

# The Bee Cause 54 years



Volume 14, Issue 6

September 12, 2017

*Next meeting 7:30 pm Tuesday, 12 September 2017 at the Elmwood Legion 920 Nairn Ave., Winnipeg*

Speaker:

*A Update on the Apiculture Dynamics of 2017 seasons*

*B Bee yard 2017 updates*

*C Manitoba Honey Show agenda*

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## What is killing our honeybees – and can we stop it?

Taken from Steve Volk's article March 2017 in the Discover.

Wild and domestic bees are both in deep trouble Colony losses are in astronomically high percentages increasing periodically threatening the beekeeping and agricultural industries – and everyone who eats. We all know or should what bees do and their critical role they paly in human health.

The trouble started over 10 years ago when reports of mysterious losses of very, very high numbers of bee colonies in masses. Bees no longer just “disappear” leaving no dead bodies, they die in far faster rates than normal as a host of other ailments, such as deformed wing virous and deadly pathogens. Honey yields went down and are still. Queen bees struggle to survive, living a 1/3 of their life span leaving beekeepers struggling to replace them.

Bees are manifesting a bunch of different symptoms. Bees are also weakening, they don't have much vigor.

The scientific problem is rendered almost impossible to resolve by the toxic influences of politics and money.

In the early years this bee crisis beekeepers looked to science as their saviour and that the focused effort would find a solution and it be acted upon. Now its clear that the field is stagnated in fact-finding.

The reasons for the bee crisis is well studied and understood: diminished bee habitat; the Varroa destructor parasite, viruses and pathogens; and agricultural chemicals, including pesticides, fungicides and insect growth regulators (IGRs). But the problem of declining bee health might be getting worse, largely because the factor of agricultural chemicals lies at the nexus of science, finance and politics. Much of the controversy, and concern, has centered around a particular class of neonicotinoid pesticides (neonic for short), which yield billions in revenue for chemical-makers.

The resulting conflict is best stated by E.G. Valliantos, retired scientist from the Environmental Protection Agency, what he calls the “Rachal Carson paradox.” Carson's 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, documented the pernicious effects of agricultural chemicals and served as a rallying point for the modern environmental movement. Now over 50 years later Valliantos expresses disappointment. “Everyone acts like the book was responsible for the new dawn,” he says. But did anyone actually read it?”

Carson's argument was fundamental; because pests and weeds quickly develop resistance, chemical pesticides create a kind of arms race. We apply increasingly toxic concoctions in greater amounts, and bugs and weeds evolve and rally.

Time has proven Carson right. Today we pump roughly (cnt'd on Pg 5)

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**Presidents Comments for September 2017****Reemphasizing Volunteering**

Lets start the season with a long view in mind. The Bee Day and the Honey Show are just months away so lets think , plan and do what we can now. Plan to take photos of your bee yards, bees and your unique operation (the liquid honey drop, jar filling, the bee in any form, on a flower or at a water location. Photos make great memory makers not only for you.

Set aside competition honey, wax and propolis (check out Sep-tembers issue of the Bee Cause for show regulations Or the RRAA web site.



**Red River Apiarists' Association  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
May 8, 2017**

Chairman: Waldemar Damert

Recording Secretary: Art Quanbury

The minutes of the April 13, 2017 meeting were approved.

Moved: Armand St. Hilaire, Seconded: Ted Scheuneman.  
Carried

**Bee Day**

Armand reported on the progress of the committee planning the Bee Day event at the Forks. It will be held on May 27 at the Forks. We will not have to pay rent for this event but may have to for the Honey Show in the Fall. Victor Dyck is in charge of promotions and Guy Briscoe is in charge of equipment, insurance, etc. Volunteers are needed so please sign the sheet this evening.

**MBA Report**

Marg Smith reported MBA is working with Health Canada on labeling requirements for honey containers. There is some concern over the label stating "contains sugar" and country of origin requirements. Growing Forward 2 and 3 are progressing in developing a National risk management program. There was also some mention of FDA requirements re: shipping honey to the USA.

John Badiuk commented on the large number of ticks some people are noticing this year. He reminded everyone to be careful.

**Presentations**

Making Nucs: two reasons; to replace losses or to sell and make money.

Difference between splits and nucs: Splits are made to replace losses or to sell. Nucs are made in mid-summer and are there for emergency use etc.

