

The Bee Cause



Volume 6, Issue 5

May 2009

Points of Interest:

- Next general meeting is **7:30** Tuesday, **May 12th** at the **River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.**

Speaker:

Rasoul Bahreini, Undergrad at U of M, will provide an overview of the main research projects underway this past year at U of M. This will include preliminary findings for Bee Virus detection, Varroa treatment, Bee Nutrition, and Mite Resistant Colonies.

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Queen Rearing etc Made Easy. By David Dawson 20 April 2009

Introduction.

Many of you will have heard of the Demaree method of swarm control wherein a majority of the brood is raised up above the honey supers leaving the queen down below the excluder with a new set of empty combs to lay in. If you have ever used this Demaree system you will know that you have to check the brood up top for queen cells. Being isolated from their queen below, the bees up above believe they are queenless and start raising emergency queen cells. If one of these emerges the old queen will swarm, the new one will be unable to get out to mate, and the colony will die. This propensity of bees to raise new queens when well separated from their existing queen can be utilized for queen rearing and I have developed a very simple method to take advantage of it.

Getting Ready.

First of all you need a good strong colony with 2 or 3 honey supers well filled with bees – even though the supers may not contain much honey. Whether you use a single or double brood, I believe an excluder is necessary for this method. Queen rearing is best done when there is a good honey flow ongoing, so early July is usually a perfect time to start and by this time good colonies should have honey supers on. Bear in mind that the strong colony with 2 or 3 honey supers will be your breeder colony so be sure this colony has good characteristics.

In 99% of all queen rearing methods being practiced these days, grafting is necessary, so you may as well get used to it now. For those who don't know, grafting is the process of manually transferring very young worker larvae to prepared queen cups. It's very easy to do once you get over the initial mental blockage of "it's too difficult for me." The Chinese grafting tool is in my opinion the easiest to use but a good many of the ones available at the CO-OP are badly adjusted or damaged, so be careful. For just a few queens you could use a paper clip: straighten out the wire, hammer about 1/4 inch flat at one end and then bend up part of the flattened bit to make a mini scoop. A very fine artists paint brush can also be used but I have found this to be rather tricky. And it is impossible with the brush to pick up the larva together with the glob of royal jelly it is sitting on. The other thing you will need is a special frame to hold the queen cups. This is just a regular frame with one or two extra cross bars between the top

and the bottom. A single nail at each end of the extra bars will enable them to rotate to a convenient angle for grafting into, after which they can be turned to put the cells in the normal vertical position. Using a dripping beeswax candle, I stick roughly 12 or 13 small thin pieces of wood (about 1 inch square) to each cross bar. Then using the same dripping candle I stick my home made queen cups to these little pieces of wood. Plastic queen cups work very well too, or you can use commercially made beeswax cups. Both are available at the CO-OP. The purpose of the little pieces of wood is so that you can detach the ready-to-emerge queen cells without damaging them. Now that you have everything ready you can go on to the next stage.

The Method.

Take with you an empty brood comb. Remove two frames from the top super or if that super is not well filled with bees, take them from the

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PLEAS NOTE:

Subject: MBA & RRAA Field Day

**Field Day and Summer Picnic
Notre Dame de Lourdes, Manitoba**

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association together with the Red River Apiarists'

Association invite all interested beekeepers to attend a summer Field Day

Date: Saturday 20 June 2009 at 12:00 noon

Location: BBQ Lunch, and Tour to take place at French Bee Farm, Notre Dame de Lourdes at 12:00 noon on Saturday. Food Cost \$10.00 each. Bring your Lawn or folding Chair.

Directions: Travel along Highway #2 to junction of Provincial Road #244 South. Travel South about 13 km. to town of Notre Dame. Turn West (i.e. right) on Main St. and keep on going just past the "Blue" Co-op store, and turn South (i.e. left), and you will come across the French Bee Farm sign. This is the place!

Events: Gather for BBQ lunch in the Honey House, then Tour one of the larger Honey Producer sites in Manitoba. Learn about the recent Honey House construction. See the "Honey Drier Production Line" first hand. Find out about "Nuc" production.

Bear Pit Session: Discussion on current beekeeping activities and events, including updates on in-progress research.

Those attending the tour are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from the tour site.

For more information, call Jim Campbell at (204) 467-5246, or Rhéal

Minutes of the RRAA General Meeting, April 14, 2009

7:30 PM Charles Polcyn opened the meeting with 28 members and guests present. Charles had each person introduce themselves with a brief statement about their beekeeping.

