

THE BEE CAUSE

Autumn Apiary Management

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Special Points of interest:

PROGRAM:

The October 11th meeting program will deal with Provincial Inspection Report and Mite situation Update and also Honey Show Plans and Progress-

NEXT MEETING: Date is October 11th ,7:30 pm @ the River Heights Community Center. Located at 1370 Grosvenor street.

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PREPARATIONS

A good fall management plan starts with a check of the health and strength of the colony. Diseased or weak colonies will probably not survive winter and it is better to take the loss



in fall rather than feed them and lose them in spring. A weak colony should be combined with a stronger colony. Remember that any requeening should be done before mid August. The colony should enter fall with a young, vigorous, laying queen.

DISEASE CONTROL

After the honey has been harvested, any necessary disease control can commence. Autumn is the best time for varroa mite treatment. As soon as the honey is extracted, fluvalinate (Apistan[®]) strips should be placed in the brood chamber. This timing is best because bee brood production is decreasing and there are fewer opportunities for the female varroa mite to lay eggs in the cells with developing bee larvae. Nosema is considered to be the silent killer of honey bee colonies in spring. This single celled parasite is a problem in stressed colonies which are hive bound especially in wet, cool conditions. Treatment in fall with fumagillin (Fumigilin[®]) fed in the sugar syrup should prevent nosema from infecting the queen and protect the colony from spring symptoms. American Foul Brood is a serious disease and there is growing evidence that the use of extender patties and unregulated doses of oxytetracycline have contributed to a resistant strain of AFB. The best control of AFB is achieved by burning the disease carrying frames and scorching the boxes that contained them. Call your provincial apiarist for instructions on how to contain the disease.

NUISANCE ANIMALS

In autumn many animals seek high calorie food to build their body fat reserves for winter. Honey bee larvae and honey are a delicacy for bears, skunks, and raccoons. In wooded areas it may be necessary to provide protection in the form of an electric fence for larger mammals and a board of nails at the front of the hive for smaller animals. Heavy white silage plastic laid in front of the hive has been found to discourage skunks. In some areas, tiny carnivorous shrews can enter hives and

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Red River Apiarists' Association

Minutes of the General Meeting September 13, 2005

Charles Polcyn opened the meeting with 17 members and guests present.

Minutes: Herb Schon put forward a motion to accept the minutes of the May 10 meeting as circulated. Seconded by Andy Lecocq. Carried.

General: Charles led a discussion on this seasons honey production around Manitoba. It seems that there is a great variation in the amount of honey harvested depending on the location. Generally, beekeepers located in the western and north west areas of the province got a near normal crop while those located in and near the Red River Valley and eastward then on up through the Interlake region were able to get only half of their normal production.

Calculating the figures provided by members in attendance, the average honey production within the RRAA is 87.22 lbs.

Bears have been an ongoing problem this summer because there's a shortage of nuts and berries. They have been breaking through well made electric bear fences to search for a meal.

Ron Rudiak gave a short report on several ongoing Canadian Honey Council projects.

Program: David Ostermann with a presentation on "Preparing Colonies for Winter"
Charles Polcyn on "Preparing Honey for Honey Shows"

Manitoba Beekeepers' Honey Show: The date for the Honey Show at the St. Vital Shopping Centre is October 14 to 16.

Jars and entry forms were available at the meeting for beekeepers to enter their best honey for the competition and a separate jar with which to create a "Colors of Manitoba" honey display highlighting the variety of nectar sources.

This year the St. Vital Shopping Centre has provided us with a generous amount of space which we can use effectively for our beekeeping display. As well there will be an observation hive containing live bees and a baking competition on display. CFIA will set up a section on pollination and understanding the information on the label.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to work at the honey show.

Treasurers Report: Dennis Ross stated the bank balance was presently at \$3667.71 with 67 paid up members.

Loonie Draw: Two jars of darker honey (one labelled "Clover") and a pair of rubber gloves were donated by Charles Polcyn as prizes.

