

The Bee Cause



Volume 9, Issue 1

January 2012

- Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, January 10th at the **River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.**
- (in room right of main-door)
- **Speaker:** Columbia Beekeeping ventures by Charles Polcyn. & promotion of the January Beekeeping Convention

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INTERNATIONAL HONEY MARKET January 2012
 by **RON PHIPPS** President, CPNA International Ltd.1
 Co-Chairman, Committee for the Promotion of Honey and Health

A sea change has occurred in the American honey market with the recent indictments announced by ICE and Homeland Security for fraudulent entry of Chinese honey into the U.S. without paying the requisite anti-dumping duties. These indictments involve citizens of Taiwan and China, as well as a resident of California. Numerous companies and warehouses of honey are involved.

While this is the latest in a series of indictments for illicit circumvention of Chinese honey into America, it deals a major blow to the two tiered market that has haunted and distorted the U.S. honey market for at least 7 years. The reason for the special significance of this indictment resides is the fact that for the first time the source of demand for circumvented honey, that is the packers who buy illicitly entered honey, are referenced. It is obvious that circumvention is not an act of idle speculation, but the result of collusion and conspiracy to circumvent the law, collusion that requires coordinated acts among exporters, importers and packers. As leaders of the American Honey Producers Association aptly expressed it during a hearing of the Senate Finance Committee earlier this spring, "Stopping circumvention requires bringing the 'chop shop' owners under the arm of the law." With this new indictment beekeepers, honest packers and honest importers believe the process of addressing the source of demand has commenced. Such packers have gained unfair price advantage and dramatically increase their market share based upon the huge quantities of Chinese honey that have illicitly entered the country in one form or another. Those committing such fraud are clever, devious and nimble.

1 CPNA International, Ltd. B 1043 Oyster Bay Road East Norwich, NY 11732 Tel: (516) 935-3880 Fax: (516) 935-3959

e-mail: info@cpnaglobal.com Report distributed Dec. 2, 2011

Mr. Phipps is president and founder of CPNA International, Ltd. and is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the National Honey Packers & Dealers Association. He is an importer of honey, natural foods and tea from various international producers. Ron is also the former personal research assistant to the president of the American Philosophy Association. He is a recipient of the National Science Foundation fellowship for philosophy of theoretical physics. Mr. Phipps is a founding member of the Tea & Health Committee, which organized three major scientific symposiums on tea and health and the role of antioxidants in the prevention of disease. He has worked with FDA to develop a research protocol for the global diversity of honey.

That nimbleness has been manifested through kickbacks, fraudulent under valuation of honey, trans-shipment of honey through a wide variety of third countries and entering honey through U. S. Customs under false classification. In this case, Chinese honey, it is alleged, is entered as "rice syrup" rather than either honey or a honey blend, i.e. a blend of sweeteners containing less than 50% honey. This latest example is not at all surprising since previous cases have been reported of luxury hand bags being entered through Customs as "Chinese dried noodles."

The complaint against 3 individuals filed in Jacksonville, Florida, states that in 3 months ending in November 2011 about 123 containers (over 5,000,000 lbs.) of product was entered under the false description of rice fructose syrup. The origin of the product was China. The 3 individuals (continued on pg 7)

2011 Executive

President: Charles Polcyn
Ph 284-7064
845 Kebir
Winnipeg, MB
Email: charles_polcyn@ymail.com.

1st Vice President: John Badiuk
Ph .943-0166
1413-411 Cumberland Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1T7
Email:honeyb@mymts.net

2nd Vice President: Brian Smith
Ph 204-373-2527
P0 Box 423
Emerson, MB. R0A 0L0
Email: smthbgsl@mymts.net

Secretary: Ron Rudiak
Ph 326-3763
216 Loewen Blvd.
Steinbach, MB R5G 0E5
Email: manbeekr@mts.net

Treasurer: John Speer
Ph 222-3007
Box 16, Group 555, RR 5
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2Z2
Email: jursss@mts.net

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

Reporter: Ron Rudiak
Ph 326-3763
216 Loewen Blvd.
Steinbach, MB R5G 0E5
Email: manbeekr@mts.net

Newsletter Editor:
Ken Rowes
Ph 204-755-3427
Cloverleaf Box 758
RR1 Anola, MB R0E 0A0
Email: Roweskd@mymts.net

Presidents Comments – January 2011

This is the slow down time for most beekeepers as the bees are wrapped up in their insulated blankets, or stacked inside in their ventilated air conditioned wintering rooms. We can only hope that the preparations we did in the fall are sufficient to prepare the hives for their winter months. One can only hope that in either location they will have enough food, not too much cold and will come thru strong for a normal April spring. Store prices on honey are moving upwards along with the overall prices of food. I hope that beekeepers are also benefiting with higher wholesale prices for their high quality Manitoba production. According to the recent American Bee Journal there are honey shortages worldwide, some due to weather and the other due to farmers changing to crops that are low in nectar and pollen.

