

# THE BEE CAUSE

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## Special Points of interest:

### PROGRAM:

#### **The January 9th Meeting:**

A Nomination committee report and election to executive positions. and Charles Polcyn on his tour to Armenia.

**NEXT MEETING:** Date is January 9 th ,7:30 pm @ the River Heights Community Center. Located at 1370 Grosvenor street.

"Articles published in THE BEE CAUSE are the opinions of the Authors and are generally printed as received. They do not necessarily express the opinions of the Red River " Apiarists Association,

## MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION 101 ANNUAL CONVENTION!!

**FEBRUARY 9th & 10th  
BE UP TO DATE**

**The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association is the provincial organization that represents beekeepers in Manitoba.**

Members of the Association work together to make beekeeping more productive and profitable for everyone **including sideliners and hobbyists**. The MBA voices the concerns of Manitoba honey producers to the Government of Manitoba. The Association is also a member of Canadian Honey Council, the national organization which takes the views and concerns of Manitoba beekeepers to the Federal Government.

The views and position of Manitoba beekeepers are also represented to other organizations within Manitoba directly and through Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP).

**The MBA works closely with Manitoba Agriculture**, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) to bring up-to-date information to beekeepers. Some of this is done through workshops, bringing in knowledgeable speakers from manufacturing companies, research teams and universities.

The Association has worked **hand in hand with the University of Manitoba** to fund and assist in many research projects for the benefit of honey producers. Today, several research projects are ongoing and in various stages of completion. When concluded these undertakings should have a long term benefit for beekeepers. The Association also makes requests, through CHC, to the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists for needed research projects.

**The Honey Bee Inspection Program** co-ordinated and conducted by MAFRI is jointly funded by the Province of Manitoba and the MBA. This program has been of notable benefit to the entire honey bee industry by identifying disease problems as they appear and educating beekeepers on how to manage bee diseases. This program helps to keep the entire industry viable.

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association **provides publicity for the honey industry**. Representatives from the Executive and other members, knowledgeable in the field, are regularly contacted by the news media to speak or provide comment on current events and market trends.

**Honey promotion** is very important to the honey industry. In this the MBA works with individuals and other associations, such as the Red River Apiarists' Assoc. (RRAA), to feature educational and promotional events such as a yearly honey show in Winnipeg. The MBA recently supported, financially, an extensive honey test market  
( Continued on page 2)

## RRAA Executive Members

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## Red River Apiarists' Association

### Minutes of the General Meeting November 14, 2006

Heather Laird welcomed members and guests to the November meeting at 7:30 PM. Heather also extended thanks to our honey show volunteers.

**Canadian Honey Council:** Ron Rudiak provided an update on the progress of restructuring Honey Council to represent Canadian beekeepers more effectively in today's changing business environment. Ron also provided copies of the American Honey Producers antidumping program which was largely responsible for closing the loophole used by importers to bring Chinese honey into the US. Forms were also available for Canadian beekeepers to donate to the US campaign.

**Honey Show:** John Russell thanked everyone for helping at the Honey Show and was also pleased at the popularity of CHC's mascot, Pierre the Bear.

**Program:** Charles Polcyn gave the audience a slide show presentation on his recent experiences in the Philippines.

**Loonie Draw:** The pairs of knitted woolen mittens crafted by Janice Lupinette were won by Mike Grysiuk, Emil Rekrut, Ron Rudiak, and John Speer. Dennis Ross won the dried Philippine mangoes and John Noll won the dried cuttle fish from China (both prizes donated by Charles Polcyn), Steve Rohatynsky won the jar of specialty honey from John Russell and John Russell won the cartoon nose. Ted Scheuneman won the book titled "Honey Acres" and Stan Grysiuk's name was drawn for the mirror donated by Ted.

and promotional campaign in the Winnipeg area along with the **CHC, Bee Maid, and the RRAA**. Each year the Bear Damage Compensation program is reviewed by the MBA board to make recommendations on the current value of bees, honey and equipment to Manitoba Crop Insurance to develop a payment schedule.

Recently, the MBA Pest Committee has had several discussions with the Provincial Health Department regarding the West Nile Virus in order to develop a workable plan to protect honey bees in case aerial application of Malathion is required in the province.