Minutes: Moved by Walter Wright and seconded by Ken Rows to accept the minutes from the March 10 general meeting which were circulated in the Bee Cause. Carried.

Correspondence: Jim, Ron and Ken received a card of thanks from Sue Clayton acknowledging the Association's assistance with the U of M "Agriculture in the City" event that recently took place at The Forks. The RRAA provided display materials and volunteers for staffing the U of M kiosk.

No further correspondence was received.

Financial Report: John Speer reported that we have approximately \$3500 in our chequing account. Presently we serve 70 regular members as well as another 15 honorary and life members. 68 regular members have paid their dues for 2009.

(Minutes continue from pg 2)

MBA Report: Jim Campbell reported that the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association is sending out their publication (The Manitoba Beekeeper) in two mailings. One mailing will be to the currently paid up MBA members and the other mailing will be to the remaining Manitoba beekeepers with 50 or more colonies who are required to pay regular dues to the provincial association. These dues are a requirement as described in the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Act for Honey. Some of the things which these membership dues are used for is to fund the honey bee inspection program, pay for ongoing research, honey promotion and member education and services through companion membership in the Canadian Honey Council.

RRAA Field Day: The combined RRAA and MBA field day and picnic will take place on June 20th. The field trip at the French Bee Farm in Notre Dame de Lourdes begins with a barbecue lunch at noon. Cost for food is \$10.00 per person. Be sure to bring a folding chair. Following lunch there will be a tour of their recently constructed honey house. Their production system is unique in that it incorporates a large honey dryer. Following the tour there will be provincial reports, research updates and a bear pit session. Watch the May issue of the Bee Cause for directions to the honey farm. Please arrange your own transportation.

New Business: The RRAA had an executive meeting earlier in the day to discuss the programs for our May meeting and the honey show in September.

Intermission: Everyone took a break to have coffee and visit with the other members and guests. Charles mentioned that he had placed several pieces of honey information, on the display table, collected on his recent trip to the Philippines.

Program: Ron gave a presentation on how bees use pollen and an effective method of pollen collection and processing for use as bee feed or for human consumption.

Charles' talk centered on collecting the single combs of honey and brood which are common in the Philippines. The bees, which will build only single combs, located high up in trees, are much larger than *apis mellifera* and must be driven away from their nest with copious amounts of dense smoke.

Loonie Draw: Walter Wright and Carol Anderson each won a pair of long-stemmed wine glasses donated by Janice Lupinette. Howard Alexander won a copy of Hive Lights and Emil Rekrut won an Apimondia eco-bag donated by Jim. Willie Mandryk's name was drawn for an inner cover built by Ted Scheuneman. Ron Rudiak and Glen Lewer won jars of Philippine honey donated by Charles.

Ron Rudiak, secretary - RRAA

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Red River Apiarists' Association – Executive Meeting Salsbury Restaurant on Pembina Hwy. – April 14, 2009

Present at the meeting were: Charles Polcyn, Rhéal Lafrenière, John Speer, Ken Rowes, Ron Rudiak, and John Russell. Regrets: Jim Campbell and Brian. Smith Charles opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

RRAA/MBA Field Day: Arrangements have been made to have our annual Field Day and Beekeeping Tour on June 20th. We will gather together at the French Bee Farm located in Notre Dame de Lourdes. Complete information will be published in the May *Bee Cause*.

May and September Meetings: A letter was sent to Dr. Rob Currie requesting a presentation on the ongoing honey bee research projects for the May meeting. If that is not possible, alternatively, Rhéal would be available to report on wintering or David Ostermann could provide us with his report on the recent blueberry pollination project. Charles also said that he could be available to give a power point presentation on his recent beekeeping project in the Philippines.

For the September 8th meeting a presentation on fall management for improving wintering success along with information on honey preparation for show would be appropriate.

September 25 – 27 Honey Show: The Manitoba Beekeepers' Honey Show will take place at The Forks this fall. There was discussion about increasing the number of participants in the honey competition and a theme for the show was discussed. To attract new beekeepers, the Best Taste category will be designated for beginning beekeepers who are producing honey for their first year. A phoning committee can be set up, for early September, to remind beekeepers to prepare and submit their honey show entries.

The theme possibilities are "Honey, the Ethical Sweetener", "Pollination and the Foods We Eat" or we may want to build on both themes. Cooking demonstrations, honey tasting, vendor displays and extracting honey at regularly scheduled intervals, will continue to be popular attractions. An observation hive with live bees (and a marked queen) has always attracted many people.