A recent newspaper article had a provocative title stating that much of the honey being sold/utilized in North America is likely not honey at all as there are no traces of pollen in the honey. There has been an Ultra Filtered Process that has taken place. Thus if there are no traces of pollen, what you may have is some type of sweetener that is a mix of potentially sugar water, corn syrup or a coloured liquid with a bit of honey included. The denials from the larger packers are accumulating as the questions are being asked about the quality and preparation of their honey. It has become almost a “NOT US” situation that is difficult to verify. One of the major packers of the small individual honey packets has been identified as one of the groups marketing these small portions of “maybe” honey to the public. One can see why people coming to Farmer’s Markets are asking the questions “Is this the Real Honey? and does it come from Manitoba.?” Another frequent comment is that “store honey is sweet, but doesn’t have the real taste of honey any more.”

Beekeepers have to remember to remind our customers of the quality, aroma, bouquet and flavour of the honey that is produced locally.

I was asked to spend 3 weeks in NE Colombia advising beekeepers on how to increase honey production, make Value Added Products with beeswax, honey and propolis and perhaps dealing with Varroa Mite problems. The bees there are quite defensive some days, and the single hole Quebec Bee Escape Board was a very popular idea for collecting honey with the beekeepers.

Varroa Mites varied from double to triple digit numbers on a 24 hour drop situation. Screened bottom boards, drone comb removal and Powdered sugar shakes were new tools I introduced to control and monitor mite levels.

The end of January Canada wide Beekeeper Meetings at the Winnipeg Fort Garry Hotel should be of interest to all local beekeepers both large and small. I hope that many of you take the time to attend some of the sessions. It is an Investment for your beekeeping future. At our regular meeting in January you will have a chance to decide on your RRAA Executive for 2012. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Executive there are likely some positions available. Let me know ahead of time so that a proper balloting procedure can take place. Many members of the current Executive would be glad to stand down, have a break and let others plan for programs and new agenda items for 2012.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and many blessings in 2012.
Yours in Beekeeping--- Charles Polcyn RRAA President.

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Minutes of the RRAA General Meeting River Heights Community Club – November 8, 2011

7:30 PM: John Badiuk opened the November meeting.
Presentations for the evening:

- 1) Tower Hive System part II - by Phil Veldhuis and its effect on controlling Varroa mite populations & producing large quantities of honey
- 2) Special gadget night
- 3) Executive search committee for 2012

Minutes: Moved by Chris Argiriou and Ted Sosnowski approve the minutes as circulated in the Bee Cause. Motion approved with no errors or emissions noted.

Treasurer's Report: none reported.

MBA Report: Jim Campbell reported on the 2012 Canadian Beekeeping Annual Convention at the Fort Garry hotel January 26-28th. He mentioned the increased use and value of the RRAA and MBA websites locally and nationally. Interestingly Chris Argiriou thanked the RRAA for referencing him on the website for assistance at the May Day for the Honey Bee where a relative found him from Germany.

RRAA Logo: an old RRAA logo was put forward by John Badiuk for the membership to consider reaffirming the 1967 original or having a new one established. The intent was to provide a brand for the association to be used at functions communal / governmental. This was an open call for suggestions.

Summer honey / yard results of the attending members: average yield 8; above av. 6; below av. 2 **Major impacts:** most members agreed wetness and delayed production both played a role in honey production/ nectar flow but mites seemed to be same with no change in affect wherein some had mite reduction but generally present in most hives.

Coffee Break: John Badiuk brought in treats to have with our coffee as we listened to the following presentation.

Program: A presentation by Tower Hive System part II - by Phil Veldhuis and its effect on controlling Varroa mite populations & producing large quantities of honey

Near 1 August, 1st honey removal, reconfigure to standard hive in 2 to 4 weeks if no drone cells Requeen. He had left them in past to a state of 15 supers but too heavy – lots of burr comb and less drone cells. In 2010 varroa mites were below economic threshold. In 2011 there was no significant difference between 500 screened and 500 not screened. Mites were 0.01% so will continue. Phil thinks double wintering is less effective over singles. Bottom-line is use a multitude of control methods: (Thymol (organic acid), biological breeding better bees, cultural (screened bottoms and drone removal).