How to make a split;

Need to know where the queen is and then follow the basic steps.

Commercial way of making splits is not the best way because there will not be many adult foraging bees in the split, only nurse bees that are younger and not experienced. Bees learn from each other so if there are no adult bees to learn from the hive will not be as strong.

Old Fashioned Way to make a split

Remove frame with the queen on it. Choose the frames for your nuc, 3 frame split will have 2 of brood and one of honey. Shake some bees from a side frame into split box so you have some foragers. This split will make its own queen but might not be the best queen. Rip of the oldest cells just ready to be capped. Will start with young and old at same

time.

Best method: Mate queen first before splitting. Use a mating box. It uses fewer bees.

Problem is that you can't get native queens early. Need mature drones that are 40 days old. Use swarm cells and not supercedure cells. Swarm cell gives the second best queen you can get. Supercedure cell is best. It has more royal jelly. Can force a swarm by adding more bees to a colony. Queen needs pheromones to be good.

How to find a queen.

She can be moving so it can be difficult. Look in area where there are fresh eggs still standing. Or near drone cells. Use glasses to magnify things. Imagine that you see a queen.

Marking queens. Can use a small holder. In Europe they use coloured dots. Here we use a marking pen.

After making a split remove it at least two miles so you don't lose the foragers to original hive. Can take 12 days for new queen to lay.

Loonie Draw. Lots of prizes and activity. \$82.45 raised!

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**September MBA report**

SPACE FILLER as you can see—an old insert with a word for editorial assistance in article gathering, composition, searches with rough drafting's. I had wished to record interviews with several long term members to establish a somewhat RRAA legacy. I have begun but it's difficult. The area of the association I had talked a bit about to some members for input is family beekeeping. What the first impressions of children's exposures, their fears and their moments of pleasure., why and how the family eased in or plunged into the beekeeping / sticky honey pleasures and troubles!

The quest is still out for you to respond.

Editorial Musings

2009 First

Editor's Note by Ken Rowes

Scratch a hippie, "the old sixties saying went, and you'll find a Porsche." Scratch a back-to-the-lander, we suspect and you may find a beekeeper." More accurately, you may find someone with an appreciation for quality honey.

It's been awhile since I tackled the RRAA Newsletter which was unimaginably (1969) called "Notice of Regular Meeting." The agenda tracked business the 1st hour then a couple of speakers handled the next hour then refreshments at 9:30 courtesy of the ladies! Adjournment at 10.

Hybrid bees were the talk, along with packages from California and Texas. There was also talk of save the skunks to kill mice and grasshopper larvae with pointed nail boards. The RRAA also had a library where a member could read up and a publicity committee concern with photographs and door prizes.

Speaking of photos, would be nice to have our first 21st Century Annual Apiary photo Contest this year. So while your out in your apiaries, be sure to take along your camera and send us your best. Executive will have to clear this.

Taking the common sense approach I am committed to provide a RRAA newsletter that will quicken the conscience by pertinent articles, feed the mind of our beekeepers, and possibly purge the imagination by new insightful ideas, methods and technologies.

Please feel free to e-mail me your comments or points of interest and we'll try to accommodate. There I've said my piece and it's okay to tell me to go take a walk and tend an apiary.

The Editor. //—\

THOUGHT PROVOKING for future meetings:

Have you isolated a honey from your apiary.

Keep 2 or so jars to share in a RRAA taster's social night in the fall, say November the last meeting of the season.

Even a photo exposure of one of your moments to share with the members. On a wall board at a meeting.

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## Creamed Honey

Fact: all honey crystallizes, some faster than others.

Some honey crystallizes with a fine granulation and some with a coarse granulation – for example, canola. heating honey after extracting to make filtering easier encourages coarser granulation than might otherwise be the case.

Some honey, even though fully crystallized, remains soft and will spread like butter. This can be termed 'soft set'. If you take this soft set honey and stir it, it will become pourable and remain pourable. This could be termed 'creamed'.

Naturally soft set honey is unusual but there are ways to make almost any honey into a finely crystalized creamed product. This is what you do:

1. You find some very nice finely crystallized smooth honey. This will be your 'seed honey'.
2. You liquefy previously hard coarsely crystallized honey, or use filtered honey straight from the extractor.
3. Add to the liquid honey (when cooled) between 8 – 10 % of your nice fine smooth seed honey and then stir well.
4. Package your seeded honey and store it in a cool place, ideally about 14 degrees C. In theory the whole of the honey will crystallize with the same fineness as your seed honey – but not always in my experience.
5. This honey might end up being rock hard, unlike your original seed honey, but by warming the hard honey at around 29 deg C for 24 – 48 hours it will go soft and creamy.

