

The Bee Cause



Volume 12, Issue 4

April 2015

- Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, 14 April 2015 at the **Corydon Community Centre River Heights, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.**
- (in room right off maindoor)

Speaker: In search of maintaining the Manitoba bee lines.

April chaired by **Waldemar Selection of Stock**

May **Raising Queens**

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Neonics, what is plan Bee?

I have decided to publish a blog of Randy Oliver's (I am sure many of you have read) with another blog he has suggested he providing the website. They give the another side of the neonic story. You must feel a bit of a push / pull when the use of a substance is put in place—well meant then a folly occurs. I lived through the DDT and phosphate eras now of many, here's another the **Neonic Era**.

Randy goes on to say, "We all want to minimize agriculture's negative effects on the environment. This includes greatly reducing our reliance upon pesticides. But such reduction needs to evolve as we learn (or re learn) alternate and more sustainable strategies for growing food. This is best done by rational and sober scientific assessment of current and alternative practices. I (Randy Oliver) commend Dr. Daynard pointing this out.

I'm also impressed by a recent Blog by Dr. David Zaruk, who is a Risk Governance Analyst at Risk Perception Management and an Assistant Professor Adjunct in Communications at Vesalius College, VUB, and Facultés universitaires St-Louis in Brussels. He blogs under the name of the "Risk Monger." He recently posted about the real-life agricultural and ecological consequences of the politically- (as opposed to scientifically-) motivated suspension of neonic seed treatments in the EU

"Risk Monger" Dr. David Zaruk

September 30, 2014

Within only ten months of the precautionary ban on neonicotinoid pesticides, farmers in the

UK are reporting significant crop losses for oilseed rape (OSR) due to an infestation of cabbage stem flea beetles ravaging the British countryside. With OSR crop losses this year estimated to between 20-50%, it is known that seeds treated with neonicotinoids (banned in the EU since December, 2013) would have efficiently controlled those predators.

In what should have been a perfect growing season, some OSR crops in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire have been totally written off as the flea beetles continue to munch away and multiply. Farmers had been trying to save their crops spraying pyrethroids on their fields every couple days, but these older pyrethroids are nowhere near as effective as the

banned neonics and much harsher on the environment (and bees). DEFRA in the UK has just given emergency authorization to spray neonicotinoids on oilseed rape – a temporary measure under the conditions of the ban, not as effective as seed treated neonics and a good example of a member state recognizing the stupidity of the ban. Sadly, it is likely to be too little, too late.

This is one more example of a precautionary fail, although unlike other cases where policy-makers can hide behind the blameless veil of precaution until they retire or get promoted, in this case, the idiocy has been revealed within one year of the neonic ban. Farmers groups were warning of this risk well in advance of the ban and they were scoffed at by environmental activists. One can **(continued on pg 4)**

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Presidents Comments for April, 2015

Greetings to all the fellow beekeepers!

Very interesting spring start we are having, it acts like a roller coaster. The temperatures are up and down with some snow in between. Good thing the outdoor wintered bees are still wrapt and hopefully fed. I had a chat with a beekeeper that had brought his hives out from the wintering building on the 10th of March. He said that his bees wintered well but now he is losing a substantial amount every week. Especially the hives with the smaller clusters are dwindling away, not a good situation when you lose hives in the spring.

For myself, I have a 2% winter loss. The hives look big and robust. I had the chance to feed icing sugar patties and liquid syrup. I have checked hives for brood - average 3-4 frames at 70% and lots of young and fussy bees. This is early, I think we have a higher potential for a swarm year.

However, nature is waiting for warmer temperatures. The willows are just about ready to produce some pollen, hopefully soon. In my notes, covering the last 19 years, the earliest date for willow pollen was the 7th of April and the latest the 21st of April. In 2012 it was the 18th of March. Well, we have to wait and see.

Some beekeepers are eager to get their fingers in to the hives and start the manipulating process. Caution Guys and Ladies! If the temperature is below 12C, it is not good to have the hives open for longer periods of time. The brood is getting chilled because the cluster is too loose to keep it warm. If you do open the hive you have to know what you want to accomplish and do it fast.

Place your equipment, hive tools and feed close, so you can be in and out of the hive fast.

