

The Bee Cause



Volume 8, Issue 6

Sept 2011

Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, **13 Sept 2011** at the **River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.**

Topic:

1-IPM Booklet

2-Filipino Beekeepers who have been here since May in a training program.

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HONEY MARKET UPDATE REGARDING ARGENTINE HONEY

August 2011 Conference for Can. Assn. of Professional Apiculturists <CAPA-L@LISTSERV.UOGUELPH.CA> 8 August 2011

In July, the Argentine honey market was quiet because of a new issue raised by German beekeepers regarding honey produced from pollination of GMO plants. There was an appeal to the Government to issue a ban of sales of such honey. That would have a devastating influence on the market since much of the world's honey is produced from pollination of GMO plants. The European market was quiet and demand passive in the face of this emergent concern.

While the issue is not settled by the European legal system, protests by packers and

retailers seem to be leading to a resolution that will allow continued sales of honey from GMO plants that have been approved by the EU.

European packers are very low on inventory and must replenish their stocks quickly to remain in business and be able to satisfy the increased demand of autumn and winter. The need has become more acute as Eastern Europe's first honey extraction was successful, but the second extraction has been a disappointment.

Europe is actively seeking to buy Argentine honey as August commences. Of Argentina's estimated 80,000MT honey crop, January to June saw shipments of about 41,000 metric tons. These shipments were divided about 18.459MT USA, about 10.389MT Germany, about 3.828MT Italy and about 1,609 MT Japan. Total exports were 41,000 metric tons at a value of \$129 million. Another approximate 20,000MT is already under contract. Of the balance 20,000MT, 1/3 is white, 1/3 ELA and 1/3 LA. But there are old contracts at lower prices for white honey for which exporters have not received supply. With renewed international interest, prices have begun to rapidly firm especially for white honey. Argentine beekeepers are holding on to their remaining stocks awaiting Apimondia in mid-September. Since Apimondia will be in Buenos Aires this year, the beekeepers want to take the pulse of the market before selling the reduced stocks. There

are only marginal quantities of Argentine honey being offered.

The number of hives, the number of beekeepers, the size of pasture land for clover and alfalfa production and investment in beekeeping are all down. Hence, previous crops of 100,000-120,000MT as were achieved before conversion of cattle and dairy farming into mega soy bean production to satisfy the insatiable appetites in China and India, whose combined real populations are approximately 3 billion people, are no longer realistic. The 80,000MT achieved in the current honey crop depended upon an unusual confluence of favourable weather patterns throughout Argentina's huge land mass ranging over many latitudes and sub-environments. This favourable confluence is rarely repeated in recessive years.

New crop Argentine honey will not be available for arrivals until February/March 2012. Demand for remaining stocks has intensified and prices firmed. The prospect of an American honey crop of 150 million pounds plus or minus 10% is only firming the market further, especially for white and ELA honey.

The EU's ban on Indian honey and recent press reports within China of massive adulteration of "Chinese honey" with rice syrups sold domestically, are strengthening international demand for Argentina's remaining stocks of white and ELA honey from the 2010/2011 crops.

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Presidents Comments - -- August/September 2011

The current hot and dry weather is such a contrast from last May and June when it was wet and cool. The major honey flows started late and have continued so far into mid-August and perhaps into September. I have been told some hives are filling a deep super in a day, while other hives are filling a pair of supers in a week. Is this just beekeeper bragging or is it a real indication of what strong hives can do and the effects of positive weather work days.

The question when is this years' honey flow over this summer is one that won't be answered until the first hard frost arrives. Preparation time is needed to prepare your hives for winter and to decrease the varroa and tracheal mite levels before it gets too cold for the bees to take down the medicated syrup. You may be collecting honey at the risk of not being able to have your hives properly prepared for winter. Shut the honey collection down by the end of August or in very early September. Also remember that varying your miticide treatments on a 2 to 3 year cycle is an important strategy for varroa mite control. The varroa mites do mutate for survivability in the hive, so what worked in the last 2 to 3 years will not likely work again.

Apivar Strips or Formic Acid or ?? and Fumagilin should be in the hives when the weather is still warm enough for the bees to be in contact with these medications. And perhaps pollen patties should be made available now, along with the normal sugar syrup for winter stores. These are only a few examples of the many Randy Oliver queries/ suggestions at the MBA Conference in March of 2011. The increasing winter loss levels continue to threaten the viability of many beekeepers and one has to use a variety of IPM strategies to assist hives to deal with our winters.

