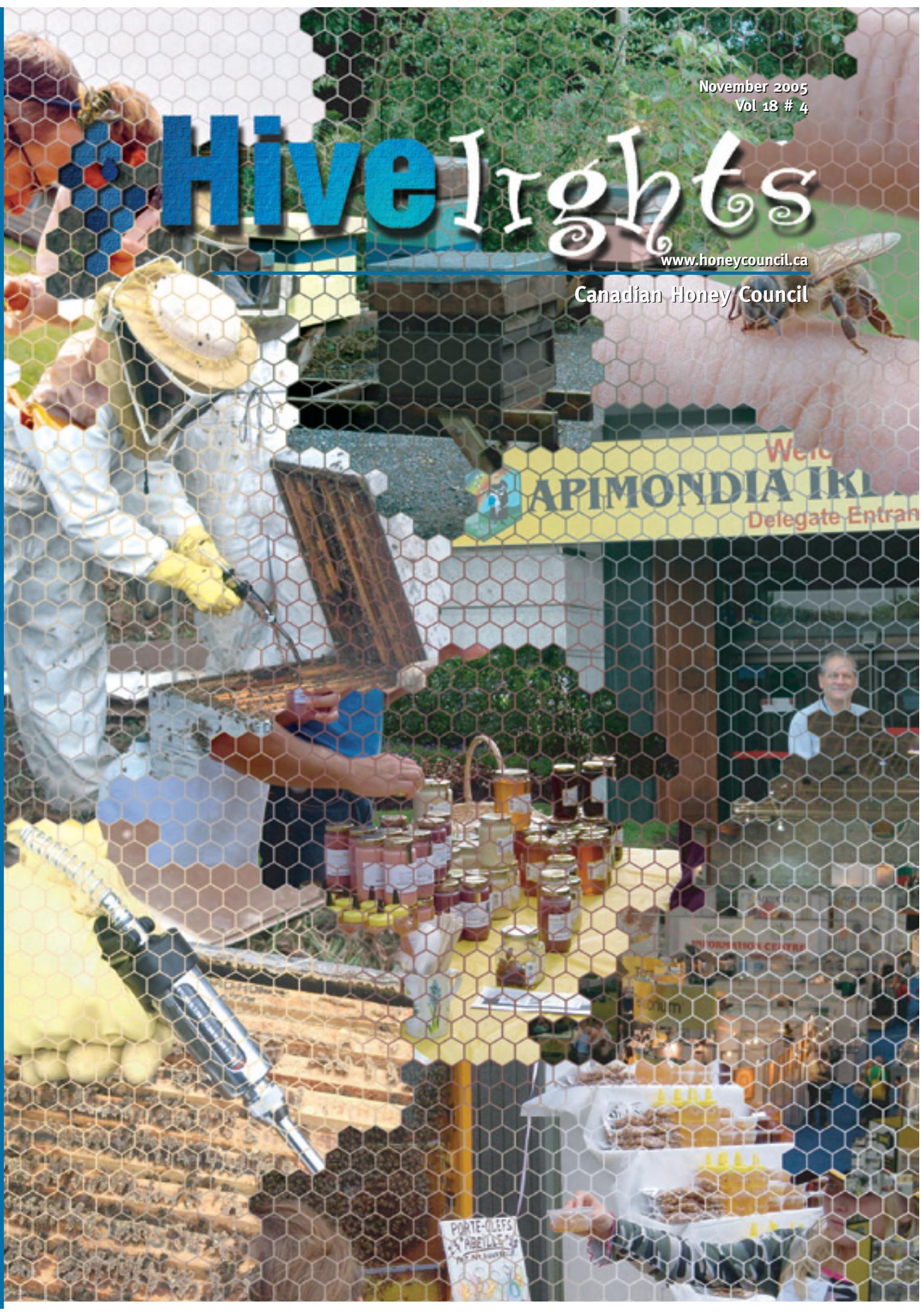


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Editor..... Heather Clay
Design and Production Rudy Gelderblom

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HiveLights

November 2005 Vol 18 #4

Cover is collage of photos from this issue +1 from Tech Transfer team for oxalic acid dispensing



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Provincial Reports

Maritimes

With summer past, fall is upon us and the above average temperatures in the Maritimes are continuing. The honey crop is average to above average this year, in part due to the warm fall temperatures so far. This fall mite testing has yielded evidence of an increase in Apistan resistance. Many commercial beekeepers have decided to treat with coumaphos for the first time.

This year's blueberry crop is below average in yield however prices are strong and the demand for pollination next spring is expected to remain high. Bears have continued to be a very large problem for beekeepers. They caused damage while colonies were in pollination as well as though out the season in honey yards.

This summer the Maritime Beekeepers tour was hosted by Nova Scotia and was held in the New Glasgow area. There were approximately 45 people in attendance. One of the highlights of the tour was a stop at Lismore Sheep Farm and wool shop. The guest speaker for the event was Alison Skinner who presented information about oxalic acid and her work in the Ontario tech transfer program.