Phil recommends – Treat then monitor – use many controls: "kick'm while they are down". That said you will find results vary with the same treatment.

Chris Argiriou - what about rain? **Phil** - Bees' propolize fast but moisture can be a problem. The bees share and do not mix between brood boxes so you may see a weak hive on one side. Benefits- drone removal with mite reduction, effective and cheap, but can be laborious. Phil: Runs them in quads on palettes as singles in a w-e direction August to late June, wrapping with an R7 reflective insulation for winter. Each hive has drone patterns usually located on the # 3 frame. With the tower you can remove drone comb or scrape it each 20 or 24th day and dip in a mild ox-

alic acid solution – no extra trips (9 tbsps to 5 gal of hot water) as Dr. Currie affirms freezing dose not kill viruses.

(Note January 2011 newsletter for Ron Rudiak's article on **Tower Hives.**)

Gadgets:

Brian Smith uses a coil of ABS pipe on a 4x8 sheet of plywood as a solar water heating device for remote locations

Stan fabricated an extractor out of a heavy duty plastic pail and bicycle gears with a 2:1 ratio.

Jim Campbell used 12 inch high stucco wire wrapped around hives when skunks were a problem, even used two layers.

Discussion on live traps and poking with a needle of poison on a stick.

Hans Borst Presented a sample of 'Honibe Waffers' - dried honey from PEI as an added valued product for honey as honey wafers .

Loonie Draw: awarded to: Howard Alexander (candle), Brian Little, Albert Anderson, Duane Versluis, Stan Huziy, (rain gages), (range gage), Chris Argiriou (first aid kit), Ted Sosnowski and Carol Anderson (flavoured Honey). Thanks to everyone who entered and to those who donated the amazing collection of prizes.

Ken Rowes for Ron Rudiak, recorder – RRAA

MBA Report January 2011

MBA report for January 2012

Jim Campbell, MBA rep.

For its' last official activity of the year, MBA directors met in early December and established their leadership team for 2012. Taking the helm as President is Allan Campbell, Dauphin, Other executive officers include Murray Lewis as VP, Bryan Ash as Canadian Honey Council Director, Gary Momotiuk as Keystone Agricultural Producers representative, and rounding out the team is Bruce Podolsky as Executive Member.

Meanwhile, the Annual Meeting last November saw a series of Resolutions accepted which will help move the organization ahead as it seeks more tools to combat the constant threat of varroa. This also means continued studies at U of M to collect a second year of efficacy data on a range of varroa treatments including Thymol, HopGuard, and Mite Away Quick Strips.

Many large producers are concerned about access to foreign workers to maintain their operations viability. The Federal government has been making changes to the overall process, and often these changes lead to longer wait times for approval of Labour Market Opinions. To meet the requirements of the regulations, producers already advertised for help during October and November of last year. There is lots of concern workers helping in Canada for 4 years, may not be able to return for 4 years, causing increased training time for new helpers. On a more positive vein, it seems beekeeping students in France may be able to come to Canada easily to obtain work experience. Within the Manitoba-France agreement, the time between request and student arrival could be as short as one week.

Also in the global arena, the European Union (EU), which imports 40% of its annual honey purchases and relies on Genetically Modified (GM) crops of supplying countries, struggles.

Packers and exporters where GM crops are grown are pressuring the EU on their ruling that honey containing pollen from GM crops requires full safety approval, as well as having to be labelled as GM. Global producers, including Canada, where for example, all canola is gmo, continue to assess the impacts of this ruling.

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Minutes of the RRAA Executive Meeting Salsbury House Pembina – December 6, 2011

Attendees: Brian Smith, Duane Versluis, Marni Dangerfield, John Speer, Charles Polcyn and Ken Rowes

Charles relayed that Ron Rudiak was doing better and staying in Texas. He has also confirmed he will let his name stand for RRAA Secretary for 2012.

Presentations for the evening:

- 1) Nominating committee for 2012 executive
- 2) Newsletter future ideas and plans
- 3) Archiving newsletters
- 4) Speakers for the spring meetings
- 5) Establishing a volunteer listing and appreciation plan
- 6) Establishing a e-mail newsletter distribution
- 7) RRAA Logo
- 8) Adjusting the City of Winnipeg By-Law on keeping bees in the city
- 9) Other business

5:00 PM: John Badiuk opened the meeting.

