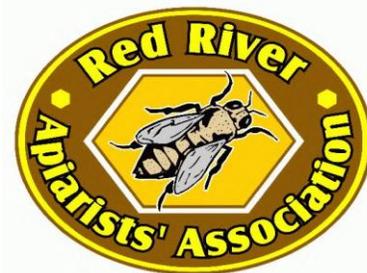


Red River Apiarists' Association

The Bee Cause

55 Years

September 2018



Volume 16, Issue 4

Next meeting:

Sept 11th, 2018

Elmwood Legion

920 Nairn ave. Wpg, Mb

*Novice Group meets at
7:00 pm*

*Main Meeting: starts at
7:30 pm*

Speaker:

Rhéal Lafrenière,

Provincial Apiarist

Topic:

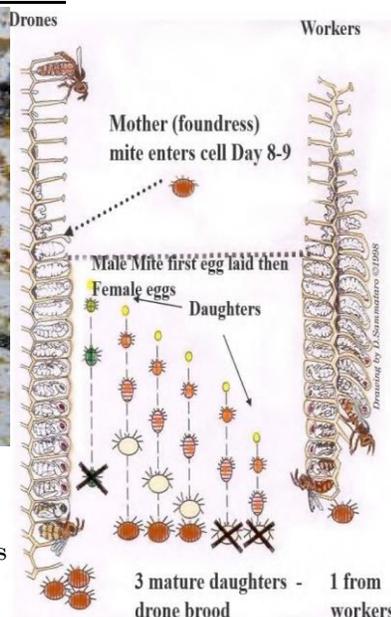
**RECAP
2018 Honey Season**

KNOW YOUR ENEMY!!



Hive inspections become less of a focus as soon as the swarming season ends. Even more so when the honey flow and taking off the crop seem more important to prioritize.

If you were on top of your mites, and your levels were low, before the flow, but things can turn, and knowing your levels going into the fall is critical. NOW is the time to act.



Inspect, Evaluate, Treat.

The FIRST step is inspection. You need to know what your levels are. If you are waiting for the fall, that time span between Now and when you get around to it has a massive impact on

your winter losses. When you know WHAT your mite levels are, THEN you can determine

your treatment schedule and methods. Soft treatments or formic or oxalic acids can be

applied with honey supers still on. Knocking the mites down now, as a precursor to knocking them out later is the most responsible and safest route to take. Do not take the attitude that your actions only affect your own operation! Bees drift. This is even more applicable to urban beekeeping environments. It is incredibly irresponsible your neighbors in your area, or the apiarist over in the next section to be building Mite-Bombs in the territory you share. Don't be that "Guy". Don't cause issues for others. Be responsible to your apiary, your industry, your neighbors, and most importantly: Your Bees. So Novices, check in with your mentors. Mentors, talk to your students. An ounce of prevention, is worth your entire seasons efforts.

Inside This Issue:

-*President's Message: page 2*

- *Canada to Phase out
Neonicotinoid insecticides :
page 3*

- *May Minutes: page 4*

- *Summer Activity Review:
page 5*

- *April's Online
Recommendations: page 6*

-*Classified Ads: page 7 -Mite-A-*

Thon 2018: page 8

- *The Bee and Honey
Show! : page 9*

-*Feeding The Bees!: page 11*

-*Treating The Mites!: page 12*

-*Melissa's Musings: page 12*

The Old Farmers Almanac: for Winter 2019

Winter temperatures will be colder than normal, with above-normal precipitation and snowfall.

The coldest periods will occur in mid- to late December, early January, and mid- to late January, with the snowiest periods in early to mid-December, mid- and late January, late

February, and mid- to late April. April and May will be cooler and rainier than normal.

Summer will be drier than normal in the east and rainier in the west. Temperatures will be near normal, on average, with the hottest periods in early to mid-June, early and mid-July, and early August. September and October will be warmer and drier than normal.

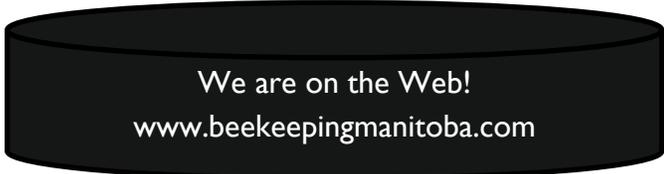
And what does this mean?

