

The Bee Cause



Volume 10, Issue 7

October 2013

- Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, **October 8th** at the **River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.**
- (in room right off maindoor)

Speaker: Fall Management of Bees - Part 2. David Ostermann - Provincial Apiarist; and Waldermar Damert

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Bees on Canola – What are the Benefits?

Prepared by: John Gavloski, Entomologist, Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives, john.gavloski@gov.mb.ca Phone: (204) 745-5668; Fax: (204) 745-5690 July 2012

A close look through a canola field that is flowering will reveal many insects that have come to collect the nectar and pollen from the flowers, including many species of bees. Even if there are no bee hives near the canola field, there will likely still be honey bees in the field, sometimes at quite high levels, and at least several species of wild bees. Many species of flies will feed on the nectar as well. But is there any benefit to having these pollinators in the field? And what is at risk if insecticide applications reduce their abundance in the field? There are several benefits that honey bees and other pollinators can produce in canola, and these bene-

fits need to be considered when deciding if and how other insects are going to be managed in canola that is flowering.

Effect on yield

The effect of pollinators on yield of canola will likely depend on the density of the pollinators in the field, the weather conditions during the blooming period of canola, and possibly the type of canola that is grown. As might be expected, the results of studies looking at the effect of bees on the yield of canola are quite variable. Research in Quebec showed an improvement in seed yield of 46% in the presence of three honey bee hives per hectare, compared with the absence of hives (Sabbahi et al. 2005). This is a fairly high density of bees that was used in the study, but does show the potential yield improvements that can exist when there is good pollination. In an earlier study on oilseed rape (*B. napus*) there was a 13% seed yield increase in plots with bees compared to those without bees, although the authors did state that oilseed rape gives good yields without insect pollination (Free & Nuttall, 1968).

A study in Australia looked at the effect that distance from an apiary can have on pod yield in canola. The number of pods/plant decreased as distance from the apiary increased (Manning & Boland, 2000). Their regression analysis predicted a pod loss of about 15.3 pods/plant over a distance of 1000 m from an apiary. This was

equivalent to a 16% loss.

Reduced time in bloom

In addition to potentially enhancing yield of canola, pollinators can also contribute to uniform and early pod setting (Abrol 2007). Research in Quebec found that three honeybee colonies per hectare reduced the blooming period of Argentine canola (*B. napus*) by 3.8 days, or 17% compared to the absence of pollinators. Because of the efficient pollen transfer, the honeybees resulted in the flowers living for a shorter period of time, and also reduced the number of flowers the plant had to produce to reach its carrying capacity (Sabbahi et al., 2006).

The reduced flowering period and fewer flowers the plant needs to produce to reach its carrying capacity could have implications for disease management. For example, the risk of sclerotinia may theoretically be reduced by a Bees on Canola – What are the Benefits? Shorter flowering period and fewer petals being produced. This association between increased pollination and decreased risk of sclerotinia has never been directly tested however, and there would be other factors such as weather conditions that would also factor in.

Germination of the seeds

The presence of pollinators can increase the germination of canola seed. A study from the University of Guelph found that the presence of pollinators on *B. napus* (cv. O.A.C. Triton) increased the germination of resulting seeds from 83% to 96%, compared to where pollinators were excluded from plants using either tents or sleeves (continued on pg 5)

2013 Executive**President: Charles Polcyn**

Ph 204-284-7064
231 Buxton Road
Winnipeg, MB R3T 0H4
Email: charles_polcyn@ymail.com.