The MBA has recently negotiated an improved Group Liability Insurance program for members of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association.

The Association also provides access to the Federal advance payment for crops program (CAIS).

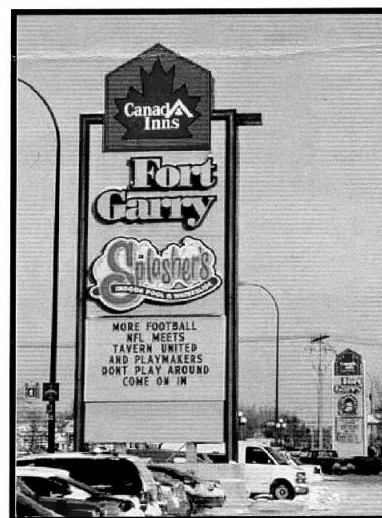


# Manitoba Beekeepers Association

*101<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION*  
*Canad Inns – Fort Garry, Winnipeg MB*  
*February 9 – 10, 2007*

## Symposium

- **\*Alternatives for Varroa Mite**
- **\*Control: Thymol & Essential Oils**
- **\*Fumigation of Package Bees with Formic & Oxalic Acid**
- **\*Genetic & Environmental Influences on Varroa Mite Control**
- **\*Nectar production in Important Honey Producing Plants**
- **\*Pollination Contracts**
- **\*Producer Panel – Requeening**
- **\*Food Production – Why It Is Important To Be Registered**
- **\*Fruit & Wine Industry in Manitoba**
- **\*Much, Much More**
- 



## Workshop

- **Small Hive Beetle Identification & Control**

**For more information regarding the 101<sup>ST</sup> Annual Convention, please visit the bulletin section of the MBA website:  
[www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org)**

## Red River Apiarists' Association

Executive Meeting - December 12, 2006

Salisbury House (Corner of Bishop Grandin and Pembina Highway)

In attendance: John Russell, Jim Campbell, David Ostermann, Ron Rudiak, Margaret Smith, Dennis Ross and Charles Polcyn. John opened the meeting at 5:50 PM

**Election:** Jim circulated copies of the RRAA Constitution and Bylaws for review of the election procedure. The nomination committee will consist of John Russell, Charles Polcyn, Rhéal Lafrenière and David Ostermann. The committee will solicit names for the positions of President and Newsletter Editor. Nominations will be taken from the floor for any of the executive positions at our January meeting.

**Newsletter:** Publication of the Bee Cause newsletter was discussed. It was generally agreed that we need to maintain the high quality content of our newsletter. Color is not as important as content and layout. For members having access to e-mail it may be possible to send copies of our newsletter to them electronically to decrease costs. Money generated from advertising could also help to offset costs of producing a newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dennis Ross reported that the bank balance as of Oct. 31 was \$4258.00. There was a general discussion about the amount of money that we need to maintain to meet our yearly commitments and how much we need to have as a reserve. Should a portion of these funds be donated to research? At present, we are paying \$58.80 for the meeting room at the River Heights Community Centre which includes coffee.

Dennis and Jim will update the mailing list. The updated list will then be forwarded to members of the executive who will work together to contact each member and add in any missing information. Having the list updated will make it easier to contact members and could be used to circulate the newsletter electronically in the future. Presently our association membership is 68 and we have 96 copies of the Bee Cause going out on our mailing list.

**Membership:** John suggested that we need to list the benefits of belonging to the RRAA to attract

potential members. We could also look at the bulk purchase of items such as bee supplies or honey packing materials to see if there is an additional benefit that we could provide.

We should have a pamphlet available at honey shows and other events about becoming a beekeeper. Charles suggested we use free space for promotion in some of the community papers.

**Program:** The following program schedule was proposed (subject to verification).

January - Nomination committee report and election to executive positions. The treasurers' report and Charles Polcyn on his tour to Armenia.

February - Rhéal on his experiences with Chilean agriculture.

March - David on spring management (it might be practical to include fall management as well).

April - Ted Scheuneman and David Ostermann on producing queens and nucs.