Well, weather prediction is iffy at best. But milder falls indicate a possibility of better than average pollen availability. This can increase brood production. This is a good thing if you need population, or not so good if you don't. I personally prepare for apocalyptic winters as a norm, and enjoy when I'm wrong. The spring prediction is more important to me. Cool temps.

This spring was a major impact of population build up, and making sure you have ample young bees in the colonies is key to combating spring dwindling.

Newsletter Editor: John R. Badiuk

Email: honeyb@mymts.net



Neonicotinoid insecticides linked to bee deaths will be phased out in Canada, and not everyone is happy about it.....

The federal government will begin phasing out the outdoor use of nicotine-based pesticides beginning in 2021, part of an effort to stem the mysterious decline of honey bee colonies around the world. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Canada has announced a three-year phase-out of two of the three main neonicotinoid pesticides currently approved for use in the country. The agency has already announced plans to phase out the third pesticide in all outdoor uses, meaning it can't be sprayed or used to pretreat seeds before planting.

Neonicotinoids, or neonics, are a class of pesticides used by farmers and hobby gardeners alike to manage pests like aphids and spider mites. Scientists blame the chemicals for weakening bees, making them more susceptible to disease and bad weather. This decision will mark the completion of nearly six years of work by the agency, and follows a similar ban by the European Union that takes effect at the end of the year.

Environmental groups say they are glad to see Canada moving ahead with a ban, but say five years is too long for the full ban to take effect. Public pressure and frustration showed in the first question at a Health Canada held a news conference : “What took so long?... We’ve heard, for years, about the effects of (these) pesticides on pollinators and other insects.” from Eric Atkins of the Globe and Mail and in a tone suggesting the federal government should have banned the insecticides years ago. “You state that the five-year phase out is necessary to allow for development of alternative products,” said Tom Korski, managing editor with Blacklock’s Reporter, a publication in Ottawa. “The environmental community... are respectfully saying that’s not your job. There’s a department of agriculture to look after farmers. You’re a regulator for the environment and health. Forget about what’s good for agriculture (in) Canada. Why would you care whether growers can come up with safe alternatives or not? Why don’t you just do your job?”

Questions like that illustrate the gap that exists between the general public’s opinion and the opinion many in the agriculture sector have about the harm caused by neonic pesticides. Health Canada is breaking from what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is doing - an unusual move, considering Canada and the U.S. are normally in lockstep on such decisions and the reviews in both countries were a group effort.

Scott Kirby, director general of the environmental assessment directorate at the PMRA, stated that the neonicotinoid ban is related to the threat to aquatic insects. The neonics are accumulating in ponds and creeks at levels that are a threat to mayflies, midges and the fish and birds that rely on those insects for food.

Kirby’s answer wasn’t satisfactory to other reporters on the call, who were perplexed about the lack of information about bees. Several asked why Health Canada was talking about aquatic insects, when the real issue with neonics is bees. Speculation is that more weight can be applied to the legal argument for a ban, when the very real threat to natural resources and fisheries due to run off is examined.

“We are disappointed with the PMRA’s proposed special review decisions for clothianidin and thiamethoxam,” CropLife Canada said in a statement. “This is especially disappointing and confusing to many, given that earlier ... the PMRA released a seemingly contradictory proposed decision validating the safety of both of these products to pollinators as seed treatments, which is one of their primary uses.” Meanwhile, honeybee numbers have increased in Canada over the last five years. Many entomologists and beekeepers have said that varroa mites, diseases related to mites and cold winters are a much bigger threat to bees than neonics. One compared it to a boat with 20 holes. Banning neonics would plug one hole, but there would still be 19 holes in the boat.

Beekeepers on one side, Canola, corn and soy farmers on the other.

Bee colony collapses began occurring in substantial numbers about 15 years ago and studies linked those deaths to mites and neonics. A task force at the International Union for Conservation of Nature last year updated a comprehensive review of more than 1,100 peer-reviewed research studies on neonicotinoids and concluded there was no doubt they harm bees.