1st Vice President: John Badiuk

Ph .204-943-0166
128 Victoria Ave W
Winnipeg, MB R2C 1S5
Email:honeyb@mymts.net

2nd Vice President: Armand St

Hilaire
Ph 204-427-2757
P0 Box 93
Roseau River, MB. R0A 1P0
Email: asthil@mymts.net

Secretary: Art Quanbury

Ph 204-489-6994
35 Cordova St.
Winnipeg, MB R3N 0Z9
Email: quanbury@shaw.ca

Treasurer: John Speer

Ph 204-222-3007
Box 16, Group 555, RR 5
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2Z2
Email: jursss@mymts.net

MBA Delegate: Jim Campbell

Ph 204-467-5246
Box 234
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Email: jaycam@mts.net

RRAA web site administrator:

Jim Campbell
Ph 204-467-5246
Box 234
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Email: jaycam@mts.net

Newsletter Editor:

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

**Presidents Comments -- October 2013**

The end of summer did not stop the flow of honey coming into the supers. Some of the out yards and the home yard continued to fill supers into the second and third week of September. I had to reduce the storage space for the bees to get them to focus on getting ready for winter. This was difficult to do as the weather continued to be at least ten degrees warmer than normal for this time of the year.

The discussion of bee mortality being related to pesticide choices in different provinces is typical of the large chemical companies who are very reluctant to accept any responsibility for the effects of their killer chemicals. What was effective 30 years ago, doesn't work today as the insects have modified their response to those deadly sprays. Many farmers in Canada have a dilemma as to what to use that will provide them maximum yield and yet not destroy important parts of the beneficial insect world.

Yet some of the seed choices offered by the large Seed Companies require the use of specific chemicals that are sold by the Seed Company or its partners in production for their bottom line. Often this results in much higher honey bee mortality many countries in Europe have banned the use and prohibited the sale of many pesticides. The company's reaction to this is to increase sales in other countries or sell into North America where regulations are not as restrictive. It seems that there are large companies that do as they wish for the agriculture in many parts of the world.

The 3 day 2013 Honey Show and competition was well attended. Both the Free Press and The Sun had photos of children admiring the live bee display. The questions from the Public were varied but often the comments were on the lack of bees in their garden or vegetable plot. Our explanation on the Bylaws of the City was not clearly understood as the public's premise was that daily healthy food was important and that supermarkets don't always sell quality food. Food that doesn't have to travel far is often better than what is offered on store shelves.

Ray and Donna Hourd were the winners in the Honey Show competition as they had the highest total of points from their quality entries. They were also the winners in 2011 so they are back as the top honey producers again. There were a number of RRAA volunteers at the show and they were easily seen in their Yellow Tee Shirts, as they spent much time answering questions from the public. The members of the Executive express their thanks for all the help during the Honey Show. Also the Honey Show Chair, Mr. A. Hilaire thanks all the members who spent time answering questions and also setting up the Honey Show displays. Also we want to thank the Honey Co-op for the loan of their equipment and a donation plus the MBA for their donation. Next year we would like to see more MBA entries as well as MBA members visiting the Honey Show.

Our regular RRAA meeting on the second Tuesday in October will feature Mr. Dave Ostermann, from the Provincial Agriculture Office who will present Stage 2 of preparing your hives for winter. Also Mr. Waldemar Damert will present some of his ideas on preparing bees for winter, so come out and let's hope for a moderate October.

Yours in Beekeeping---- Charles Polcyn RRAA 2013 President

**Minutes of the RRAA General Meeting
River Heights Community Club September 10, 2013**

Minutes

Chair: Charles Polcyn

Recording Secretary: Art Quanbury

Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2013

Moved: Brian Smith

Seconded: Ken Rowes

Carried

MBA Update by Jim Campbell

MAQS (Quick Strips) are no longer available from Bee Maid. However, they are available from Lewis & Sons Enterprises Ltd <<http://www.manta.com/ic/mtqzpwq/ca/lewis-sons-enterprises-ltd>>

8 Bromley St

Austin, MB R0H 0C0, Canada

Phone: (204) 637-2596 or 1 866 800 2077

e-mail: lfarms@mymts.net

<http://lewisandsons.net/> <<http://lewisandsons.net/>>

They have a limited supply.

There is a seed company in Ontario that is selling neonicotinoid free corn and soybean seed and there is a wax based seed lubricant that releases less pesticide during planting than the talc based lubricant on seed.