Ron

Rudiak, secretary

feed on bees, leaving a pile of wings in spring. An effective shrew guard is ¼" mesh screen over three 1" diameter entrance holes. Minor problems with field mice and wasps can be overcome with a reduced lower entrance which helps the bees defend against intruders. A strong healthy colony of honey bees will survive winter provided it has food, shelter and ventilation

FEEDING BEES

It is vital that colonies have sufficient stores of food for winter. Karmo (1975) found that a strong colony (10-15 deep frames of worker bees) in a double brood chamber needs at least 70 lb (32 kg) of honey and pollen to survive winter. Vickery (1991) notes a double brood chamber hive complete with bees and stored food should exceed 110 lb (50 kg). Fall honey is predominantly from asters and it tends to granulate quickly. Bees cannot utilize crystallized honey in winter. All colonies should be fed concentrated sugar syrup to supplement winter stores. This syrup is made by dissolving 2 parts of granulated sugar in 1 part hot water (20 lb. sugar in 1 gallon of water or 9 kg. sugar in 4.5 l water). Some poisoning problems have been experienced with certain types of commercially prepared "high fructose corn" syrup. Do not use this product without advice from the supplier. In areas which do not have a fall nectar flow or in cases where poor weather interfered with the nectar flow, sugar syrup feeding can start earlier. Feeding should continue until mid October at the latest. Feeder pails or feeder trays placed on top of the hive with no disturbance to the colony are best for feeding bees. The container should hold 20-30 lb (9-14 kg) syrup and be easily accessible for refilling. Bees will take approximately 2 gallons (9 l) of sugar syrup. Pollen patties provide a useful supplement of protein.



SHELTER

The location of a colony in winter will contribute to its over winter survival. If the colony is outdoors provide: · shelter with

a windbreak on the north side. A grove of evergreens or a fence can provide good wind protection,

- south face for winter sunshine,
- protection from cold air drainage -do not locate in frost hollows,
- protection from accumulated moisture by raising colonies off ground and tilting slightly forward to keep bottom board dry
- insulation in the form of tarpaper, straw bales, insulated foil wrap or purchased winter cases. Colonies can be wrapped singly or in groups,
- a wind deflector over the upper entrance of the hive and
- a reduced lower entrance (3/8" x 4").
-



VENTILATION

Honey bees produce both heat and moisture. Warm, moist air trapped under a cold inner cover will condense and drip over the colony causing chilling and death. Ventilation is important and this can be achieved with the use of an upper entrance. A small opening in the lip of the inner cover also gives bees an exit in case the lower entrance is blocked by snow or dead bees over winter.

CHECKLIST

- young laying queen
- 10-15 frames healthy bees
- 70 lb food stores (syrup fed)
- varroa treatment completed
- nosema treatment completed
- pollen patty in place
- wind shelter on north side
- south face entrance
- located out of frost hollow
- insulation in place
- upper entrance provided
- lower entrance reduced
- screens in place

Weather Information for Stargazers... and Beekeepers?!

By David Ostermann

I recently found a website that amateur astronomers use to help them determine when there will be good weather for celestial viewing. The information on the site comes from Environment Canada and predicts weather conditions up to the next two days. The site includes data on cloud cover, wind, humidity, and temperature, by the hour (hence the name "sky clock"). Because this information is broken down by hour, it can be used to help decide what hours in a day are best for seeing the universe... or working hives.

I used the site this summer to help me decide when to work hives, and when to try to pull honey with solar gas boards. Predicting weather can be frustrating at the best of times, but I like that the forecasting is shorter-term and detailed. I especially like that the data is broken down by hour, includes, in particular, cloud cover, and is fairly easy to interpret (color-coded). I figure beekeeping can be just as finicky as astronomy, at times, and more detailed weather forecasting can help beekeepers make better decisions – maybe even helping them decide when to take their telescope out to their bee yard!

Here's the "Clear Sky Clocks" site address: http://cleardarksky.com/csk/prov/Manitoba_clocks.html. There are sky clocks for 14 locations in Manitoba, including Winnipeg.

