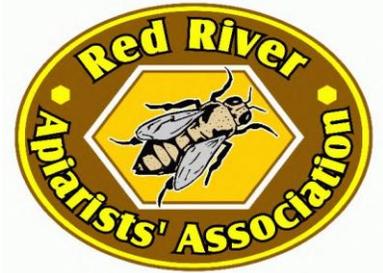


Red River Apiarists' Association

The Bee Cause

55 Years



Volume 15, Issue 3

April, 2018

Next meeting:

April, 10th, 2018

Elmwood Legion

920 Nairn ave. Wpg, Mb

*Novice Group meets at
7:00 pm*

*Main Meeting: starts at
7:30 pm*

Speaker:

**Rheal Lafreniere,
Provincial Apiarist**

Topic:

**Best Management
Practices for Varroa
Mite Control**

Learning From our Mistakes: The Hard Way

For beekeepers spring is a long awaited event that brings a mix of excitement and anxiousness as we dive into the first opportunities to check on our bees. This is “report card” time. This is when we learn the results of nature’s evaluation: How well did we prepare our bees for winter, and also its lessons of natural selection.

However the greatest losses are not counted in colonies, but in beekeepers themselves. The disappointment, the ugly task of cleaning deadouts, the totaling of the loss in dollars will cause the end of more than a few apiarists. Both new and seasoned may look at the results of a poor to catastrophic winter and choose to walk away, and sell it all.

I can relate. I’ve been there many times; as the first winters I had keeping bees felt more like shoveling money into a furnace and eating the ashes than anything positive or productive. I learned in the hardest way possible and over too many seasons that if your bees were dead in the spring it wasn’t about what you DID do in being an Apiarist, it was all about what you DIDN’T. There are three main things that will kill your colonies off during the winter.

Mites. Did you know exactly what your mite count was before putting your hives to bed? I’m not talking about if you treated for varroa, I’m talking about

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did you check AFTER you treated to make sure that what you did was effective enough? *Because if you Didn't*, then you missed the opportunity to do a follow up treatment and you could have one less loss.

Humidity. Did you have your hives set up in a way where excess humidity could leave the hive? *Because if you didn't* you forced your bees to try to survive in the cold winter in a damp environment. Go for a walk in January with wet clothes if you want to experience what that feels like. Examine your set up, with the focus on a top entrance being present and slightly smaller than the

bottom entrance create a draft to expel warm moisture laden air.

Starvation. Did you feed? When did you feed? How much did you feed? Did you check for Nosema? Did you use fumagillan to address the issue? Feeding in the first week of September fills the brood chamber and retards egg laying, which helps the stockpiling of pollen as it is then not needed for brood rearing. If the syrup is medicated it ends up being stored at the right place in the brood chamber for consumption over the winter. Feeding early allows you to feed to top up stores later on if necessary, and when the weather is still favorable for the bees to do so. Also note: Feeding bees' old syrup that has been sitting around will contain higher levels of Hydroxymethylfurfural, a naturally occurring acid. Levels above 30ppm are considered toxic.

Cont: Pg #3

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President's Comments

—◇◇◇◇— Spring!

The best...or the worst time of year for the beekeeper, depending on how well ones fall management activities bore fruit. Regardless of a poor or excellent overwintering, this is the time to plan for the next upcoming months. Replacing losses or splitting the rapidly overpopulating colonies will be on all of our agendas. Arrangements with your breeder for Nucs and Queens should be already in place and if not, make this tomorrow's priority!

We had a very good response to our launch of our mentorship program. Twelve of our seasoned beekeepers have been matched up to provide phone and email support to 21 novice members. Emails have been sent to all mentors and their wards. Anyone who has not received an email connecting you to the other party, or wishes to be a mentor or be assigned one should contact me at honeyb@mymts.net as soon as possible. Please put "Mentoring Program" in the subject line.