Other Business/Members comments

The annual Manitoba Honey Show and Honey competition will be held later this month (September 28, 29). Empty jars and competition entry forms were available for those wanting to compete. Entries must be dropped off at Bee Maid by Wednesday September 25.

It is still not legal to keep bees within city limits unless they are for educational purposes because they are classified as agricultural animals. RRAA will keep involved with the city council to have this changed.

Waldemar commented that he noticed that after crop spraying of canola near his farm he had a lot of dead bees and the bees then avoided even flying in the direction of the sprayed fields. It seemed that the spray (perhaps a combination of pesticide and fungicide) was actually a repellent for insects as well.

Fort Whyte Alive Honey Coop Program

Ian Barnett and Ethan Nobiss from FWA gave a brief presentation of the history of bee keeping at the Fort Whyte Farm and the current Honey Coop program that is being run by three students. After several years of beekeeping at the farm it was decided to develop the Coop program to reduce the workload of the farm staff and to provide a business experience for students. The program suffered heavy winter losses but 20 bee packages were purchased and there was some re-establishment of the program.

Yield was lower than in previous years but it is felt that recovery is underway although one hive seemed to be showing signs of heavy infection. Ethan commented that none of the bee staff have taken the University beekeeping course and he felt that it would be valuable as would the knowledge that would be gained from attending RRAA meetings.

Motion: That RRAA pay the registration fee for one Fort Whyte bee Coop member to attend the University of Manitoba beekeeping course in 2014.

Moved: Jim Campbell

Seconded: Margaret Smith

Carried

Fall Management by Rheel Lafreniere

Fall management decisions involve some degree of risk in the decisions that are made. There are five areas of concern where decisions need to be made. They are: culling, feeding, antibiotic treatment, miticide treatment, honey production. Rheel discussed the pros and cons in each of these areas.

Honey production: Pros include more honey to sell, especially specialty honeys, avoiding early crowding of the brood chamber and giving the bees extra space. Cons include delayed medicating, risk of weather change that prevents effective treating, stimulation of "summer bee" production and risk of antibiotics in honey if neighbouring apiarists are barrel feeding with medications.

Miticide Treatment:

Pros include keeping mite pressure down, several options available including ones that can control more than one pest, small beekeeper can tailor treatment for each specific hive. Cons include selection pressure for treatment resistance, how to get biggest bang for \$\$, impact on bees, brood, honey and risk of weather change before treatment is complete.

Antibiotic Treatment: It is often not known if treatment is effective or even warranted. Pros include keeping pressure down so risk is low overall. Cons include risk of residue in honey, selection pressure resulting in increased tolerance to treatment, some spores are killed by cold weather anyway if equipment can be left in the cold over winter.

What to Feed: considerations to keep in mind re: feeding are: both sucrose and HFCS are acceptable but the quality of product used is important. Honey is acceptable but not the best alternative for our environment. For example, canola should not be used as a feed because of its tendency to crystallize and bees cannot use it. Pollen feeding may also be necessary in the fall. Early feeding should be done with care to prevent crowding of the brood nest (i.e.: frames filled with honey instead of brood for winter bees. Using feed as a vehicle for medication treatment creates a risk of residue ending up in the honey. Keep in mind that bees do not always make the right decisions and we need to help prevent them from making the wrong ones.

Culling: Is a tough decision to make because of the emotions involved. There are no easy ways to depopulate a hive. However, it may be necessary in order to cut losses and will provide more opportunities to manage hive equipment properly. On the other hand, empty stored equipment can be vulnerable to pests.

Message: If decisions made involve a small amount of

risk then even the wrong decision will result in a small loss. If the risk is high then the chance of large losses is also high.

Door Prize winners

Time Article	Chris Turner
Time Article	Keith Bamford
Photo frame	James Kozak
Hard bee	Christos Argiriou
Soft bee	Sandra Smith
Honey bear	Keith Bamford

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. Next meeting is Tuesday October 8, 2013 at River Heights Community Club. Time is 7:30 pm.