Charles made correction to his e-mail address (Charles_polcyn@ymail.com).

1 There were no volunteers from the floor at the November meeting. It was table for Marni and Duane to volunteer in and extension of that process here at the executive meeting to facilitate the association mandate. They agreed to stand.

2 Design and format of the newsletter was table by Marni and Duane realizing it with take time and discussion. Marni had used a word platform on an idea for future newsletters. Word would be friendlier to use and easier to share. This word copy would be converted to a PDF file for distribution.

Action: Ken would provide Marni with material from the newsletter for her to create a word copy.

Ken would provide a publisher (Microsoft 2003 Publisher) copy of the January newsletter for Marni to

See if she can manipulate and also e-mail with a high speed system other than Ken's dial up which

can't provide that service.

If this is successful Marni would be capable of producing the February newsletter.

Ken would assist in part by providing limited service. Rural dial up and communication would limit

Ken's level of service and that would be passed on to others more capable to provide that level of service.

Action: E-mail service Ken would not provide. If compilation and newsletter drafting can be done in the city with

Marni then hard copy distribution can be provided in the city less expensively than Ken's in the country

and others would be required to print, stuff and stamp and mail in the city.

3 Archiving newsletters was discussed and Duane volunteered to look into it. Ken provided copies of all newsletters he produced 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Action: Ken provided Duane a Disc of Microsoft Publisher 2003 copies of the last 3 years of newsletters (24 copies).

Charles provided Duane with several older copies of the newsletter to scan and archive.

4 From a discussion of possibilities for speakers the following are tentative:

January Columbia Beekeeping ventures by Charles Polcyn. & promotion of the January Beekeeping Convention

February Rhéal's presentation on the convention

March Spring Management

April Candle making

May Queen Rearing

5 **Volunteer Listing**

Action: Charles agreed to begin in establishing a volunteer list to solicit for event support. This list would be added to the newsletter association staff listing.

6 **E-mail distribution** **Action:** John Speer volunteered to solicit the membership since he has the membership listing. That is to draft a letter requesting membership for their desire to be sent an e-mail copy of the newsletter if and when it becomes available.

7 John Badiuk volunteered to draft an article soliciting feedback from the membership.

Action: Ken or Jim to supply a photo copy via e-mail of the old 1969 Logo.

8 **Adjusting the City of Winnipeg By-Law** on keeping bees in the city discussed and was felt the January or February was the best time to lobby city councillors.

Action: Charles volunteered compile information and draft presentation to city councillors.

9 Other business: Mention was that there is funds to up-



Editor's Note by Ken Rowes

In my yard I had a total of 4.75 inches rain between June and September—not much! Now the winter is shaping to be low in snow. Makes you think bee wintering should be excellent. The heat extended the honey flow at least out here.

And what a year for the beekeeping industry from the urgency of pulling clithianidin to biosecurity and the impacts of fungal pathogens. Research has evidence of over 20,000 flowering species being lost. The urban beekeeping By-Law for Winnipeg has been revisited. And for the first time in along while the hive beetle has made its way into Manitoba via queen imports and are under continued surveillance. As the winter set in the issues of GMO (genetically modified) pollen in honey is deflating a demand for that honey and ultra filtration removing pollen granules is preventing federal assessments for product origin identification. Both have raised a dark cloud over the world honey industry.

It is looking like the small cottage/hobby beekeeping will experience an increase in demand. We shall see.

It seems to me we need to stay focused on our own bee yards and the health of our bees.

Take another look at the January 2011 issue for Giv'em A Chance. It may come in handy when you find dwindled hives in spring.

It is with a sad heart to have lost one of RRAA's founding members Walter Wright this year.

Please consider responding to the requests on the last page –logo and e-mail delivery issues.

All the best in 2012.

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1. **For sale:** 1 complete D.E. Hive. Includes, brood chamber, super, queen excluder, bottom board, inner cover and ventilated top covers. Perfect for the back yard beekeeper. \$100 OBO. Contact, **Lance W. Phone # 712-6783, Email; lancewld@gmail.com**
2. **Wanted:** honey sump or clarifier. Contact information is: **Jonathan Hofer (204) 981-6562 jonhofer1984@gmail.com**
3. **For sale:** Stainless Steel storage tank. Cylinder, 45" diameter and 55" high. Tank holds over 300 Canadian Gallons or about 4500 pounds. Tank stands 65" high. Located near Starbuck. **Phone: Jacob Hofer (204) 799-2433.**
4. **For Sale:** Maxant 600-5 Double Wall S.S. Botling/Storage Tank with two 1800 Watt Immersion heating elements. Elements powered by

The Bee Cause is the official publication of the Red River Apiarists' Association for distribution to its members and their colleagues in the beekeeping industry. It is published eight times a year on a monthly basis except December and the summer months of June, July, and August when membership meetings do not occur.

