Red River Apiarists' Association

The Bee Cause

Volume 8, Issue 1 January 2011

- Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, January 11**th** at the **River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.**
- **(in room right of main-door)**
- **Speaker: Rhéal Lafrenière** with a report/discussion of the North American Joint Beekeeping Conference & Trade Show meetings in Galveston, Texas January 4th to the 9th

Inside this issue:

EPA Asked to Pull Pesticide

Linked to Bee Kills

Beekeepers and environmentalists called on the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) December 8, to remove a pesticide linked to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), citing a leaked EPA memo that discloses a critically flawed scientific support study. The November 2nd memo identifies a core study underpinning the registration of the insecticide clothianidin as unsound after EPA quietly re-evaluated the pesticide just as it was getting ready to allow a further expansion of its use. Clothianidin (product name "Poncho") has been widely used as a seed treatment on many of the country's major crops for eight growing seasons under a "conditional registration" granted while EPA waited for Bayer Crop Science, the pesticide's maker, to conduct a field study assessing the insecticide's threat to bee colony health.

Bayer's field study was the contingency on which clothianidin's conditional registration was granted in 2003. As such, the groups are calling for an immediate stop-use order on the pesticide while the science is redone, and redesigned in partnership with practicing beekeepers. They claim that the initial field study guidelines, which the Bayer study failed to satisfy, were insufficiently rigorous to test whether or not clothianidin contributes to CCD in a real-world scenario: the field test evaluated the wrong crop, over an insufficient time period and with inadequate controls.

According to beekeeper Jeff Anderson, who has testified before EPA on the topic, "The Bayer study is fatally flawed. It was an open field study with control and test plots of about 2 acres each. Bees typically forage at least 2 miles out from the hive, so it is likely they didn't ingest much of the treated crops. And corn, not canola, is the major pollen-producing crop that bees rely on for winter nutrition. This is a critical point because we see hive losses mainly after over-wintering, so there is something going on in these winter cycles. It's as if they designed the study to avoid seeing clothianidin's effects on hive health."

Clothianidin is of the neonicotinoid family of systemic pesticides, which are taken up by a plant's vascular system and expressed through pollen, nectar and gutation droplets from which bees then forage and drink. Scientists are concerned about the mix and cumulative effects of the multiple pesticides bees are exposed to in these ways. Neonicotinoids are of particular concern because they have cumulative, sub-lethal effects on insect pollinators that correspond to CCD symptoms – namely, neurobehavioral and immune system disruptions.

According to James Frazier, PhD., professor of entomology at Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, "Among the Neonicotinoids, clothianidin is among those most toxic for honey bees; and this combined with its systemic movement in plants has produced a troubling mix of scientific results pointing to its potential risk for honey bees through current agricultural practices. Our own research indicates that systemic pesticides occur in pollen and nectar in much greater quantities than has been previously thought, and that interactions among pesticides occurs often and should be of wide concern." Dr. Frazier said that the most prudent course of action would be to take the pesticide

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Presidents Comments – January 2011

At the end of the beekeeping year, it is time to look back and consider the lessons that the variable weather taught us. The early February thaw, the rains of March and then the warmth of April. It looked like the beginning of a great spring for the over- wintered bees. And then came May and June and July and the rains continued to fall. The days for the bees to visit flowers were limited and concerns for the size of the honey crop were on everyone's mind.

In some parts of the province in July and August the sun did shine, bees were busy and a crop was produced. Quality and quantity were fair to good. For most beekeepers, the season was over in late August, and all that was left to do was prepare the hives for winter.

Then came September with more moisture than normal which made moving bees to home yards a challenge as fields and roads were muddy. Feeding needed to be done, as did mite treatments and nosema medications before cold weather arrived. And then came October which was warm and sunny for many days, which meant the bees kept flying, not finding much, but did use up some of their winter food stores. For many beekeepers, feeding of syrup had to continue as hive weights had diminished and hives needed to be refilled.

A recent request from a University researcher in South Dakota referred to an article written in one of our newsletters in the early 70's. This article was located by Jim Campbell and I have included some information for reference purposes.

John Conrad in the 1970 newsletter of RRAA referred to the preparation of his hives for wintering as well as some ideas on what to do in late January for indoor wintered hives. He would raise the wintering room temperature to 50 degrees Fahrenheit for a week or so, put on top feeder jars and stimulate the hive back into brood production. His theory was that the queen would restart egg laying, and the bees would have some early replacements of bees that had expired over the winter. His over wintered losses in those days was less than 5 %. He also was able to divide all of his hives in April or early May and sell many surplus colonies.