In the spring of 2012, hundreds of bee colonies died in Ontario after the bees were exposed to neonic-contaminated dust from corn planters, provoking media stories about bee-killing pesticides. A couple years later, the Ontario government restricted the use of neonicotinoid seed treatments on corn and soybean crops to protect pollinators.

This fact, along with pressure from other agriculture sectors have pushed hard for the pesticides to remain in place. Both sides of the debate will have an opportunity to submit comments to the PMRA on the proposed phase-out of neonics during a public consultation phase that lasts until the middle of November. Health Canada is expected to announce its final decision at the end of 2019.

Given that 2019 is a federal election year, it’s possible that the agriculture-urbanite divide on neonics could become campaign issue next summer and fall.

-Special thanks to CTV News, and The Western Producer

RRAA Meeting Minutes for May 8th 2018 - Recorded by Monica Wiebe

Meeting called to order at 7:28 p.m. John Russell chairing

Reminder to Sign In

Name Tags will be standard in Fall

Loonie Draw at coffee break - \$67.60 raised Lots of cool donations, Thanks all

Copies of by-laws on the entry table

Other Paper work: May 26 Bee Day at the Forks, Take a flyer and post at work or in a public venue and sign up to volunteer. Armand circulated the sign up sheet.

Minutes passed: Paul Faurshou moved the minutes and Marg Smith seconded, motion passed.

Website is now up and running. Old website was down for a about a month.

Financial: John Speer treasury report. To end of April, \$2017.00 and after outstanding Cheques. \$1041

Upcoming Events: Picnic and apiary visit Ian Steplers, for a Field Day and Apiary Tour. Bring Something for potluck with salad or dainties. \$10 for Barry Fingler Fund recommended. Sign-up sheet was circulated

MBA Report - Marg Smith talked about the issue of watersheds. The problem that seems to be happening in rural Manitoba is that farmers are wanting more and more drainage. There has been so much drained in some areas that there is not enough moisture left. For beekeepers, the loss of natural water sources presents problems - more work to provide watering places for the bees, because they need the water to keep their hives cool. Trying to keep them away from people's pools and other things like cattle troughs can pose problems between beekeepers and farmers where they have the hives.

Executive will meet later in the month. Bill 7 is around the corner, MBA speaking to government committee on Wednesday about the watershed. Ian will be guest speaker in Oct

What's in the Bee yard this month - Waldemar Damert

In Europe an independent study by Bayer bad report on neonics. 10 billion parts reduces 10%. Brood, 100 billion parts 50% and 200 part per billion wipes out hive.

Not enough heat units to have willow flowers to open. Drones later and thus nucs will be late. The hives are dragging because the winter bees are dying and the overlap is hard on the hives. Everyone has less bees because it was a hard winter. Don't take wraps off too early. Don't open if you don't have a purpose. If only a handful of bees put in a nuc. In Sask. and Alberta all have major losses. If you had pollen in fall your bees would have been in better shape. When bees start to fly their life span cut in half.

Help bees by squishing the honey and spraying with peppermint spray which has disinfectant properties. (Extremely strong as dark as brown paint)

Main Speaker: Daryl Wright What to Expect: Honey Bee Disease Inspection

Bee observant and be ready to change direction. He's been Beekeeping for over 50 years. Runs provincial inspection program. Last 2-3 years trying to inspect more. Bee Act: Inspector enforces this act. Equipment and books.

What they are concerned about: Notifiable Diseases: American Foul Brood, European Foul Brood, Nosema, Varroa, Acarina, Small hive Beetle. Small hive found but not an issue yet. Registration, Moving Bees in and out of Province, Reporting Sales, Signs at Apiary.

Powers of Inspector: Enter a place where bees are kept. Contact and arrange a suitable time. Working with the Beekeeper. 49 and under hives - hobbies - inspected every 4-5 years. 50+ inspected every second year. 3/4 of bees run by commercial bee keepers.