Québec

The Summer turned out to be excellent for many Quebec beekeepers. Even with the cool and wet Spring the bees still managed to develop and produce. The Montreal region was very good but other areas were less productive. One beekeeper reported a crop of 8000 lbs from 35 hives, which is pretty good for Québec. After all these years of beekeeping, I am still surprised by Mother Nature.



Paul Kittilsen

The Québec beekeeping scene has been evolving over the past few years. Honey was the main source of revenue in the past but now pollination is slowly becoming an important source of revenue. If the trend continues, pollination will become the main source of income and honey will become a byproduct for some beekeepers.

Bulk honey price has been maintaining at about \$1.30 to \$1.50 /lb. but for how long? Who knows? Retail prices in some areas have been going down but beekeepers are still reluctant to lower prices too fast. After having



Alain Moyen

a taste of \$2.00 or more per pound it is hard to adjust to lower prices.

Québec decided to try something new this summer. We had a honey festival. The idea came from Jacques Doré, a beekeeper's son who is presently working with Nortel but would like to get back to beekeeping. To our surprise the festival was a great success! Many beekeepers who participated were unaware that the public wanted to hear about our products. Talking to Jacques and looking at the answers from the participant's questionnaire, there were no negative responses. We may hold a festival again next year.

Ontario

As of early Sept. the honey crop in Ontario looks like it should be average to above average. We have had one of the hottest summers on record. Early heat and dry conditions brought on a June honey flow when we normally experience a dearth in nectar. Adequate

continued on pg. 10



Scenes from the Honey Festival



Canadian Honey Council Activities



IT has been a busy season for the Canadian Honey Council. The number and complexity of issues facing beekeepers has increased and we are trying to respond to the many demands of our industry.

Anti dumping action

A beekeeper poll was conducted in August to determine the opinion of beekeepers concerning the possibility of lodging a trade action against “dumped” or subsidized honey. There was an good response from many beekeepers and we have received pledges and donations to help pursue a complaint. However, legal action is expensive and we need more money if we are to pursue the complaint. The directors have decided to further investigate the situation to determine whether or not we can build a strong case. In the event that no action is taken, the remainder of the donations that are not used will be returned to the donors. If you would like to contribute to this fund, all donations are gratefully accepted.

Oxalic acid registration

The CHC submitted an application to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to register oxalic acid in January 2005. The PMRA



Heather Clay, National Coordinator CHC

has completed their review of the data and on October 3, 2005 made an interim decision to approve the use of oxalic acid as a treatment for varroa mites, provided that specified limitations and precautions are respected. The conditions for use

can be found on the insert with this magazine. The decision is a compromise between full registration of the product and total exemption. It allows beekeepers to use oxalic acid, while the PMRA works on the development of regulations for a new category of low risk pesticides. After they have implemented their new policy, we expect that oxalic acid will be regulated under the new low risk pesticide category. The announcement of approval is good news for beekeepers who would like to do a fall treatment for varroa mites. It was a big undertaking for CHC to complete this project but the results were worth the effort and expense.

EPA approval for oxalic acid

The Canadian Honey Council is co-operating with the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) and providing them with the data package that was developed for the Canadian PMRA submission for oxalic acid. The ABF is initiating the steps to register oxalic acid as a biopesticide with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The PMRA and EPA have a joint review process where they can share information about a product. This should help speed the process and provide US beekeepers with this useful tool for treatment of varroa mites.

Tylosin MRL

Resistant American Foul Brood (rAFB) has become a concern in some parts of western Canada. Over the past few years more colonies

have developed rAFB that can not be controlled by oxytetracycline. Although tylosin is not officially registered for use on honeybees, veterinarians in Alberta consider it safe to prescribe for the treatment of the resistant bacteria. There has been no official Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) for tylosin in honey. This created a problem because the Canadian Food Inspection Agency operates on a zero tolerance for antibiotics that have no MRL. Packers were reluctant to buy honey that may contain minute quantities of the residue. The CHC lobbied Health Canada and the CFIA to set an MRL for tylosin. They have come to an arrangement whereby a Working Residue Limit of 0.06 ppm (60ppb) tylosin has now been established. It is an interim measure until the product is registered for honeybees and an official MRL has been promulgated.

On Farm Food Safety

A pilot project was conducted with nine beekeepers representing large and mid size operations across the country. The co-operants were Ed Nowek, BC, Tim Townsend, AB, Cherie Andrews, AB, Wink Howland, SK, Ron Rudiak, MB, Terry Fehr, MB, Ben Hogan, ON, Alain Moyon, QC and Paul Kittilsen, NS.

They used the forms developed for the Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality and Traceability (C-BISQT) program and provided feedback for the steering committee. These comments have been incorporated into a revised version of the forms. The program is now almost ready for Technical Review by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. We hope to submit the documentation this fall.

Web Site

The CHC website has been revamped and reorganized to reflect the new direction of the association. We are embracing the high quality of Canadian honey and promoting the unique qualities of our honey. There

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are links to the C-BISQT program and food safety information as well as easy to find industry information. The new website will be launched for the public in November. Visit us at www.honeycouncil.ca.