May - Honey regulation changes regarding nutritional labelling and a tour of Bee Maid.

June - Field Day with MBA

Ron Rudiak - Secretary

### Happy Holidays and I hope we all have a very productive New Year!!

I wanted to wish all you "**Honey Producers**" and your families a great 2007! I will be hanging up my "Keyboard" sort of speak, as Newsletter Editor for the Red River Apiarist Association. This will be my last edition, but I know who ever takes over will do a great job and will keep the tradition of one of the best and most informative newsletters! I want to thank all who helped me along and complemented the BeeCause, but it takes the whole board to make it work. Farewell and I hope to see you all at the monthly meetings and of course at the **MBA Convention in February!!**

**Dan Lecocq**

**101<sup>st</sup> MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION CONVENTION  
CANAD INNS – FORT GARRY WINNIPEG MANITOBA  
FEBRUARY 9-10, 2007**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Name of Registrant  
or Corporation:**  
(include names of Corp delegates)

**Mailing Address:**

**Telephone:** (    )

**Fax:** (    )

**Registration Fees:** Includes lunch tickets for February 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Advance Registration deadline is January 25, 2007. Registration Forms post-marked later than January 25<sup>th</sup> will be charged the Full Registration rate.

**Banquet:** Buffet style banquet and Research Auction (\$32 per person).

Advance Registration (before January 25, 2007)

- |                                   |       |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| • Member:                         | \$75  | _____ |
| • Non-member                      | \$100 | _____ |
| • Corporation (up to 3 delegates) | \$200 | _____ |

Regular Registration (after January 25, 2007)

- |                                    |       |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| • Member:                          | \$100 | _____ |
| • Non-member:                      | \$100 | _____ |
| • Corporation (up to 3 delegates): | \$275 | _____ |

Single Day Registration	\$50	_____
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Banquet - Friday, February 9, 2007	\$32 x _____	_____
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**TOTAL**      \_\_\_\_\_

**Send registration form and payment to:**      **Manitoba Beekeepers' Association  
Lot 19 Kingsway Kort, RR#1  
Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 5Y1**

**Accommodations:** Standard Rooms (Single or Double occupancy) - \$89.00 + taxes or Executive Suite (Single or Double occupancy) - \$99.00 + taxes. A block of rooms have been reserved until January 8th, 2007 after which time room availability is not guaranteed. Contact Canad Inns-Fort Garry at (204) 727-1422 or toll-free 1-888-332-2623.

\*\*Please refer to "Beekeepers Convention" when making reservations\*\*

# Manitoba Extension Report

David Ostermann

Dec 15, 2006



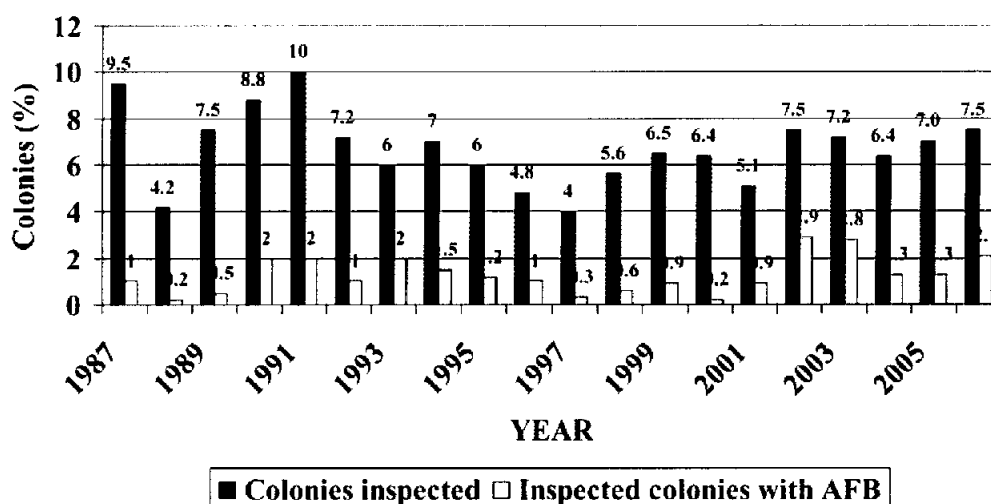
## Summary of the 2006 Apiary Inspection Results