A big thank you to Dr. Jennifer Demare for her presentation last meeting. Antibiotic resistance in humans and livestock is a serious matter that has drawn global cooperation and is the focus of new regulatory mandates from Health Canada. Responsible apiarists need to recognize that prophylactic use of antibiotics will cause vast issues down the road and like varroa mites, inspection and detection is now the first line of defense, not blind treatment. These regulations come into play in December of this year and having sourced out a vet who is familiar with honeybees is something we will all need to do. This isn't a pitch or a cash grab by the veterinary industry to make money off of beekeepers, this is an upcoming law that requires compliance to obtain antibiotics for your apiaries treatment program. Dr. Demare is a member of the R.R.A.A. , and we look forward to her updating us on her professions preparations in being able to assist the beekeeping community as they develop.

Next meetings speaker is none other than our provincial apiarist and RRAA member : Rheel Lafreniere He will be giving us a presentation on : "Best Management for Varroa Mite Control" I look forward to seeing you all on April 10th!

We are on the Web! www.beekeepingmanitoba.com

Newsletter Editor: John R. Badiuk

Email: honeyb@mymts.net

Learning From our Mistakes: The Hard Way

Continued from page #1

Other factors that cause issues with survivability are how you are wrapping your bees? Are they off the ground? Are they out of the wind? Are you checking them as soon as weather permits to intervene in case of starvation? This was a bad year for mice and a bag or two of poison under your yard pallet is cheap insurance compared to a new Nuc in the spring. Mouse guards save hives, and they cost pennies.

In the end and as harsh as it sounds: If you didn't do the work, you didn't keep bees. You just owned them, and only for a short while. Please remember, I've lost **All** of my bees, and more than once, and if you refuse to honestly catalogue what you didn't do and make the changes in your program to ensure the best chance of survival, then you are not learning the lessons your bad winters are trying to teach you. If you don't learn the lessons, your future in beekeeping will tragically end when you run out of money, or resolve. -J.R.

Feeding Patties in the Early Spring

Feeding bees stresses them to a degree, and does add moisture to the colony when it may not be desired. Feed patties can be a good option when the weather is still cold, and you would like to provide some reserves. They contain some bee pro which will stimulate laying to a degree, but can be used along with pollen patties as well. Keep in mind that stimulating egg laying without sufficient resources available for brood rearing can cause starvation

74% Icing Sugar

6 % Bee-Pro

20% Liquid Honey

Mix icing sugar and bee-pro together first, then add honey. Form into patties thin enough to fit between the frame tops and your inner cover. Use immediately or freeze for later.

-Recipe provided by Waldemar Damert

Sugar Syrup & Feeding

-By David Dawson

Many people have a dog or cat and it is highly unlikely that any of them would allow their beloved pet to go hungry, let alone starve to death. However, many owners of bees allow their 'pets' to go hungry and even occasionally starve to death. In the last stages, when all reserves have gone, in order to survive a little longer, bees will eat their own brood and you will see empty larvae sucked dry and thrown out.

We all know it is necessary to feed our bees in fall after we have taken their honey reserves so they can survive the winter, but in spring they often need a little TLC in the form of sugar as well. When you are checking your bees in spring they should have the equivalent of a minimum of 2 combs solid with honey/syrup. Less than this you should keep a careful eye on them and the weather and feed if necessary. As a friend of mine used to say, you can't get honey from dead bees!

The question is, how much sugar to water should your syrup mix be, and where should you put it? Entrance feeders are OK for strong colonies but smaller colonies and in colder weather it is best to use a large jar on top in an empty super with the roof on top. It is warmer & the bees usually don't have to leave the cluster to get to the feed. I like to have the feeder board hole offcentre so if the cluster is more to one side than the other, I can put the feeder right over them.

What about the syrup itself? Obviously the thicker the better as what the bees need is sugar, not water. If someone is starving, a glass of water certainly won't cure their hunger. The frequently used 'thick' syrup is 67% sugar but at 17 deg C (63 deg F), or lower this is fully saturated and liable to crystallize (possible in fall). The frequently recommended mix of 2 lbs sugar + 1 Canadian pint of water giving 61.5% is unnecessarily thin especially for fall feeding as it could encourage brood rearing just when you don't want it. For fall, 64% sugar is the ideal concentration and this can be made with 20 lbs sugar + 9 pints of water, or metrically, 16 kg sugar + 9 litres of water. A little extra water in this mix for spring won't hurt, but not too much.

-D.D.

RRAA Meeting Minutes for Mar 13th 2018 - Recorded by Monica Wiebe **Abridged due to length by J. Russell**

The evening began at 7:00 pm with a Q & A session for new beekeepers. John Russell presiding.