By David Dawson

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(from Pg 1) 2.5 times more chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides into the environment than we did when Silent Spring was published. But the regulatory labs have decreased, leaving more chemical inputs in the environment and far fewer scientists to study them. And note: those that are in the regulatory position are politically forced to allow conditional chemical use and are grid-locked in trying to band uses after the fact.

The standard rebuttal is that modern pesticides are better targeted toward pests. But this doesn't capture the plight of the bee, or government regulators. Jeffery Pettis, 2010 USDA scientist, examined comb and wax from 23 states finding an average of 6 pesticides in each sample and as many as 39.

The number of chemicals in our environment is so vast that assessing all of their possible interactions is virtually impossible.

Just think back to your basic chemistry classes, you combine three chemicals and nothing happens, but if you introduce them in a different order, you get a big reaction. So studying the bee declines, you have to choose which pesticides, how much, and in what order of introduction. Then you have to acknowledge everything you might be missing if you'd changed even one of these variables, however slightly.

Scientists are doing what science dose best: isolating specific interactions of chemical and bee in the lab while understanding they might miss important synergies among other variables. The scrutiny has settled on one class of pesticide of late, yielding significant results. But in a development, that shows just how politics creep into science, the data hasn't ruled the day. The result has been a grid-lock!

In 2009 Pettis and vanEngelsdorp studying the dangers of neonicotinoids on bees, were finding virus levels much higher in the dying bees but were not finding a consistent virus or a consistent pathogen, that implied something else was happening breaking down the bee's immune system, or somehow challenging them so that they were more susceptible to disease.

The pair fed neonics to bees, then exposed that group and a neonic-free group to Nosema, a common gut pathogen in honeybees. The bees fed neonics proved more susceptible to Nosema. And the effect was consistent even when bees received neonics in amounts too small to be detected in their system. The only reason they knew the bees

were exposed to neonicotinoid pesticides is because they were intentional exposed.

Beekeepers felt the science and validity of impacts would have substance for regulatory action, and these scientists everyone would listen to, and get something done.

Nothing happened.

The neonic lies right at the heart of that Rachel Carson paradox.

Neonics are what is known as systemic insecticides, meaning they spread throughout the tissue, pollen and nectar of the treated plant. Companies, including Bayer and Syngenta, create varying formulas of neonics, which can be applied to seeds or growing crops. The neonics entered broad use in the 1990's ubiquitous use on corn, cotton, soybean, canola, and more.

Jay Vroom, CEO and spokesman for CropLife America, a trade partnership of seed and pesticide manufacturers, says studies measuring the effect of neonics on bees in field conditions "consistently demonstrate no negative effects."

Scientists say the picture is complicated. Regulatory agencies devote most of their energy to answering two questions: How much of a given chemical is required to kill a non-target insect outright, and how likely is it that beneficial species will encounter a dose that big?

Neonics have proven to impair honeybee foraging capabilities, memory, and navigation systems, undermining their ability to survive and aid their hive. Bees fed neonics have proven 3 times more likely to die before returning to their hives. Researchers in U.K., Japan, France, and Italy concluded that exposure to systemic insecticides, including neonics, renders bees more susceptible to numerous disease and increase mortality rates from illnesses that honeybee colonies usually shrug off.

The difficulty linking effect routes is because the factors occur concurrently, while disease and parasites compromise the immediate cause of bee declines. Pesticides are the key underlying factor.

In 2016 neonics, clothianidin and imidacloprid affecting the bee immune system promoted the replication of the illnesses like deformed wing virus (DWV). This finding is key because DWV is commonly found in collapsed colonies. Immune suppression also escalates over time, perhaps eluding typical insecticide field studies.

It is synergistic effects were neonics don't seem to be the single driver, they are a significant factor!

Conspiracy!

(continued on Pg 7)



Red River Apiarists' Association

## Editorial note &amp; musings

Another peculiar queen season. Three hives I must have inadvertently stretch queen excluders or in my brood checks transferred queens to the honey supers. Likely excluder damage. Over the summer I have tried a couple of queen rearing methods but found like last year queens hesitant to lay or in poor sporadic patterns. This a relative carrier over from poor queens (genetics, matting or sibling connections) of 2016.