However these practices were before varroa mites had arrived in Manitoba. I would suggest that it is worth a try, particularly those beekeepers who have hives starve out early in the new year.

The Beekeeping Course for new beekeepers starts on January 26th and runs for 10 Wednesday evenings. It is a good course that covers many of the basics of becoming a competent beekeeper. For more information, contact Dr. R. W. Currie at 474-6022, or the Provincial Apiarists office at 945-4825.

There have been some significant court cases and fines related to contaminated honey from China being shipped into North America in a variety of country of origin barrels. The fines are a significant deterrent. The large scale buyers of honey are becoming very concerned about the quality and safety of the honey they are using in their products.

The RRAA meeting in November with Phil Veldhuis as the guest speaker was filled with a variety of ideas for successful beekeeping and increased honey production. The idea that captured my attention was the "Tower" model which has a base of 2 adjacent queen right colonies, a single queen excluder on the bottom brood boxes, a half cover on the exposed part of the base hives which includes a 'green' drone frame in frame position 3 of both boxes. The double base hive is then single supered up as usual. The advantage is that you have 2 queens producing a large work force which is storing honey in the single super stack. And you have an easy mechanical method for collecting and monitoring varroa mites in drone brood on a less than 24 day cycle.

The green frames are easily accessible, can be scraped off easily and varroa control done without chemicals. A piece of critical advice from Phil was to make sure that your two base hives are placed on a level pallet, as the tower

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Minutes of the RRAA General Meeting
River Heights Community Club – November 9, 2010

8:10 PM: Charles Polcyn welcomed Association members and guests to the November meeting. A previous meeting group had changed the table arrangement which was also fine for our use.

Chris Argeriou observed his bees bringing in pollen from volunteer canola and possibly wild mustard on Nov. 7 (Sunday) and Nov. 8. Chris documented this unusual event with pictures of bees carrying yellow pollen.

Charles reminded everyone that the beekeeping course (at the U of M) is scheduled to begin early in 2011.

Minutes of the October general meeting: No errors or omissions were noted. Moved by Ted Scheuneman and seconded by Jim Campbell that the minutes be accepted as circulated in the November issue of the Bee Cause. Carried.

Local Honey Bee Disappearance: Charles noted that a beekeeper in the South East area had major problems last September with rapidly dwindling hives. When the mite level was calculated in these colonies it was found that there were approximately 120 mites per 100 bees. This highlights the need for all beekeepers to check their colonies early enough to ensure there is still time for an appropriate mite treatment.

Some of the Russian strains will rid themselves of mites and delay the development of these overwhelming mite loads.

Membership: John Speer reported that we presently have 12 members that signed up for 2011. Memberships can be paid now or at the January meeting. The deadline for payment is April to ensure a continuous subscription to the Bee Cause. The general account balance is above $4000.

MBA Report: Jim reported that there has been a Small Hive Beetle find in Ontario.

Last summer some Ontario bees were brought here for the Summer. They will remain here for the winter.

The PMRA announced that Thymol was now approved for use in Quebec.

Dr. Steve Pernal is in the third year of testing Fumagillin on Nosema. The tests include both the timing and the method of application as well as testing on the strain Apis Cerana. Medivet will register any new label uses.

Marion Ellis is looking at the effects of chemical residues in beehives.

A joint CHC/MBA Convention is being planned in Winnipeg for 2012

Nominating Committee: Charles Polcyn and John Russell are the executive menbers on this committee. Lance Waldner and Chris Argeriou also agreed to serve on this committee as members at large. Members who are presently on the executive have agreed to let their names stand for 2011, and in addition further nominations from the floor can be made at the January meeting.

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Loonie Draw: Stan Huzey won the 1 oz. honey jar from Vienna and a 500 gr. jar of sunflower from Scotts Hill Apiary. Chris Argeriou won a Honey Bear honey jar. Ken Fehler won a 430 gr jar of Vita Real brand Mexican honey. Alex Remkes won the beekeepers straw bee hat from Argentina. Thanks again to members who donated draw items and everyone who purchased tickets.

Program: Experiences of Phil Veldhuis, a 3rd generation beekeeper and a word on the future.