Newsletter: Ken Rowes said that he would check to see if his word processor will convert the *Bee Cause* word file to a .pdf file for our members who have e-mail. A large saving would result if our members would choose to receive their newsletter on-line. (An on-line newsletter would be able to contain additional pages of reports and beekeeping information without any increase in cost for printing, large envelopes and postage).

Treasurer's Report: John Speer reported that our checking account has approx. \$3500 dollars in it.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Ron Rudiak RRAA - Secretary

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Pesticide Risk for Honey Bees in Confectionary Sunflower Fields

By David Ostermann

Manitoba beekeepers are expressing concern about the use of



pesticides on sunflowers and the risk this poses to their bees. In recent years lygus bugs & banded sunflower moths have been more abundant in the province, and if above the economic threshold, control of these pests

generally requires the application of insecticides during the bloom period (i.e. the R5 stage of sunflower development) when honey bees may be foraging.

Confection sunflowers (nonoil) make up the majority of the sunflowers in Manitoba (about 60% last year). Unfortunately confection sunflowers may also be more likely to be sprayed than oilseed varieties because of the processor's low tolerance for damaged seed. The following table shows the general distribution of the insured sunflower acres in Manitoba last year (MASC 2008). Approximately 85% of all sunflower acres in Canada are grown in Manitoba.

Where are the confectionary sunflowers grown in Manitoba?

In 2008

Town	Confection Acres	Total Acres
Morris, Winkler, Alton, Carmon	34,706	56,259
Deloraine, Killarney, Souris	18,983	29,409
Glenboro, Treherne, Manitou	15,005	23,902
Rathwell, St. Claude	11,705	15,997
Melita, Medora	10,612	23,118
Brandon, Austin, Gladstone	6,552	11,900
Portage	5,632	8,402
Steinbach	2,509	5,393
Virden	2,299	3,568
Hamiota	1,593	2,515
Stonewall, Tuelon	421	828
Total =	110,017	181,291

A number of studies have found that sunflowers benefit significantly from honey bee pollination. According to Gary Brewer, Former Dept Chair and Professor Dept of Entomology North Dakota State University, yield could increase as much as 48.8 percent and oil percentage could increase 6.4

percent (Berglund 2007). He states that the benefit may vary with variety, field and year, but that in most sunflower hybrids, seed set, seed oil percentage, seed yields and oil yields increase from insect pollination such as honey bees.

Last month, the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association board of directors corresponded with the National Sunflower Association of Canada (NSAC) and both industries are interested in addressing their respective concerns. Regarding recent extension information for sunflower growers, an article by Dr. John Gavloski, Entomologist with MAFRI, which discusses the value of honey bees and the steps that growers can take to minimize the harm to honey bees, will also be printed in the upcoming "The Canadian Sunflower Grower" magazine.

Sunflower growers are encouraged to only apply insecticides when necessary, in the evening when bees are not active, select insecticides that minimize the impact on bees, and communicate with beekeepers. Beekeepers are encouraged to communicate with their sunflower growers to let them know about their hives and to assess risk.

Information on the relative risk of honey bees to specific insecticides can be found in the "Guide to Field Crop Protection". The 2008 version is currently available for free online at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/cropproduction/gaa01d01.html> (see the chapter called "Insect Control", the table "Field Hazard of Insecticides to Bees"). The printed 2009 version can be purchased for about \$10 (by calling 204-745-5660 and asking for the "Guide to Field Crop Protection"). For more information call David at 945-3861 (Winnipeg).

Reference:

Berglund, D.R. (Editor) 2007. Sunflower Production. NDSU Extension Service. A-1331 (EB-25 Revised). <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/rowcrops/a1331intro.pdf>

Source of Active Ingredient in Manuka Honey Identified

NZPA, 4/17/2009

<http://apitherapy.blogspot.com/2009/04/source-of-active-ingredient-in-manuka.html>

Waikato University researchers report that a compound dihydroxyacetone in the nectar of manuka trees, converts during honey storage to methylglyoxal, the antibacterial ingredient that manuka honey is known for.

"We have known for some time that the unique antibacterial activity of manuka honey is associated with the presence of methylglyoxal, or MGO," Associate Professor Marilyn Manley-Harris said.