The regular meeting started just after 7:34 with John Russell chairing.

John started by encouraging new beekeepers to find mentors and to ask questions of the more experienced keepers at coffee. List of experienced keepers being compiled to be phone or email mentors.

-One or two people didn't get newsletter. -Reminder to sign up and do survey about honey show.

-The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Moved by Duane seconded by Waldemar. Carried

Treasury Report: John Speer reported \$1942.00 Membership 134 members, grace period if joined after August.

Duane talked about sound. System bought was Just under \$500. Website issues, moved domains, redoing site. Volunteers doing it. Hoping to be done by the end of the month.

Marg Smith gave a report from the MBA: Spring Newsletter in publication. Ian Stepler's will be the place of the field day. MBA/RRAA June 16 picnic field day, more details to come. Letters of appreciation to ministers for work of various government funded supports to beekeepers. Convention feedback would be appreciated.

Monthly Advice from Waldemar: month good for cleaning up if you don't have bees in hives so they don't mold. Clean your woodwork. Sharpen your hive tool to scrape better. Demonstrated a small fan to dry frames and bees to clean out frames after winter loss. Causes of winter loss mice this year, 25% mite count, 25% not enough food. Nozema - high concentration of formic or acetic acid to kill spores on the wood or UV light (sunlight). Check for food by end of March. Clusters between 5-7 frames. Check entrances after this late snow storm. 80% icing sugar, 20% honey 6% bee-pro good food patty recipe. If lots of food remains in your deadouts, you may have heavy mite load and viruses.

Coffee Break

Speaker: Vet. Dr. Jen Demare. Why Bees need Vets Too! Introduced by Tim Kennedy

About Jen: grew up on a mixed grain and hog farm in Summerset area. Oldest of five and auntie, took hobbist course at U of M, overwinters 6 hives, mentored by Ted Scheuneman. Amazing addictive hobby.

Food production and AMR - Antimicrobial Resistance are the driving factor for moving antibiotic prescription to Vets. Since mutations happening very quickly proper treatment is important. Is it true beekeepers will need to have a vet? As of Dec. 2018 the following will be prescribed only by vets for bees:

Oxytetracycline (category 3) Tulane (Category 2) Lincomycin (category 2)

Cat, 1-3 have impact on people so those will need vet prescription. Fumagilin is category 4, and is exempt. Who does this affect? - all food sources.

How to get antibiotics for my hives? Vet will need to know about your operation. VCPR - Bee-Client-Patient (Bee) Relationship. To get prescription the vet must have a relation in with the beekeeper, the Vet needs to know about bees. Vet to follow up if adverse or not working. Needs to know Bio-security protocols. Some vets trying to learn about bees to prepare for these regulations. Vets determines if required, beekeeper will administer. Cost - not standardized Vet needs to know your site and storage of medicines. After Dec. 2018 - illegal to sell antibiotics without prescription. Antibiotics deteriorate with time and under treating and driving up resistance so stocking up not prudent.

What Bees Really Need -Preventative Care - variety of forage, -Parasite Control, -Diagnostic and health surveillance -Beekeeper education and access to upcoming research and technologies.

Loonie Draw - \$79.00 prizes handed out. Attendance: 67 signed-in

(There were more folks there, please remember to sign-in!!!) Non abridged minuets available: honeyb@mymts.net

The main point I took away from this: Each of us practicing bee husbandry has a fiduciary responsibility in caring and ensuring that we do not become part of the problem, but a solution. Whether you have one hive or thousands of them our mistakes will impact our future!

Report to the RRAA: MBA 112th Annual Convention

Tim Kennedy, R.R.A.A. Representative.

Theme: "Spring & Summer Management"

Two full days of excellent presentations covering topics that included:

Veterinary Oversight in Antimicrobial Initiative, AFB Research
 Procedures in Disease reporting
 Understanding & Controlling Mites
 Habitat Conservation for Maintaining Wild Bee Diversity
 Bee Stings and the Immune Response
 Impact and Possible Treatment of Waxbourne Honey Bee Viruses
 Heightened Sensitivity in High Grooming Honey Bees
 Using Marker Assisted Selection for Breeding Resistant Stock.