A concern raised by several beekeepers across the province this summer was that of hive locations being too close to each other, with the risk of disease transference and/ or nectar source competition. The common practice of at least two miles of separation between bee yards has been difficult this summer due to wet field conditions. Try to be a good neighbor with your fellow beekeeper.

The annual Manitoba Honey Show takes place at the Forks at the end of September and the first 2 days of October. The theme this year is "**Pure Manitoba Honey in Many Ways: Liquid, Creamed, Comb, In Chunks or in Blends of Jams, Spreads and Beverages.**" The show regulations are a part of this newsletter and free competition jars are available for your entries at the Bee Maid Supply Store as well as at the September 13th meeting. The agenda for that night will focus on aspects of the new **IPM notebook**, which will be distributed at no charge that evening, and a presentation from the three Filipino Beekeepers who have been here since May in a training program. They have been working with a variety of beekeepers from large commercial operators to small scale beekeepers. Their perspective on beekeeping in Manitoba and what can be transferred back to their beekeeping practices in the Philippines should be of interest to all of us. The **Manitoba Growing Forward Program** is sponsoring/funding the new **IPM notebook**, our room rental costs and will also provide a small buffet at our meeting on September 13th. Many thanks from RRAA for this information evening.

It is also an evening for beekeepers to sign up for Information Shifts at the Honey Show. The public always wants to ask a variety of questions about bees, and who better to answer those questions but a beekeeper. This is a small amount of time that our membership voluntarily contributes to the public's awareness of our role as stewards and guardians of the honeybees.

The program for October will be a Discussion Evening from members of their topic wish list for next year, a summary of this year's honey show and information on the progress of adjusting the City of Winnipeg's bylaw on beekeeping inside the city boundaries. November's meeting will be our final one of the year, and its focus is on Gadgets that make beekeeping easier, or more efficient or if not a Gadget, a good idea that has worked for you in your beekeeping operation. I hope that all of you had a good beekeeping summer, and don't delay preparing your bees for winter, as it will come on its own schedule. Yours in Beekeeping --- Charles Polcyn RRAA President

Minutes of the RRAA General Meeting

River Heights Community Club – May 10, 2011

7:30 PM: Charles Polcyn opened the May meeting, our last before we break for the summer season. Presentations for the evening are:

- 1) Organic Honey Production and Certification by Janine Gibson.
- 2) Farm Weather Stations – A Technical Overview by Guy Ash and Patty Rosherr (marketing)

Treasurer's Report: John Speer reported that we have \$4,300 in our account and sixty-eight paid up members.

MBA Report: Jim Campbell reported that Small Hive Beetle has been identified in Hawaii. Queen cages with five attendants are easier to inspect. All queens being sent out are to go with a cautionary letter. One method of killing beetles is to use a coumaphos strip along with a cardboard strip. The cardboard strip is attractive for SHB to hide in.

SHB is able to over winter in Essex County in Ontario. To discourage beetle infestations the unused portions of pollen patties should be removed and the bottom board kept clean.

Some major honey bee overwintering losses occurred in Manitoba ranging from 10 to 90 percent.

On May 9th NOD has applied for an EUR (Emergency Use Registration) of their Quick Strips.

MBA will be requesting another EUR for Apivar as the current permit is only good until June of this year.

The field day will take place on June 22 at the University of Manitoba Glenlea bee yard. Dr. Robert Currie will be on hand with his students to discuss the screening of several new products.

Coffee Break: Ken Fehler and Charles provided a beautiful tray of assorted meat and cheese to go with our coffee.

Program: Janine Gibson's presentation was on Producing Organic Honey. For anyone interested in becoming an organic honey producer Janine can be reached at (204)434-6018 and also at janine@mts.net

Guy Ash gave us an overview of the Canadian Wheat Board's Weather Farm project, a network of over 1,000 prairie weather stations. Participants provide locations for weather stations and pay \$1,700 (which is subsidized). The full unsubsidized cost would be \$2,750. Currently there are about 11,350 regular users of this service. Visitors can view the weather information on www.WeatherFarm.com. For more information you can contact guy_ash@cwb.ca or Patty Rosherr of Marketing and Sales.

Loonie Draw: Prizes were awarded to: George Chwist (Comb Honey), Duane Versluis (a queen for \$20), Howard Alexander (a knocked down bee box), Chris Argiriou and Gilles Lantagne (a skunk board) and Veronica Larmour (a pair of knitted mittens). Thanks to everyone who entered and to those who donated the prizes.

