fell by more than one-fifth because of excessive rainfall.
The Maritimes saw similar unfavorable weather patterns and honey production declined in Nova Scotia by 13 per cent, in Prince Edward Island by 22 per cent and in New Brunswick by 26 per cent compared with 2003.
However, "favorably warm weather hit British Columbia and a three-week head start in their production season prompted better than average yields resulting in a 40 per cent increase in honey production.
"In Alberta, colony numbers increased by six per cent while production shot up nearly 15 per cent from 2003, imitating British Columbia's impressive yields compared with the rest of the country."
Last year the average honey price was just above $2 per pound, but preliminary data indicate a price drop this year, Statistics Canada said.
In the maple syrup forests, Quebec farmers, who account for 93 per cent of the country's production, tapped more than five million gallons, down four per cent from a year earlier.
"In Ontario, maple syrup production held steady at 218,000 gallons."
Nova Scotia production fell to 22,000 gallons, down 27 per cent from 2003.
"Conversely, New Brunswick saw a 10 per cent increase in syrup production and a 17 per cent increase in total value of syrup sold compared with last year.
"This year, the average maple syrup price in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario rose to $46, $49 and $50 per gallon respectively, while Quebec's maple syrup price remained at $24 per gallon."

Pollen Supplement Patties

for Spring Protein Feeding of Honey bees

A beehive with a supplement patty (brown) and a medicated grease patty (pink) on top bars
Close proximity (5 cm) to brood is essential for either patty to work properly

Like all other organisms, honey bees require a variety of nutrients to prosper. Although honey provides the simple carbohydrates necessary to generate warmth and to fuel flight, many more compounds and minerals are necessary for proper development of young bees from egg to adult and to maintain optimal health and vigour through adult life.

Under ideal conditions, bees will get the necessary nutrients in abundance through pollen collection and will maintain a store of natural pollen in their combs for times when none is available. However, under modern management, bees are kept in areas where they would not naturally do well. Further, even in good bee areas and in good years, some hives may not have sufficient populations to forage effectively, others may be weakened by viruses or nosema, pesticides or other factors may intervene to prevent full and proper nutrition.

Bees can handle a great deal of adversity, however in order to get the best performance, whether the goal is to produce more bees, more honey or better pollination of crops, the beekeeper must ensure that the bees never go hungry for honey or pollen. Good nutrition goes a long way to fending off diseases, winter loss, and 'mysterious' dwindling.

The major essential nutrient provided by the patties described here is protein, although other essential nutrients ride along in the mix. It is apparently possible to make patties that entirely replace natural pollen for periods of time, but that is not the goal here. The intent of these patties is to *supplement* natural pollen and for that purpose they work very well. Long periods (more than several weeks) of feeding these patties without natural pollen being available, however, may result in stress on colonies and the very decline that we attempt to avoid.

Protein Feeds

BeePro®, a product of Mann Lake claims to be a pollen *substitute*, not supplement. A true substitute is a balanced bee diet with more nutrients than simple yeast/soy patties and which can be fed at length in place of pollen, and which will sustain brood rearing without significant increased adult mortality. However the exact detailed nutritional composition of BeePro is not revealed, nor guaranteed as far as I know. At time of writing we are not aware of independent tests that prove superiority of BeePro over the yeast/soy patties many beekeepers make using a simple and inexpensive combination of soy flour and a high protein brewers yeast. We have used BeePro and find it works well as a supplement. We have not tested it a a substitute.