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MBA Report October 2013

Jim Campbell, MBA Representative

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) is still awaiting information on their request to permit importation of package bees from continental USA. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed the Risk Assessment process is well underway. They are currently completing the peer review process before forwarding the report to their department head. There are more steps to have the Federal Government change the Canadian Law.

MBA continues to be in communication with Manitoba Corn Growers to determine if there is evidence of reported incidences of bee losses during planting season.

Producers are pleased Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) is moving toward individual based winter mortality insurance coverage. MASC tracks personal history to arrive at an appropriate deductible level. Beekeepers are being reminded to take careful count of survivability numbers, even though this may seem like a lot of work.

Plans are underway to host the 2014 Convention and Symposium in Winnipeg on February 28 and March 1 at Canad Inn Polo Park. Early indications are that Randy Oliver, California beekeeper will be one of the keynote speakers. More details will be available later this year.

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Honey Show 2013 links with Culture Days

Jim Campbell, Honey show reporter

The recent Manitoba Honey Show attracted considerable visitor attention, as it became a part of the Culture Days promotion at the Forks.

The 2013 Manitoba Honey Show, also called "Honey Days", took place September 27-29, at the Forks Market, Winnipeg. It had as its theme "**Keep Manitoba Bees Buzzing**". The purpose continues to be based on the marketing philosophy of interacting with consumers about the benefit of honey bees for pollinating foods we eat plus providing a healthy food, educating consumers on the uses and varieties of honey products, and empowering consumers to communicate directly with local food producers.

The official kick-off of the Culture Days weekend took place Friday morning at the Forks. This highly publicized Canada-wide event drew many school groups to the market area. Weather predictions for cool and rainy conditions, meant several Culture Day displays were moved indoors, forcing the Honey Days promo to reduce its footprint. Fortunately, only a slight redesign was necessary to accommodate the smaller space.

Promotion for the show was done via news releases to various Winnipeg area papers plus the Manitoba Co-operator. As a result, the Co-operator conducted an interview with Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary and RRAA Executive member on 26 September, who described some history of the show, its purpose, plus the value of Honey Bees to the pollination and honey economy of Manitoba. Both Co-operator and Winnipeg Free Press were on hand Friday for photographs. The Sunday edition of Free Press had front-page photo of a girl at the bees, linking the show to Culture Days events.

Although the Competition had fewer honey entries than normal, the enthusiasm of the volunteers contributed to its overall success. This was evident as Red River Apiarists' Association members celebrated 50 years of organizing and staffing the show on behalf of MBA. To dress up the display, RRAA provided golden coloured T-Shirts emblazoned with "Manitoba Honey Show" for all volunteers and show winners. Beekeepers were easy to spot! Armand St Hilaire - Honey Show Chair, expressed thanks to Ken, David, Rhéal and Jim for helping him set up the display, Art for securing T-Shirts, and Charles for bringing material from Bee Maid.

Live Bees continue to intrigue young and older visitors. Beekeeper volunteers spent hours outlining the many aspects of hive life. Thanks to staff at U of M, the white dot on the thorax of the queen, aided viewers quest for her, and Veronicas' magnifying glass helped here too. Bee Station visitors were capably informed by Armand St Hilaire, David Ostermann, Rhéal Lafrenière, Ken Rowes, Veronica Larmour, John Speer, John Russell, Alex Remkes, Ted Rebenchuk, Art Quanbury, Ron and Shirley Rudiak and Jim Campbell.

Guests expressed desire for pollinators for gardens and fruit trees in Urban Winnipeg, and middle school educators sought ways to have bees brought to Class.

An Interactive Demonstration on Sunday entertained visitors by drawing attention to the process of the industry. Charles Polcyn's Extractor attracted over 30 people to (cont'd. on pg 5)

(from pg 4) watch and take turns in the presentation. At another interactive feature, guests choose the photo of a Metallic Green Halictid Bee on a Red Peony as their "Viewers Choice".

Meanwhile, Hourds and Polcyns were kept busy throughout the three-day event by offering product samples, answering visitor questions, and serving customers with honey varieties and colourful hive related products.