Red River Apiarists' Association - Executive Meeting

Salisbury Restaurant on Pembina Hwy. - August 9, 2011

Attending: Charles Polcyn, Ken Rows, John Speer, John Russell, Jim Campbell, Brian and Sandra Smith. Charles opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Honey Show:

1) For 2011 will be held at Centre Court, The Forks Market, September 30 to October 2.

2) The committee discussed several honey show themes and chose to recognize "real honey" importance plus many uses, thus selected "Manitoba Pure Honey – In Many Forms".

3) Agreed to develop a new poster with theme plus acquire a new competition display. John Russell to look into options for shelf plus T Shirt costs. Possibly get RRAA observation Hive.

4) John Russell and Charles Polcyn will do some cooking/extracting demos. Link with "Culture Days" events at Forks the same weekend.

5) RRAA to supply honey competition jars at regular meeting.

6) The honey show to keep Beverage, plus new Photo competition category (new theme), and two vendors to see how it works. May need more competition ribbons.

7) Charles Polcyn and John Russell will discuss and arrange news releases in the papers, radio and TV (CBC & CITI TV spots).

Topics for the September 13 Meeting:

- 1) Fall Management & Wintering Preparation – Using the CHC booklet, conduct an IPM Workshop, sponsored by Growing Forward. Possibly Philippine CESO visitors to speak about experiences. Discuss the Honey Show, hand out jars.
- 2) Circulate Honey Show Regulations in the newsletter and RRAA web site and discuss at our September meeting. Sign-up sheets to keep track honey show volunteers.
- 3) Solicit volunteers for the RRAA executive.

Bee Cause: To promote meeting Guests and Workshop plus Honey Show, need to mail August 29.

October Meeting: New Member Feedback. Lets hear view of club, topics wanted, suggestions, etc.

November Meeting: Gadget Night and Social Time before Christmas break.

General Discussion: Considered need to have list of Farm Gate Honey Sales, List for Swarm assistance, RRAA brochure for Honey Show handout (or info sheet with application).

Jim Campbell for Ron Rudiak – RRAA Secretary —//\—

MBA Report August 2011

Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary

he Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) is encouraging all honey producers to consider the Growing Forward program.

Manitoba Honey producers still have time to take advantage of the Food Safety program permitting producers to turn in older extracting equipment, or old intact brood frames and receive a rebate from the governments of Canada and Manitoba. Producers can receive up to \$1000 towards 90% of the purchase price of either a new extractor or brood comb, or a combination of both. The program runs until 2012, and can be used only once for this particular rebate. Check out manitobabee.org for details or also manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward.

Producers with over 50 colonies can also take advantage of an Overwinter Bee Mortality insurance program offered by Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC). Producers are to have applied by August 31 indicating they are interested in the program. Then they have until end of September to finalize the exact number of colonies going into winter. Exact costs of the program will depend upon the level of insurance taken. Check out the MASC web, or manitobabee.org for details.

In other news, Apivar has received Emergency Use Registration for fall 2011 until June 2012. As well, Medivet Pharmaceuticals has received approval to continue sales of 65% Formic Acid across Canada. Both of these products are valuable tools for hive health management.

MBA is already planning the 2012 Convention/Symposium to be held at Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, for January 26-28. This will be a combined meeting with Canadian Honey Council, and the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists. Rhéal is lining up an excellent slate of speakers from across North America, so stay tuned for details later this year.

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check protocol by the provincial apiarists.

Dr. Currie welcomed everyone to the U of M facility although not officially open yet. He went on to explain the research projects under way such as: comb sterilization to control viruses still in the comb which have been found in the comb when being used after winter storage; Api guard, a Thymol gel not registered in Canada yet; Top guard, an oil solution that is administered through plastic bags for mite control which can be used during the honey flow with a limit of 3 treatments per year; Mat Strips of formic acid spring and fall.

Dr. Currie and Rhéal Lafrenière discussed the virus work across the province associated with indoor and outdoor wintering along with mites and nosema infestation. Interestingly he suggested the best location to sample for nosema is the entrance in fall finding no difference to a mid hive sample or entrance sample in spring. As for DWV (deformed winged virus) outdoor weak hives suffer, especially the single colonies, while indoor wintered colonies showed low impacts. Virus studies done or under way involved selection of colonies for resistance, sterilization, radiation of dead outs, and DNARI genetic (altering genetic structure of viruses with resistance interference DNA). Indoor wintering seems to be the advantage. Importantly with high mites you have high virus levels! Presently the radiation study is in full swing next will be temperature studies, especially with the largest inoculums found in dead out frames. Acidic sterilization is another study currently on tap.