Discussed: Good Hygiene, Personal - clean tools, disinfect, Disposal gloves. disinfectant, and flaming hive tools. Apiary Equipment - no boxes with frames lying around

Describe the procedures taken to avoid or reduce the transmission of infectious diseases and demonstrate that these are followed. Cleanliness, drift, prevent robbing, swarms, moving frames from hive to hive, feeding. If you find disease, contact Manitoba Agriculture - Provincial Apiarist. Don't move colonies. Don't sell

Varroa - Integrated Pest management IPM Strategy

www.go.mmb.ca/agriculture/it's/2018-

Canadian Honey Council -

www.honeycouncil.ca

SK Beginner Books in Beekeeping

https://reginabeeclub.ca/wordpress/?page_id=47

Meeting Adjourned until Fall.

Minutes Recorded by: Monica Wiebe

R.R.A.A. Summer Activity Recap

Bee—Day at The Forks! - May 26

Well attended, by R.R.A.A. members, and well received by the public. The day was sunny and warm which lowers the amount of public traffic, but all in all another successful and well organized public showcase by the Bee & Honey Show Committee.

OTS Exploratory Workshop - May 18—25

Again was well attended with about twenty beekeepers in a two part session hosted by Brad Hogg near Libau Mb. Notching techniques were demonstrated and practiced for field splits and swarm prevention. Success rates were reported as positive, with good a re-queening percentage.

Advanced Queen Rearing Workshop - End of May

Waldemar Damert held a for fee workshop for advanced beekeepers in his home yard in Beausejour. Emphasis on genetics, behavior and biology. A very educational experience for those in attendance, with time and money well spent.

Field Day / Apiary Tour, Ian Stepplar Miami Manitoba

A very well attended and well organized field day this year! Members from R.R.A.A. mixed with beekeepers from B.A.B.A. and M.B.A. for a full day of food and socializing. Many demonstrations of equipment, summer management, splits, and a grafting tent kept the day full and educational. The bee beard was a success, and our smoker competition was a fun closer to the day.

Swarm Catchers!

A slow year for those who participated in the R.R.A.A. swarm patrol, with only 3 swarms this season. A cold spring and slow population build ups reduced the behavior. However the ones we responded to were a great opportunity to demonstrate techniques, with all three successfully removed and thriving.

Queen Rearing— R.R.A.A. Apiary.

Having Trouble Finding A Good Parking Spot?

Norshel Inc. at 890 Nairn

(Two doors west of the Legion) Has generously given the R.R.A.A. members permission to park on the property when the legion lot is full. Please do not block lanes or building exits, or park in the Midland Foods parking lot.



Editorial Notes

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

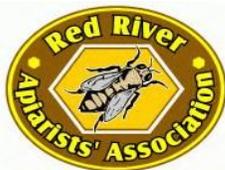
Have you come across an interesting article? Would you like to share an observation? Share an anecdote or an observation from your own beekeeping experiences?

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

A good turnout for queen rearing classes this year. A demonstration of Jenter system queen rearing netted 12 queen cells, and a transfer of 8 into mating boxes. All reports so far are positive.



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

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. Septembers Online Recommendations:

Need instructions on detecting and treating mites?

Varroa Mite Monitoring

<https://archive.org/details/VarroaMiteMonitoring>

2018 Recommendations for Administering Antibiotics and Acaricides

<http://gov.mb.ca/agriculture/pubs/2018-honey-bee-treatment-products-recommendations.pdf>

The Mite-A-Thon. A citizen science project - The MOST IMPORTANT contribution you can make!

<http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon> for details or see page #8 www.mitecheck.com to upload results

000000000000000000

Best Management Practices for Honey Bee Health <http://honeycouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/BMP-manual-for-honey-bee-health-Feb-2017English.pdf>

Steps for Feeding Bees for Winter

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRCmWfXdi_A

R.R.A.A. Classified Advertisements



For sale:

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

For Sale:

- 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
 jnhoneyfarm@gmail.com

Bees For Sale Local Manitoba Stock.

Taking early orders for 2019

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.)

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

ASSEMBLED FRAMES

Selling 9 1/8 assembled frames for Honey production. All joints are glued and stapled. We are using permanent 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.



Try to Bee Funny.....