Ron Rudiak, recorder – RRAA

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MBA Report January 2011

By Jim Campbell, MBA rep
MBA Report Jan 2011
Jim Campbell, MBA rep

Several resolutions directing the industry were presented and passed by the members attending the Annual General meeting of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association this past November.

Resolutions guiding the MBA board dealt with working with other groups across Canada to develop protocols designed to ensure bees moving interprovincially, or Queens imported from Hawaii, would satisfy the strategic goal of Healthy Bees, Healthy Honey for Manitoba producers. This aim carried through to another resolution aimed at communicating with Medivet Pharmaceuticals to have the label expansion for Fumagilin-B include alternative treatment applications.

At their meeting in mid-December, the MBA board assigned all resolution tasks to the appropriate Committees for actioning. The plan is to have the resolutions status reported on the web site manitobabee.org so producers can see what has been happening. For example, the Fumagilin-B label information may take some time, yet preliminary results from Dr. Pernals' research indicates timing and application methods could be possible. We should hear results of his testing for residues during the next few months. For access to Hawaii Queens, communiqués have been sent to Canadian Honey Council directors already. Most are concerned for addressing small hive beetle developments in Hawaii, and the September find in southern Ontario.

In the meantime, MBA is seeking a way to manage the increasing skunk and raccoon damage. To this end a letter will be directed to the Health Minister and Conservation, seeking a solution.

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(from page 3)
The date for the upcoming Symposium has been firmed up for March 4-5, 2011 at Viscount Court Hotel, Winnipeg. So far Randy Oliver, California has indicated willingness to talk to our group again. Stay tuned for more speaker announcements in the new-year.

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(continued from p. 1 EPA pesticide pull)
off the market while the flawed study is being redone.

Clothianidin has been on the market since 2003. With a soil half-life of up to 19 years in heavy soils, and over a year in the lightest of soils, commercial beekeepers are concerned that even an immediate stop-use of clothianidin won't save their livelihoods or hives in time.

"We are losing more than a third of our colonies each winter; but beekeepers are a stubborn, industrious bunch. We split hives, rebound as much as we can each summer, and then just take it on the chin – eat our losses. So even these big loss numbers understate the problem," says 50-year beekeeper, David Hackenberg. "What folks need to understand is that the beekeeping industry, which is responsible for a third of the food we all eat, is at a critical threshold for economic reasons and reasons to do with bee population dynamics. Our bees are living for 30 days instead of 42, nursing bees are having to forage because there aren't enough foragers and at a certain point a colony just doesn't have the critical mass to keep going. The bees are at that point, and we are at that point. We are losing our livelihoods at a time when there just isn't other work. Another winter of 'more studies are needed' so Bayer can keep their blockbuster products on the market and EPA can avoid a difficult decision, is unacceptable."

Citing the imminent economic and environmental hazards posed by the continued use of clothianidin, the National Honey Bee Advisory Board, Beekeeping Federation, Beyond Pesticides, Pesticide Action Network, North America and Center for Biological Diversity are asking EPA administrator Lisa Jackson to exercise the Agency's emergency powers to take the pesticide off the market.

"The environment has become the experiment and all of us – not just bees and beekeepers – have become the experimental subjects," said Tom Theobald, a 35-year beekeeper. "In an apparent rush to get products to the market, chemicals have been routinely granted "conditional" registrations. Of 94 pesticide active ingredients released since 1997, 70% have been given conditional registrations, with unanswered questions of unknown magnitude. In the case of clothianidin those questions were huge. The EPA's basic charge is "the prevention of unreasonable risk to man and the environment" and these practices hardly satisfy that obligation. We must do better, there is too much at stake."

Distributed by: Coalition against BAYER Dangers (Germany)
www.CBGnetwork.org (in English)
Campaign on Neonicotinoids: www.cbgnetwork.org/3035.html
CBGnetwork@aol.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Coordination-gegen-BAYER-Gefahren-CBG/127538777294665

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(from page 2 President's report)
may require several supers to deal with a large honey flow.

There is a plan being promoted by the Department of Agriculture to eliminate the word 'Unpasteurized' as part of a label for retail sales. The preferred term is still " Pasteurized or Natural " which ever case applies. This is a question that I am often asked at Farmers Markets and Craft Sales, and I have to explain the difference between honey and milk procedures.

The annual MBA convention will take place in early March and it sounds like it is one that the Winnipeg members of RRAA should not miss. The speakers and presentation topics will be of interest to most of us.