In some interesting situation down in the US, it seems to me that the scientists and the beekeepers are not on the same page, when it comes to the impact of the neonicotinoids on the honey bees. While ice-fishing on Lake Winnipeg I met an American beekeeper and he told me that the migratory beekeepers restock their four-way pallets at least 2 times in the summer and most will not report the hive losses. The same rumour was mentioned in the American Bee Journal, but it was called a "rumour". The bee loss is still going on, it is just being handled and not reported.

Our next meeting is on the 14th of April. Topic is "Bee-Stock selection to raise local Queens."

Looking forward to see you all.

Waldemar

Red River Apiarist's Association

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 10, 2015

Chairman: Waldemar Damert
Recording Secretary: Art Quanbury

Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the AGM held on February 10, 2015 be accepted

Moved: Ron Rudiak
Seconded: Jim Campbell
Carried

President's Report

Waldemar commented on some of the aspects of bee keeping he had observed while in Germany recently. They no longer use wooden hive boxes but use boxes made of a high density Styro-foam.

He mentioned that progress had been made on a new meeting location and Armand St. Hilaire would provide details at the next meeting.

The rest of his report was a summary of the presentations at the recent **MBA Convention**.

- 1). Insurance for beekeepers, a number of differing opinions on what is best. Losses must > 30 % for insurance claim, otherwise beekeeper gets credit for losses. For first 5 years you will pay more than you will receive in benefits.
- 2). Biosecurity: Some publications available.
- 3). Drift Watch in Saskatchewan. A website where you can report the location of your colonies so aerial sprayers can take this into account when spraying crops. Monsanto and Bayer will fund for first 2 years and then ??
- 4). Honey Health. A uniform and standardized profile of condition of bees across Canada, will include results of tests on bees, honey, wax, etc. In one study pesticide residue has been found in samples taken from areas where there was no spraying.
- 5). Corn seed and neonics. A study on how to minimize the dust from neonic coated seed corn. This does not address the issue of the systemic nature of neonics where it is found in all parts of the plant. Uncoated seed can be purchased in Manitoba and the cost is one half the price of coated seed.
- 6). Colony collapse disorder (CCD). Not a simple situation. (death by a thousand cuts). Correlations found between some factors and CCD does not necessarily mean the factors are a cause of the problem. It is important to interpret statistical data carefully. Varroa mites are still considered a main problem. They cause an open wound in the bee that can be an entry point for other viruses and bacteria. Studies have found that bees cannot tolerate as many mites as previously and treatment should be applied more often. It also seems evident that pesticides weaken bees so they are more affected by diseases.
- 7). Ontario Small Hive Beetle. Quarantine areas are still in effect and problems arise when a few hives are purchased and moved outside the quarantine area.
- 8). Neonics. It has been found that the pesticide is building up in the bee's body with each encounter.
- 9). Fallacies around CCD. A presentation about factors that do not contribute to CCD.
- 10). Wild Pollinators. Many of the issues affecting honey bees may also affect wild pollinators. Manitoba has 400 varieties of wild pollinators. Pesticide polluted water has been found in ditches so it is important to provide a clean water supply for

bees.

11). Inside wintering in Quebec. A very elaborate and expensive system has been developed for inside wintering that includes both heating and cooling so temperatures can be kept to within half a degree. This allows the bees to be kept indoors longer in spring. The temperature is kept at 5 degrees C.

12). Things that work and don't work in the USA. Can't remember any details of this talk.

13). University of Manitoba research. Rob Currie talked about developing bees that can recognize diseases and mites and take action against them. Tests have shown that local stock is 50% better than stock from New Zealand.

14). Wintering Nucs. Rhéal presented information on wintering nucs. His personal experience is sometimes at odds with the information he presents as a provincial apiarist. He suggested separating a hive in the fall and adding young queens. He found that queens are not lasting as long, maybe due to pesticide affect on them. He recommended replacing with young queens before the 5 year maximum.

A lot of good research was presented that does get published because of lack of funds.

Break *****

Early Spring Management Discussion

Spring management should include IPM to ensure healthy colonies. It is a good time to check for mites.

Feeding is vital at this time of year. After the bees have taken a cleansing flight feeding can take place. Clear the snow from the front of the hive. Bees that land on grass can take off again but if they land in snow that get stiff and freeze. If the bee cluster is at the back of the hive it is a sign that they are running low on food. A lot of defecation outside may be a sign of nosema but a certain amount is normal. Signs of much defecation inside the hive are a problem sign. It could be a result of nosema or stress.