Thanks to the many volunteers, show entrants, MBA funding, Bee Maid financial contribution and industry equipment provision. Special appreciation to Marcie Smerchanski, Josh Kolesar, and David Ostermann for judging the Honey Competition, and Verna Polcyn for the Photo Competition.

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(from pg 1)
(Kevan and Eisikowitch, 1990).

Spreading biological controls?

Researchers in Ontario looked at using honey bees to spread the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*, which can help reduce the level of *Lygus* bugs (Al Mazra'awi et al. 2006). In studies in 2002 and 2003, honey bees were used to spread the fungus into canola fields, which resulted in increased kill of *Lygus* bugs. The highest level of *Lygus* mortality was 56%. So this would not be a means of totally eliminating a *Lygus* population, but if the technology gets registration and is affordable it could be a means to help keep *Lygus* populations under the economic threshold. The researchers noted in their paper that "the benefits are better pollination, reduction in pest pressure of *Lygus lineolaris*, and reduced reliance on insecticides".

What about the effect of wild bees and other pollinators?

Although honey bees can be an abundant pollinator in canola field, there are also many species of wild bees that can be present. A study in Manitoba found that 15 species of bumble bees were inadvertently captured in traps baited with a bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) attractant and placed in canola fields (Turnock et al., 2006). Many species of wild bees will live in uncultivated land, and a study by researchers from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia found that bee abundance was greatest in canola fields that had more uncultivated land within 750 m of field edges and seed set was greater in fields with higher bee abundance (Morandin & Winston, 2006). Some species of hover flies (Syrphidae) may also significantly increase seed set and yield in canola (Jauker & Wolters 2008).

Conclusions

Although canola may still produce good yields in the absence of pollinators, the impact of pollinators on maximizing yields and the economic value of this should not be ignored. Canola growers do gain from having bees pollinating canola, and

this gain needs to be factored in when making management decisions in canola that may have potential negative impacts on bees. Efforts should be made to avoid using insecticides in canola when it is flowering. Should insecticide use be deemed necessary during the flowering period of canola, it is in the economic interest of canola growers, as well as apiarists, to ensure that insecticides and timing of applications are chosen to minimize losses to bees. If possible, spray as late in the day as possible, or very early in the morning, when bees will not be foraging in the canola, and communicate with nearby beekeepers so that harm to the bees can be minimized.

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Editor's Note

by Ken Rowes

Wow what an end to the honey season. Production has been up by most colonies although Rhéal's chilly July numbers reflected low average of 70 lbs first extraction.

The September feed & treatment weather is co-operating. Only now it is dipping to the zero or below temperatures. My bees are strong, even the nucs so am trying out-door wintering in singles side-by-side, doubles side-by-side and singles in a quad pack. It will be the first in along while I can finish the inside of the honey-house without disturbing bees.

It is looking like October is going to be nice but cool.

There are many ways to handle feed and bee treatments in the fall. Not all methods are wrong so New-Bees (new beekeepers) had a bit of an idea with Rhéal's excellent talk in September. Now David Ostermann at the next meeting October 8th will be speaking on winter wrapping and other winter preparations.

If you are treating note the days you should be removing the treatments and mark your calendar.

Sorry for the late delivery; with the Honey Show I just had to be involved and I focused on it while I am sure others were wondering why I was there all three days. There is something special in hearing the bee / honey discussions and the interesting questions. It was a great show. See you at the meeting!