Compensation Value of Bee Colony

Several years ago the CHC participated in a consultation process with the CFIA to determine the maximum compensation value of a colony of honeybees. The recommendation was \$250 in case a honeybee colony was ordered destroyed under the Health of Animals Act. The value was recently reassessed and the CFIA has decided to retain the current maximum value.

Future of Honey Council

Selected stakeholders will be invited to a facilitated meeting on the future of the CHC to be prior to our annual general meeting. The structure of voting and funding for the association will be reviewed and the most acceptable option for governance will be agreed upon. The outcome will be reported to the CHC business meeting. The directors are confident that this critical review will revitalize the CHC and provide a new basis for organization to allow us to deal with the multitude of issues confronting our industry. The outcome will be voted on at our business meeting. All members are invited to attend the AGM on January 26th 2006 at the Palace Royal Hotel in Quebec City (details on page 16 and our website).

President's Report

Alain Moyon, Federation of Apiculturists, Quebec

In my last report I mentioned that being president of the Canadian Honey Council and running your own business was a lot of work. Well it's true. There is a lot being done by CHC but we need to do more. One staff member cannot do all the work and the directors are busy with their own businesses. I have now been serving on Council for approximately five years and I have come to realize that the CHC needs a reform of the organization to make it stable and viable.

The Canadian Honey Council is seriously under funded and understaffed. We are at present functioning on an annual budget of approximately \$60 to \$70 000. The CHC does what it can with what it has but we do not have the resources to defend and develop this industry in order for beekeepers to prosper.

At present there are many concerns affecting our industry. We have been lobbying the CFIA to establish a maximum residue level for tylosin that is higher than the current level of zero. The CFIA recently announced a Working Residue Level of 0.06 ppm (60 ppb.). Labeling changes announced at our meeting in Saskatoon are not going to be implemented as soon as we had hoped. We have been to Ottawa and met with

personnel dealing with fair labeling practices and it is the same story... it is going to be slow. We have been told that pressure preventing movement forward on labeling is coming from the processors!

Our Government at times makes decisions that do not help us, in fact they may put us at a disadvantage. We are expected to produce and compete with other countries that only have a fraction of our operating expenses. It may not be democratic to close our market to competition but we have the right to level the playing field. That is why we are considering laying an anti dumping complaint against countries that may be dumping honey in our market place. It is clear that we need to have a strong Canadian Honey Council and a presence in Ottawa on a regular basis.

The CHC has an annual meeting coming up in Québec City in January 2006. We need to plan ahead. In the past, Honey Council has served beekeepers but there are issues that have not been resolved and who knows what we are up against in the future. I do believe that we need to decide what the future of the Canadian Honey Council. There will be a cost to making changes. The question is, what will be the cost of doing nothing?

I invite you to talk to your CHC delegates and fellow beekeepers so that when we meet in Québec City, we can begin to build a Canadian Honey Council that meets the needs of our industry.

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This is the second of a two-part article on how to organize and run a local beekeepers' club. In this issue of Hivelights, we discuss the tough business of running a meeting.

The Beekeeper Meeting (Part 2)

Ron Miksha, beekeeper and author, Calgary, Alberta

IN your last issue of Hivelights, we discussed some of the basics of running a local beekeepers' club. This should be an important topic – even to big commercial keepers – because support that the professionals give to hobby beekeepers keeps the public tuned in to the benefits of bees in general and helps maintain public support for commercial beekeeping. As a professional beekeeper, you can offer your services as a source of inspiration and knowledge. And you can be the group's occasional guest speaker.

Last Hivelights, we considered the nuts and bolts of finding members, charging dues, and selecting a meeting place. Assuming that your bee club has managed these basics, we need to consider the actual meeting. What do beekeepers talk about for two or three hours?

If you've ever attended (or tried to run) a bee meeting, you know that it is much easier to get beekeepers to talk than it is to get them to listen. You will find that a bi-monthly meeting lasting for three hours will not exhaust any bee audience. You should invite the

occasional expert to talk to the group, but leave a lot of time for the members to chat among themselves. Most beekeepers attend the local meeting just to buy and sell and compare crops and wintering results. They might be very happy with a two hour coffee break and a thirty minute speech from the podium.

Structure the meeting so it starts on time (7 pm usually draws the best crowd) and get rid of the club's business right away, in ten minutes or less. This is where you might review the last meeting's agenda, give the financial report, and introduce new business from the floor. But move on quickly to introduce any invited guest – the apiary inspector, a local beekeeper, college professor, or perhaps a real expert – and let them get started.

Be sure you have talked to the speaker before the meeting. Find out if they need a computer, projector, or both. The expert is your guest. Treat experts as visiting monarchs. Within reason, let them drone on and on about their private projects and pet peeves. But tell them before hand that you have a

meeting to conduct and there are some time restrictions. And nudge them a little if they are a bit long-winded. I once let a meeting go on until one in the morning because several of the speakers wouldn't quit talking. But don't forget that they may have come a long way and given up a rare free evening to talk to your group. So let them talk unless a substantial part of the audience is looking sleepy. By then, it is certainly coffee-break time.