All-in-all a fair honey crop even though many dairy farmers switched to grow corn.

Early "dandelion" crop crystalized in fine small crystals while I was extracting and needed spatula manipulation to filter it through the straining cloths. An excellent seed honey for creaming.

This September issue highlights the Fall Honey Show with another update on the issues of chemicals, regulators and subtle bee impacts.

Scientific assessments are getting more and more complicated to achieve adequate and meaningful results as the headliner article points out. I suspect we are into the era of no return with an environment emulsion of chemicals reacting on their own, together with others (synergistically) and with rain wash mixing faster than we ever thought. Delusion has long past the point of Lessing the impact.

As you can imagine with my daughter's wedding Sept. 30th I am short on time for Bee Cause editorial but will do my best. Hope you all had a bee-well summer.

## CLASSIFIEDS

1. **For Sale:** Abbey Road Distribution Ltd.—Abby Road 400 Oak Point Highway Wpg. , MB R2R IV1 ph.: (204)694-6800 Fx: (204)697-1335 info@abbeyroaddistribution.com . 25 years of supplying the Beekeeping Industry. We carry a wide range of fasteners, tooling, shipping supplies and packaging materials suited for your industry: staples, nails, bulk screws, coil nails, strip nails, plastic & steel strapping stretch wrap & tapes service on most makes of stapling and nailing equipment.
2. **For Sale:** wax foundation moulded from clean capping wax. Contact : **Waldemar at text ph. 204-266-2277 or e-mail wdamert@yahoo.ca. (Beausejour Mb.)**

The RRAA , the Bee Cause, for you and through you:

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 Apiarists' Association.

Deadline for any submission to this newsletter is the second Sunday preceding the membership meeting to allow for publishing and mailing delays and the legal obligation to allow membership to review last meetings' minutes for errors or omissions before next meeting. Regular membership meetings are normally scheduled 7:30 on the second Tuesday of every month at the Elmwood Legion 920 Nairn Avenue in Winnipeg excepts months 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](http://www.beekeepingmanitoba.com)

3. **Wanted:** HONEY contact: John at 204-943-0166 or e-mail: Honeyb@mymts.net (Winnipeg)
4. **For Sale:** Hobby beekeeping operation , for 5 hives Jones 4 frame extractor, Kelly sump, Hive covers, Tops, inner covers, bottom boards, stands, winter covers, Frame wiring jig / electric embedder, queen excluders, frame grip tool, hive tools and smoker, plus others, **contact Julian Cherniak 204-667-6657 Winnipeg.** (prefer to sell as one lot).
5. **For sale:** Top bar hive. Comes with 30 frames, moveable dividers, 2 queen excluders, viewing window and a beautiful gabled roof. Photos available. Offers. Also long hive. Takes 21 regular frames. Same size as 2 supers. Comes with vertical queen excluder and beautiful gabled roof. **Contact: David 204 424 5042 (St. Anne Mb.)**
6. **For sale:** inner covers @ \$ 12.00 each **Contact: Ted Scheuneman 204-338-6066 (West St. Paul)**
7. **For sale:** Mini Sump with. pump ~ 75 lbs of honey-\$300.00; Top wooden Feeders -\$15.00 ea.; bee escape covers- \$1500; No disease ever recorded in colonies **contact Sandra Smith 204-373-2527 or smthbgs1@mymts.net. (Emerson Mb.)**

(from Pg 5)

The alignment of self-interests leaves plotting and planning unnecessary. Big agricultural companies pay many millions annually in political donations and lobbying. The politicians receiving all of this attention and money determine the dwindling budgets at agencies like the EPA and USDA.

There is a chronic grid-locking within government and regulatory agencies, muzzling by government policies that prohibit publicising anything that might be construed as reflecting negatively on policy. The polite thinking is “Chemicals need to be used when indicated by signs or risk of pest infestation, as opposed to prophylactically.”

No doubt Varroa is a big problem and you can imply pesticides a lesser problem.

There is evidence that fungicides are more prevalent than thought and closely correlates with bee deaths. Bees have been documented to have less vigor especially where chemicals are used.