Feeding can take many forms. Frames of honey can be added. This is ideal. Candy can be made from liquid honey at 30 degrees, (20%), and icing sugar (80%) by weight. When mixed it looks like crumble and may be put in plastic bags. The lip on the inner cover can be made 1.5 inches high to accommodate the bags. Sugar syrup in a one to one ratio by volume (1 L of water, 1.25 kg of sugar) may be put in a zip lock back on top of the frames. Punch some pin holes in the top surface of the bag when in place. Pollen patties or pollen supplement can be added. This may encourage brood. Pollen can be added by inserting frames with pollen in them as well.

Nosema infected hives can be improved by adding a new queen, new foundation, and a new brood box in summer.

Presentation by Jim Campbell

Jim distributed a booklet on Honey Bee Diseases and Pests and talked about the IPM approach to bee health.

Waldemar showed a queen mating box and explained how it is used with a virgin queen.

Looney Draw.

The following prizes were won; honey liquor, German honey tin, book, chocolate bars, honey and lemon, hive top feeder from Propolis and old beekeeping magazines.

Winners were: Melissa Depius, Alex Remkes, John Speer, Jim Uttley, Mike Grysiuk, Gilles Lamontagne, Keith Bamford, Barry Briscoe, Tim Loewen, Hans Borst, Mary Louise Chown, Ian Smart, Guy Briscoe, Ron Rudiak, Victor Dyck.

The next meeting will be held on April 14, 2015 at the River Heights Community Centre at 7:30 pm. —/\\—

MBA Report April 2015
Jim Campbell, MBA Representative

Representatives of Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) participated in the 11th Annual Agriculture Awareness Day at the Manitoba Legislative Buildings on Tuesday 17 March. At this event, two local entrepreneurs were highlighted as the theme was *Agriculture is Soaring to New Heights*. Rejean Picard, MAFRD described his experiments using a drone to capture images of crops, such as winter wheat, throughout the season. The drone, called Phantom 2 (made famous by the White House lawn crash a few weeks ago) is equipped with a high resolution "Go Pro" camera to record areas in the field where winter has killed the crop, or where water has damaged the plants. Kelly Beaulieu's Canadian Prairie Garden Puree company uses cull crops to produce a nutritious product for sale to processors in USA. She challenged three chefs to develop a desert using puree as an ingredient. Honey producers were delighted that two of the three chefs also incorporated honey into their recipes.

Patricia Wolf Vega, Senior technician at the National Bee Diagnostic Centre, in Grande Prairie Alberta, described the results of the Bee Health survey done in Manitoba and Alberta last year. This is the first year of the National study, designed to create a base line reference for what diseases and pests are across Canada. The survey will be expanded to BC and Saskatchewan in 2015.

MBA recently heard from The Federation des Apicultures du Quebec (Quebec Beekeepers Federation), who indicated that their members uphold the same position as in the past. It appears they are still concerned about importation of Africanized bee genetics, and Small Hive Beetle, and thus reject the White Paper document of MBA.

The closing date for applications for MBA Part-time Secretary has passed, and now the board will review the responses to determine the successful candidate. The results are expected shortly, once the board resumes meetings.

MBA is disappointed their requested level of funding for the blacklegged tick research project has not been met by Agriculture and Agri Food Canada. The low level of funding means a severe cutback in the original plan to include samples being collected in the Brandon area. The original budget is being reworked to determine how best to proceed, as several beekeepers are adversely impacted by the Lyme disease spread by these ticks.

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(from pg 1) easily read the confident (but very wrong) reports by Friends of the Earth declaring that there would be no threat at all to OSR crops from the ban and accusing the farmers groups and industry scientists of scare mongering.

Well, ... no, they were not scare mongering! The farmers and industry scientists were right and in the very first year experts and government officials are acknowledging significant crop losses in the UK. Watch the BBC report which presents the crop losses in apocalyptic proportions. That DEFRA had to introduce emergency derogations on neonic sprays means the ban is flawed. Will they have to do the same next year? And the next? When will people wake up?

May this once again be a reminder to all policy-makers to never trust activist science like that manufactured for Friends of the Earth. When you start by wanting to say something to support your beliefs and then go looking to pay researchers to confirm these beliefs while disregarding the mainstream scientists, then you know your logic and evidence will be sadly tilted.