Articles can be best submitted in word documents as email attachments. Though they may be edited for spelling and basic grammar, no changes will be made to their contents, message and opinions. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River Apiarist Association.

Deadline for any submission to this newsletter is the second Saturday preceding the membership meeting to allow for publishing and mailing delays. Regular membership meetings are normally scheduled 7:30 PM on the second Tuesday of every month at the River Heights Community Centre located at 1370 Grosvenor Avenue in Winnipeg except the months as noted above.

The Red River Apiarists' Association, formed in 1963, represents the beekeepers of the Red River Valley and environs in southern Manitoba. The association provides a forum for the promotion of sound beekeeping practices through education, networking opportunities, meetings, field days, workshops, presentations by local apicultural experts, as well as the dissemination of this monthly newsletter.

We are on the web!
www.beekeepingmanitoba.com

120v/110v. Tank previously used as wax melter, hence the two elements. Tank in very good condition, with thermometer and a sightglass. Tank holds 42 gallons or about 500 pounds of honey. Ph (204) 981-6562 or e-mail jonhofer1984@gmail.com //—\\

Food Policy & Law

Tests Show Most Store Honey Isn't Honey

Ultra-filtering Removes Pollen, Hides Honey Origins

by Andrew Schneider | Nov 07, 2011

More than three-fourths of the honey sold in U.S. grocery stores isn't exactly what the bees produce, according to testing done exclusively for **Food Safety News**.

The results show that the pollen frequently has been filtered out of products labelled "honey." The removal of these microscopic particles from deep within a flower would make the nectar flunk the quality standards set by most of the world's food safety agencies.

The food safety divisions of the World Health Organization, the European Commission and dozens of others also have ruled that without pollen there is no way to determine whether the honey came from legitimate and safe sources.

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grade any software either for the newsletter or archiving.

Action: No action was taken
Meeting was adjourned.

Ken Rowes for Ron Rudiak, recorder – RRAA

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Canadian Beekeeping Convention – January 26 – 28, 2012 Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, MB

Visit: www.manitobabee.org

Please Note: Any rooms not picked up will be released into general inventory for resale on December 27, 2011. Any guests requiring rooms after the release date will be given the negotiated group rate based on remaining inventory. If you have any questions about the hotel, please do not hesitate to call. Cherie Gallardo

Administrative Services **The Fort Garry Hotel, Spa & Conference Centre** 222 Broadway Winnipeg MB R3C 0R3 Direct Line 204 946 6541

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The **2012 Direct Farm Marketing Conference** is happening March 9 & 10, 2012 at the Lakeview Resort and Conference Centre in Gimli. This year's keynote speaker, Kerry Engel from the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association, will be speaking about trends in the industry and how they affect your business.

Other presentations include

- Culinary and agritourism
- Designing your market stall
- Wineries and Micro Breweries
- How to use local commercial kitchens
- Social media for small business
- Timing berry fertility and marketing
- FMAM and PFGA Annual General Meetings
- And lots of other great ideas

The Direct Farm Marketing Conference is ideal for anyone who is selling direct from the farm, farmers' markets, CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), agritourism operations, fruit growers, food entrepreneurs and anyone looking for new ideas to put to use in their business.

Registration is now open to the general public with early bird rates available until Feb 10 for **only \$110**; there is

also a special discount rate for a second person from your family or business. Registration includes a Trading Post and Celebrate Local Flavours feast for the senses.

For more information or to register visit www.directfarmmarketing.com

Please share this information with your clients.

Chris Hornby
Rural Leadership Specialist
Arborg, MB
204-641-1456
chris.hornby@gov.mb.ca

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Manitoba Alternative Food Research (MAFRA)

MAFRA have a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to work on connecting community and the university around food justice issues, so they work in urban, rural and northern Manitoba funding small projects that have something to do with local food, food security or food sovereignty and have a research or evaluation component.

MAFRA is putting out a call for proposals for these types of projects. Last year they had some great submissions for rural projects, but would like to see a wider diversity of projects this year from rural Manitoba. MAFRA is requesting our help as to how they could spread the word about their call for proposals either by have some applications out and about (GO Offices) and/or putting up posters that they would create or by telling community involved folks to contact our offices.