Where once thought that science and correct responsive action like expected justice to win out is not likely to prevail and a major public, national / international, government regulatory fight is eminent over the human misuse of chemicals on the environment and their impact on the organisms that live within the biosphere.

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### Mite-A-Thon

#### REMINDER!

The first annual Mite-A-Thon will take place Saturday, September 9 to Saturday, September 16, 2017 and we invite you to participate!

FORWARD THIS EMAIL - Local beekeeping clubs and associations are key to making Mite-A-Thon a success!

The Mite-A-Thon is a national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one week window. All beekeepers will be asked to participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Their varroa monitoring data will be uploaded to [www.mitecheck.com](http://www.mitecheck.com).

#### OBJECTIVE:

1) Raise awareness about honey bee colony varroa infestations in North America through effective monitoring methods.

2) Management strategies will be made available for discussion within bee organizations utilizing Mite-A-Thon partner developed information and outreach materials.

**PARTICIPANTS:** All beekeepers are welcome to participate – we need bee associations to help lead this effort!

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

Encourage your members to participate in September, through meetings, newsletters, emails, social media etc. -

<http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>

Teach new beekeepers how to monitor for mites in August. <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

Help your members prepare their monitoring materials.

Support your members in making sure they are able to monitor mites effectively and report their data.

#### DATA COLLECTION:

Participants will monitor the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) using a standardized protocol utilizing two common methods of assessment (powdered sugar roll or alcohol wash) and then enter data, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of varroa mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.

**COST:** There is no cost. You can create your own test materials or kits can be purchased online. Some scholarships are available ([js@pollinator.org](mailto:js@pollinator.org)).

**CONTACT:** [Miteathon@pollinator.org](mailto:Miteathon@pollinator.org) or 415-362-1137

Learn more and stay up to date at [www.pollinator.org/miteathon!](http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon!)

Thank you,

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# MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

September 23-24, 2017

THE FORKS MARKET

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 own personal apiaries.
2. An exhibitor may submit one entry in each section of each class. No Advanced registration.
3. Exhibitors must accurately complete the entry form, and clearly mark each entry parcel with their name and address. An Entry form is to accompany entry parcel. Judges will ensure entries are placed in the appropriate classes. Entries must be free of any labels, with only initials or id on underside.
4. Entry deadline (Note: Class 3 section 3 allows Photography option) is 3:00 P.M., Wednesday September 20, 2017. 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 MONDAY, September 18, 2017.**
5. Show judges shall consider any contestant ineligible if the entry fails to comply with the exhibit criteria or is unattractively displayed. Honey jars should NOT have a LABEL. Awards will be made by a scale of points and, in case of a tie, the highest score for flavour will be awarded the extra point.
6. All entries must be picked up by their owner at the end of the show, as items remaining at 4:00 P.M., Sunday, will become the property of the Red River Apiarists' Association and may be donated to a charity such as Winnipeg Harvest food bank.
7. The Honey Show is a consumer oriented educational and promotional event, sponsored by the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, and organized and staffed by members of the Red River Apiarists Association.
8. A copy of these General Rules and Regulations, and a competition Entry Form are on-line at [www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org) (refer "Activities and Events" section of web site) and at [www.BeekeepingManitoba.com](http://www.BeekeepingManitoba.com) (refer "Events" then "Honey Show").

## MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

### COMPETITON CLASSES

#### CLASS 1

1. Liquid Honey. White, totaling not less than 3 – 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
2. Liquid Honey. Amber, totaling not less than 3 – 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
3. Liquid Honey. Dark, totaling not less than 3 – 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
4. Liquid Honey. BEE-GINNER, any colour, totaling not less than 3 – 500g (373 ml) glass or plastic jars. Note: only to first time honey show entrants).
5. Granulated Honey. White, totaling not less than 3 – 500g (375 ml) glass or plastic jars.

#### 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. Comb Honey - totaling not less than 3 – pieces of either comb honey in plastic or cut comb honey in individual containers.
3. Frame of Honey – one completely capped frame of white honey.
4. Beeswax – 2 kg in one cake or not more than 5 cakes.

#### CLASS 3

1. Best taste – any colour – totaling not less than 3-500 g glass or clear plastic containers. (Entries will be judged primarily for flavour and taste using simplified judging standards).
2. Honey Beverage – any types, colour or flavour – single container not larger than 1 litre.
3. Photography – one unframed 8” x 10” photograph depicting a) Honey Bee Pollination, b) Beekeeping In Manitoba, c) other Bees and Insects, and / or d) Honey – In Many Forms. (If not previously submitted, Photos to arrive at the Honey Show Display area by noon Friday, the first day of show.)