As the Risk-Monger has always predicted, rather than admitting the errors of their bias, activists up the volume of their rhetoric when facing glaring contradictions. Pesticides Action Network, in their glorious narrow mindedness (embarrassingly the only news published on EurActiv on this subject), is demanding that the EU stop the derogations on neonics, proving once again that PAN hates farmers and rural communities.

Bad news for the bees

The irony is that next season far fewer farmers will plant oilseed rape given the poor results – this is bad news for bees as OSR flowers are rich in pollen, thus offering bees fewer pollen-rich sources (leaving them weaker and more prone to the Varroa mite virus). Unless there is another derogation of the ban next year, farmers who continue to plant oilseed rape will be forced to use higher doses of pyrethroid pesticides, sprayed on leaf and soil to combat the flea beetle. As pyrethroids kill all insects, I am not sure those dedicating their lives to saving the bees (translation: anti-chemicals campaigners who saw an opportunity in 2013) had actually thought this through. The Risk-Monger is not sure anyone actually thought this ban through – in Brussels, reacting to loud-mouthed activists seems to have replaced thinking and using proper evidence in policy-making.

The most ridiculous point of all of this sorry affair is that bee populations (outside of some localized events) were never in crisis and in fact have been growing. Excessively cold winters can kill off larger numbers of bees (see a recent EU report), as can some very intensive industrial farming practices (like almond plantations in California) which left some colonies vulnerable to diseases and viruses. But otherwise, numbers are generally strong and the price of honey is not at all reflecting the crisis the bee-ons have been prognosticating.

Well, sadly, with the increased use of pyrethroid sprays, maybe the bees will suffer the crisis activists had been hoping for. How do you spell stupid??? (continued on pg 5)

(from pg 4) Some facts about farmers

The Risk-Monger grew up on a farm and often finds himself in Brussels debating agricultural issues with enviro-activists who are far too cosmopolitan and gentrified to have ever got their hands dirty in a field (in other words, people who know nothing about farming or farmers). So forgive this short primer in common sense.

No farmer wants to use pesticides (insecticides, herbicides or fungicides) – they cost money and are risky to use. The reason they use these tools is not because they love dumping chemicals down the throat of Mother Nature – farmers live every day with nature and do what they can to preserve the quality of the land, the water and the means to grow crops (including pollinators – I wonder if activists who tell farmers that they need bees actually realize how insulting and demeaning they are?). Farmers are the ultimate risk managers, having their fields exposed to a myriad of hazards every day. Crop protection products are used to ensure crop security and to control risks. Excluding the EU, where the Common Agricultural Policy pays farmers as a form of risk mitigation, most farmers in the rest of the world bet their farms every year on the seeds they choose (and why most farmers outside the EU welcome innovative biotechnologies).

So look under the fingernails of people like activist researcher Dave Goulson from the University of Sussex (who claim farmers are wastefully using crop protection tools for no reason) – you won't find any dirt (although a lot of compost is coming out of his mouth). See a short video Goulson did this year for Friends of the Earth where he confidently states that neonics don't work and farmers don't know any better (like many activists, Goulson's superiority complex indicates he believes farmers are a motley group of uneducated hillbillies and yahoos that need educating). We need to ask ourselves: Is this the best researcher the activists could find? Seriously?

Some facts about DG Sanco and their pleasure in precaution

Who is to blame for this precautionary disaster? Not the activist NGOs – they are paid to push the envelope and want to believe the things they tell each other (even if the science says otherwise). Rather, it comes down to the activist(s) in DG Sanco who pushed for precaution on neonicotinoids within the shortest period in the history of precautionary principle abuse. There was no proper impact assessment done, no consultation, no panel of experts (EFSA was forced to neuter its scientific committee of any experts having ever worked with bees, because of industry associations ... which we are told is a bad thing). Warnings were very clearly and loudly voiced in 2013, especially concerning the risk of the flea beetle on oilseed rape viability, but Commission officials disgracefully refused to listen – the anti-chemicals activists were running a much louder lobbying campaign.