My best wishes for a prosperous and healthy New Year to All.

Yours in Beekeeping: Charles Polcyn RRAA President

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Flowers in November, WOW!

The year 2010 was certainly a strange one for changing weather conditions. To start the year, warm weather came early in the season. This was followed by rain, then sunshine again in mid May. The weather patterns shifted several times throughout the summer. And lastly, warm sunny days stayed for the first week of November.

This picture shows a phenomenon few recall in Manitoba. Chris Argeriou, who usually prepares nuclear packages in the spring, discovered his bees collecting pollen on 7 and 8 November. He photographed the bees returning to their winter wrapped home, with back legs laden with fresh food stores. After watching the bees for a while, Chris observed their flight path.

Much to his surprise, a field of volunteer canola was blooming profusely nearby. Fortunately for the record, and to prove he wasn't just imagining things, he captured one of his Honey Bees collecting food supplies on 8 November. A super shot of honey bees at work well after the usual season.

Thanks for the great photos and story Chris!

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Red River Apiarists' Association

Editor's Note by Ken Rowes

In my neck of the Province snow fall has been about normal but the whether people say look out—spring is going to be a flood! The ground here is saturated and water was standing in fields in October and is still in ditches. Am still digging carrots and the soil is wet under the flax straw. Makes for spring prep plans early!

Interesting experience– one indoor colony of mine was very active on feeder honey. Temperature dropped to –3 C and this light weight colony did not get back to feed and died with in 3 days.

Classifieds—could all ad contacts reassess ads and re-submit = let the editor know if the ads are to continue in March –Thanks. For those with nuc sales its time to submit 2011 ads.

Memberships renewals are now due for 20011!

It's the RRAA 48th year.

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

CLASSIFIED

1. Wanted: S.S Bottling Tanks Single wall or double wall with water jacket, good condition or repairable. Also needed—Belt Barrel Heater for drums: **call Brian Rich 204 739-5481**

2. FOR SALE: Clearance of a variety of Beekeeping Equipment- Honey Supers, Brood Boxes, Wax Dipped Feeder Boxes, Queen Excluders, Bottom Boards, Lids, Empty Shells, Bare Frames, etc. Reasonable Prices on all items. Call Charles Polcyn at 284-7064 or email at: **charles_polcyn@ymail.com**

4. For Sale: : 1-Wood Burning Stove ideal for workshop– used one season $350.00; 2– 10 kg plastic containers and lids $2.65 each; 3 Plastic drum 200 L with tap $100.00 . Ph **Ted Scheuneman 338-6066, West St Paul**

6. Wanted granulated white honey and/or wildflower honey contact **Tom Dixon 475-5059**

7. Wanted - radial extractor, decapper and bottling tank contact **Clayton or Diana Brinkman at 807-548-5044**

8. Wanted - extractor please contact **Marty McIlwain 226-3437**

9. Wanted: Candle moulds, tapered and pillar various sizes.
Contact: **Lance Waldner Phone or Text 712-6783, lancewld@gmail.com**

10. Help Wanted - Experienced Apiarist : Starbuck Manitoba.

Seasonal employment opportunity: May, 2011-Oct, 2011.
Experience with honeybee hives required.
Experience with machinery related to beekeeping an asset.
Wages $12.33/hour, depending on experience.
Health Insurance and Worker's Compensation Board available.

Driver's licence suitable for operating in Manitoba required.
All Persons eligible to work in Canada are encouraged to apply.

Contact, 'Phil's Honey" c/o **Phil Veldhuis, 5075 Rd 48 NW, Starbuck Manitoba. ROG 2P0**

David Ostermann
Extension Report
Dec. 23, 2010

Bee Biosecurity in Canada

Since the CFIA put out a notice in November entitled "Seeking Input on Bee Biosecurity in Canada" (Found here: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2010/20101104e.shtml), there have bee questions about what this is about - this article addresses those questions.

The Office of Animal Biosecurity (OAB) of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) was created in 2006 following the Avian Influenza outbreak. It was created to provide leadership in the development and coordination of biosecurity activities for the CFIA. This includes the development of farm level biosecurity standards and supporting documentation for agricultural commodities. Currently, the OAB is working with at least 8 commodities.

Biosecurity refers to activities that minimize the risk of introducing and spreading disease and pests. "Putting preventive measures in place to keep animals healthy has been a long-standing and successful practice on Canadian farms. Biosecurity planning helps to ensure that practices routinely carried out on your farm are beneficial to animal health" according to the CFIA.