When making patties using yeast and soy:

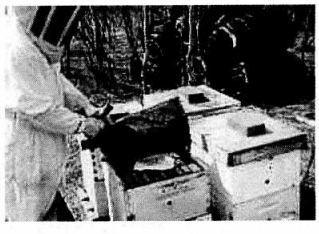
> *The soy* should be flour, not meal, preferably from an expeller process, not chemical extraction, and must be toasted after processing. However the expeller process is not used much anymore, and solvent processed flour may be the only product available and is acceptable.
>
> *The yeast* should have been spray dried and have a protein content of 40% or more. Some yeasts sold for cattle feed are low in protein and contain a great deal of the growth medium (corn) and are not suitable. California Spray Dry, (Box 5035, 4221 East Mariposa St, Stockton CA, USA 95215-0035 Voice 209-948-0209 Fax 209-948-0629) makes a suitable yeast that many beekeepers use.
>
> This material makes a tough dough which we roll out to about 5/8" thick (using soy flour to prevent sticking) and cut into 1 pound patties which we fold into 8" X 11" pieces of wax paper.

When feeding supplement patties, several factors are important for acceptance by the bees and minimum wastage:

- The hive must be queenright
- The patties must be within several inches of the brood
- Either a high sugar content (50%+) or a high natural pollen content (15%+) is necessary to ensure the bees consume the mixture, and to minimize waste.

At feeding time, if the mixture was a little sticky when making the patties and enough soy flour was not dusted onto the paper, the paper is sometimes well stuck to the patty. In that case, we simply slit the paper in several places to give the bees access and place the patty with the slits down immediately over the brood area.

Bees consuming Pollen Patties



Fungus Found to Attack Varroa Mites

Parasites known as Varroa mites infest honey bee colonies, sucking blood from the bees and causing weight loss, deformities, diseases, and reduced lifespan. These mites, which can nearly destroy an entire colony within a few months, now infest honey bee colonies across most of North America.

The honey bee is critical to maintaining natural vegetation, transferring pollen between flowers as it collects the pollen and nectar for its hive. And more than 130 agricultural plants in the United States are pollinated by honey bees. Every year, beekeepers send their best bees throughout the country to help pollinate crops, one farm at a time. In 2003, the value they added to U.S. crops was estimated at $10 billion, not including the honey, beeswax, and royal jelly also produced. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service reported more than 2.5 million honey bee colonies—up 1 percent from 2002—and U.S. honey production increased 5 percent, to 181 million pounds.

Since 2000, scientists in the ARS Beneficial Insects Research Unit (BIRU) at Weslaco, Texas, have been looking for a disease-causing agent, or pathogen, that can stop Varroa mites. The mite has developed resistance to the only approved chemicals—fluvalinate and coumaphos—now used for control, and coumaphos is on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "hit list" for possible removal from the market. So the researchers have looked at various disease agents, tried different dosages and application methods, and conducted toxicity tests. Finally, they selected a strain of the fungus Metarhizium anisopliae that was highly pathogenic to Varroa mites.

This potent fungus, which also kills termites, doesn't harm bees or affect their queen's production. To test it, the scientists coated plastic strips with dry fungal spores and placed them inside the hives. Since bees naturally attack anything entering their hives, they tried to chew up the strips, spreading the spores throughout the colony.

In field trials, once the strips were inside the hives, several bees quickly made contact with the spores. Within 5 to 10 minutes, all the bees in the hive were exposed to the fungus, and most of the mites on them died within 3 to 5 days. The fungus provided excellent control of Varroa without impeding colony development or population size. "We tried to find a pathogen of Varroa, and we did it!" says ARS entomologist Walker A. Jones, research leader of the BIRU. Tests showed that Metarhizium was as effective as fluvalinate, even 42 days after application. "Commercial beekeepers are very edgy about using fluvalinate and coumaphos and are eager to see this natural control get to market," Jones says.

This research was begun by Rosalind James, formerly with the Weslaco unit. Lambert H.B. Kanga, former BIRU research associate and now chair of the Entomology Department at Florida A&M University at Tallahassee, continues to collaborate on the project. "While Metarhizium doesn't kill as fast as fluvalinate and coumaphos, the result is the same," Kanga says. "Metarhizium gets the job done, and we won't have to worry about Varroa becoming resistant to the fungus."