"But until now the origin of methylglyoxal was not known. It's well-known among beekeepers that the MGO increases with storage,



Editor's Note by Ken Rowes

Well the water is receding but not without it's impacts. Lance Walder was one of many with quick spring



flooding. With quick response he managed, as did many in the Red River basin south had to muster some gusto to cope with this largest quantity of spring flooding since 1950. The odd hive on higher stands or to higher ground is always a feat to achieve even with some embarrassments moments.



With the odd hives floating away on styro-foam or the cold and muddy ground holding you fast, a canoe saving the day Lanced managed. The prediction is for a wet summer which I hope has already past and is on the mend!



Pollen is coming in so bees should fair well if drying continues and temperatures rise. Prayers to you all for an exceptional bee year

and honey crop.

Note: newsletters will go to those who have renewed.....

1. For Sale: Strong 5 frame nucs, some with laying queens \$150; 4 frame nucs \$125; 3 frame nucs \$110. Available approximately May 15 weather permitting. Ph Dennis Ross 878-2924

2. For Sale: April-May 2009 well established strong healthy 4-frame nucs with queens bred from my own gentle hardy local stock. No foulbrood, chalkbrood, noseema, tracheal mites, varroa count very, very low in my apiary. Also for sale: inner covers (new) out of 3/8" plywood outer rim 7/8" + 7/8" pine \$7.50. Ph Ted Scheuneman 338-6066, West St Paul

3. For Sale: Frames of brood and bees, also nucs available after May 15, 2009. Ph Mike Grysiuk at (204)831-0691, (204)330-1714 or (204)799-7973

4. For Sale: 4 and 5 frame nucs available with 2008

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

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queens. Available mid to late May, depending on the weather.

Wanted: Conical bee escape boards, or Conical bee escapes. Contact Lance Waldner (204)433-2517, cell 712-6783 or lancewld@gmail.com

5. Wanted: beekeeper to place 10 hives on 40 acre property south of Gimli, on share honey crop basis. For details, call Ted Rebenchuk at 642-1338.

6. FOR SALE: Jabsco 15050-0675, food grade 316 stainless, pedestal pump (standard 2" Sanitary Threaded Ports). The 15050 is rated at 50 gpm (water) and is also used to pump foods like honey, jam, relish and peanut butter. All bearings, O-rings, wear plates, shaft seal and impeller have been replaced with new Jabsco parts to provide new performance. New price is \$2520(US). Will sell for \$1250. Call Ron Rudiak (204)326-3763 or e-mail manbeekr@mts.net

Wanted: beekeeper to place hives on 5 acres apples, 150 acres alfalfa, and canola in McDonald MB. access paved Near Hwy 1 and 16 beginning May pollination call **Kevin Hofer 204-56-3181**

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**

For Sale: 30 Frame Maxant Extractor. please call **Javad Niazi At 885-0576 or javadni-azi@yahoo.ca** —/\/\—

Extension Report Spring 2009 **David Ostermann, MAFRI**

Winter losses - Early indications from a few producers suggest higher losses with hives wintered outdoors compared to indoors. The extent of winter losses is not known since many producers have not yet checked their hives (as of mid March). This winter definitely seemed colder than normal with a lot of days below -30C, and the wind chill and temperature swings were sometimes dramatic as well. Well-sheltered yards or hives, or larger packs, (e.g. 10-hive packs (see picture below)) would've fared better in these conditions. Early indications are that hives wintered indoors look normal early on.

After a cold winter, bees take advantage of warmer weather to go on cleansing flights (picture taken March 21, 2009)

Wintering hives together in packs outdoors takes advantage of heat released from adjacent hives. While 4-packs are more common, larger packs are also used in Manitoba (picture of a 10-pack set-up (E. Dueck)).

Mite treatments - Beekeepers are reminded to monitor/sample to determine their varroa mite levels this spring. Monitoring is most commonly done by analyzing samples in the field or submitting samples to the Apiculture Diagnostics lab for analysis (year-round), or by using screen bottom boards to estimate varroa levels. As of March 21, 2009 we've already had some producers submit samples to the lab but it's too early to identify any trends. It's also important to monitor nosema and tracheal mite levels. Particularly in the past 3-5 years or so, given the development of resistance to some products, monitoring for varroa is important in helping to decide if you need to treat or what you need to treat with. For example, if you used CheckMite+™ last fall and your levels are high this spring, this is a 'red flag' that CheckMite+™ may be ineffective, and therefore Mite-Away II™ this spring may be your best option. Even if you used Apivar™ this past fall, it is highly recommended that you monitor this spring to see what your levels are. Don't assume that you don't need to treat this spring. Regarding the registration of Apivar™, there is no indication at this time that the product will be registered

beyond the original April 27, 2009 deadline.