**CHAMPION EXHIBITOR:** 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, only if category has more than one entry, as follows:

**PRIZE POINTS:                      FIRST      3,      SECOND 2,      Third      1**

**MANITOBA HONEY SHOW**  
**JUDGING STANDARDS (page 1 of 2)**

<u><b>LIQUID HONEY</b></u>	<u><b>POINTS</b></u>	<u><b>CHUNK HONEY</b></u>	<u><b>POINTS</b></u>
Appearance and uniformity of containers	5	Appearance and uniformity of containers	5
Uniform level of fill	5	Uniform level of fill	5
Colour	5	Colour	5
Freedom from crystals	15	Freedom from crystals	15
Freedom from foreign material	15	Freedom from foreign material	15
Freedom foreign bubbles either in suspension or as froth	15	Freedom from foreign bubbles either in suspension or as froth	15
Uniformity of Honey	5	Uniformity of Honey	5
Brightness	10	Brightness	10
Flavour and aroma	10	Flavour and aroma	10
Density (moisture content)	15	Neatness of cut edges of Comb honey pieces	15
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>

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**GRANULATED HONEY**

Appearance and uniformity of containers,	5
Uniformity of fill	5
Colour	5
Firmness of set	15
Freedom from foreign material	15
Freedom from froth and frosting	15
Uniformity of honey entry including texture	10
Flavour and aroma	10
Texture of granulation (smooth and fine)	20
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>

**MANITOBA HONEY SHOW - JUDGING STANDARDS (page 2 of 2)**

<b><u>COMB HONEY</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>
Quality and uniformity of container sections	5
Cleanliness of containers	20
Completeness of fill of containers	20
Completeness of cappings	10
Cleanliness and appearance of cappings	20
Quality and flavour	10
Uniformity of comb sections including honey	15
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>
<b><u>BEST TASTE (&amp; AND BEEGINNER)</u></b>	
Flavour and aroma	70
Freedom from foreign material	5
Moisture content	15
Freedom from froth	5
Uniformity of colour	5
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>
<b><u>BEESWAX</u></b>	
Colour	30
Cleanliness (free from honey and impurities)	35
Uniformity of appearance	20
Freedom from cracking and shrinkage	15
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>
<b><u>HONEY BEVERAGE</u></b>	
Flavour and aroma	70
Freedom from foreign material	10
Content Clarity	10
Freedom from froth	5
Presentation / Packaging	5
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>

# MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

## Competition Form 2017

Entry Closing date 3:30 P.M., Wednesday, September 20, 2017

I hereby enter for competition, the exhibits herein describes, and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Honey Show as posed on [www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org) or [www.beekeepingmanitoba.com](http://www.beekeepingmanitoba.com) and be governed by them. I understand there is no entry fee, and that my name may be displayed on my entry during the public showing and in a coemption report.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV. \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASS NUMBER	CLASS NAME	Mark "Beginner" if first time Entrant

Honey Exhibits must reach Honey Judge Coordinator, C/O Manitoba Honey Show, 625 Roseberry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0T4 by entry closing date. **ALL** exhibits not picked up by 4:00 P.M. , on the last day of the show (Sunday), will become the property of the Red River Apiarist's Association and my bee donated to a charity.

Signature of Exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Manitoba Honey Show –"Bee an Ambassador"

Beekeepers! What's your pleasure?

For several years I've been an active hobbyist beekeeper in the Winnipeg area. Yes, I jumped right in, in lots of ways.

My father was a carpenter and as a boy I was the natural recipient of the broad range of building skills he demonstrated. Its no wonder that I enjoy some simple aspects of my bee related activities. I love to sit and assemble frames and supers. Give me a brush and some paint and I'll gladly paint and touch-up some wooden ware.

The wonder and fascination I have in observing the living world of plants and creatures is fulfilled as I tend my colonies of honeybees. Thinking of them makes me smile right now. I love to watch my bees closely to study their habits and behaviours. Who isn't spellbound at the sight of newly drawn comb. Sights like that have an effect on me. They're so beautiful and perfect. I can't move on. I have to stay a while longer, just to show respect for my bees because of their amazing abilities.