A good speaker – an "expert" – is a real bonus, but not essential. Don't lose track of the fact that most people attend bee meetings to see other beekeepers – to buy and sell equipment, to arrange to meet other beekeepers in their bee yards, to hear how neighbouring beekeepers are doing things. Not necessarily to attend a lecture. Raw information and data are available from the books, magazines, and internet web sites. What your attendees really need is personal contact. So don't neglect the coffee-break. Someone among the club's elected will have brought coffee and doughnuts. Let your guests take at least twenty minutes to chat. This will warm them up for the meeting's final stretch. Once you've urged the crowd back to their chairs, let them continue to talk. But do this in a more structured way. Pick a timely topic – re-queening, extracting, moving hives, whatever – and use it as the base for an open discussion. Try to get everyone to participate, not just the few loud-mouths that every club has. (These are people who attend every meeting, rarely volunteer for anything, but have suggestions on absolutely every topic and issue. And they just can't quit talking. Feel sorry for these folks – they have no one to talk to at home. Be glad they show up month after month after month. But don't let them run the show.)

Another great way to get beekeepers together is to host a beekeepers' picnic. This event should be held at a member's home - somewhere out

Queen Breeding Course at Calgary, with expert Medhat Nasr (right)



Discussing varroa management at Calgary Bee Club Picnic



in the country – and there should be a hive of bees nearby to abuse. But be sure that the person giving the demonstration knows how to work with bees!

When I was a teenager, I attended an oddly memorable beekeepers' meeting. A hobby beekeeper - someone with few hives and little experience - was demonstrating his hive management expertise with a real live hive of angry bees. His lack of skill was impressive. The quick-moving man ripped off the hive cover and fumbled the top super to the ground. Forty spectators stood chatting and watching - a semi-circle of beekeeping disciples - none wearing bee veils, gloves, or other suitable armor. A black buzzing cloud of hostile bees shot out of the dropped box.

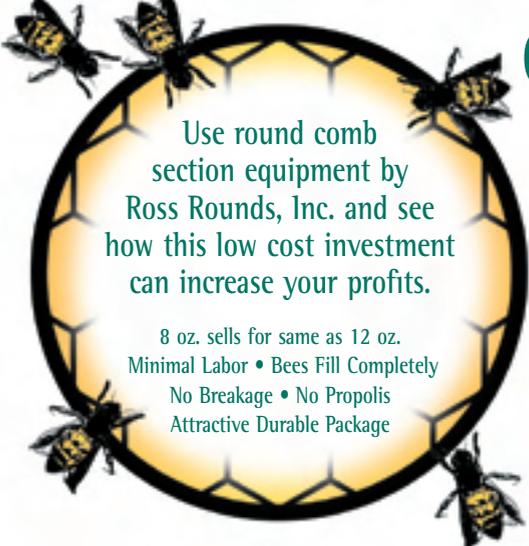
I stood at the edge of the gathered crowd and quietly retreated behind a fat oak tree. Others, standing much

closer to the learning event, were less lucky. People slapped their faces and ran in circles. Running in a bee-line from clouds of angry insects is helpful, as long as you have some destination in mind. But running in circles is a bit counter-productive – bees are attracted to quickly moving targets. The more circles, the larger an entourage of bees one collects. Some members of the audience had dozens of followers, their whole body made a buzzing sound as they darted past.

To avoid such an exciting meeting, it would be nice to have a professional, commercial beekeeper on hand during the field day. That brings us back to the commercial beekeeper's help at the local level. Never pass up a reasonable opportunity to keep the hobby beekeepers on your side. Support the local bee club as much as you can. The benefits to you will include healthier bees in your neighbourhood, and a more supportive, informed, and enthusiastic public.



Rudy, Cherie, Alex, Erika Grafting Queen Cells at Calgary Bee Club Event



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Reports from pg 3

rainfall in July and Aug. kept the honey flow going in many areas. Beekeepers were rushing to extract honey in order to keep empty supers available for the continuous flow. A small taste of what I understand Prairie beekeeping is like. Hot conditions in areas where canola is grown caused the bees to fly past the canola to alfalfa and other legumes blooming at the same time. Maybe the larger honey crop will help to offset the low honey prices being offered by honey packers at the present time.

In Ontario many beekeepers serve their local area with farm gate sales and supplying local grocery and health food stores. So far there seems to be no mad rush to lower prices to the consumer, which should also help the Ontario producers.

About 7,000 or more hives were shipped to Quebec and New Brunswick for blueberry pollination in June this year. In general those bees came back in poor condition and needed a few weeks to recover before they could start to bring in surplus honey. This could cause some beekeepers to reconsider sending bees next year, however most still think it is a worthwhile endeavor.

OMAFRA has picked up about 500 samples of

Ontario honey to be tested for residues and proper labeling. CFIA and Ontario labeling requirements seem to be at odds on occasion. Early results of residue testing indicate that while most Ontario honey is clean, we do have some areas of concern in our province as well. The OBA is trying to arrange meetings with OMAFRA and CFIA to address some of the findings.



John van Alten

Please consider the Mexico trip that is advertised in this issue of Hivelights (pg 14). It promises to be both fun and informative. It is an excellent way to get to know beekeepers from across the country and in Mexico. I hope to see a lot of you on that trip.