Grant Criteria

Applications are due by January 15, 2012 (midnight CST). If you are interested fill out an application, please contact: localandjust@gmail.com, 204-297-0100 or 204-474-9316 (1-866-580-8160). Or check out our website at www.localandjust.ca.

MAFRA Vision and Mission Vision

The Manitoba Alternative Food Research Alliance seeks a socially and environmentally just, culturally relevant, healthy food system that is controlled by local communities.

The mission of the Manitoba Alternative Food Research Alliance is to make this vision possible by:

- Empowering people and communities by providing funding for community projects.
- Documenting outcomes through research to support the activities of our member organizations.
- Seeking to work and communicate with both academic and non-academic communities.
- To provide support and facilitate the work of other groups and organizations that work towards food justice in Manitoba.

(from pg 1)

removed the shipping labels indicating syrup and replaced them with the description "Amber Honey." The News Release reports "once the containers of honey passed through customs, they were forwarded to a warehouse, washed of all markings and relabelled as amber honey, which was then sold to domestic purchasers... Chou and his associates, through various shell companies, successfully imported 900 containers of rice fructose over the past two years... Intelligence generated by the investigation so far is leading to thousands of barrels of misclassified honey that have already entered the United States. Many more seizures are expected in the continuing investigation."

More is to come. The industry understands that a vast amount of Chinese honey is in numerous warehouses throughout the U.S.A. Secondly, there are also reports that up to 400 containers have been denied entry and turned back. And thirdly, as the conspirators became aware that their latest scheme had been exposed, even larger quantities that would have been shipped from China have been held back from shipment.

The impact on the market is already being felt. Retailers of bottled honey and manufacturers using honey as an ingredient are seeking honest suppliers and seeing that behind the low prices within a two tiered market resides illicit honey. Given the numerous articles in the mass media that have appeared, in recent years, no one can feign ignorance of the foundation of a two-tiered market. Hence, legal and criminal responsibility for smuggling honey can extend to retailers, food service companies and manufacturers. Though we observe that "the Lady doth protest too much" those protestations are not only arrogant but also hollow.

Relative to these indictments, just as when honey imports from Indonesia were cut off in the 4th quarter of 2010, the buyers of that rice syrup/honey are the first to know about an interdiction of supply.

The USA Market

The market is now confronted with a small domestic crop which may range between 135-155 million lbs.; the days of 200 million pound crops are for the present gone. While some estimates are as low as 103 million lbs., the most informed beekeepers estimate the crop as about 140 million lbs. This failure is a consequence of drought in California, Texas and Florida and cold excessive rains in the Dakotas when clover and alfalfa were in bloom.

Additionally, as in Argentina, more land is being converted from pasture fields to soybeans, corn, grains and biofuels. Even before the indictments of November, 2011, honey prices were rising.

We are happy to confirm that the U.S. Department of Agriculture NASS honey reports, threatened with termination due to federal budget constraints, have been reinstated and will continue to provide statistical information on bees and honey production, information that is vital to broader agricultural interests that depend upon pollination services for approximately 1/3 of the food produced in America. A great deal of that food consists of foods rich in nutritional value, antioxidants and phytochemicals essential to health. It serves the national interest for the government to protect and support the beekeeping industry, vital to the national food supply and national health.

U.S. white honey prices have ranged generally from \$1.65 to \$1.72, with some pure clover fetching \$1.80 and orange over \$2.00. In general, beekeepers anticipate still higher prices for

2012.

The total volume of imported honey exceeded 232,274,000 lbs. in the period January to September 2011, according to the Department of Commerce data, with India as the leading exporting country with over 51,148,097 lbs. Imported Canadian white honey has averaged \$1.69/lb. In 2011 so far, commensurate with U.S. prices.

Argentina and Brazil

The Argentine honey crop will commence as this article is published. That crop will have major significance. But it is premature to estimate its magnitude at this early stage. In general, however, no one can expect the previous bumper crops of Argentina's excellent white honey. To meet the appetite of India and China for soybeans, pasture lands are already converted to these crops. Soybeans are Argentina's largest export item.

Argentina has been the subject of much market manipulation following the European Union's decision to require labels that recognize the presence of GMO pollens in honey if such GMO pollens exceed 0.9%. Theoretically, this is a huge problem and very general since 80% of the European diet depends upon GMO plants. For China, India, Canada and the USA the use of GMO plants is both extensive and vital to being able to feed the human population that now exceeds 7 billion people inhabiting an Earth with shrinking arable land and increasingly volatile climatic conditions.