Two (2) "deliverables" of this project include a voluntary national Standard for biosecurity as well as a guidance document to assist producers in implementing the Standard:
1. Standard for biosecurity in the bee sector will be;
-outcomes based
-informed by national benchmarking survey of current biosecurity practices in the bee industry
-informed by a critical examination of best practices and guidelines both within Canada and internationally
-informed by the expertise and experience of bee biosecurity advisory committee (bee BAC) members
-the Standard should be realistic, achievable, and applicable to all sectors of the bee industry
2. Producer guidance to the biosecurity Standard will;
-be a document intended to assist producers in implementing the Standard
-provides examples of protocols to achieve the outcomes based Standard

To help develop the biosecurity Standard, beekeepers in Manitoba and across Canada may be contacted about the benchmarking survey of current biosecurity practices in the bee industry. Participation in the survey is voluntary. Participants may be asked about their current practices in order to assess the current risk of introducing and
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CATCH THE BUZZ

Australian Bees Banned By APHIS
Maybe A Virus, Maybe Not
By Alan Harman

With little public fanfare, the United States has banned the importation of honey bee queens and package bees from Australia.
Minister Counsellor (Agriculture) Simon Smalley at the Australian Embassy in Washington and a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (ASPHIS) both confirm the move made towards the end of last month.
Both say there is a "temporary suspension" of the imports, but the APHIS website has a one sentence reference that reads:
"Importation of honey bee queens and package bees from Australia is prohibited."
But the halt is not because of the Asian bee incursion in northern Queensland as many expected but because of something called slow paralysis virus.
In a letter sent to AHIS official Wayne. F. Wehling and seen by *Bee Culture*, Australian world bee authority Dennis Anderson of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization questions the decision, saying the virus has never been found in Australia.
"I wish to inform you that Slow Paralysis Virus has not been detected in or reported from Australia," Anderson says. "This is despite a number of surveys for it."
Anderson says this is borne out by the following:
"In the latest publication on SPV by Miranda et al 2010 … it states on page 2525 that quote 'SBPV appears to be extremely rare, having been identified positively only in Britain, Fiji and Western Samoa (Allen & Ball, 1996; Anderson, 1990; Carreck et al., 2010; Martin et al., 1998), despite being included in surveys of Australia (Hornitzky, 1987), New Zealand (Todd et al., 2007), Scandinavia (Nordstrom et al., 1999) and Poland (Topolska et al., 1995). Only in Britain has it ever been associated with colony mortality (Carreck et al., 2010)'."
Anderson, principal research scientist at the CSIRO, says he is confident Australia knows what viruses are present in its honeybees.
"This is also borne out be the fact that since imports of Australian bees into the U.S. started in 2005 (?), no viruses have been detected in Australian bees in the U.S. that Australia didn't already know about and publish," the letter says.
He says the only exception is Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV). However, Anderson says, prior to this virus being named IAPV by a researcher in Israel, that virus had been regarded in Australia as a strain of Kashmir Bee Virus.
"If SPV was the primary reason for APHIS suspending imports of Australian honeybees into the U.S. (and this is the reason given in the official response), then the process that led to the decision to suspend has been a travesty and it should be reconsidered," Anderson's letter states.
In another letter, also seen by *Bee Culture*, Tim Ryan of Biosecurity Australia tells Daniel Weaver, president of the American Beekeeping Federation, his organization was in the process to writing to APHIS to start to detail the lack of evidence for SPV being in Australia.
"Your request for a copy of the letter from APHIS has come back to Biosecurity Australia, but the decision is that we cannot release government to government correspondence without the permission of the originating party," Ryan states.
"However, I can tell you that the letter states that suspension is 'primarily due to slow paralysis virus' but then goes on to mention other viruses-TSBV and BVX.
"It quotes the findings of the APHIS Pest Risk Assessment from earlier in the year as support for the suspension 'until Australia can control or eradicate the Asian honey bee and provide data about the distribution of bee viruses and pests, particularly SPV.'
(Continued on page 7)

The Learning Curve, Manitoba The Natural Miticides
Ken Rowes

Oxalic Acid

This is an addendum to Randy Oliver's article in the RRAA November 2010 newsletter. Speaking with several Manitoba beekeepers I found that there is still a variation of the application of oxalic acid here in Manitoba due to our latitude and length of winter clustering..