Manitoba

This year excessive spring rains drenched already soggy fields, especially in eastern Manitoba. Unseeded acres around the province, due to flooding and wet soil conditions, have been estimated at 1.6 million. Many beekeepers anticipated placing their bees on fields that would have been seeded to canola but instead had to find alternate locations elsewhere. Most of these locations, east of the Red River and extending northward through the Interlake, provided little more than a small crop



Ron Rudiak

of wild flower, volunteer clover and alfalfa honey. The low prices currently offered by packers for bulk honey are not heartening and with the high cost of producing honey and market uncertainty, the industry is unlikely to attract any new beekeepers. Bees located in the western part of the province fared much better, in most cases producing a normal crop of honey.

Farm gate sales have been good with the recommended price of \$2.50 per pound in the customers container. Customers appreciate being able to purchase a high quality local honey for their table that has not been blended or otherwise processed.

Bear damage, always a problem, is much more of a problem this year. Because of poor growing conditions early in the season wild nuts and berries, which bears depend on, are in short supply. Bear fences don't appear to be much of a barrier to these starving animals when they break through well constructed fences in search of a meal. Manitoba Crop Insurance, in co-operation with Manitoba Conservation, provides a compensation program to reimburse beekeepers for bear damage to their bee hives.

rAFB is spreading. During 2005 this disease has shown up in two more operations in the central region of Manitoba. AFB, whether resistant to oxytetracycline or not, is another expense that a beekeeper doesn't need especially when input

costs continue to climb and honey prices are nearing rock bottom. AFB reduces the colonies ability to produce honey and often results in dead colonies and ruined equipment. Restoring these colonies to health will take up more time, costing the operator more money for materials and labour.

Saskatchewan

After receiving above normal rainfall in late spring, we were fortunate through July to have a long stretch of hot clear days ideal for honey production across many parts of the province. All the makings of a bumper honey crop. Unfortunately, this stretch of hot weather included little to no rainfall. As a result, much of the canola flowered for only 3 weeks. The canola that was seeded late flowered much longer saving the honey crops in parts of the province. Some areas of the province also enjoyed a good flow on sunflower. In other parts of the province the later canola produced little honey as wet weather allowed for very little flight. Borage in the Northeast region produced very little honey again. The wet weather has continued into September making it very difficult for beekeepers in many areas to finish pulling honey.

Honey production in Saskatchewan this year is very erratic, even within the same regions. Honey producers have reported

crops averaging from a low of 80 lbs per colony to a high of 220 lbs per colony. These preliminary reports would suggest that the provincial average could be below average this year. Prices currently being offered for this crop are up from the \$0.69 per pound offered in spring but are still depressed and currently sit around \$0.75 per pound.

Alberta

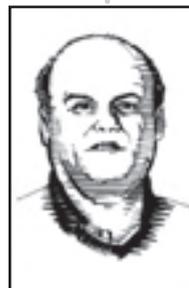
The 2005 season will be remembered as one which started with so much promise and ended with quite a disappointing crop. The spring was one of the finest in recent memory but a wet June in the South and a cool July resulted in production that will be probably total close to two thirds of an average crop.

Bees generally are in excellent shape going into the winter, late pollen flows have been quite heavy, and a warm September has resulted in good fall feeding conditions. Coumaphos resistance has been reported on a spotty basis so the registration of oxalic acid is not coming one season too early.

The Alberta Beekeepers Association has moved to a Commission which is designed to produce greater funding for indus-

try purposes. The implementation timing could not be poorer, with a short crop and low prices making spending decisions for producers difficult. Initial responses are very favourable. It appears that our producers realize that the industry needs impact everyone and that collective action is required on several fronts if the low production, low price cycle is to be broken.

The Alberta Beekeepers continue to work on expanding crop insurance to include pollinators, predator issues, commission development and implementation, oxalic acid extension, tylosin registration, HRDC liaison and several other projects. Our convention November 7-9, will feature guest speakers from China, Baton Rouge, La., the California Almond Growers Marketing team and many other features. We hope to meet you all at the West Edmonton Mall, Fantasyland Hotel for the annual convention!



Grant Hicks



Corey Bacon

British Columbia

June rains in much of B.C. helped to open the nectar gates for a little longer season this year with a general consensus of an above average honey crop. Farm gate prices have generally been maintained at previous levels much to the benefit of those able to take advantage. Mite levels are being monitored

continued on pg. 12

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and appear to be quite varied from region to region and oxalic acid is being welcomed as a new treatment alternative if required.

The B.C. Liberal government has expanded medical health officers' powers to order the use of pesticides to combat West Nile virus. On July 22, a cabinet order creating a new "West Nile Virus Control Regulation" was signed. Provincial medical health officers may now force municipalities and regional districts to apply pesticides. If the order is ignored, health officials "may take any steps necessary to carry out the pesticide application... including ordering or employing another person to take those steps". This poses a serious concern for beekeepers in the province and the concerns are being voiced with government officials. Malathion is an organophosphate insecticide that acts as a nerve poison. It kills most insects including bees and has impacts on aquatic organisms, bats, and birds that consume them. Research has been showing larvicides as a more effective method for killing mosquitoes and some describe the use of adulticides as a "1950s approach" to mosquito control.