The scientific team is now fine-tuning the strategy for transfer to producers.—By Alfredo Flores, Agricultural Research Service Information Staff.

This research is part of Crop Production, an ARS National Program (#305) described on the World Wide Web at www.nps.ars.usda.gov.

Walker A. Jones is in the USDA-ARS Beneficial Insects Research Unit, 2413 E. Highway 83, Weslaco, TX 78596; phone (956) 969-4852, fax (956) 969-4888.

Join the CHC and support beekeeping in Canada

Name Company

Address City Province

Postal Code Phone

FAX E-mail

Visa # Expiration Date

Please make cheque payable to the Canadian Honey Council and mail to:

CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL
Suite 236, 234 - 5149
Country Hills blvd NW
Calgary, AB T3A 5K8
FAX (403)547-4317

The Canadian Honey Council was formed in 1940 to provide liaison between beekeepers and the government and to assist beekeeping associations in promoting honey and pollination. Through the efforts of the Honey Council beekeepers expanded markets to the UK, achieved suitable regulations for the marketing of honey and survived the invasion of parasitic mites. Today, the CHC represents 9,000 beekeepers across Canada with annual honey production of 70 million pounds and a value of hive products over $200 million.

Canadian Honey Council is funded entirely by membership dues. The board of directors is comprised of eight voting delegates. The six largest provinces each have one delegate, the three maritime provinces have one delegate and Bee Maid, the co-op honey packer, has one delegate. There are vacant seats for the Canadian Packers Association, the Canadian Pollinators Association and the Canadian Bee-Breeders Association. At present none of these groups are official associations but the door is open if they want to get organized and join the CHC.

Although a change to the voting structure of CHC has been proposed, the directors felt that such an important decision should not be rushed. The status quo will continue until a better plan has been worked out. The costs of running a national association have increased annually without any increase in the cost of membership for many years. As a result, the directors decided to increase membership fees for the financial year starting November 1st, 2004. There has also been a change to the categories of membership to better reflect the makeup of our industry.

The fee structure is as follows.

Hobbyist (1 to 49 colonies) $50
Small Commercial (50 to 299) ... $100
Large Commercial (300 +) $200
Industry $250

CLASSIFIEDS:

(Free for members.)

Beekeeping operation for sale. 50 colonies in 2 brood cambers, and all related equipment including 30 frame Maxant extractor(mechanical advance) 4 frame Jones Plastic extractor, Water Jacketed Sump 6 baffel (48"x 28" x 18") Viking 1 1/2 " Honey Pump, 3 Storage Tanks (45 gallon) with plastic gates, benches, 145 Honey Supers with drawn comb, 37 Queen Excluders, Frame making Materials, Bee Blower, Weed Wacker, Toledo Scale, super carts , ect..
Karl Wiebe 775-4127 email karl.wiebe@westgate.mb.ca"

For Sale in the Spring: Bees,boxes,supers,frame sets, nuc boxes,miscelaneous bee equipment.
Contact Charles Polcyn at 284-7064 or
Email at charlespolcyn@Yahoo.com

Honey prices

January 10 2005

United states department of Agriculture was reporting that packers were paying Canadian beekeepers $1.05 U. S./ lb for mixed flowers ,white and $.99-.$.94 U.S. for canola, white (this info can be found on the USDA website)

$1.05 U.S. = $1.30 can
$.99U.S. = $1.23 can
$.94 U.S. = $1.17 can

Deadline for renewing memberships in the RRAA is Feb. 28 (or 29)!

Unpaid members will be removed from newsletter mailing list after this date.

RED RIVER APIARIST'S ASSOCIATION
2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Please complete and mail with your cheque, for $25.00, payable to: The Red River Apiarists' Association

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

CITY: _____ **PROVINCE:** **PHONE:** _____

NEW MEMBER [ ] RENEWAL [ ]

Mail to: Red River Apiarists' Association
Dennis Ross, Treasurer,
Group 40, Box 20, RR2
Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0`