Freezing Honey?

I have read a couple places about freezing honey frames and all. Does this have any effect on the quality? Does the honey crystalize quicker? Will it crystalize in the freezer? How do you unthaw without the added moisture?

Honey will not expand in the freezer...but some floral sources will crystalize, just very very slowly. We froze 300 pounds of canola honey (wich to be honest, crystalized when you put ice in your kool-aid 40 feet away...) In 8 months it had solidified at -17 C. When thawed, it was perfect creamed honey. The water molecules would freeze first, of course, leaving finite space for the sugars to crystalize. When the water molecules reverted to liquid state when the honey was returned to room temp, the result was short and fine crystal chains wich equaled a nice creamed product.

EPA Fines Marketer of Illegal Miticides

EPA: Administrative Law Judge finds Steven Tuttle Guilty of Illegal Pesticide Sales and Orders Payment of \$14,850

On July 15, 2005, an administrative law judge for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found Steven L. Tuttle of Woodland, Washington, guilty of five violations of the federal pesticide law and ordered him to pay a civil penalty of \$14,850.

Specifically, Judge William B. Moran's decision affirmed the allegations found in EPA's March 18, 2004 civil complaint that Mr. Tuttle sold and distributed two unregistered and incorrectly labeled bee miticide products named "Mite Solution Concentrate" and "Herbal Bee Calmer Gel." The Judge also found that these two products were produced in a facility not registered with EPA.

"EPA understands that mites pose a significant problem for bee keepers, but Mr. Tuttle is marketing bee miticides that have not passed safety tests required by law," said Scot Downey, Manager of EPA's Pesticides and Toxics Unit in Seattle. "Mr. Tuttle needs to comply with the law, especially when his competitors are doing so."

Mr. Tuttle was also fined \$3,780 for selling one of these products in 1997.

Tony Brown

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RRAA's own Ted Scheunemans and Ron Rudiak doing a presentation on the use of formic acid . The use of an evaporator in this procedure.



Proper use and precise amounts are critical for maximum efficiency of the product .Many years of testing has now granted them with some good success against the varroa mite!

President's Comments

What a marvelous month of September this has been. It almost makes up for the spring monsoons that we would prefer to forget.

Fall Feeding, AFB medication and Mite treatment should be well underway by now, as the bees are not finding much in the way of any nectar to bring back to the hive. Bear Fence batteries should be charged up, and yards inspected for any line shorts caused by tree branches. Those friendly bears are very hungry, and are preparing for winter as well, and wouldn't mind a bee yard or two for topping up their high calorie needs.

The Organic Acid workshops in Winnipeg & Brandon were well attended by over 40 beekeepers in each location. The weather cooperated which made it easy for the presenters, two from



Ontario dealing with the use of Formic and Oxalic Acids for mite treatment, one presenter from BC and a presenter team from Manitoba, both dealing with the use of Formic Acid treatments for varroa and tracheal mites.

Many of the beekeepers in attendance expressed their appreciation for the information, as well as the opportunity to meet informally with other beekeepers. For some of those in attendance, it was the first time they had attended any type of field day, and expressed an interest in coming out to future events.

A big vote of thanks goes out to the Provincial Apiarist Extension office staff for organizing the two Field Days and notifying beekeepers of the opportunity. Well done, Rheel Lafreniere and David Ostermann. And not only can they organize field days, but they can also cook, as a very tasty BBQ lunch of burgers, hotdogs, and beverages were served up by Rheel and David, who might consider a bee yard catering business in their spare time.

There has been some upward movement on the wholesale price of white honey, with prices of \$1.05/lb US on trailer loads. Let us hope that trend continues.

The Manitoba Honey Show & Competition is moving along well. A number of beekeepers have collected jars for the "Colors of Manitoba Honey" display as well as jars for the honey competition. I hope that many samples and entries are dropped off at Beemaid with Mike or Jake by the 11th of October. Regulations for the Honey Show is available at Beemaid from Mike or Jake, as well as online from Dan Lecocq, our newsletter editor and also the MBA website www.manitobabee.org. Volunteers are still needed to provide information to the

public at the Honey Show at St. Vital Center on October 14-16. See the list in the Honey Show News section for available times and days.