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President's Comments for May/2009

The usual April Showers this year have not arrived yet, nor has the warm weather that is normal for the last half of this month. Most of the outdoor wintered hives are still in their wraps, but are flying vigorously on pollen collection trips. There is a lot of bright yellow pollen coming in, which I think is from nearby poplar or willow trees.

The indoor wintered hives that came out in early April seem to be doing well as they are also finding nearby pollen sources. Dandelions are not yet too plentiful, but I expect they will soon appear and then that nectar and pollen will help all bee populations expand quickly.

Spare queens may be available at Bee Maid for a few more days as many orders have been postponed, but that situation won't last much longer. Contact Mike or Jake for current availability of surplus queens.

This is your last newsletter until September so I want to remind you of several events that are happening in the Manitoba Beekeeping world in the next three months. 1) The Manitoba Beekeepers Field Day on June 20th in Notre Dame de Lourdes at the Pierre Faure Bee Farm; 2) Participating in the Manitoba Honey Show at The Forks on September 25th to the 27th this year. Save some of that nice extracted honey for entry into the fall honey show competition. 3) Also volunteer for a few work shifts at the Honey Show to meet and inform the public who always have many questions about bees and beekeeping. 4) Encourage your neighbours to plant bee friendly flowers in their area, as well as limit the use of pesticides on their lawns and gardens. 5) Try this low cost Varroa Mite Treatment that I saw used in the Philippines this January with some success- Shake and spread a half cup of finely powdered sugar onto the brood frames with a screened bottom board below. The grooming behaviour of the bees and the fineness of the powdered sugar causes many mites to drop off/are smothered? and fall through to the screen below. Repeat every seven days or so. With powdered sugar being reasonably priced, it is a way to feed bees and remove mites at the same time.

The effects of the long bitter winter on Manitoba Bees has not yet been all tabulated, but it seems that over wintered losses are similar to previous years. There may be a larger demand for locally produced nucleus colonies than in previous years, but that may be balanced off by the 3 large scale beekeeper auctions of bees and equipment taking place in late May this year. For details of where and when contact Fraser Auctions in Brandon, or see their website. I wish you all a good beekeeping summer, and hope that your supers will all be heavy.

Charles Polcyn President RRAA

HoneyB's comments:

- Management success means organization preparation.
- Make a daily activity list to check off when done or to flip to the next day to keep it a priority. So get a record book going and take photos.
- The list dictates all the necessities to carry for the apiary, vehicle or honey house.

(Queen rearing continued from pg1)

next super down. I usually take out two combs from the side as these most likely have less honey in them, and then I spread the rest of the combs to leave the 2-comb empty space in the middle of the super. Now remove all the supers, remove the queen excluder and go through the brood until you find a good comb with plenty of eggs and very young brood. Make sure the queen isn't on this comb and then shake & brush all the bees back into the brood box. Close up the combs and put the spare brood comb you brought with you at the side to make up the full complement of combs. Replace the excluder, supers and cover, and then go to your honey house or truck or wherever and quickly graft young one day old larvae into the cell cups. Return to the hive and put the frame of brood and the grafted larvae side-by-side into the space you previously made in the top super. That's all there is to it. The bees soon start drawing down the queen cells and you can have a look two days later to see how many have been accepted. This will give you an idea of how many nucs you will be able to make up. On that two-days-later inspection, check the comb of brood to make sure no emergency queen cells are also being raised. It is best to shake the bees off for this as some emergency queen cells can be hard to see.

As you will know from your bee books, queen cells are sealed on the 9th day and the virgins emerge on the 16th day. Bearing in mind the three days in the egg stage and that you will (we hope) have grafted one day old larvae, your queen cells will be sealed 5 days after grafting and the virgins will emerge 11 or 12 days after grafting. That 11 or 12 days seems to vary with temperature so to avoid problems I always assume the virgins will emerge on day 10. Consequently I plan to take appropriate action on day 9 or sooner (after grafting) which gives a margin in case of bad weather. Notice I refer to virgins emerging from their cells, not hatching from their cells. Hatching is a term used for when something hatches from an egg – for example, a chicken.

The Cells.