As a scientific matter it remains very difficult to assess such small levels of GMO pollens among the very modest amounts of pollen found in honey in the market. Furthermore, packers in Europe have decided that as a practical matter of survival of their businesses they will simply change the labels to conform with the facts and the new GMO rulings if they persist and are enforceable.

We will have more to communicate on Argentina once their crop conditions mature and the GMO issue achieves further clarification. But by the 4th quarter, Argentina's honey stocks are low and Europe has begun purchase as European packers have neither adequate inventory nor reliable forward contracts.

Brazil remains the world's major source of authentic organic honey, most of which is light amber, and a smaller amount is extra light amber. The crop in southern Brazil has had an 80% loss. The crop of light amber in the north-east is doing well. In central Brazil there has been excessive rain which has compromised the yields.

The fact that Mexico has sold out its mesquite crop and cold weather devastated a large producing area of light amber honey has only exacerbated the demand for Brazilian and Argentine honey in Europe.

Vietnam

The 2011 Vietnamese honey crop was about 25,000 metric tons. In addition to rubber, litchi, and longan honey, Vietnam is now exploiting acacia forests of a species which produces light amber honey. Some shipments of Vietnamese honey have been found to have carbadenzim (continued on pg 8)

(from pg 7)

residues, and several Vietnamese honey exporters have been put on import alert for automatic detention. If, how and when Vietnam will resolve their quality concerns remains to be seen. This problem has led some to try to manipulate the market lower, however Vietnam's reliable exporters indicate that prices will rise, not fall, in 2012.

Vietnam participated in the World Honey Congress (Apimondia) held in September 2011 in Buenos Aires. Accordingly, the Vietnamese are much more informed about real market conditions. Beekeepers and exporters are no longer operating in states of insularity, ignorance and isolation. Exports of Indian white honey surged in the first 9 months of 2011, increasing from 6,908,638 lbs. in the comparable period in 2010 to 24,354,534 lbs. Some explained this increase as due to the development of white honey-producing floral sources; however, all 5 sources cited by the Indian exporter are floral sources that produce light amber and extra light amber honey, typical of tropical and semi-tropical countries.

Currencies and Market Manipulation

Since the world is in a financial crisis as western economies suffer huge national deficits, and none of us have crystal balls, or at least effective crystal balls, there is confusion about what is next in the macroeconomic sphere. At present, the focus of attention is upon Europe where Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Ireland have been in financial crisis, spending far more than they take in through taxes. Borrowing costs are escalating. Sharp divisions have erupted regarding by what path Europe can pull itself out of the deep pit into which the finances of its members have fallen and reigning governments have been toppled or weakened. In America our cumulative national debt this year has exceeded \$15 trillion dollars. State and municipal deficits are also horrendous, services are shrinking and pension funds are increasingly vulnerable.

The difference between the U.S. and Europe is that the U.S. is politically integrated in such a manner that we can print money. All present efforts to contain the problems of debt and deficits are confined to slowing the rate at which debt will grow. Within Europe there is no central bank similarly empowered to print money. There are sharp divisions between those nations in Europe which live within their means and those that were profligate. The former want to impose "austerity" upon the latter, increasing social tensions within the nations entering a period of unexpected austerity.

Germany, in particular, has taken a very hard and fiscally conservative position as the depth and breadth of Europe's fiscal crisis have become apparent. Germany has memory of the pre-Nazi era in which the German Deutsche Mark became worthless, a wheelbarrow of money buying a sack of potatoes. Thus, there is a deep historic reluctance to print money. But Europe, this writer believes, will not be able to stand by idly and passively as the U.S. Federal Reserve increases the money supply. Germany is the world's biggest exporter and its own economy will inevitably deteriorate if its export markets shrink.

Indeed, the world economy is so interdependent that it behoves each nation and region, no less the world as a whole, to maintain a general parity. Whether there is a second great recession, a global depression or a Recovery, all nations are on the same planet. Europe will have to print

money since, like the USA in 2008, Europe faces insolvency of its banks and its member nations without an increase in money supply of the Euro.

The honey industry has witnessed the strong impact of currency ratios upon U.S. dollar prices for honey. Because stability and parity of exchange rates are so vital to global economic integration, we anticipate changes in currency ratios will have a far smaller impact upon honey prices than do global climatic conditions and changes. But there is no certainty in respect to either of these variables.