The honey production season is well over, so now is the time to concentrate on Honey Promotion activities, which is what the show at St. Vital has done so well in the past.

I hope to see many of you at the next meeting on the 11th of October and at the Honey Show.

Happy fall to All Charles Polcyn

HONEY SHOW NEWS

There has been a lot of interest from beekeepers in this years theme of "Colours of Manitoba Honey", as many 3 jar sets have been picked up by beekeepers either at the RRAA meeting or at the recent Organic Acid workshops. Don't forget that the deadline for dropping off either the colour samples or competition jars at Bee Maid is October 11th, 2005. Application Forms for the Honey Show Competition are available at Bee Maid from Mike or Jake. Don't hesitate to enter- just remember to fill any 3 jar set completely, so the jars look well filled.

There is still much room on the Volunteer List for the 3 day Honey Show at St. Vital Centre. At least two Volunteers per shift are needed to provide information to the public. There is also a daily Volunteer Prize draw each day for those volunteers who are helping out at the Honey Show. Be sure your name is entered in the Volunteer Prize Pail. The following is a list of times and days available where Volunteers are needed:

Oct 14th 8:30 - 12:30

Andy Lecocq, Dennis Ross, George Chwist
12:30 - 4:30 _____?, _____?
4:30 - 8:30 _____?, _____?

Oct 15th 9:00 - 12:00 _____?, _____?

12:00 - 3:00 _____?, _____?
3:00 - 6:00 Lance Waldner, Dennis Ross

Oct 16th 12:00 - 3:00 Jack Berard, Dennis Ross

3:00 - 6:00 _____?, _____?

Members of the Executive will be helping out on the Set Up and the Take Down shifts, but more people are needed to fill the empty shifts above. If you are able to cover one of these, call me at 284-7064 so that the roster can be filled.

We hope to be on the Big Breakfast Show - Channel 8 during the Honey Show Week with a display of this year's show highlights. Tune in for the morning show early in that week.

Charles Polcyn- Honey Show Co-Chairman

Honey News from Canada Agriculture and Agri food Canada for September 2005

MANITOBA

Excessive moisture in May and June resulted in field crops not being seeded in some areas of the province of Manitoba. Some producers had problems getting to hives in spring and early summer due to the high moisture and wet grounds. This situation resulted in little or no hive management being performed. High temperatures and high humidity in the low to mid-thirties Celsius range resulted in some canola crops maturing earlier than expected with little or no nectar flow. The honey crop that has been produced to date was mostly found to be light in colour and lower in moisture in the sixteen to eighteen percent range for a good quality honey. The early indications of crop yield is average to below average due mostly to unseeded crop in some honey producing areas of the province.

S.Barlin—Winnipeg

SASKATCHEWAN

It looks like another year of changing expectations with honey flow starting late. Colonies were in good condition thanks to good sources of pollen in spring. Weather conditions for early to mid July were not favorable for honey production. Cool weather in June



slowed crop development and then in the first few weeks of July the temperatures soared to mid-thirty degrees Celsius. This hot dry weather took its toll contributing to a much shorter than anticipated nectar flow from canola. Final crop yields will not be available until mid September but fluctuating temperatures in August have dampened optimism for the crop yield and present estimates are slightly below average. The quality and colour of the honey presently extracted is reported to be very good. There have been no new reported cases of mite infestation but provincial agencies are continuing to test apiaries across the province.

H. Willems--Saskatoon

ALBERTA

Edmonton Area - All of the area around Edmonton should have an average to above average year. There has been ample rainfall along with good temperatures for honey production. The last week has been cold and wet. If temperatures rise then another round of honey production is possible.