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

CLASSIFIEDS

1 For Sale: Complete honey extracting line 48 Frame extractor, uncapping table, sump, tank, pump, pipes. **Contact Lance at 204-712-6783, lancewld@gmail.com**

3 For Sale: For sale : heavy frames of pollen - \$60 per super of ten frames, 15 supers of plastic frames - \$34 ea. Wrecking 2005 F-350 4x4 – asking \$4,000 OBO Booking spring colonies – minimum 4 frames of brood – mid May - \$250 30 honey supers with plastic comb - \$32 each Winter wraps made to your specifications - \$45 to \$65 each Interlake Honey Producers Ltd. Interlake Honey Producers, Fisher Branch, MB 204-372-6920 . Can deliver to Winnipeg. Supers are in good to average shape and all the frames are fully drawn out plastic frames. We have no AFB history. **Paul Gregory paul@interlakeforageseeds.com**

5 Wanted: Looking for good used Cowen type horizontal 28 to 60 frame extractor, plus sump and pump. Call **Don Friesen, Rosenfeld, at 204-746-8863 or e-mail stonefield71@hotmail.com**

6 For Sale: 12 hive top feeders, 19 queen excluders, 4 super extractor. **Contact Doug at Tel 757-4694 or doug.**

henry1@gmail.com

7. For Sale: custom made Bee-gloves \$17. **Contact ken Fehler 204-667-9013**

8 For Sale: Man Lake SS Extractor 9/18 frame. Asking \$1300, used twice. **Contact Janice at 204-895-9667.**

9 For Sale: Bee Equipment, Nucs, Plastic Feeder Frames, Box & Frame Parts. Contact **Charles Polcyn** at (204) 284-7064 or by Email- charles_polcyn@ymail.com

10 For Sale: 6 hive top feeders, 20 frames with foundation call **204-612-2754 Doug Beck or e-mail doug-janetb@hotmail.com**

11 For Sale: 2 frame manual extractor, uncapping knife, bee suit, smoker bellows, hive cover (metal), 5 supers (assembled), 50 frames (plastic & wire), 2 hive bottoms, hive scrapers, and much more for \$ 450.00 Please call **Adrian at 204-338-7172**

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW 2013 Competition Results

Class 1

Liquid Honey, White

First place: Jim Campbell
Second place: Charles Polcyn

Liquid Honey, Amber

First place: Raymond Hourd
Second place: Ken Rowes

Liquid Honey, BEE-GINNER

First place: Guy & Barry Briscoe

Granulated Honey, White

First place: Ron Rudiak
Second place: Jim Campbell
Third place: Jami Worms
Third place: Raymond Hourd

Class 2

Chunk Honey

First place: Ken Rowes

Comb Honey

First place: Charles Polcyn

Frame of Honey

First place: Raymond Hourd
Second place: Ken Rowes
Third place: Charles Polcyn

Beeswax

First place: Raymond Hourd
Second place: Jim Campbell

Class 3

Best Taste

First place: Jami Worms
Second place: Jim Campbell

Photography

a) **Honey Bee Pollination**

First place: Jim Campbell

b) **Beekeeping in Manitoba**

First place: Jim Campbell
Second place: Ken Rowes

c) **Other Bees and Insects**

First place: Jim Campbell
Second place: Ken Rowes

d) **Honey – In Many Forms**

First place: Ken Rowes
Second place: Jim Campbell

Champion Honey Show Exhibitor

Raymond and Donna Hourd (2013)

Honey Judges:

Marcie Smerchanski
Josh Kolesar
David Ostermann

Congratulations to all entrants!!

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Bee working group recommends tighter controls for pesticide use.

Roger Klein, CTV Barrie. Thursday September 10, 2013

Bee working group recommends tighter controls for pesticide use. Colonies of bees are dying off in massive numbers, all across the province. Federal inspectors are in Grey County this week, getting a first-hand look. Pesticides are being blamed, a ban isn't likely.

Honey bees were active in Dave Schuit's Saugeen County honey bee yards near Hanover today. But with a closer look Schuit can see signs of trouble. There are dead bees scattered around the hives. He says they look like they have been poisoned.

"I believe they are being poisoned by the neonicotinoids, the neonics are in the water, and they are in the ground. The bees are drinking it up from the water," he says.

Schuit's losses have been mounting; he has lost half of his bee colonies in the past two years and he is not alone. Beekeepers across the province have been watching their colonies die. Earlier this year Health Canada released the results of laboratory testing. Neonicotinoid pesticides were found on 80 per cent of the dead bees tested.