Saturday Afternoon Workshops were opened to registered guests of the RRAA, BABA where a number of you were in attendance, to participate in three presentations, followed by Q & A:

Management of a Small Size Operation
 Management of a Medium Size Operations
 Management of a Large Size Operations

I will quickly report some interesting facts and observations:

In Manitoba the number of Colonies are up, however the yield per colonies are down. Compared to all of Canadian Provinces – MB has smaller # of beekeepers.

About 10% of the total producing 19-20% of the Canadian Honey.

50% of our Honey is Exported to: 36.8 mil lbs to US, 30.3 M to Japan, 5.3 m China. However we IMPORT 13.4 m. Brazil, 2.3 m Mexico, 1.5 m Spain**

Important Message: Disease Control is a HIGH priority, and a main focus of our beekeeping future, and a MUST for ALL who care for bees. Hive Inspections by the province will be increased as resources allows, with frequent inspections for those having more than 50 hives, and less frequent for those with less than 50 hives. However the RESPONSIBILITY remains with the beekeepers to manage and control the mite population and disease development & as well to quickly report problems .

Don't wait for the inspections to reveal your hive problems, but be proactive, and adopt Best Management Practices, regardless of the size of the operations.

One of the presentations gave further confirmation that bee health is in decline, where large bee population = large mite counts. A study of certain mite treatments revealed that following the conclusion of and removal of mite treatment the mite load increased rapidly, creating MITE Bomb hive.

As a relatively new beekeeper, 6th season, attending this conference was well worth the expense. Not only in the information I was able to absorb, but meeting with and developing many contacts and discussions with various bee keepers, presenters and learning about their experiences.

Investigating Spring Deadouts

Source: TedScheuneman

Spring is a time of anticipation and excitement as the bee season starts its cycle. Inevitably, the time will come when you peak in for your first look after a long winter and discover a loss. Although difficult, it is very important to understand why your hive died so you can change your fall management practices to prevent it from happening again.

A thorough investigation or autopsy can tell you what might have happened to your hive. Keep in mind, each hive is different, and each case is different, but as a general rule of thumb, here are some basic things you can ask yourself as you inspect your hive:

Is your hive really dead? Check to see if the queen is alive. The queen is usually the last bee living when your hive is dying of starvation. There are measures you can take to strengthen the numbers and save the hive if she is still in there.

Did the bees die with their heads in the cell, away from the stores? Your bees may have died from starvation. This happens often in cold weather when the hive is unable to break cluster to move to their stores. It is very important to go into winter with a very strong population and plenty of food so they have a better chance of survival.

Do you see a lot of varroa mites on the bottom board or on capped brood when you remove them from their cells for inspection? If so, your hive likely died from public enemy number one. You should be constantly monitoring your mite count but especially after the honey flow in August, before you feed. If it is high, you can treat with formic acid using a sanitary pad on top of the frames. If mite count is low, you can wait until November or December, when there is no trace of brood, and dribble treat with Oxalic Acid.

Are you seeing mold? Your hive could have died from too much moisture. Moisture in the hive can be detrimental to bees, which is why you must make sure your hive has adequate ventilation. Make sure top and bottom entrances are wide open; otherwise there is no place for moisture to escape.

Are the cappings perforated? Does the larvae string out if you insert a toothpick into the cell? Your bees may have American Foulbrood (AFB) and equipment cannot be reused. The best way to steer clear of AFB is to keep your hive hygienic, clean and sanitary. For example, it is best practice to change out brood frames at least once every five years.

In some circumstances, diagnosing what actually killed the hive can be confusing. For example, if your hive is infested with wax moths, they are not the actual cause of death, but rather an indication of a already weakened hive. You won't always be able to conclusively determine why your colony died. But by carefully inspecting your hive, you should at least be able to come up with some clues and have a good idea as to what brought down your hive.

Once you have determined the cause, you can make changes in your management practices to avoid making the same mistakes next time.

Interviewer: Rebecca K

Ultimately we will be benefiting from some of these presenters as we move through the year, as they will be presenting to the RRAA in months to come.



Editorial Notes

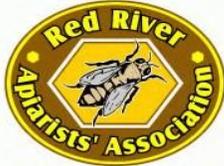
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Have you come across an interesting article? Would you like to share an observation? Share an anecdote or an observation from your own beekeeping experiences?