David Ostermann discussed inspection results finding AFB resistance in one location out of 2 occurrences in the province; while Varroa resistant was found with Check Mite and Apistan, and not Apivar yet; Tracheal mites were low 5-10% spring and Varroa more of an issue in the fall; Nosema was higher this year although results were hard to formulate answers or solutions. The bottom line is you need to test your hives to be sure about your management strategies. Test numbers = 300 bees for Varroa, 100 for nosema. Live bees are needed for virus samples. Optimum time to test is spring,

Rhéal discussed winter losses where the surveys focused on the economic importance with the number of colonies in the province up. The winter losses were average 34% in this survey, with indoor 28% and outdoor 42% the separation is wider today than in years past. There was 2/3 import queens, 13% colony selection, 17% select stock with 27% queen replacement. Fall feed preferences were sucrose 2/3 by use, 1/3 corn fructose or honey; with 79% using hive top feeding and 25% using a buffet-style. Concerning VARROA 77% of the beekeepers were monitored, 93% treat, 1/2 use Apivar, 27% use Formic and Oxalic. Concerning NOSEMA 17% of the response group monitor, 76% treat with Fumagilin-B. He mentioned that the Beekeepers Winter Fall Insurance program was launched for commercial beekeepers (50 colonies +) deadline to enter August 31, deductible 30% then insurance kicks in (hi \$150, Low \$100/hive. Also mentioned was that there is a flood compensation program for the province for 2011. (Dr. Currie's study colonies were viewed on site).

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MBA Field Day 22 June 2011

Editor's notes

Events went well at the New Glenlea Lecture Hall Centre attended by 66 members.

Karen Miles provided an excellent exposure of the Bee Maid Coop and the present status of members, store upgrades and markets. Jim Campbell as coordinator and MBA secretary provided some updates on beekeepers concerns – working with trappers associations to control skunks, Letter out in support of Commercial Beekeepers insurance for winter losses, letter to Knot Apiaries to encourage continuation of registration of mite strips. The Apivar is still all that's available as emergency mite control. The Day of the Honey Bee broadened its proclamation acceptance by many more municipalities. A letter to NSERT in an encouragement for Dr. Rob Currie's research to receive \$16 k grant which came through. The Small hive beetle in Manitoba seems to be still under



Editor's Note by Ken Rows

What a summer! Hot and low moisture and for the healthy hives better than average production., at least in the Eastman region (Eastern Manitoba). As I monitored my bottom papers there was next to no mites! Mite counts this week are still low showing only 2 of the 27 colonies (8 are production colonies). Second alfalfa blooms are still producing and the bees have gotten over the honey removal slump.

You will note that this issue is focused on the MBA Honey Show which is like a healthy run with many participants without the competitors fears. So participate! Show casing Manitoba honey is a blessing, a privilege and a responsibility of all beekeepers.

Note MBA Honey Show will be Sept 30th—Oct 2nd.

Well my extracting is mostly done except for the last take-off in September and what a job! The boxes were exceptional heavy for an old fart like me! And that's not all. After extracting several boxes and then noticing the honey isn't straining put me into one of those critical corrective action modes mentioned on page 9. Thick honey = low moisture great quality honey.

I am onto feeding and treating nucs, hopefully establishing a better wintering program after a 60% loss last winter. Then the last of the honey will come off in a week. Now is also the time to arrange your fall strategies. A must is to check colonies for mites.

If you have an ad in the newsletter please PLEASE confirm continuation of ad for October I would like to have current advertisements. Contact the editor please.

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, Brood 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— a Plastic drum 200 L with tap \$100.00 . Ph **Ted Scheuneman** 338-6066, West St Paul

5. For Sale: :- For Sale, Maxant 600-5 Double Wall S.S. Bottling / Storage Tank with two x 1800 watt immersion heating elements. The elements are powered by 120v/110v. The tank was previously used as a wax

melter, hence the two elements. The tank is in very good condition, has a thermometer, and a sightglass. The 600-5 is capable of holding 42 gallons or about 500 pounds of honey. **(204) 981-6562 or jonhofer1984@gmail.com**

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

8. For Sale: Model 500-30 Frame Maxant Honey Extractor In excellent shape used very little. \$1,500 OBO please call **Russ Roznik**, Oakbank, home 204 444 3002 or cell 471-0199

9. To Swap: 75 ft X 3 ft #8 bottom board screen for a nuc.: Contact **Janice Lupinetti** 895-9667

10. For Sale: 60 drawn honey supers; 30 brood boxes; 30 shallow supers and 1 18 frame extractor in excellent condition: contact **David Gulakow 878-3464** Lorette.