Many commercial queen producers use an incubator into which they put the ready-to- emerge queen cells. This avoids the possibility of one of them emerging early and killing off all the others, (which I can assure you from experience is a very annoying occurrence.) What I do is I use another colony as the incubator: after all, the temperature and humidity are just right. Again I make a special frame, this time to hold a row of hair curler cages. The hair curler cages are available at the CO-OP or you may find something suitable at your local supermarket. One end of the hair curler should be permanently closed, and for this I have used slices off old wine bottle corks or a suitable sized dowel often-times glued in with epoxy glue. First of all I mix up some pollen with queen candy and drop a pea sized piece of this mixture into the bottom of each hair curler for the virgin's first meal. I believe this pollen is important as it is the source of the new queen's protein. The workers in the incubator colony may feed the virgin but I like to think I am helping. Remember, the queen at this early stage is still developing, and virgins with the pollen mix always seem much bigger and healthier than those with just regular queen candy. You will recall I recommended sticking little one inch square pieces of wood onto the bars of the special frame before

attaching the queen cups. Well, now it is very easy to detach these little pieces of wood from the bar with the mature queen cell attached. They can then be put into the hair curlers with the piece of wood closing off any gap which might otherwise be there.

Most beekeepers who have a few colonies will have at least one which is sub-standard. Good colonies will have 3 or 4 supers whereas the sub-standard one only has one or maybe 2. Since you will need combs of brood to make up nucs for mating your new queens, you could consider completely breaking up this sub-standard colony – it's not going to produce much honey anyway, so why keep it? This sub-standard colony is also the one to use as the incubator or brooder colony. You will understand why in the next section.

Making the Nucs.

Normally, virgin queens need to age or mature for about a week before flying to mate. This is why one rarely sees eggs laid until about 10 days after the virgin has emerged. I have found it quite acceptable for this aging period to occur while the virgins are being comfortably looked after in the hair curler cages, and again it gives a certain amount of latitude in case of bad weather, work schedules etc. So, a few days after the virgins have emerged and 2 days before you intend to make up your nucs, find and kill the queen in the sub-standard brooder colony. For some reason bees seem to be reluctant to accept a virgin even when they 'know' they are queenless. They seem to need to be queenless for at least 48 hours. So, two days after killing off the old queen, break up the sub-standard colony making a bunch of nucs giving each at least one comb of brood and a good shake of extra bees from the honey super. Each nuc should also have at least one honey frame and some empty combs for the new colony to expand into. Take them to a new site at least 3 miles away so the flyers won't all go back to their original site, and introduce one of your virgins to each. At this time, just to be on the safe side, I always liberally spray the bees with a very dilute sugar syrup mixed with 1 teaspoon of REAL vanilla essence per pint. I lift up the brood comb, as well as the adjacent combs, and spray both sides. Do not spray the new queen. While the workers are busy licking each other clean, I just open the hair curler cage and let the queen walk out and go down onto the brood comb (where she would normally be.)

When you are shaking the bees out of the honey supers to give the nucs extra bees, it doesn't matter if you leave the original sub-standard hive with practically nothing as there will be a lot of workers out foraging. Leave this original hive with a small comb of brood, some empty combs and give it a virgin too. The comb of eggs and young brood which you originally took from your strong colony and which was used up in the top super next to your queen cells can also be used to make another nuc.

(Queen rearing continued from pg 7)

The super(s) can be transferred to other strong colonies.

Leave your nucs alone for at least a week, after which you could make a very quick inspection just to verify that eggs or young brood is present.

What Have I Forgotten.....

1. Never shake your frame of queen cells to get the workers off. Use a brush. Young virgins are very delicate and if shaken they can eventually emerge with no wings or some other deformity.
2. After your queens have emerged from their cells into the hair curler cages, it is a good idea to remove the old cell and the little piece of wood, replacing them with a cork or something similar. Occasionally a young queen will go back into its old cell and get stuck, where it dies. Don't let the young queens escape while you are doing this: they will try.
3. I use a strip of foam rubber to close off the entrances of my nucs when I am making them up and when I am transporting them to their new site 3 miles away. Then I can just open up a couple of inches of the entrance when I'm releasing the queen. Put a loose covering of dry grass or leafy twigs over the entrance so the bees will be confused and relocate onto their new site. This helps to stop drifting.
4. One of the advantages of this method is that the virgin queens will have developed the same 'hive odour' as all the workers, and as a result acceptance is almost certain.
5. If you have extra virgins, you can leave them in their hair curler cages and just put them in the super of another colony. Then when you check your nucs for eggs and find one has lost its queen, you can just give it another one, remembering to spray with the vanilla syrup. It is always nice to have a ready supply of queens, albeit virgins. I have kept virgins in the cages like this for 3 weeks after which they mated and laid eggs just fine. The end.