When I began my beekeeping hobby, members of my family looked at me and wondered. "What will you do with all the honey" they asked. Suddenly I felt that I had to defend myself. "I'm not sure", I replied. I only had a faint idea of the possibilities that were ahead of me. One thing I knew for sure was that I had ambition and I also worked in an enormous factory with coworkers who were "with it".

Since those early days I've harvested and sold a lot of honey. My early attempts at handling honey would have received top ratings on reality TV. There was honey on everything. The outcome was great, though. I discovered that there is a huge desire to buy natural honey and an insatiable appetite that individuals have, to have detailed information about honeybees and honey. The more I share with my friends, relatives and coworkers, the more they want know. At work, many coworkers who would have remained strangers are now closest friends. My product is in demand and bee news spreads fast. I'm a wanted man!

Beekeepers, what's your pleasure in your bee hobby or business? On the weekend of September 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup>, you have the opportunity to share your passion...your bee knowledge with the public at The Forks Market, downtown. That weekend our club, the Red River Apiarists Association (R.R.A.A.) is presenting the 2017 Bee and Honey Show. It is one of the public service aspects of our R.R.A.A.

We RRAA members are "Manitoba Honey Ambassadors" displaying our Manitoba Honey and representing Manitoba Beekeeping.

You are encouraged to publicly show your honey products at this weekend event in our honey competition! Its a golden opportunity that is welcomed by visitors. This is a fun competition with rules and guidelines that are well described on our RRAA web site and the BeeMaid site. These competition guidelines will also be shown at our September meeting.

Please help if you can and volunteer for the Saturday and Sunday event. Sign up at the next RRAA meeting. September 12. Share your knowledge and enthusiasm. Enjoy participating with other RRAA club members. Visitors to our displays are of all ages and come from many places. Many people are from Winnipeg but surprisingly, you may encounter guests from across North America and from around the world. The Forks is a magnet for visitors and we can satisfy their curiosity. See you there!

Victor Dyck RRAA events spokesperson

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## A friendly reminder to be concerned in your apicultural pursuits with Biosecurity, purity and quality of the food products you are producing and passing on for human consumption.

Bees are optimistic and will collect undesirables when in need of moisture, salts or nectar. You can control these somewhat by providing a good water source, and if possible an area with the least chemical impacted nectar source. As for the salts they will find it in soils and moist areas beneath vegetation and have been observed at livestock salt block areas. I have noticed them at the sandy mossy wet areas of my meadows and forested areas where water accumulated during the rains.

**A** What's wrong with galvanized metal!

I have been asked that so many times.

Galvanized steel is steel with a zinc coating for corrosion protection. Note zinc is an essential mineral and available in dietary supplements.

It is recommended that galvanized equipment not be used period!

**THE PROBLEM** Honey is acidic.

Acidic foods react with the zinc coatings (Us Food & Drug Administration) forming salts that are readily absorbed by the body and in excess could cause a very mild sickness. In old zinc, lead was part of its composition and this can be leached into honey from the old extractors. However, the Environmental Protection Agencies have forced the removal of lead from zinc in the last 20 years or so. Thus, the concerns now are too much zinc or a possibility of over dosing on zinc even though it is an essential mineral for our bodies.

So, the bottom line is that no galvanized bee equipment is permitted in Manitoba beekeeping procedures, they must be stainless steel. The caveat is that many old hive boxes still have galvanized frame resting cleats that pose little if any concern. Old galvanized extractors, holding tanks, honey dispensers or straining devices **ARE NOT PERMITTED.**

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Red River Apiarists' Association—Winnipeg, Manitoba

2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

RRAA membership fee (cheque payable to RRAA or Red River Apiarists' Association) @ \$25.00/year  
 New: Optional Beekeeper Liability Insurance (details on RRAA web site, Links, Insurance) @65.00 +\$5.20 = \$70.20

Total payment Enclosed.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

New Member [ ] Renewal [ ] Student U of M Beekeeping course [ ] (free 1st year) other specify. \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Delivery in electronic pdf via e-mail [ ] or paper copy via Canada post [ ]

This completed form may be brought to the meeting or mailed with your cheque to: **John peer, RRAA Treasurer**  
**Box 16, Group 555. Winnipeg, Manitoba R2C 2Z2**