For years, the Risk-Monger has been arguing on how myths about bee populations have been abused by anti-chemicals activists who deceptively pushed precaution against any factual evidence. I chuckled when the European Environment Agency proudly put a sickly looking bee on the cover of their second volume of that distasteful Late Lessons from Early Warnings. I have often stated that the beauty of precaution is that no one is ever to blame when precaution turns out to be wrong, even devastatingly wrong. Well, DG Sanco is to blame and the Risk-Monger would like to know the name of that activist in DG Sanco who bulldozed this precautionary ban through without respect for science, farmers and, now we can conclude, bees. Someone has to pay the price for this folly, and it should not be the farmers, European consumers or the environment.

Sack that Sanco activist and reverse the ban before the next planting season!

Now who's the Activist and who's paying who?

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Bees, lies and evidence-based policy

Another letter suggested by Randy Oliver that was sent to the respected journal Nature by bee researcher Lynn Dicks February 2013.

I (Bee Cause editor) agree with Mr. Oliver who says: "Such a careful evaluation of all the evidence is what I'm all about, even if that is unpopular with those who don't want to be confused by the facts. I currently feel that the problem with planting dust from corn seeding has finally reached the point where manufactures either have to take responsibility for compensating beekeepers who suffer losses due to the application of their products, or EPA and PMRA need to restrict the use of neonic seed treatments to only planters that pass dust emission certification. However, I feel that to date there is not enough evidence to call for a complete ban on the neonics-there are simply too many beekeepers successfully keeping healthy hives in areas of seed treated crops. Clearly this is a hot issue, and the neonics, along with all pesticides need to be closely watched and regulated. It appears to me that our regulatory agencies are doing a good job at this, even if progress seems to be excruciatingly slow.

Bees, lies and evidence-based policy

Misinformation forms an inevitable part of public debate, but scientists should always focus on informing

Saving bees is a fashionable cause. Bees are under pressure from disease and habitat loss, but another insidious threat has come to the fore recently. Concern in conservation and scientific circles over a group of agricultural insecticides has now reached the policy arena. **(continued on pg 6)**



Editor's Note

by Ken Rowes

Snow again (at least when I started this newsletter) and the urge to peek again at the inside hive! I expect everyone has had a chance to observe how their hives have survived winter. Pussy willows have bee out for over 3 weeks here and will produce pollen when temperatures stay up soon (there is a darker grey pollen coming in).

Queen marker colour 2015 is **BLUE**.

I have fed my bees and dusted. It has been said that dusting can kill larvae and cause more demand on the bees but the mite count I fell I reduced. Its below .5 % so my intention is to reduce adult mites before too much brooding.

Top Inner cover feeding Bee Pro Ultra Dry due too shallow of inner cover. Second feed- has been a Large freezer baggie of 2:l sugar syrup and a ond petri dish of len supplement with spring pollen.



NOTE: Bees and queens will be in high demand so for the hobbyist check with the RRAA executive if you are stuck.

Come to the RRAA meeting for interesting hive management information and answers to your questions.

Was at the Sierra Club seminar 28 March on saving the Pollinators. Not much to add to what we all ready know. Seems the speakers where expressing they are a political link and where fundraising. Thanks to Fern S., Jim C., John B. and John S. for taking it in with comments.

CLASSIFIEDS

1 Wanted: Automatic uncapper; honey tank. Phone 204-712-6783, Email; lancewld@gmail.com

2 For Sale: Plastic queen excluders \$3.50 each. Contact, Lance W. Phone # 712-6783, Email; lancewld@gmail.com

3 For Sale: nucs: 5 frame nucs 160, 4 frame nucs 140, 3 frame nucs 120. with new queens. also will have nucs with marked laying queens from 2014. for less money. call Dennis Ross 204 878 2924 cell 204 782 7838

4 For Sale: 1) Nucs with 4 frames full of bees. Lots

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 **Corydon Community Centre River Heights** 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

of brood on 2 of them. All nucs have 2014 raised queens from winter hardy, mite tolerant, own local stock. No foul brood in my apiary. Price TBD. 2) New inner covers 7/8" x 7/8", pine rimmed with 3/8" solid plywood. \$8.50 each 3) 2015 raised queens, not mated, from my own stock. Available last week of May. \$25.00 each. 4) 2015 raised queens, mated and laying, from my own stock. Available first week of June. \$35.00 each. **Contact: Ted Scheuneman 204-338-6066**

5 Wanted: Honey contact: John at

204-943-0166 Email:honeyb@mymts.net

6. For Sale: Downsizing 150 hive operation — items to go; Full size hive boxes (plain or insulated), brood boxes with bees, honey supers, 4 frame nuc boxes, a variety of feeders and queen excluders, hive tops metal covered, bottom boards—plain or screened, inner covers and feeder covers. Frame parts, frame assembly and wiring jigs, pure beeswax foundation, wax melter, barrel cart, electric barrel honey melter, electric fencer, poles, wire and insulators, bee blowers, beekeeping clothing and tools, electric uncapping knife and plane, electric stainless steel bottling tank—300 lb capacity, plus an assortment of plastic and metal honey pails.