For about 20 colonies Oliver recommended the following :

OA Crystals	35g
Sucrose	600g
Dist. Water	600 ml

This solution may be too strong for colonies going into winter for 6 plus months. Better is:

OA Crystals	35g
Sucrose	1000g (1kg)
Dist. Water	1000 ml

This strength is thought not to over burden the bees when they are clustered in the fall.

Using this solution a 20 gage needle or 0.9 mm needle with a 60 cc syringe allows the safest application dribble and no spray/stream for it will roll of the bees.

Administer using rubber gloves and safety glasses . Only administer what you need per amount of bees for if you have light colonies say 4—5 frames or 1/2 frames of bees reduce application. One gage being 5 cc per between frame alley.

Oxalic acid is available at Bee Maid Beekeepers Outfitters. A disposable 60 ml Monoject Luerlock Syringe and disposable 20 g x1 1/2 Monoject Al hub needles can be purchased at Feed Rite 17 Speers Rd Winnipeg.

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Manitoba PROVINCE INCREASES WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION November 24, 2010

100 per cent Coverage to be Phased In: Struthers

Beginning in fiscal year 2011-12, Manitoba agricultural producers will be able to apply for increased compensation for loss due to wildlife damage, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister Stan Struthers announced today.

"In rural areas, predators are a fact of nature and producers who do everything they can to safeguard the products, crops and livestock that are their livelihood should be compensated for losses that are beyond their control," said Struthers. **"I'm pleased that compensation will move to 90 per cent of the determined loss next year and increase to 100 per cent in 2012-13 for financial losses due to wildlife damage."**

David Ostermann

(from page 6)
"To me this leaves them a pretty wide operating scope outside SPV. In my interpretation the letter also precludes an increase in the export exclusion zone around the Asian bee area again quoting the 'unknown' distribution of SPV."
Australian bee exporter Warren Taylor, one of the pioneers of the U.S. trade through his Australian Queen Bee Exporters Pty. Ltd. company, says SRV does not exist in Australia.
"Somehow, somewhere it was reported that we had Slow Paralysis Virus which was incorrect," he says in an email to *Bee Culture*. "I guess the ban is all political so USDA is now trying to find something else to hang their hat on.
"Our bees have been tested so frequently as they entered U.S. I am sure that they would have found something if it actually existed.
"I guess U.S. beekeepers will be very short of queens January to March as I visited Hawaii in June and saw problems they are having with Varroa and SHB."

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Bee Maid Press Release
December 13, 2010

Neil Specht, Chairman and the Board of Directors of Bee Maid Honey Limited are pleased to announce the continuation of apicultural research funding by Bee Maid Honey.

Bee Maid will consider project proposals in any area of apiculture or pollination research. Preference will be given to the area of honey, and the production of pure quality honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry.
Proposals for projects are to be submitted to Bee Maid Honey by February 28, 2011. Projects are expected to be completed within one year of funding, although renewal applications will be considered.
Bee Maid Honey Limited is the marketing arm of the Alberta Honey Producers Co-operative Limited and the Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers Limited. Honey produced by beekeepers in western Canada is processed and packaged at Bee Maid's Winnipeg, MB and Spruce Grove, AB plants.

Bee Maid Honey is proudly owned by Canadian Beekeepers.

For further information and to receive an application for research, please contact:
Guy Chartier – Bee Maid Honey Limited
Phone: 204 786 8977 ext. 234
Fax: 204-783-8468
E-mail: guychartier@beemaid.com

Honey Teriyaki sauce

- 1/2 cp Soya sauce
- 2 Tsp Olive oil
- 1 tsp dry ginger
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 2 Garlic cloves minced
- 1/4 cp Honey

Mix well. Add to or coat chicken or pork. Let stand 2 hours. Grill on barbeque for 30 to 40 minutes or in oven at 350 F for 50 minutes Baste frequently.

Serves 4 to 6

(from page 6)
spreading disease and pests, such as AFB and varroa mite. The plan is to complete the survey in early 2011.

This is a federal-provincial initiative with provincial government responsible for implementation. A company called Serecon Management Consulting (Alberta), in collaboration with eBiz Professionals Inc (Ontario), has been contracted to develop the Standard.