A total of 237 operations and about 7000 hives were inspected in the spring and fall this year. AFB was found in 44 operations. Last year (2005), 255 operations were inspected, and AFB was found in 26 of those operations. It is speculated that more AFB-positive operations were found this year due to the early spring and advanced brood rearing. Fig. 1 shows the spring percentage of hives inspected and found with AFB over the past 20 years. Analysis of the samples processed in the lab didn't show any unusually high pest levels, on average, although some samples certainly indicated damaging levels (eg. varroa, in particular). Last year, nosema disease was found at higher levels than normal.

Going into next year, there is a significant concern about varroa levels increasing and causing damage in operations where resistance to Apistan, and now CheckMite, is occurring. Apistan resistance is believed to be now fairly widespread in the province, while CheckMite resistance was confirmed in an operation in the RMs of Rhineland and Montcalm, this fall. Furthermore, the milder weather conditions and longer season, are contributing to more brood cycles and therefore greater varroa pressures in our hives. It is important to be sure varroa control treatments are actually working - by assessing levels before and after a treatment!!

rAFB was discovered in two more operations this spring, making seven the total number of operations currently active with the (oxytetracycline) resistant disease. All operations are located in the Northwest or Central regions of the province. Two adult small hive beetles were also found in an operation in the Northwest region of the province this fall (for details, see Autumn 2006 edition).

## Inspected Colonies and AFB Incidence





## Produce vendors ticketed at an Ottawa farmers' market

On August 3, 2006, OMAFRA received a complaint about vendors selling imported produce as Ontario produce at a farmers' market in Ottawa. Two OMAFRA compliance officers went to the market to conduct inspections.

As a result, one woman was given four tickets and fined a total of \$1,345 for offences of misrepresentation, failure to remove Ontario markings and offering for sale produce without displaying signs as prescribed under Regulation 378 of the *Farm Product Grades and Sales Act*.

For example, peaches from the U.S. had signs indicating they were from Niagara; apples, strawberries, cherries, red grapes, oranges, red plums and Bartlett pears from other provinces and the U.S., had no signs and were sold in Foodland Ontario boxes; watermelons had signs that did not specify their country of origin; honeydew melons had a sign with the term "local", but were from Quebec; some imported produce was labeled as Canada #1 grade even though it came from outside Canada.

The same vendor was ticketed for similar offences two years ago. As part of this inspection, two other vendors were ticketed and others were advised about regulatory requirements.

Requirements in the act and regulations, which are administered by OMAFRA, ensure that buyers are provided with accurate information about the food products they purchase. These requirements also contribute to upholding the reputation of Ontario's honey, maple syrup, fruit and vegetable industries.

## **Varroa Outbreak In New Zealand**

Biosecurity New Zealand says it could be a week before it knows the extent of a further outbreak of the varroa bee mite near Nelson.

Varroa has been found in 3 hives in 2 apiaries in the Sherry River Valley, close to an infested area identified at Tapawera in June. A 3rd infected apiary has been found at Brightwater - 7km away.

Biosecurity New Zealand says all hives in the newly discovered areas will now be tested to see how far the mite has spread. More than 25 000 hives have been lost in the North Island since varroa was detected in Auckland in 2000. -- Brent Barrett <salbrent@sbcglobal.net>

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## **Manitoba Beekeeper's Association 101st Annual General Meeting**

Over 40 people participated in the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. For the 101st AGM, the date was delayed from the traditional Monday, until Wednesday November 15. This was done to help some outdoor enthusiasts.



Despite the change, the business reports and discussions went ahead as usual. Most attendees remembered last year's meeting, where the weather created quite a stir, and remained optimistic about receiving better treatment this year. Members and guests heard about the Directors activities to keep on top of a number of issues and items facing our industry. Once again, the "feedback session" provided an opportunity to hear directly from members. Items presented were captured and will be reviewed at future directors meetings. Meanwhile in other reports, attendees heard about the increased activities and importance of the lab in analyzing bee samples, plus the consumers enthusiastic response to the CHC promotional mascot appearing in Winnipeg.