Reasonable prices most equipment will be sold in groups. **Contact Charles_polcyn@ymail.com or Charles 204-284-7064 Wpg. Or farm 204-348-2506.**

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(from pg 5) the decision-makers.

Next week, an expert committee of the European Union (EU) will vote on a proposed two-year ban on some uses of clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid.

These are neonicotinoids, systemic insecticides carried inside plant tissues. Although they protect leaves and stems from attack by aphids and other pests, they have subtle toxic effects on bees, substantially reducing their foraging efficiency and ability to raise young.

Whatever the EU decision, this vote will not be the end of the story. The proposed ban will buy some time for scientists and policy-makers to understand more about how neonicotinoids affect bee populations. For despite what both sides of the argument say, the link between bee declines and neonicotinoids is far from clear. I gave evidence to a UK parliamentary inquiry on the issue late last year, and my experience offers a useful window on how science informs public debate and policy-making — and, in the case of the public debate, how it does not.

There is no doubt that the proposed restriction on the use of these neonicotinoids on nectar- and pollen-rich crops such as oilseed rape will reduce a potentially serious risk to bees. It seems a crucial step towards reversing or halting observed declines in bees and other flower-feeders. But that is not enough for some environmental campaigners, who have framed the problem as one of the very survival of an unspecified number of bee species. Two and a half million people have signed an online petition telling EU decision-makers: “If you act urgently with precaution now, we could save bees from extinction.”

The assertion that a ban on neonicotinoids in Europe will save bees from extinction is absurd. There are bee species around the world in genuine danger of extinction, such as the once-common rusty-patched bumblebee in the United States, which has vanished from 87% of its historic range since the early 1990s. Diseases, rather than pesticides, are suspected of driving that decline. And although there have been dramatic falls in the numbers of managed honey bee *Apis mellifera* colonies in some countries, it remains a widespread and common bee, not in imminent danger of extinction.

Well-meaning exaggeration is common. *The Guardian*, a pro-environment British newspaper, mangled my parliamentary evidence on moths and beetles to claim that three-quarters of all UK pollinator species, including bees, were in severe decline.

There are startling claims in favour of neonicotinoids too. One headline widely reported in the UK farming press is that, without them, UK wheat yields could decline by up to 20%. This is a disingenuous interpretation of an industry-funded report, and the EU is not proposing to ban neonicotinoid use in wheat anyway, because wheat is not a crop attractive to bees.

As a scientist involved in this debate, I find this misinformation deeply frustrating. Yet I also see that lies and exaggeration on both sides are a necessary part of the democratic process to trigger rapid policy change. It is simply impossible to interest millions of members of the public, or the farming press, with carefully reasoned explanations. And politicians respond to public opinion much more readily than they respond to science.

There is a precedent here. The 1987 Montreal Protocol that banned chlorofluorocarbons to protect the ozone layer is commonly held up as a shining example of a rapid policy response to emerging science. Yet it was agreed against a backdrop of wild stories of millions of extra cases of cancer and industry warnings that it would cost the US economy billions of dollars.

There is a risk, of course, that rapidly made; responsive policy changes will not turn out to be the most intelligent ones. We saw this in the European biofuels policy, which set a target of 10% renewable content in transport fuels by 2020, despite evidence at the time that this was not the best way to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions using renewable energy.

This risk means that communicating the science itself directly to appropriate decision-makers remains extremely important. Scientists must not be turned off by the rhetoric, but motivated by it. We should engage with the debate throughout. It is important to get as near to the decision-makers as possible, providing clear and well-referenced information with an independent voice.