Northern Alberta - The crop in the South Peace is average to above average. Ample rainfall in June and July and warm temperatures resulted in good honey production. The South Peace region includes the Grande Prairie, Fahler and Fairview areas.

The North Peace area has been dry and cool. Honey production will be below average. BC Peace has an average crop this year. The last week it has been cool and wet. Honey production could be done for the year.

Southern Alberta - It has been dry and warm. Honey production will be average for the year.

Red Deer Area - Rainfall and temperatures have been excellent for honey production. An above average crop is expected.

A. Lyshak--Edmonton

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

MBA HONEY SHOW-OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2005
ST. VITAL SHOPPING CENTRE
1225 ST. MARY'S ROAD
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. Honey Exhibitors shall be bona fide beekeepers with entries of pure honey from the current year production from their apiaries. "Honey Baking Competition" is open to anyone.
2. An exhibitor may submit one entry in each section of each class. For advance registration, please contact Rhéal Lafrenière (945-4825) no later than 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 4, 2005.
3. Exhibitors must accurately complete the entry form, and must clearly mark each entry parcel with their name and address. Entry form is to accompany entry parcel. Judges will ensure entries are placed in the proper classes.
4. Honey entry deadline (for Class 1 and Class 2) is 4:00 P.M., Tuesday October 11, 2005. There is no entry fee. Honey entries should be sent to: MANITOBA HONEY SHOW, c/o 625 Roseberry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0T4. ENTRIES SHOULD NOT ARRIVE BEFORE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2005. Entries for the Honey Baking categories must be delivered directly to the St. Vital Shopping Centre by 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, October 15, 2005.
5. Honey judging will take place prior to the Honey Show. Baking judging will take place on Saturday at the Honey Show. The judges shall rule any contestant ineligible if the entry fails to comply with the exhibit rules or is not attractively displayed. Awards will be made by a scale of points and, in case of a tie, the highest score for flavour will be awarded the prize.
6. Baking entries may be offered as promotional samples during the Honey Show. Entries in the honey classes must be picked up by the exhibitor, otherwise all honey and other entries not picked up by 4:00 P.M., Sunday, will become the property of the Red River Apiarist Association and may be donated to a charity such as Winnipeg Harvest food bank.
7. The Honey Show is an educational and promotional event sponsored by the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA), and organized and staffed by members of the Red River Apiarists Association.
8. A copy of these General Rules and Regulations are available on-line at www.manitobabee.org under Bulletins.

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

COMPETITION CLASSES

CLASS 1

1. Liquid Honey, White, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
2. Liquid Honey, Sunflower, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
3. Granulated Honey, White, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
4. Beeswax - 2 kg in one cake or not more than 5 cakes.

CLASS 2

1. Chunk Honey - totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars, each containing one or more pieces of comb honey and the jars filled with liquid white honey.
2. Buckwheat Honey - totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
3. Frame of Honey - one completely capped frame of white honey.
4. Comb Honey - totaling not less than 4 pieces of either comb honey sections or cut comb honey in individual containers.
5. First Taste - any color - totaling not less than 2 glass or clear plastic containers approximately 500 g in size. (Entries judged primarily for flavour and taste using simplified judging standards)

CLASS 3

1. Honey Baking Competition - 3 categories - each entry must have a typed recipe attached.
A) Cakes B) Cookies C) Other

The exhibitor winning the greatest number of points in the Honey Division (Classes 1 and 2) will be declared the CHAMPION EXHIBITOR of the Manitoba Honey Show. Points are awarded as follows

PRIZE	POINTS
FIRST	3
SECOND	2
THIRD	1

CLASSIFIEDS

(Free for members.)

WANTED: Clean propolis, from honey boxes and extracting frames only, any quantity. Phone Ron Rudiak at (204)326-3763 to get details.

For Sale: Hive Size Syrup Feeder Boxes, Black Plastic or Wood;Honey Box Shells w/wo Frames, Queen Excluders,Lids and Bottom Boards,Electric Fencers and Fence Wire,etc. Call:Charles Polcyn @ 284-7064



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'