A special thanks to Helen and her "food" crew, for providing treats where Honey was in-



cluded as an ingredient. The ice cream with Honey Sweetened Strawberries were quite a hit!

## Buzz on honey tastes sweet

, **Winnipeg Free Press**, Laura Rance, B4, November 11

Just as meat producers rejoiced when the Atkins Diet caught consumers' fancy, the latest buzz about ethical eating tastes pretty sweet to local honey producers.

But whereas the Atkins Diet, which offered yet another nutritionally questionable quick fix to weight control, has come and gone -- the principles behind buy-local campaigns could stick around.

Some are even calling it the "new organic" when it comes to food trends that can reshape and reposition product lines.

Lower transportation and energy costs, the potential for a direct connection with the producer and the ability to monitor production processes -- are all facets that have growing appeal to consumers.

Industry analysts are consistently finding that a rising proportion of consumers are willing to pay more for foods that coincide with specific values. This is good news for honey.

A report on the Canadian Honey Council website cites a Life Cycle Analysis of sweeteners, a calculation of the amount of energy consumed from their production, processing through to the consumers' mouth.

The analysis conducted by Swedish researchers found that it takes as much energy to produce a pound of chocolate as it does to make the equivalent weight of gasoline. Sugar and jam weren't far behind.

"Sweets, as it turns out, are the gas-guzzlers, the SUVs, of the food world," said the report prepared by Andony Melathopoulos of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Beaverlodge, Alta. "The researchers point out that sweets, snacks and drinks contributed up to a third of total energy inputs of the average Swede's diet." Sugars made from cane, corn and beets are greedy consumers of fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation. And there is a growing list of concerns about the environmental sustainability of some of those production systems.

Yet there is hardly a processed or packaged food or beverage in our cupboards that doesn't contain some measure of these highly processed sweeteners.

The sugar industry -- particularly in cane-producing parts of the world -- is notorious for its poor treatment of field workers.

The cost of processing is also high.

The exception is locally produced honey. Bees actually contribute to the environment by pollinating, which is a natural productivity enhancer, as they move among annual crops and wildflowers during the summer months.

Extracting the honey from hives costs a fraction of what it takes to make corn sugar (fructose syrup) from a wet milling process.

In fact, there is very little processing involved.

Honey is also typically transported shorter distances than sugar.

"Canadians buying domestic honey support a beekeeper who owns their own business and who abides by numerous health and safety regulations. Canadian honey has less impact on the environment, conforms to ethical labour practices and keeps our rural communities vibrant," the report says.

Yet, Canadian honey often loses out in the grocer when ethically minded consumers get fooled into thinking organic cane sugar is the moral option.

"Consumers buying these products firmly believe they are making a sustainable and ethical choice, but clearly this is not the case.

Even conventionally produced local honey has less impact on the environment than organic cane syrup." Or when consumers choose a "honey-flavoured" product, which under current labelling laws may contain no honey at all. What rankles producers the most about that is there is no definitive taste for honey.

A blueberry is a blueberry so perhaps it's possible to mimic its flavour. But honey's flavour changes with the source of pollen, whether it is buckwheat, canola, dandelion or sunflower.



Labelling practices also make it hard for consumers to know whether the honey they are buying comes from local sources or has been imported and blended with a small amount of Canadian honey. If the foreign source is listed first, that's the first clue.

A product labelled as Canada No. 1 is merely a grade designation.

The honey may not come from Canadian sources.

In yet another labelling quirk, the Canadian Food inspection Agency now says that when products have "honey" in their name, such as honey nut cereals, honey must make up at least 50 per cent of the sweetener used in the product. If they contain less they would have to be labelled "honey-flavoured." The honey industry fears that if manufacturers are faced with either changing their packaging or their formulations, they'll go with honey-

flavoured sweeteners instead of the real thing. Negotiations with the federal agency continue on that one.

In light of all this, the Canadian Honey Council is testing out an advertising campaign in Winnipeg this fall encouraging consumers to choose pure Canadian honey over blends containing a mix of Canadian and imported product. If it works in Winnipeg, the program could go national.