The British Columbia Beekeeping Industry Development Committee has signed a contract



Ed Nowek

with AFFF and is now open to funding proposals from interested individuals or groups. Further details expected to be released at the the 2005 BCHA AGM and Convention

October 20 - 22, hosted by the West Kootenay Division, in the beautiful city of Nelson.

BeeMaid

Bee Maid would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Alberta Beekeepers on their move to commission status. We recognize the enormous amount of work and planning conducted by the ABA boards of the past several years, spearheaded by President Bob Ballard and CHC rep Grant Hicks. We look forward to working with the new industry organization as it develops plans for increased research to insure healthy hives, high quality honey, honey promotion, other hive products and important pollination services.



Barrie Termeer

Bee Maid and its members are continuing to move along a path of quality assurance, traceability and good practices that will make us stand out amongst the world's honey suppliers. We clearly are in a world market, and can protect our position through quality practices in Canada first,

and at the same time moving government regulations along to expect the same standards of imported honeys.

Bee Maid supports the CHC work to implement the effective label regulation changes proposed by CFIA last February at the Council meetings in Saskatoon. The process at CFIA can be cumbersome in making changes, but progress is being made. The industry

must continue to pressure Ottawa to move forward on fair labelling that will better inform the consumer as they make their buying choices as well as having CFIA implement the proposed new Canadian Honey Grading Regulations presented at the CHC meetings in Saskatoon last February.

Ontario Beekeepers Association

Yucatán Peninsula Tour

Feb. 11 - 19, 2006

From \$2379*. Includes visits to a tropical forest reserve, Mayan and Toltec archeology, traditional Mayan beekeeping group and the Merida honey production centre.

Did you know? Honey made by bees from xtabentum flowers, which grow only in the Yucatán Peninsula of MEXICO, is distilled with anise and rum to make Xtabentum, a delightful Mayan liqueur.



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Late fall efficacy of oxalic acid on varroa mites in honey bee colonies

Alison Skinner and Janet Tam
Ontario Beekeepers' Association
Tech-Transfer Program, Guelph On.

Protocol

Twenty-four varroa infested honey bee colonies, near Guelph, Ontario were used in the experiment. Eleven colonies were single brood chambered and 13 were double brood chambered. The natural drop of varroa mites from each colony was monitored with sticky boards for 24 hours prior to treatment (October 23, 2001).

In a second trial November 11, 2002, 10 varroa infested honey bee colonies near Smithville and 24 varroa infested colonies, near Guelph were treated. The ten colonies near Smithville were all one and a half brood chamber colonies. Near Guelph, there were 10 colonies with single brood chambers and 12 with double brood chambers. The natural drop of varroa mites from each colony was monitored with sticky boards for 24 hours prior to treatment (November 4 and November 9 respectively). The colonies were evenly distributed throughout the treatment groups according to mite level and colony size.

35 g of oxalic acid dihydrate was dissolved in one litre of 50% sugar syrup. The oxalic acid solution was refrigerated for 4 days before it was used. The amount of OA applied to each colony was dependent on colony strength: 40 ml

for 4-6 frames of bees, and 50 ml for 7-10 frames of bees. All test colonies contained at least 7 frames of bees and therefore received 50 ml of oxalic acid solution. The oxalic acid was trickled directly onto the bees in the cluster using a 60 ml syringe. In the case of a colony with 2 brood chambers, half (25 ml) of the oxalic acid was first applied to the bees in the bottom box,

the top box was replaced and the remaining 25 ml was applied to the bees in the top box. Apistan® was used according to the label for Guelph colonies and CheckMite+™ (due to fluvalinate resistant varroa mites in the area)for Smithville colonies.

Sticky boards were used to monitor mite fall and were changed approximately every week for 6 weeks. Three weeks after the treatments were applied , the Apistan® and CheckMite+™ strips were removed from treated colonies and new strips were placed in all test colonies.

Results

The 24 hour natural drop of varroa ranged from 2 to 239 mites in 2001 (table 1) and 7 to 112 for test colonies in 2002 (table 2).

The efficacy of the Apistan® was $81.63 \pm 21.23\%$ in 2001. When 1 outlying colony was removed, the efficacy was $89.87 \pm 7.11\%$. The average efficacy of Apistan® and CheckMite+™ were 51.42% and 99.57%, respectively in 2002.

Oxalic acid was $97.72 \pm 1.55\%$ effective in colonies with a single brood chamber and $92.99 \pm 4.80\%$ effective in colonies with 2 brood chambers in 2001.

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Comparing two methods of applying oxalic acid to singles in the fall

Adony P. Melathopoulos and Stephen F. Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge, AB

Single brood chamber colonies (singles) are a popular way to manage colonies on the prairies. It is not difficult to see why beekeepers prefer singles. Not only can you pack more of them into an indoor wintering building compared with doubles, but they also tie-up fewer brood boxes, are easier to move, yet produce similar amounts of honey.