You can't switch off the lies and exaggeration. But don't worry about them. When I saw the exaggerated pollinator-decline claim attributed to me in *The Guardian* I did not seek to correct it, because the correct information, with references, will go into a forthcoming parliamentary-committee report. Unlike stories in the press, that report will definitely be read by officials who advise the politicians who, for the United Kingdom at least, make the final decision. And because of such reports, and a recent risk assessment from the European Food Safety Authority, we can be fairly sure that the decision on whether to restrict neonicotinoid use in Europe will not be made on the basis of avoiding 20% yield losses in crops, or saving the world's bees from extinction.

I have added a blog from Tibor Szabo

1. Tibor Szabo 2013-03-02 06:07 PM

Honeybees forage for water, nectar, aphid honeydew, pollen and sap. All are possible exposure routes. Water from damp areas of newly planted fields actually attracts bees due to the fact it is slightly warm from the sun. Honeybees have a 5 km radius of foraging activity around their colony. Studies have shown that as little as one tenth of a part per billion (Neonicotinoids) can affect the survival of a colony. Also, according to Henk Tennekes, since the effect of clothianidin is cumulative and irreversible, there is no safe dose. Farmers rotate crops. Neonicotinoids are highly persistent (years), cumulative and water soluble. One treated corn seed contains enough poison to kill 50,000 bees. The link between bee declines and neonicotinoids is very clear.

A second blog an attitude where

(continued on pg 9)

Red River Apiarists Association

Statement of Operations for 2014 (Un-Audited)

REVENUE	2013	2014
Memberships	\$1500	\$1575.00
Insurance pymts (for MBA)		\$270.00
Honey Show	\$1250	\$650.00
Raffles (Looney Draw)	\$240.55	\$193.90
BeeCause Ads	\$10.00	
T-Shirt Sales	\$204.00	
Bank Interest	\$46.29	\$43.55
Total Revenue	\$3250.84	\$2732.45
EXPENSES		
Bee Cause Printing/Postage	\$603.84	\$405.49
Newsletter Advance (2014 expenses)	\$500.00 (2014 advance)	<\$405.49>
Meeting room	\$695.00	\$600.00
Insurance (Club)	\$100.00	\$100.00
Insurance (member through MBA)		\$270.00
Bank Service Charges (+new checks)	\$119.89	\$74.83
Social Nite (50 th)	\$314.71	\$46.74
RRAA Website	\$377.37	\$403.62
U of M Beekeeping course (Fort Whtye student)		\$130.00
Lyme pamphlets		\$4.70
Honey Show(s)	\$670.93	\$582.51
RRAA Logo T-Shirts	\$319.56	
Total Expenses	\$3701.30	\$2212.40
Net Profit	<i>Loss</i> <\$450.46>	\$520.05
Closing Surplus	\$2837.18	\$3357.23

Red River Apiarists Association

Honey Show(s) Statement for 2014

EXPENSES	
Gift Certificates - Honey Show	\$150.00
Display material - Honey Show	\$432.51
Total Expenses	\$582.51
INCOME	
Table Rentals	\$200.00
Donation MBA	\$450.00
Total Income	\$650.00
<u>Profit</u>	<u>\$67.49</u>

(from pg 7) public concerns are less than scientific - democracy decline I'd say.

2. *Yiding Zhao* 2013-02-22 02:05 PM

"When I saw the exaggerated pollinator-decline claim attributed to me in The Guardian I did not seek to correct it, because the correct information, with references, will go into a forthcoming parliamentary-committee report"

So the author suggest that the general public could be fooled by both sides as long as the elites received privileged accurate information, just because the common public can not influence the decision making process by those elite politician? Wow, that is are brand new definition of the phase "democratic process"- just ignore general public's opinion if the elites don't like it!

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March 5, 2015

97 per cent support Ontario's plan to restrict bee-killing pesticides

Close to 50,000 comments submitted during public consultation process

TORONTO – Ontario's proposal to restrict bee-killing pesticides received an overwhelmingly positive response from the public. Close to 50,000 comments were submitted during the official consultation on Ontario's pollinator health proposal last month. Approximately 97 per cent favoured government action to restrict the use and sale of neonics.

"We know there is sound science and strong public support behind protecting pollinators with tough, timely action on neonics, but to see this level of participation and near-consensus in public comments is extraordinary," said Lisa Gue, senior researcher and analyst with the David Suzuki Foundation.