For consumers, it doesn't get much better than this: you can now eat your sweets and claim the moral high ground, too.

Laura Rance is associate editor of the Farmers' Independent Weekly ([www.fiwonline.com](http://www.fiwonline.com)). She can be reached at 792-4382 or by email: [lrance@fiwonline.com](mailto:lrance@fiwonline.com).



**Pictures of the labels that may contain  
CHLORAMPHENICOL**

## **HEALTH HAZARD ALERT IMPORTED HONEY BEARING A LABEL IN CYRILLIC ONLY MAY CONTAIN CHLORAMPHENICOL**

OTTAWA, December 14, 2006 - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is warning people not to consume the honey products described below because they may be contaminated with chloramphenicol.

The affected products bear a label in Cyrillic only (no English or French).

1. **The name on the label is "КВІТКОВИЙ МЕД Натуральний СТЕЛОВИЙ". The product is sold in 480g jar bearing UPC 4 820013 330019 and lot 010906.**
2. **The name on the label is "КВІТКОВИЙ МЕД Натуральний ЛУГОВИЙ". The product is sold in 480g jar bearing UPC 4 820013 330071 and lot 010906.**
3. **The name on the label is "КВІТКОВИЙ МЕД Натуральний ГРЕЧАНИЙ". The product is sold in 480g jar bearing UPC 4 820013 330132 and lot 010906.**

These honey products are from Ukraine and have been distributed in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. The importer is voluntarily recalling the affected products from the marketplace.

The presence of chloramphenicol in honey poses a risk (although small) of a serious blood disorder known as aplastic anaemia. Chloramphenicol is an antibiotic drug which is not permitted for use in Canada in food producing animals, including bees. There have been no reported illnesses associated with the consumption of these products.

The CFIA is monitoring the effectiveness of the recall.

For more information, consumers and industry can call the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 / TTY 1-800-465-7735 (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday to Friday)

For information on receiving recalls by e-mail, or for other food safety facts, visit our web site at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca).

**"See Pictures of the affected labels on left side"**

## CLASSIFIEDS

**For Sale:** 50 telescoping lids and inner covers also 12 Wintering pillows for a 4 pack of colonies R20 insulation value( 2 years old) excellent condition  
Frame wiring jig \$10.00  
Ph. Dan 255-1043 or 797-3322

**For Sale** Also Over wintered super nucs for sale next mid may. 3 frames of brood + 1 frame honey. Price is \$130.00 each.  
Call Pierre Faure: 1.204.248.2645



**Wanted** :Looking for a solar wax melter.  
Doug Henry 757-4694  
dhenry@skyweb.ca

**For Sale:** 500 hive operation; please contact Honey Rock Apiaries (204) 388-5164

**For Sale:** Cowen Dual real 120 frame extractor with cappings auger, jumbo Cowen uncapper, plumbed inline sump and complete water heating system. All motors included. \$2,000 firm.  
Ian Stepler, Miami, MB 204-435-2491.

**For sale:** frames of brood and bee's and nucs available May 2007. please call Mike Grysiuk

**For Sale:** Bee Boxes with empty frames, Bee Boxes, Metal Lids, Feeder Lids, Plastic Box Top Feeders, Wooden Box Top Feeders, Bottom Boards, Frame Making pieces, Electric Fencers for Bears, other equipment, Etc.  
Contact Charles Polcyn at 284-7064 or Email: charlespolcyn@yahoo.com

**:For Sale** 250 hives on 2 hive pallets; selling entire operation: supers, winter wraps, , Gunness uncapper, . Will sell as a package or split if enough interest in individual items.  
Hives must sell before the supers or machinery.  
Phone: Bob Ford, Minnedosa  
204-874-2365 Evenings

**For sale:** Wintered colonies , Spring Nucs and Super Nucs (with laying queen and a minimum of 3 frames of brood available in May  
Call Rod Boudreau ph: 885-3344

**For Sale :** (300 ) 4 liter Heavy Duty feed pails. Drilled for feeding with 2" refill plugs  
\$2.10 each  
Call Frank at 257-2924 or cell 781-9773



### RED RIVER APIARIST'S ASSOCIATION 2007 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