Classified Advertisements are

**FREE for RRAA members in
good standing.
Non member rates as low as
\$10.00 per issue**

LOONY PRIZES! - One of our organizations means of paying it's bills come from proceeds from the Loony Draw. Bring a donation to the prize table, and buy a ticket yourself to help the R.R.A.A.!

Suggestions: Homemade preserves or baked goods. Bulbs, Seeds, or Garden Vegetables from your harvest. Bee books or other literature. Crafts, or objects of interest.

The second annual Mite-A-Thon will take place Saturday, September 8 to Saturday, September 15, 2018 and we invite you to participate! This is a citizen data collecting project that greatly assists in research and awareness. **All beekeepers of all levels of experience in North America can contribute to the fight against one of the largest threats to our industry.**

Members of the Red River Apiarists are in partnership with members of the Manitoba Beekeepers Association, The Brandon Beekeepers Association, and Bee-Maid Honey to promote and participate in this annual opportunity to provide mite counts and methods, and **IS COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS.** Your personal information will not be shared or published in anyway.

Dear Honey Bee Friends:

The parasitic mite, Varroa destructor (a.k.a. Varroa), and the viruses it vectors is a significant driver of honey bee colony mortality and therefore needs to be managed effectively in order to maintain the health of honey bees and the ecosystems they live in. The Mite-A-Thon is a Tri-national (i.e. Canada, United States, and Mexico) effort to raise awareness about honey bee colony Varroa infestation levels in North America.

Mite-A-Thon participants are being asked to monitor the level of Varroa (number of mites per 100 bees) in their honey bee colonies using a standardized protocol, either powdered sugar roll or alcohol wash. Mite level data including apiary location, total number of honey bee colonies, number of colonies tested, local habitat, and the number of Varroa mites counted from each tested colony is to be uploaded to the following website: **www.mitecheck.com.**

*****ATTENTION*****

The mite level information you upload to mitecheck.com will not identify individual participants

The goal is to take a snap-shot of Varroa mite levels across North America within a one-week window (i.e. September 8 - 15, 2018) and to visualize Varroa infestations levels across this large geographic area at the same time of year. The other underlying goal of this initiative is to encourage beekeepers to simply monitor for Varroa in their honey bee colonies.

LET'S PUT MANITOBA ON THE MAP WHEN IT COMES TO MONITORING VARROA MITES!

After monitoring the Varroa levels in your honey bee colonies during the week of September 8th – 15th, fill out the mitecheck.com survey online to upload your data.

Note: you do not need to monitor every hive in your operation to get good data on Varroa mite levels. For example, monitoring 5 hives per yard site is a good representative sample for that yard.

Even if you only have one or two colonies, your participation is valuable!

For more information about the Mite-A-Thon initiative, please visit the Mite-A-Thon website or contact the Pollinator Partnership at miteathon@pollinator.org (415 362-1137) or feel free to direct your questions to your local beekeeper associations, (R.R.A.A. contact person John Russell 204-612-2337)

or Provincial Apiarist, Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca (204-945-4825)

The Mite-A-Thon

A citizen science project

September 8-15, 2018



**Manitoba
Beekeepers'
Association**

Bee and Honey Show Sept 22-23rd at The Forks

As described in detail at our last RRAA meeting, our Fall Honey Show is no longer a competition but rather a showcase of local Manitoba honey. Every member is encouraged to enter a sample of his/her honey to promote local honey from every corner of Manitoba and Winnipeg.

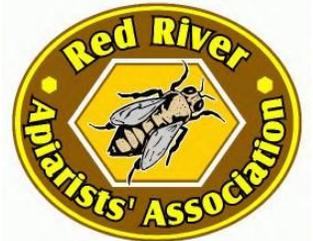
At our next RRAA meeting on September 11th all required supplies will be available to enter a sample of your honey (and other items) in the show:

-Entry Forms and Rules -Jars and lids -Labels

Show off that beautiful next crop of honey!!



Thank-you and Bee Well,
Your Bee and Honey Show
Committee



Rooftop Swarm Capture With the R.R.A.A. Swarm Patrol Photo Credit: Keith Bamford

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.

Photo Gallery



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

Feeding the bees!