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2, 2011
THE FORKS MARKET
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS :

1. Honey Exhibitors shall be bona fide beekeepers with entries of pure honey from the current year production from their own personal apiaries.
2. An exhibitor may submit one entry in each section of each class. Advance registration via phone call by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 20, 2011 by calling David Ostermann at 945-3861.
3. Exhibitors must accurately complete the entry form, and clearly mark each entry parcel with their name and address. An Entry form is to accompany entry parcel. Judges will ensure entries are placed in the appropriate classes. Entries must be free of any labels, with only initials or id on underside.
4. Honey entry deadline (for all sections except Photography) is 4:00 P.M., Tuesday September 27, 2011. There is no entry fee. Honey entries should be sent to: **MANITOBA HONEY SHOW, c/o 625 Roseberry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0T4. ENTRIES SHOULD NOT ARRIVE BEFORE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011.**
5. Show judges shall consider any contestant ineligible if the entry fails to comply with the exhibit criteria or is unattractively displayed. Honey jars should NOT have a Label. Awards will be made by a scale of points and, in case of a tie; the highest score for flavour will be awarded the extra point.
6. All entries must be picked up by their owner at the end of the show, as items remaining at 4:00 P.M., Sunday, will become the property of the Red River Apiarists' Association and may be donated to a charity such as Winnipeg Harvest food bank.
7. The Honey Show is a consumer oriented educational and promotional event, sponsored by the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, and organized and staffed by members of the Red River Apiarists Association.
8. A copy of these General Rules and Regulations, and a competition Entry Form are on-line at www.manitobabee.org (refer "Activities and Events" section of web site) and at www.BeekeepingManitoba.com (refer "Events" then "Honey Show").

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW**COMPETITION CLASSES****CLASS 1**

1. Liquid Honey, White, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
2. Liquid Honey, Amber, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
3. Liquid Honey, Dark, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
4. Liquid Honey, BEE-GINNER, any colour, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars. (NOTE: ONLY OPEN TO FIRST-TIME HONEY SHOW ENTRANT).
5. Granulated Honey, White, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.

CLASS 2

1. Chunk Honey - totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars, each containing one or more pieces of comb honey and the jars filled with liquid white honey.
2. Comb Honey - totaling not less than 3 pieces of either comb honey in plastic rounds or cut comb honey in individual containers.
3. Frame of Honey - one completely capped frame of white honey.
4. Beeswax - 2 kg in one cake or not more than 5 cakes.

CLASS 3

1. Best Taste - any color - totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic containers. (Entries will be judged primarily for flavour and taste using simplified judging standards)
2. Honey Beverage – any type, colour or flavour – single container not larger than 1 litre.
3. Photography – one unframed 8" x 10" photograph depicting a) Honey Bee Pollination, b) Beekeeping in Manitoba, c) Other Bees and Insects, or d) Honey - In Many Forms. (Photos to be delivered on Friday 30 September to Honey Show Display area)

CHAMPION EXHIBITOR: The exhibitor winning the greatest number of points in the Honey Division (Classes 1 and 2) will be declared the CHAMPION EXHIBITOR of the Manitoba Honey Show. Points are awarded as follows:

PRIZE POINTS

FIRST	3
SECOND	2
THIRD	1

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

<u>LIQUID HONEY</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>CHUNK HONEY</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Appearance and uniformity of containers	5	Appearance and uniformity of containers	5
Uniform level of fill	5	Uniform level of fill	5
Colour	5	Uniformity of honey - both liquid and comb	5
Freedom from crystals	15	Freedom from crystals in both comb and liquid portions	15
Freedom from foreign material	15	Freedom from foreign material	15
Freedom from air bubbles either in suspension or as froth	15	Freedom from air bubbles either in suspension or Froth	15
Uniformity of honey	5		
Brightness	10	Flavour and aroma	10
Flavour and aroma	10	Neatness of cut edges of comb honey pieces	15
Density (moisture content)	15	Completeness of fill and completeness of cappings on comb honey pieces	15
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	TOTAL	<u>100</u>

GRANULATED HONEY

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

COMB HONEY

Quality and uniformity of wooden sections	5
Cleanliness of sections	20
Completeness of fill in container	20
Completeness of capping	10
Cleanliness and appearance of cappings	20
Quality and flavour	10
Uniformity of comb sections including honey	15
TOTAL	<u>100</u>

**CFIA Honey Program Chemical Residue Monitoring
May 2011**

RRAA members here is an update on the Canadian honey evaluation for your information.