Do you have an opinion you want to voice to the beekeeping community? Seen a video you found informative or would like a topic researched?

Send it in to the Editor!

Taking all submissions at: honeyb@mymts.net



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PAGE 6

WE NEED COOKIES!!!!

Our influx of new members are finding us running short at coffee break! Please consider bringing a little contribution to the next meeting!!



The RRAA , the Bee Cause, for you and through you:

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 without the authors written & expressed consent. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River Apiarists' Association.

Deadline for any submission to this newsletter is the second Sunday preceding the membership meeting to allow for publishing and mailing delays and the legal obligation to allow membership to review last meetings' minutes for errors or omissions before next meeting. Regular membership meetings are normally scheduled 7:30 on the second Tuesday of every month at the Elmwood Legion 920 Nairn Avenue in Winnipeg excepts months 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.

R.R.A.A. April's Online

Recommendations:

Video:

A new honey bee infection transmitted by Varroa mites? Sepsis and Hemocyte Loss in Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera*) Infected with *Serratia marcescens* Strain Sicaria *Watch it here:*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoSi5v9rtWo

Downloadable Templates:

Trouble keeping accurate records? Canadian Honey Council has downloadable templates to help keep you organized and efficient this season!

Bee: colony assessment: Bee: colony genetics: Bee: disease log (monitoring and treatment)
Bee: sales Bee yard: maintenance logAnd Many More!

Find them here: <http://honeycouncil.ca/canadian-beekeepers-practical-handbook-to-bebiosecurity-and-food-safety-abridged/>

Apps For Beekeepers!

“Apiary Book” allows recording on mobile phone of information on the number, health and maintenance of each bees family, treatments carried out, and other operations in the field of beekeeping.

Using a friendly interface, a beekeeper can define several apiaries (hearths), can add work to be performed, harvests (honey, wax), colonies movements, veterinary controls and other.

Rated 4.5 stars out of 5, “Apiary Book” is available for free on Google Play for Android

Find it Here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.csg.apiarybook>

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

R.R.A.A. Classified Advertisements



For sale:
Inner covers @ \$ 12.00 each
Contact: Ted Scheuneman 204-338-6066
(West St. Paul)

Abby Road Distribution

25 years of supplying the Beekeeping Industry. We carry a wide range of fasteners, tooling, shipping supplies and packaging materials suited for your industry: staples, nails, bulk screws, coil nails, strip nails, plastic & steel strapping stretch wrap & tapes service on most makes of stapling and nailing equipment

1075 Keewatin Street, Winnipeg, MB, R2X 2Z3

ph.: 204-694-6800

Email info@abbeyroaddistribution.com

Queen Rearing Workshop.

For beekeepers that are interested in learning how to raise their own Queen bees.

I am offering an advanced hands-on Queen rearing workshop for experienced beekeepers.

Weather permitting, the workshop will be held in the month of May and June 2018.

The workshop will be held on two Saturdays at my home bee-yard near Beausejour MB.

Limited amount of places are available.
Please pre-register if interested.
A deposit will be required.

Fees: \$120.00 for the two days of classes.

Discounted fee for RRAA members \$110.

RRAA Members may be eligible for and additional \$10.00 bursary upon completion.

Drinks and lunches will be provided / bring your own lawn chair.

**Contact: Waldemar Damert:
Cell: 204-266-2276
Email: wdamert@yahoo.ca**

Nucs for Sale: **5**
frame 4 frame and 3 frame.

Can be purchased with last years marked queens.

5 frame \$180, 4 frame \$150 and 3 frame \$120, single hives may be available

Contact: Dennis Ross,

Ph: 204 878-2924 Email: rosskr@mts.net

ASSEMBLED FRAMES

Selling 9 1/8 assembled frames for Honey production. All joints are glued and stapled. We are using permadent white plastic foundation. Comes wrapped in bundles of ten. 100 or less \$3 plus gst per frame. 200 and more \$2.80 plus gst per frame. Contact Mark Waldner. 204-771-0672.