The pesticide is highly toxic to Bees even in tiny amounts. They are used to protect corn, soy and canola seeds from insects. Bee keepers want the chemical banned.

"We cannot continue if they do not ban the neonicotinoids," he says. "It's a slap in my face. If I go out of business it's just part of the game."

In July the province created a bee health working group made up farmers, scientists, beekeepers and chemical industry representatives to look into crisis.

At the group's last meeting they voted against the idea of banning the pesticides, but they also decided there should be tougher controls on where and when the chemicals are used, and farmers should have access to premium seed varieties that have not been treated with the pesticides.

Health Canada is continuing with its review of the impact of neonicotinoid on bees. Inspectors with Canada's Pest Management Regulatory agency were in Hanover today collecting samples of bees, plants, soil, and honeycomb for testing.

Les Eccles works with the Ontario Bee Keepers' Association's technology program. He says beekeepers have not given up on a ban but that decision will likely be made at the federal level.

"There is no question it is affecting the beekeepers, the industry, and pollinators," he says, "but whether that risk is acceptable is what the discussion is about right now."

The province's bee health working group still has another meeting planned before their final recommendations are forwarded to the provincial government

Read more: <http://barrie.ctvnews.ca/bee-working-group-recommends-tighter-controls-for-pesticide-use-1.1449093#ixzz2ebKH2ZcL>

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Pioneer announces neonicotinoid-free seed offering

Canadian Honey Council , September 6, 2013

CHATHAM, Ont. — The world's largest producer of hybrid seeds is offering a neonicotinoid-free option for corn and soybean seed — but only in Canada. Dave Harwood, technical services manager for Dupont Pioneer in Eastern Canada, said the move began with a request from the Grain Farmers of Ontario. They sent a letter to the Canadian Seed Trade Association asking for the choice.

Farmers will need to order ahead. The new option does include a fungicide treatment. With soybeans, farmers will pay less for their seed without the treatment, Harwood said. With corn seed, they'll pay the same price. Neonicotinoid seed treatments have been linked to bee deaths in Ontario and Quebec. A suspension on the products was announced in the European Union earlier this year.

"The situation that has developed here has been an association made with these neonicotinoids ... either acute injury to bees or, there has been speculation, there's been more of a chronic effect. That's the discussion,"

Harwood said. "It is good press for production agriculture to bring that option." Asked whether the option would be offered in the U.S., Harwood said that neonicotinoid issue is "less visible" there. He announced his company's intention at the annual field day near Chatham, next to its Eastern Canadian headquarters. In response to questions from the group, Harwood said much of the issue is likely to be addressed through planter modifications and by switching to a new wax-based seed lubricant. Compared to talc, the wax-based seed lubricant reduces the level of neonicotinoid-laced dust being emitted from air planters by as much (continued on pg 9)

(from pg 8)

as 90 percent, he said. Growers expressed a concern that yields will be negatively impacted if the seed treatments are banned. Harwood said a ban is possible and with the absence of insecticide seed treatments entirely, corn yields would likely be reduced. "We did a lot of yield testing of these products and in corn it would five bushels less without these products." There are insecticide alternatives, although they may not have the broad spectrum of control as with neonicotinoids, he said. —//\—

Manuka Honey Fraud Uncovered. More Sold Than Made. Surprised?

Alan Harman

From: Conference for Can. Assn. of Professional Apiculturists August-26-13 12:14 PM via Rhéal Lafrenière, Provincial Apiarist , Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

New Zealand's NZ\$120-million manuka honey sector is in crisis as tests around the world find the product often has nothing but price to set it apart from ordinary honey. All manuka honey comes from New Zealand and Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association research shows 1,700 tonnes produced each year.

But 1,800 tonnes of "manuka" honey is sold in Britain alone each year with as much as 10,000 tons sold worldwide. Of the 73 samples of honey tested by the association, 41 failed to show the non-peroxide activity claimed for manuka honey. Hong Kong authorities found 14 of 55 manuka honey samples tested were adulterated with syrup. Other tests found some of the honey was not manuka.