With a new fiscal year upon us, CFIA Honey Program inspectors will begin taking honey samples for laboratory analysis. Honey will be analyzed for the following residues:

- ALAR
- AMITRAZ
- BENOMYL
- BENZALDEHYDE
- BUTYRIC ANHYDRIDE
- EBDC(DC)
- EBDC(EBDC)
- EBDC(ETU)
- FLUROQUINOLONES
- FORMETANATE
- FUMAGILLIN **
- GLYCOSIDES
- IONOPHORES/NICARBAZIN
- MACROLIDES
- METALS
- NITROFURANS
- NITROIMIDAZOLES **
- PENICILLINS
- PESTICIDES-FPH053
- PHENICOLS
- PHENOL
- SULFONAMIDES
- TETRACYCLINES
- THIABENDAZOLE

The ** indicate new analysis (added fall 2010). In addition, the labs are now able to analyze honey for desmycosin (break down product of tylosin). In order to determine compliance, any amount of desmycosin identified is added to the tylosin residue (if present) and assessed against the WRL for tylosin.

We are still receiving results from our previous fiscal year (April 2010 - March 2011). Of interest is the finding of 3 positive residues for fumagillin (2 in Alberta and 1 in Man-Sask). Note that there is no MRL for fumagillin. No product action was taken. We have also communicated these findings to the provincial apiarists and have requested their comments on these findings.

We have also finalized the information letters that will be sent to producers and packers when bee repellants are found at a concentration above 0.1 ppm, the default MRL for agricultural chemicals.

Again, I remind you that these samples are taken as part of a larger monitoring program that the CFIA carries out to collect information on the occurrence of chemical residues, food additives and microbiological organisms in the Canadian food supply. Samples are taken at random and from lots where the inspector does not suspect a problem.

In those cases where the inspector suspects a problem with the lot, the turnaround time for receiving results is much shorter (days as

opposed to months) and the product may be withheld from distribution until the results of analysis are known.

Debbie Fishbein
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Government of Canada

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Miteaway

FYI, affirmation by Liz Corbet (Miteaway) that the full registration application for MAQS has been sent to PMRA on July 8th 2011.

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**Use of Liquid formic Acid 65% in Canada Approved
April 2011**

The Medivet Pharmaceuticals product from High River Alberta is still approved for mite control. The late fall, winter (post-feeding, brood rearing minimal with less than half a frame of brood): use for single brood-chamber colonies (bees covering 5-10 frames), standard equipment. Less than 5 frames of bees may result in excessive damage, leading to over-wintering mortality. In cooler weather the slower diffusion of formic acid is not effective in larger than single-story colonies. Outside day-time temperature should be above 4 C at application time.

Solution is applied onto bottom boards or onto absorbent material placed on bottom boards or hive top bars at rates: 30-40 ml for two-story colonies and 15—20 ml per single story colonies. The treatment is to be repeated at least 4 times at 1 to 10 day intervals if stand alone treatment, less if not for varroa and tracheal mite control.

Note formic acid is corrosive. —*—

(HACCP) Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point

It is always important to think food product safety as recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the United Nations International Standards Organization for food safety..

- 1 Have a plan to eliminate pathogens as best as possible.
- 2 Points in the production process to prevent, eliminate or reduce food safety hazard to an acceptable level.
- 3 Establish critical levels, the limit at which the hazard is acceptable without compromising food safety.
- 4 Establish monitoring procedures for critical control points.
- 5 Crucial are establishing corrective actions, bring process back on track such as temperature when processing honey.
- 6 Verify applying methods, procedures, tests to evaluate your operation.
- 7 Keep Records, not only on apiaries but in your honey house to assist your effectiveness and verifications.

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

BEST TASTE (BEE-GINNER)

BEE SWAX

Flavour and aroma	70	Colour	30
Freedom from foreign Material	5	Cleanliness (free from honey and impurities)	35
Moisture content	15	Uniformity of appearance	20
Freedom from froth	5	Freedom from cracking and shrinkage	15
Uniformity of colour	5		
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	TOTAL	<u>100</u>

HONEY BEVERAGE

Flavour and aroma	70
Freedom from foreign material	10
Content Clarity	10
Freedom from froth	5
Presentation/Packaging	5
TOTAL	<u>100</u>

**Red River Apiarists' Association
Winnipeg, Manitoba
2011 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.