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MBA seeks crop insurance

By Jim Campbell, MBA rep

In last month's RRAA newsletter, there was an article about Liability Coverage available for beekeepers in both MBA and RRAA. The cost for this insurance is **\$45 per year**. Quite a security bargain! In addition to that insurance, MBA has approached Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) for coverage for honey production losses in addition to Over Winter livestock losses. At the moment, it seems discussions will focus on crop protection for 2010.

Those producers having bees adjacent to Sunflowers can attest to the mutual benefit of this arrangement. MBA and the Sun-

flower Association of Canada have begun discussions on how to improve this benefit, as spraying of confectionary seed crops could be harming bees. This is crucial as confection sunflowers (non-oil) make up about 60% of the sunflowers grown in Manitoba. The good news is, there is ongoing collaboration to seek ways to work together, to determine alternative measures, and include awareness articles in both associations' newsletters.

Be sure to look for the advertisement for the upcoming Field Day, where members of MBA and RRAA join together to tour the facilities of Pierre Faure, Notre Dame de Lourdes. Perhaps some of RRAA can set up a car pool to attend this summer function. See you there!

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Insurance Benefit for Honey Producers

By Cathy deLaroque Grassinger

The Co-operators will extend liability insurance to members of the **Manitoba Beekeepers Association and Red River Apiarists Association** through a certificate of insurance issued in the name of the member under the Associations' master policy which provides coverage to a limit of \$1,000,000 per occurrence plus the duty by The company to defend the insured including the costs to do so. These certificates will provide you the liability coverage you will need to attend trade shows, fairs, exhibits, etc. and are available for \$45 per year.

Commercial Liability Insurance is designed to pay those sums for which an insured becomes legally obligated to pay because of bodily injury or property damage caused to another through pursuits of the insured business. In addition the Member Certificate provides coverage for:

a) **Personal Injury** coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000; injury other than bodily such as Oral and/ or written publication of materials that slander/ libel a person or violate their right to privacy.

b) **Medical Expenses** coverage in the amount of \$2,500; these are amounts that become payable for bodily injury caused by an accident for which the insured may or may not be legally responsible to pay including things like dental services, ambulance, etc.

To obtain coverage for your operation, please refer to the Beekeepers Insurance when you contact Cathy, Slater Roy Agencies, at 204-467-8927, or e-mail slater_roy_agencies@cooperators.ca

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Honey for the show bench is easy, an added value and Fun!

Exhibit points: All honey is worth the pound to critique-
Aroma- a delicate honey perfume
Colour- water white, pale straw to amber and dark
Flavour- one that leaves a distinct impression
Density- a body with slow bubble movement
General- cleanliness, absence of air bubbles, full to the upper ridge.

April 14, 2009 **BeeMaid Supports Bee Research in Canada**

Bee Maid Honey is proud to announce that they will be contributing financial assistance to the following research projects this coming year:

Dr. Stephen Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge Research Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta

A study on the integrated Management of *Nosema* & Detection of Antibiotic Residues. *Nosema ceranae* is an emergent world-wide pathogen, and it, in combination with *N. apis* has been linked to wide scale depopulation of colonies in North America and Europe. This study will search for more effective chemotherapeutic controls for these parasites and generate a modern antibiotic residue dataset for fumagillin-based therapies.

Dr. Dave Shutler, Associate Professor, Acadia University Wolfville, Nova Scotia

To study the effects of over-wintering environment on *Nosema* disease in western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). Western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are parasitized by two microsporidians, *Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae*. Pathology and management of *N. apis*, the only previously known microsporidian parasite of western honey bees, is well-described; however, it is less understood in *N. ceranae*, a parasite formerly restricted to Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*). *N. ceranae* appears to be more virulent than its congener, therefore, it is important to study factors that may affect disease development. The objective is to study effects of indoor and outdoor over wintering on *N. ceranae* disease in western honey bee colonies. It is not known how over-wintering can be incorporated into an integrated pest management approach to *Nosema* control.

Bee Maid considered project proposals in the area of apiculture or pollination research. Preference was given to the area of honey, and the production of pure quality honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry. Bee Maid Honey is the marketing organization owned by the Alberta Honey Producers Cooperative Ltd. and the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Ltd. Both member owned Cooperatives have lead the beekeeping industry in their support for beekeeping research.