Ontario is proposing North America's first regulatory restrictions on neonicotinoid pesticides. Scientific studies have linked these pesticides to high death rates in honeybees, as well as a range of harmful effects on birds, butterflies, bumblebees and earthworms, among other species. On November 25, 2014, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs invited public comments on a pollinator health proposal that includes regulations to reduce the use of neonic-treated corn and soybean seeds by 80 per cent. The proposal was posted on Ontario's Environmental Registry for a 60-day comment period, which concluded January 25, 2015. —/\—

2014 United States Honey Production Up 19 Percent (Courtesy USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service)

Honey production in 2014 from producers with five or more colonies totalled 178 million pounds, up 19 percent from 2013. There were 2.74 million colonies producing honey in 2014, up 4 percent from 2013. Yield per colony averaged 65.1 pounds, up 15 percent from the 56.6 pounds in 2013. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 41.2 million pounds on December 15, 2014, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Record High Honey Prices

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2014 to 216.1 cents per pound, up 1 percent from 214.1 cents per pound in 2013. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each colour class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2013 crop reflect honey sold in 2013 and 2014. Some 2013 crop honey was sold in 2014, which caused some revisions to the 2013 crop prices.

1 Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year.

It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

2 Stocks held by producers.

3 Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

4 Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound

5 Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

6 Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

7 United States value of production will not equal summation of States (See full version here: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/Hone/Hone-03-20-2015.pdf>)

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Honey, a Special taste Above All Others

Honey is like wine, never consistent. It varies batch to batch, year to year and hive to hive. Sweet it is and the palate can distinguish various honey samples because of their certain nuances. Much depends on the year but more importantly honey is determined by the nectar bees have gathered.

You can rarely guarantee that a honey is nothing but say clover nectar. Bee's are not that selective foraging. Because of the range and the variety of nectar sources beekeepers prefer to distinguish their honey harvests by monikers such as location - "Bird's Hill Meadow" or "Heartland Cloverleaf" with a clarifier that "Spring Honey" a stronger flavour than a "Summer Honey" with a higher percentage of clover or alfalfa, a clearer honey.

Differences can be more subtle in the honey taste test or quite dramatic with the strong wild flower nectar inputs of flavour and darker amber colouration.

Two criteria govern honey: colour and quality. The former covers a spectrum from white, golden, amber and dark which is a matter of preference. For quality: No 1 (A) white has been strained so no foreign matter is present. (B) It has been strained and monitored for moisture content to assure less than 17.6% to discourage fermentation. No 2 is strained (not ultra pressure filtered) with a hedging along the moisture content (most do not check moisture) and No 3 is straight from the extractor and debris skimmed from the top. Heating - pasteurization kills yeast that causes fermentation making lower-grade, or higher moisture honey (up to 19%) marketable.

By Law, pasteurized honey must be labelled and any flavours added must be added to the label as well. Ken Rowes //\

**Volunteer sought for RRAA
MBA Representative**

A volunteer from the RRAA membership is needed to fill a position on the Executive for 2015. The job description for MBA Representative is fairly simple and outlined in the RRAA By-Laws (published on beekeepingmanitoba.com under "Resources") as follows:

The **MBA Representative** shall represent the Association views, recommendations, questions, requests and opinions at the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association director's meetings. The representative may provide verbal or written reports of director's discussions during regular or executive Association meetings.

Outside of the by-laws, specifics of the role include attending semi monthly meetings of the MBA Board, typically held in Neepawa on the second or third Thursday of a month. The exact dates will vary according to the busy schedule of commercial operators thus April, July, August and September are usually avoided. The representative may participate in discussions of the board, yet are excluded from voting. The role is to act as a liaison between the concerns of the hobbyists and the directions of the commercial operators. In addition the rep typically provides a monthly report for publication in the RRAA newsletter BeeCause with supplemental information at regular club meetings.

Volunteers should contact Waldemar, RRAA President, if you are interested.

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**Red River Apiarists' Association
Winnipeg, Manitoba
2015 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)

RRAA membership fee (cheque payable to RRAA or Red River Apiarists' Association. @ \$25.00/year
NEW: Optional Beekeeper Liability Insurance (details on RRAA web, Links, Insurance) @ \$45.00/year

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED.....\$_____

Name _____ Tel. _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____
 E-mail address _____
 Signature _____

New Member [] Renewal [] Student U of M Beekeeping course [] [free 1st year]

Other. Please specify. _____

Newsletter Delivered in electronic pdf via e-mail [] or on paper via Canada Post []

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.

Please do not send cash in the mail