This is a notice to beekeepers who would like to be listed on the "Manitoba Bees for Sale" page, hosted on the MBA website <http://manitobabee.org/hive/1977/20118-manitoba-bees-for-sale/>

Please email Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca with the following information:

Name > contact ph#(s)> Town> Nucs, Singles or Doubles> When they will be available> Price (optional)

For Example: ► Beekeeper X > 555-5555> frame Nucs > May 15
Winnipeg> 4

Please note that only beekeepers with no restrictions for selling bees will be posted on the list. Any beekeeper with a history of AFB within the last three inspection years or beekeepers with moving bees or equipment restrictions due to resistant American Foulbrood disease (rAFB) or small hive beetle (SHB) will not be added to this list. The MBA may also put some posting qualifiers

FOUR FRAME SPRING NUCS FOR SALE

Please Call Chris Argiriou

204-296-4848

Classified Advertisements are FREE for RRAA members in good standing.

Non member rates as low as \$10.00 per issue

R.R.A.A. Classifieds

....cont.

Bees For Sale Local Manitoba Stock

Taking early orders for 2018

4 Frame Nucs, Splits and Spring and Summer Queens.

**Support offered (Via Phone and E-mail)
to Customers who are New Beekeepers**

Wooden supplies:

Suppers, bottom-boards and inner covers on pre-order till March 15.

Wax Foundation

molded from clean capping wax.

Contact : **Waldemar** at text ph. **204-266-2276** or e-mail
wdamert@yahoo.ca. (Beausejour Mb.)

Hot Dipping

Wooden ware: Boxes, bottom boards, hive top lids, Or any other wooden ware exposed to the elements.

Hot dipped in rosin and paraffin

We have boxes dipped about 30 years ago and are still very well preserved.

For beekeepers interested in preserving their equipment for the decades to come. I will be dipping in the Month of May.

New Boxes only please.

Contact Ben for price.

email: production@csnp.ca

Text only number: 204 549 0664

For Sale:

**Nucs! 2018 queen, with one frame of feed.
Either 3 Frame & 4 Frame of brood available.**

Photo Of The Month

Checking the Colonies on a Spring Afternoon

Photo Credit: Jim Campbell

Do you have an interesting or beautiful picture to submit?

Email it to: honeyb@mts.net
with RRAA Newsletter in the subject line.
Please include photo credit and permissions.

Manitoba Stock, great wintering/honey production
Please call or email for further info and pricing.

- **Custom honey sump with 3 Stnls steel screens \$650**
 - **Summer Lids approx. 200 \$5 ea.**
- **New Frames half assembled & half unassembled approx. 400 (unwaxed) \$2.10 ea.**
 - **(23) 2-way pallet board system \$14 ea.**
 - **(63) 4-way pallet board system \$28 ea.**
 - **30 drone frames \$1 ea.**

Contact: **Justin at 204-381-9038**
jandjhoneyfarms@gmail.com



R.R.A.A. Mentoring Program

Students and Mentors have now been paired. If you did not receive the emailed material and information, or would like to participate, please email: honeyb@mymts A.S.A.P!

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

RRAA Membership Commentary

Comments & Suggestions: The RRAA strives to provide information and presenters on current topics and at our meetings that would be most meaningful to all members. (Of all levels of skill and experience.) Your comments are valuable and appreciated! Email to: datamule@hotmail.com All submissions are confidential.

Your Committees Need Your Help!

We are currently soliciting members to help with some of the ongoing tasks that help the organization run behind the scenes. We need members to contribute to the following:

Newsletter Committee: Contribute articles and write for the newsletter (2 hours or less a month)

Social Committee: Set up / take down coffee before & after monthly meetings (Less than 1 hour/month)

Honey Show Committee: Participate in planning and facilitating our off side annual events.

Donate Some Time To better Your Organization. Talk to an Executive Today!



YOU ARE NEEDED!!

What makes a great association great? Involvement, and contribution! If everyone does one small task, gives up one HOUR a month to help the RRAA, then we all benefit! (Call 204-612-2337 to lend a hand.)