The bee biosecurity advisory committee (bee BAC) provides advice and recommendations to the OAB and Serecon for the development of the biosecurity Standard and associated activities. As the signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding, final decisions reside with the CFIA. The national committee consists of members from industry, academia, provincial governments, AAFC, and CFIA, from across Canada.

Once the Standard is complete, funding will be available at the producer level. The goal is to have the Standard completed in late 2011 and the guidance document completed in early 2012.

Funding is available for this process from the following; Funding to improve biosecurity and traceability under the Growing Forward framework Treasury Board Submission (2009) and Memorandum of Understanding: Growing Forward Program initiatives and development (September 2009).

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Seeking Input on Bee Biosecurity in Canada

OTTAWA, November 4, 2010: The Government of Canada and the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) are seeking input from the bee industry on a new voluntary national biosecurity standard that will help bee keepers minimize the risk of pests and diseases in their colonies.

"Bees are a major contributor to the health and vitality of agriculture," said Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. "This Government is pleased to support the creation of standards that will contribute to the stability of such an important industry in the agricultural community."

Bumble bee, leafcutter and honey bee keepers will be contacted at random and asked what they do at the farm level to keep their colonies healthy. This input will assist in creating new voluntary biosecurity standards.

"The CHC is pleased to participate in this benchmarking exercise for on-farm biosecurity," said Heather Clay, Chief Executive Officer, CHC. "This standard is important to help control the spread of bee pests and diseases."

The standard, which is expected to be released in 2012, will benefit all managed bees in Canada. This standard will be developed in partnership between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, provincial departments of agriculture, the bee industry and academia.

Biosecurity refers to activities that can be done to minimize the risk of introducing and spreading disease and pests. For more information on biosecurity, please visit www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity.

For more information on the bee biosecurity standard project, or to provide feedback, please contact the CHC.

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For more information

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Tower Hives

Reported by Ron Rudiak

Phil Veldhuis, who has been self-sufficient in bees for many years, has a unique and efficient way of managing many of his new colonies. Often, those of us who produce our own nucs have had the experience of making up colonies on ten frames that are not quite "booming" when the honey flow starts toward the end of June or beginning of July.

Phil will set two of these ten frame colonies side by side on a pallet. The pallet guarantees that the brood chambers will be level and remain so even if the ground is soft or uneven. He will then place a single excluder, with a metal frame, over the hives and centre it so that five frames of each colony remain uncovered (and still accessible). Several supers are placed on top of the excluder and the exposed frames, on each side, are covered with a pre-cut rectangle of plywood and kept in place by putting a small rock upon each. Any time an excluder is used it is very important to get it on early enough and supply lots of space for the bees to expand and store honey Providing enough space tends to reduce swarming.

An important advantage of this arrangement is that the strength (and honey gathering ability) of the twinned hives becomes more than double that of each individual colony as they can now function as a unit. Another advantage is that five frames of each brood chamber will remain easily accessible. It is well known that varroa mites prefer drone brood in which
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to lay eggs because drone brood remains capped longer than worker brood and results in more mites being produced. It takes 24 days for a drone egg to develop completely and emerge. This characteristic makes it possible to trap mites by encouraging the queen to lay drone eggs, which they do readily when drone comb is available. Mite control requires removal of the drone comb from the hive well before any of the drones emerge. For this to be effective good records are necessary showing the date drone comb is placed within a brood chamber. Frames containing drone brood and mites can be frozen to kill both the mites and brood or scraped clean well away from the bee yard. When these frames are re-introduced to the hive, worker bees will remove any dead brood and clean the cells so the queen can resume laying eggs in the empty cells. For greatest effect, continue with this cycle until the end of summer at which time the frames can be replaced with a regular brood frame for the bees to store their winter food.

A few manufacturers now produce foundation embossed comb with drone sized cells and these are available from bee equipment suppliers. Another product known as "Green Frames" is manufactured with a green plastic frame and green coloured foundation built in which makes them easily identifiable in the brood chamber.

Phil removes a small plywood lid, then removes a brood frame and replaces it with a green frame on each side of the tower hive making sure that the queen has access by placing it next to frames containing eggs and brood. If, some time later during the honey production season it is desirable to run the twinned colonies as individual hives the drone comb can still be used. Just remember to remove honey on time and have only a small number of supers over the excluder to facilitate removal of any drone comb. This would be an onerous job if more than one or two supers have to be removed to get at the brood chamber.

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Red River Apiarists' Association
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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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.

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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.