Singles also confer advantages for managing varroa mites in fall. Treating doubles with acaricide strips involves the arduous task of splitting the top from the bottom box. Splitting boxes can disturb clustering colonies, particularly when autumn temperatures begin to drop. By contrast, treating singles involves simply lift the lid - an easy and non-invasive technique. There is also

some evidence to suggest that some acaricides, such as formic acid and thymol, work more effectively within the tight confines of a single than in the roominess of a double.

Oxalic acid would appear to be a good acaricide to treat colonies for varroa prior to indoor wintering. All methods of applying oxalic acid work at temperatures as low as 5°C (41°F), which coincidences with the average temperatures of prairie bee yards prior to colonies moving in as well as the temperature inside the wintering buildings themselves. Oxalic acid is also most effective among broodless colonies and just before colonies move indoors they have little brood (Nelson 1999), as queens have stopped laying and syrup has filled most available

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ONE-EYED BEE IS FOUND IN PEACE RIVER

By Adony Melathopoulos
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge, AB



Ones were abundant in the Peace River region, which straddles the northern Alberta-BC border. In May all eyes turned to Fort St. John, BC where an exceedingly rare white bison calf born. Eyes next converged on a single colony in Grimshaw, Alberta. I mean literally converged because the center of attention was a colony populated with one-eyed workers and drones.

Andres Mendez owned the colony of rare one-eyed workers and drones. The trait was first described by a Swiss scientist in the 1930s, who named the mutation cyclops. The two compound eyes of cyclops bees are fused across the top of their head to form one continuous horseshoe-shaped eye. The ocelli of bees with this mutation are displaced to the front and are not often apparent.

Mr. Mendez observed that the bees behaved abnormally. This observation is in-step with observations by the great Californian bee researcher Harry Laidlaw, who observed cyclops bees in Davis "attempted flight from the entrance and after an erratic course of a few feet flew into the ground as if completely disoriented". Dissections of the brains of these bees have shown structural changes, including variable fusion of the optic lobes and various displacements of the mushroom bodies.

Cyclops is rare and has only been reported less than a dozen times in bee journals. The mutation clearly has a genetic basis, however, its method of inheritance is poorly understood. It persists at low frequencies within the hive and has never been observed in more than 4% of the bees. Queens, drones and workers have been observed with the trait. An attempt at Davis in the 1950s to mate cyclops drones with virgins reared from a colony producing cyclops workers failed even after the F1 queens were backcrossed to cyclops drones. The German scientist Friedrich Ruttner, however, reported a low level of cyclops for five generations.

Apimondia Ireland 2005

Heather Clay, National Coordinator, Canadian Honey Council

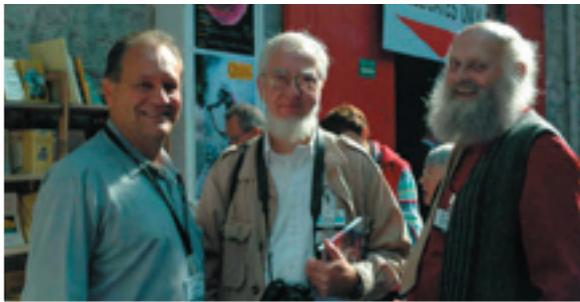
World Honey Queen

The organisers of Apimondia 2005 introduced a World Honey Queen contest at the recent international meeting in Dublin Ireland. This is the first time that the contest has been held. The representative for Canada was Annie van Alten, owner Annie's Apitherap, Carlisle Ontario. She was thrilled to be in the contest and enticed a friend she met on a pre conference tour, Australian beekeeper, Paula Dewar, to join her in the contest. The two women had a great time representing their countries and enjoying some Irish hospitality. There were entrants from eight countries and the judges chose Ceri Collingborn, from the United Kingdom, as Honey Queen. She will hold the title for two years until the next Apimondia conference in Melbourne Australia, September 9-14 2007.

Apimondia Trade Show

Aubrey and Viola Goulding, Paradise Farms Inc, Newfoundland were the only Canadian beekeepers to exhibit their wares at the Apimondia 2005 conference held in Dublin Ireland. Their company Bee Natural sells environmentally friendly products, including candles, body care treatments, bee jewellery and other specialty products from the beehive. Their food and body care products are made from natural ingredients only with no synthetic or man-made chemicals. Check out their products online at www.beenatural.ca and look for Viola and Aubrey at the Canadian Honey Council Trade Show in Quebec City, January 23-28, 2006.





Ron Miksha (author, *Bad Beekeeping*),
John Phipps (editor, *Beekeepers' Quarterly*),
Jeremy Burbidge (publisher, *Northern Bee Books*)

Canadian web site wins Apimondia award

Heather Clay, National Coordinator, CHC



World Honey Queen contestants Right to left: Annie van Alten, Canada, Paula Dewar, Australia, Yasmin Zwinz, Austria and Ritu Kapoor, India



Paradise Farms Inc Booth at Apimondia

Competition is always stiff at the international beekeepers' meeting, Apimondia. An award from the judges is high praise in the world of apiculture. This year Canadian beekeeper Ron Miksha won a bronze medal award for his entry in the Apimondia web site competition in Dublin Ireland. His website, www.badbeekeeping.com, was rated third best in the entries from around the world. The winning entry was Britain's Somerset Bee Club and second place went to Ireland's Galtee Queen Breeder's Association.