For further information, please contact:
Guy Chartier
Bee maid honey Limited.
Phone: (204) 783-2240 Ext 234
E-Mail: guychartier@beemaid.co

Saskatoon Pollination Project – First Year Summary
By David Ostermann

Last year (2008) was the first year of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association saskatoon pollination project. The goal of the 2-year project is to assess the benefit of having honey bees on commercial saskatoons. Funding for the project is provided by the Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative (ARDI). The following is a brief summary of the first year activities.

The weather in the spring of 2008 was cooler than normal. The bulk of the spring activities occurred from mid May to early June, and in the summer, the harvest occurred around the end of July. Study plots were set up at 3 saskatoon orchard sites in the southern Interlake; Stonewall, Lockport, and Petersfield. Each site had a different treatment and the treatment design was un-replicated. The treatments were: No honey bees, honey bees with no pheromone, and honey bees with pheromone.

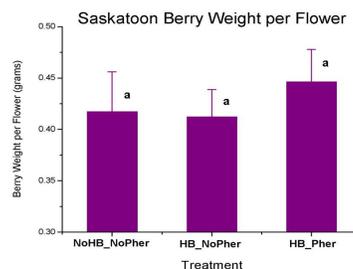
The following is a summary of the first year (2008) results:

- Development and timing of flowering varied significantly between the 3 sites
- Flower visits by insects was higher in orchards with honey bee hives
- Average hive weight increased by about 6-7 lbs
- The synthetic brood pheromone appeared to increase the proportion of honey bees which collected pollen
- Berry weight production per flower was not significantly different between the 3 treatments (see Fig. below)
- Seed count and 50-berry weight also were not significantly different between the 3 treatments

The Fig. below are the results in the first year showing no significant difference in the berry weight per flower between the treatment groups.

In 2009, the plan is to complete the second year of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association saskatoon pollination project. We hope the weather improves and that we can test a number of trends identified in 2008 as well as try to address some of our new questions.

Special thanks to ARDI, Jim Campbell, Dr. Rob Currie, Samantha Connery, Lloyd Jensen, Bernadette Lepine, Anthony Mintenko, John Ostermann, Pherotech, Charles Polcyn, Kim Ritz, John Russell, Avery Simunson, and Rob & Marg Smith. Thank you for your generous contributions!



RRAA's Innovator Ron Rudiak at the RRAA April meeting



demonstrated his pollen separator. Pollen is an essential nutrient as a queen spring-board if-you-will for our bee colonies and Ron's explanation on how with one of his pollen collectors was timely. Catching everyone's interest was his separator.

The collection pails below collect the material through a weight related fan

separation process. He clarified that for food grade pollen a further cleaning is required.

He defined the best time to collect pollen is during peak honey flow. Final cleaning has been done manually with a knife, spoon or forceps. Pollen is kept refrigerated or frozen in baggies or other size rated containers.

Some have used this pollen in BeePro paddies, after bees have had 3 days of cleansing flights, for encouraging spring brooding.

Bee care and Disease Control - Editor

Receiving the recommendations for administering antibiotics and acaridicides recently I felt to provide recommendation for the single hive applications for the hobbyists in the Tsp/tsp formulation for fumagilin as appose to active ingredient provided in the recent bulletin. This doesn't side-step referencing the published recommendations:

Spring Feeding Medicated Syrup

- Measurements:
- 1/2 teaspoon = 1.5 g Fumagilin-B (31.5 mg activity)
 - 1 teaspoon = 3.0 g Fumagilin-B (63 mg activity)
 - 1/2 Tablespoon = 4.8 mg Fumagilin-B (100 mg activity)
 - 1 Tablespoon = 9.5 Fumagilin-B (200 mg activity)
 - 2/3 cup = 50 Fumagilin-B (1.05 g activity)

Feeding

- 1 gallon for each 2-chamber colony (approx 20,000 bees)
- 1/2 gal/ea 1-chamber colony (approx 12,000 bees)
- 1/2 gal/ 5-frame colony (approx 8,000 bees)
- 1 gal/ea for package colony

Empty super irradiation disinfection is available still through Acision,s Services in Pinawa. Price around \$7.50/super maybe less if singly wrapped by you. Timing and pricing is depended on volume and how busy the company is. You can contact 204-753-2255.

Note: Amitraz (Apivar) is not permitted now.

Miss use of drugs can impact the Honey industry locally or abroad so be informed and follow recommendations meticulously.

**Red River Apiarists' Association
Winnipeg, Manitoba
2009 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.