Some light feeding is done near the end of August to supplement available nectar and pollen flows and encourage brood rearing. These are the bees that will be your “Winter Bees” and your most valuable bees of the year. However before feeding it’s important to ensure that you have enough brood space for laying as plugging up the brood nest early is a step that will cost you in the future. In the middle of August, 8 frames of brood is the norm and at the end of August at least 5 should still be present. Feeding for stimulation or a 1:1 ratio is for the spring, but for winter stores closer to 2 parts sugar to 1 part water is required. At 67% sugar, the syrup is fully saturated and lower temperatures than 17 deg C can spur crystallization. 64% sugar, (16 Kg sugar + 9 L water) is considered ideal. Serious heavy feeding should start at the middle of the first week in September in conjunction with your fall mite treatments. Late feeding causes issue such as extended brood rearing, and unripened feed in the cells that can ferment or be a source of moisture in the season where moisture kills. It also can freeze solid creating a cold sink. It is so very important to make syrup as you need it. Old or overheated syrup will naturally develop hydroxymethylfurfural and levels above 30ppm are toxic.

What Kind of Feeder to Use??

1. Open Air Feeders

A tub or container, with floats to help prevent drowning, is placed in the middle of the bee yard for workers to free forage. The pluses to this method is that its quick and easy. The downsides are many, with weaker hives unable collect as much as stronger colonies, the fact you are feeding every other insect in the vicinity, and you can potentially draw bees from other yards that may not be disease or mite free being only a few. This is not really recommended, especially for novices.

2. Entrance Feeders

Made up of two parts: an inverted syrup container placed outside the hive and a tray for feeding placed at the hive entrance. They are quite easy to monitor and does not disturb the bees when checking or refilling the syrup. However these need constant checking and refilling and bees are slow to take chilled syrup as the days get colder potentially reducing the feeding hours in a day. Not recommended for feeding large quantities of syrup or distant bee yards.

3. Division Board or Frame Bee Feeders

These are simply plastic bee feeders that are the size of a brood frame and normally take the place of one of the frames. They are ingenious designs that are situated inside the hive. These feeders are ideal for keeping robbers and invaders off the bee syrup. They also have a bigger capacity and that means it takes longer to refill. They can also be refilled easily. However, their design is meant for the bees to crawl out easily without drowning. Nonetheless, bees still drown in these feeders. The various designs that have ladders, floats, or rough sides still drown bees. These need to be removed before winter, as unused syrup can ferment, add unwanted moisture over winter, and takes up the space of usable resources.

4. Internal Hive-Top Feeders

This type of bee feeders is popular with most beekeepers since it is well secured against invasion. They are normally fitted on top of the brood boxes just beneath the cover. They have a bigger capacity and are easy to fill. Different models of internal hive-top feeders have their own unique way of preventing the bees from drowning.

5. External Hive-top Feeders

These types of feeders have a simple design. They are basically a pail or container inverted over the entrance in the hive’s inner cover. Vacuum prevents the syrup from pouring out, and the bees feed through a screened port in the top or lid. They can simply be placed on top of the hive but it is prudent to keep them weighed down as the wind takes them easily when empty. or alternatively be enclosed in an empty super if you have the extras. They hold plenty of syrup and are cheap to make or replace. This type of feeder is mostly used by commercial beekeepers.

6. Baggie Feeders

This type of feeder is simply a spacer rim that allows you to place a plastic zipper bag full of syrup for the bees. Once this bag is in place a slit is cut on it for the bees to sip the syrup. It is the safest method of feeding the bees. As a matter of fact, no bee dies when this type of feeder is used in the hive. It is also extremely difficult for the syrup to freeze since cluster of bees keep it warm even during the cold seasons. On the downside, the plastic bags in baggie bee feeders are used once and need to be disposed. This is not environmentally friendly. This can also be expensive since you buy a new one every time. This generally is a good choice for emergency feeding but like entrance feeders, not for larger quantities.

Treating the Mites!

Liberally edited selections from the 2018 Recommendations for Administering Antibiotics and Acaricides to Honey Bees by: Rhéal Lafrenière, Provincial Apiarist of Manitoba. Not to be taken as a complete publication, or version in any form. A link to the Original & Complete below.