The *New Zealand Herald* reports Britain's Food and Environment Research Agency tested a small sample of five brands of manuka honey from shop shelves. Only one, made by Comvita, the biggest manuka honey producer, was up to standard. The other four showed no detectable non-peroxide activity, the anti-bacterial properties special to manuka honey.

Britain's Food Standards Agency then issued a nationwide warning about misleading claims on the labels of manuka honey jars.

Manuka honey commands prices 10 to 20 times higher than other types of honey because of its anti-bacterial properties and New Zealand Food Safety Minister Nikki Kaye said on Radio New Zealand the government and the honey industry need to move quickly to set an international labeling standard.

UMF Honey Association president John Rawcliffe tells the *Herald* the UK crackdown was due.

"There is potentially huge fraud," he says. "There are higher and ever-increasing volumes of honey labelled as manuka which are not manuka.

"We knew we sold more 'manuka' overseas than has ever been produced . . . we've been spending everything we've got to work out how to stop this fraud, and the only negative thing is that we should have done it quicker."

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MAQS [Mite Away Q Strips]

FYI – Murray Lewis and Sons will be caring MAQS. Although they will have a limited supply this fall the plan is to continue to sell it next spring.

Rhéal Lafrenière

Business Development Specialist - Provincial Apiarist

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Historical RRAA archive, Bees in Agriculture 1970

F. Padmore reviewed the literature covering years 1955 and 1963 on confining bees during spraying. Protection of honey bees against pesticides was being studied. Here we are still tackling the pesticide problem and now with new and more lethal chemicals.

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Swedes develop drug to combat bee deaths Published: 28 Sep 2013 08 Sweden –The Local

A team of microbiologists at Lund University have patented the treatment, known as SymbEeotic -- made from lactic acid bacteria from the stomachs of healthy bees -- which they described as a major "boost" to bees' immune system and are hopeful that it could slow down the rate at which bees are dying.

"The bacteria in this product is active against both American and European foulbrood disease," Dr Alejandra Vasquez, who co-developed the product, told AFP. Foulbrood is the fatal bacterial disease which threatens bees.

"We hope that beekeepers will see this as a good preventative medicine so that they can avoid using antibiotics."

The researchers, who worked on the medicine for nearly ten years, planned to launch it at an annual conference of beekeepers in Russia on Saturday.

In a statement from the university, co-researcher Dr Tobias Olofsson said it was "the only existing product that boosts bees' natural immune system", as resistance to antibiotics grows.

Pesticides, parasites, stress and poor nutrition are believed to be some of the factors causing a deterioration of the immune systems of bees around the world, making them more susceptible to disease.

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RRAA Shirts in September

Jim Campbell, Executive member

Red River Apiarists' Association has unveiled the RRAA promotional T-Shirts at the October



8th General Membership Meeting.

The Golden-Honey coloured shirts has the new RRAA logo emblazoned on the upper left front. The black emblem should stand out clearly in contrast to the shirt, and the oblong-circled emblem is sized 3.7 inches wide and 3 inches tall.

RRAA Members helped to narrow down the options presented by the executive, and thus chose the stylized oblong oval with a Queen like character in the center. Although several colour settings are possible, the first order of shirts simply uses the black colour logo.

Shirts are sold for about \$10.00 each, and the plan calls for these to be available at meetings.

Plans call for another order to be placed later, hopefully, providing options for a polo style neck opening plus children sizes, plus a large logo across the front. Naturally, this next order will depend upon member feedback and orders received.

Think about it, the shirt is smart, comfortable and professional, plan to order ASAP!

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Accountability is the difference between :

- Those who make time and those who pass time.
- Those who contribute and those who just exist.
- Those who take risks and those who give up.
- Those who have goals and those who are aimless.

James G. Hostettler

Red River Apiarists' Association Winnipeg, Manitoba 2013-2014 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.

Make cheques payable to Red River Apiarists' Association.

Please do not send cash in the mail., MB R2C 2Z2