Given the fact that the net is being thrown more broadly against all levels of the industries involved in circumvention or fraudulent entry of Chinese honey, a huge amount of illicit honey, honey blends and syrups will be removed from the market. Where will the cheap honey come from to fulfill contracts made by those who were depending upon receipt of this illicit, under priced honey? It is possible that wiser heads in China will do their part to resurrect China's reputation in its international trade practices and restrain such practices in the future. However, we are already seeing new players in the market with new schemes, such as the Turkish "honey" which the FDA determined was in fact adulterated with other sweeteners in October 2011. Import alerts have been issued by the FDA for "Turkish honey."

The masters of market manipulation, who are talking down future honey prices from America, Argentina, Vietnam, Mexico, Brazil, etc., are facing a deep dilemma due to the efforts of ICE, the FDA and the forces of nature.

What the industry needs now urgently is integrity, fairness, and ethics in business practices with an objective, realistic and comprehensive understanding of the overall situation in the international market. —/\—

Values and Principles are **the work of MAFRA, we will follow the following values:**

About food...

- Food is life, and access to food is a human right and public good
- Those who produce food, whether farmers, hunters, fishers, or harvesters, should be valued and should be fairly compensated for their work
- Food is a culturally unique experience
- We want to see academics and non-academics working together in equal and mutually enriching relationships.
- We value decentralized decision making to enable people in urban, rural, and northern Manitoba to make decisions about work in their own region.
- We seek to build on community and partner strengths, and avoid duplicating work already being done by partner organizations. MAFRA —/\—



RRAA Members

(1) The executive has initiated a review of our association Logo. The 1967 one to left was our first and a **request** from members is out to see if this or a new one may be established so as promotional items and programs may be labelled.

Please respond to this request by providing a logo of your design or acceptance of the old logo or old logo with adjustments to John Badiuk Vice President or Ken Rowes Editor or any of the executive.

(2) At its' meeting of December 6, 2011, your executive looked at ways to improve our communication with members while simplifying the work to copy and stuff newsletters into envelopes. This usually costs about \$1.00 each time, and takes several hours of effort.

To save time, money, and the environment, we are proposing sending information via an e-mail publication. Although we haven't determined exactly how this will work, it is best to survey members to get your feedback, prior to our Annual Meeting on January 10, 2012. There are 56 of you eligible to receive an e-mail, or about 80% of our membership, so this could save some time for your volunteers.

If you want to receive The BeeCause via e-mail when it becomes available, **please respond to this message indicating your preference to marni.dangerfield@gmail.com** .

James Campbell, for John Speer-Treasurer and Ken Rowes-Editor //—\\

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives , Business Development Section have initiated a webpage on the Manitoba.ca/agriculture home page, promoting the Gaining Ground Agribusiness Assessment. You can contact Rhonda Linde at 1 204) 761-7152

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 12, 2011 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The first step in a high-stakes battle with important ramifications for nutrition-minded American consumers takes place on September 13, 2011, in a Los Angeles federal courtroom. **A coalition of sugar farmers' cooperatives and other producers, including C&H Sugar Company, have accused the producers of High Fructose Corn Syrup of what amounts to food identity theft.** Among the several defendants are the giant company Archer-Daniels-Midland, Cargill and the Corn Refiners Association.

The sugar farmers allege that the defendants have spent \$50 million in a mass media rebranding campaign that misleads the consuming public by asserting that High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) is natural and is indistinguishable from the sugar extracted from sugar cane and sugar beets. They are also asking the Food & Drug Administration to allow HFCS to be called "corn sugar" on food and beverage ingredient labels, even though "corn sugar" has for many decades been the commonly used name of a distinct corn starch product. //—\\

Your priorities are not determined by what you say they are. Your most genuine priorities are expressed by what you actually do with your life and your time. Look around you and you will see clearly what they have been up to this point.

**Red River Apiarists' Association
Winnipeg, Manitoba
2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

I apply for membership in the Red River Apiarists' Association. Membership includes one-year subscription to the newsletter "The Bee Cause" (8 issues)- \$25.00.

Name _____ Tel. _____
Address _____
City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____
E-mail address _____
Signature _____

New Member [] Renewal [] Student [] [free 1st year]

Other. Please specify. _____

This completed form may be brought to the meeting or mailed with your cheque to :

**John Speer, RRAA Treasurer
Box 16, Group 555. Winnipeg, Manitoba R2C 2Z2.**