The most important piece of information a beekeeper needs is the current level of mites in his or her colonies. If you do not know, or have this information you should be field tasting immediately.

In-Field Detection & Sampling of Varroa, 2 common methods:

A- Varroa-wash (ex: bucket or shaker method), and **B-** Natural fall. Sampling for varroa from 5 hives in a bee yard of 30 hives should give a good idea of varroa infestation in that yard but more hives will strengthen results.

A. Scoop 200-300 bees from brood area frames, into a container with a screened lid, and shake the container in windshield washing fluid (blue) or soapy water for several minutes, to dislodge the mites from the bees. Sampling from the brood area is important! It helps to ensure accuracy, consistency and to reduce variability. To calculate approximate percent infestation level, count the number of dislodged mites, divide by the number of bees in the cup, and multiply by 100.

B. Using a screen bottom-board, place a sticky board (sticky side up) into the space between the screen and floor of the bottom board. Sticky boards are commercially available or can be made using a sticky spreadable substance, such as a thin layer of Tanglefoot on white cardboard, plastic or similar media. As a general guideline of natural varroa mite drop during brooding periods; 1 varroa mite per 24-hr suggests an infestation level of at least 1%,. Whereas, natural mite drop of 30-40 mites per 24-hr period suggests an infestation level of approximately 5% -- Note that natural varroa mite drop is affected by a number of factors including weather and genetics, so sampling over several days can help to minimize these influences when calculating estimated average mite fall.

A video how to monitor for varroa mite can be viewed on the website of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) at www.manitobabee.org (videos).

Recommended thresholds during spring build up should be 1% That's one counted mite per 100 bees. For the fall, 1-3% or less with significant brood present (ex: early fall), and less than 10% when there is little brood (ex: late fall). The decrease in brood and subsequent movement of mites onto adult bees accounts for the higher threshold in the fall period. Mite levels may increase due to the development of resistance to control products, improper application of treatment, or re-infestation from a neighboring apiary. Considerations on prophylactic treatments should be made with formic or oxalic acids in mind and be part of a Rotating Treatments & Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy.

Apistan, Bayvarol, Apivar, CheckMite+, Mite Away Quick Strips, Formic Acid, Thymovar and Oxalic Acid are all registered treatments in Manitoba and are available at Bee Outfitters next to Beemaid Honey. Details, and instructions on how to safely handle and effectively use all of the above treatments are published in detail in the "2018 Recommendations for administering Antibiotics and Acaricides to Honey Bees" by Rhéal Lafrenière of Manitoba Agriculture, Manitoba's Provincial Apiarist. *This publication is mailed out to registered beekeepers every spring, but it can also be downloaded at :*

<http://gov.mb.ca/agriculture/pubs/2018-honey-bee-treatment-products-recommendations.pdf>

"Melissa's Musings" - by Storyteller Mary Louise Chown

Song: "Where the bee sucks, there suck I"

Where the bee sucks, there suck I:

In a cowslip's bell I lie;

There I couch when owls do

cry. On the bat's back I do fly

After summer merrily.

Merrily, merrily shall I live now

Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.

William Shakespeare
(from *The Tempest*)



*This song from *The Tempest* is sung by Ariel, a sprite who is in the service of the sorcerer Prospero. Prospero decides to renounce his magical powers and so he removes his wizarding robes and dresses in his city clothes, in preparation for leaving his magical powers behind. Ariel will no longer have to work for him and so she sings of gaining freedom from service and being returned to the natural world where the bees and the flowers are found. Oh those halcyon days of summer!*

The natural world also offers a wonderful treatment for bee stings and other insect bites. Ordinary plantain, that plant that many consider a weed has remarkable healing properties. The first and easiest way to use plantain for a bee sting is to find it growing in your yard or close to where you are, break off a leaf or two and mash the clean leaves into a paste. A mortar and pestle, or even two stones will work just fine. What you have made is a poultice! Plaster your bee sting with your mashed plantain leaves for 20-30 minutes. It should help to reduce redness, itching, pain and stinging, as well as swelling. - M.L.C