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE: *Mentoring- a novice beekeeper, join a RRAA committee, bring a toonie draw prize, submit an article or a book review for the newsletter, bring cookies for our coffee break, share experiences and advice with new beekeepers, help at the Honey Show, or Day of The Honeybee, network with novices to source Manitoba bred bees, and equipment, Teach a class!*

Red River Apiarists' Association—Winnipeg, Manitoba

2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the Red River Apiarists' Association.
Membership includes one years subscription to the newsletter "The Bee Cause" (8 issues)

RRAA membership fee (cheque payable to RRAA or Red River Apiarists' Association.@ \$25.00/year

Optional Beekeeper Liability Insurance (details on RRAA web site, Links, Insurance@65.00 +\$5.20 = \$70.20

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)

Newsletter is distributed via email in a PDF format.

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



Honey Bee Health Coalition, Partners Secure \$475,000 Grant to Test Potential Treatments for Destructive Varroa Mite Infestations

The Honey Bee Health Coalition announced today that it has collaborated with an international team of 12 scientists to secure more than \$475,000 in grant funds from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research to facilitate the testing of chemical compounds that could help beekeepers more effectively treat Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) infestations. This funding, matched by participants and industry members to provide more than \$1 million in total support, also will document how mites develop resistance to such treatment.

The funding will support the identification, lab testing, and field testing over the next three years of “orphaned” chemical compounds that have known acaricidal (miticide) activity but have not been specifically tested against Varroa mites. Many of these compounds are trapped in a bottleneck where the costs of testing and commercializing them are too steep for testing, effectively leaving them on the shelf.

“Varroa mite pose serious challenges to bees and hives. This grant will provide critical support for the development and testing of new chemicals that could help beekeepers better manage Varroa mite infestations,” said Principle Investigator Steven Cook, Research Entomologist, USDA-ARS, Bee Research Lab. “We look forward to sharing the results of these efforts and support beekeepers’ efforts to implement integrated pest management strategies.”

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research grant will provide crucial support for this \$1.1 million effort, which is championed by a wide array of national and international public, private, and NGO organizations, including USDA-ARS, University of Nebraska, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Department (Canada), University of Georgia, Universitat de València (Spain), Ohio State University, and Auburn University.

In addition to the grant funding, Project Apis m. provided financial support. Other organizations also have provided in-kind support, including bees from a number of regional beekeepers and compounds from Bayer.

“Varroa mites are rapidly adapting to treatments beekeepers currently use. This project will not only address this growing problem, but also break the bottleneck that has formed around compounds we already know can treat mites,” said Jennifer Berry, University of Georgia, Honey Bee Lab. “We’re excited to work together with our partners across the world as we strive to cooperatively address the persistent problem of Varroa infestations.”

Varroa mites are one of the driving factors in recent colony losses, which threaten productive agriculture and the crops that rely upon commercial pollination services. Left untreated, a single infestation can wipe out colonies and spread rapidly across a region. Given the scale of these problematic parasites in North America, Europe, and around the world, the Coalition has worked to help beekeepers monitor and control Varroa mites through the development and dissemination of key resources and information.

In addition to this project, the Coalition has developed an expansive guide laying out best practices to detect, monitor, and control Varroa mite infestations. The Tools for Varroa Management Guide, is now in its sixth edition and has been downloaded by thousands of beekeepers across the United States and Canada — and as far away as New Zealand.

About the Honey Bee Health Coalition

The Honey Bee Health Coalition brings together beekeepers, growers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, conservation groups, manufacturers and brands, and other key partners to improve the health of honey bees and other pollinators. Its mission is to collaboratively implement solutions that will help to achieve a healthy population of honey bees while also supporting healthy populations of native and managed pollinators in the context of productive agricultural systems and thriving ecosystems. The Coalition is focusing on accelerating collective impact to improve honey bee health in four key areas: forage and nutrition, hive management, crop pest management, and communications, outreach, and education.

Through its unique network of private and public sector members, the Coalition fosters new partnerships, leverages existing efforts and expertise, and incubates and implements new solutions. The Coalition brings its diverse resources to bear in promoting communication, coordination, collaboration, and investment to strategically and substantively improve honey bee health in North America. Learn more at honeybeehealthcoalition.org.

The Honey Bee Health Coalition is a project of the Keystone Policy Center, a nationally recognized nonprofit working to find collaborative, actionable solutions to public policy challenges. Keystone operates under a statement of independence to serve all of its project participants. Learn more at keystone.org. -Reprinted from the Coalition