Badbeekeeping.com hosts *Bad Beekeeping*, the 2004 book about the author's disasters as a keeper of a thousand hives in the United States and Canada.

"The most impressive piece of beekeeping information that has come my way, during the busy harvest season, was a new beekeeping book.

'Bad Beekeeping' is an interesting tale of a young beekeepers move to the wilds of Western Canada from the eastern U. S.. Ron Miksha is able to communicate all the emotional and irrational reasons that enthrall beekeepers and make us husbandmen to something as unruly and unpredictable as honeybees. The economics of being a beekeeper are no more predictable than the behavior of the insects. The Mikshas kept bees through good production years and poor, reasonable prices and poor, and then moved on. This book should be on everyone's Christmas wish list, if you can wait that long." Grant Hicks, *Hivelights* November 2004.

Bad Beekeeping can also be ordered from Amazon.com or through the A.I. Root Company, Northern Bee Books, and local book stores.

Apimondia Gold for the World Extractor

The winner of this year's "Best New Technical Invention" competition at the Apimondia in Dublin was the Danish company Swienty A/S for the prototype of a new radial hobby extractor called the "World Extractor".

As a company Swienty A/S is best known for its high quality filling lines, heating technology, queen breeding equipment and polystyrene hives. The company is therefore breaking new ground with the World Extractor.

The extractor is intended for the global market, specifically at developing countries. The idea is



Prototype of the World Extractor.

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ApiExpo, Dublin 2005, Trade Exhibition
with 120 stands from 31 countries



65th Canadian Honey Council and Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists Convention

Hôtel Palace Royal, Quebec City
January 25 - 28, 2006

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fees: Advance Registration deadline is December 1, 2005.

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\$200 (300+ colonies) \$250 (Industry) _____

Canadian Bee Research Fund Donation (optional) _____
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Monday	January 23 rd	
	Pre Conference Meeting for CHC Directors	Evening
	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	
Tuesday	January 24th	
	Future of Canadian Honey Council? Facilitated meeting with invited stakeholders	morning/af.
Wednesday	January 25th	
	CHC Directors' Business Meeting	morning/af.
	8:30 - 5 pm	
	CAPA Business Meeting	morning/af.
	8:30 - 5 pm	
	Registration and Trade Show	morning/af.
	2:00 - 5 pm	
	Open Joint Meeting-CAPA/CHC/FAQ	Evening
	7:30 - 10 pm	
	CFIA honey program	Evening
	CFIA bee importation	Evening
Thursday	January 26th	
	Provincial Presidents breakfast meeting	morning/af.
	7 - 9 am	
	CAPA breakfast meeting	morning/af.
	7:30 - 9 am	
	Registration	morning/af.
	8:30 - 5 pm	
	Trade Show	morning/af.
	8:30 - 5 pm	
	CHC AGM	morning/af.
	9:30 - 5 pm	
	Industry and Provincial reports	morning/af.
	AAFC Canadian Honey Statistics	morning/af.
	Global honey situation	morning/af.
	Resolutions and elections	morning/af.
	Competition from World Trade	Evening
	8 - 10 pm	
	Laurent Pelletier VP of CFA	Evening
	Other guest speakers	Evening
Friday	January 27th	
	Breakfast meeting CBRF Committee	morning/af.
	7 - 9 am	
	Registration	morning/af.
	8:30 - noon	
	Trade Show	morning/af.
	all day	
	Research Symposium	morning/af.
	9 - noon	
	Saskatraz project – Albert Robertson	morning/af.
	Treatment thresholds for varroa – Rob Currie	morning/af.
	AFB research- Steve Pernal	morning/af.
	Alternative pesticides- Ernesto Guzman	morning/af.
	The Business of honey	morning/af.
	1:30 - 4 pm	
	Risk Management, Anti Dumping	morning/af.
	Surviving in the global market	morning/af.
	Banquet and Awards Ceremony	Evening
	6:30 - 10 pm	
Saturday	January 28th	
	Tours of Quebec meaderies and value added enterprises. Cost of trip will be additional. Buses leave at 9.30 AM	morning/af.

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to supply regions primarily utilizing topbar beehives with a new hygienic and efficient means of extraction aside from pressing. Usually beekeepers in developing countries will press their honey often using their bare hands, which lowers the honey yield as well as the hygiene of the finished product. The world extractor can solve both of these problems.

The World Extractor

The extractor is made of stainless steel and weighs about 20 kg. It is 90 cm in diameter and 20 cm high, and holds 3-4 frames all depending on the sizes. The extractor is operated manually with a crank ratio of 1:3. It extracts radially, which means that both sides of the comb will be extracted simultaneously, significantly lowering the time and workload consumption during the extraction process.

The frames, or combs, are simply placed horizontally in the extractor, which is placed either on the

ground, a table or wherever convenient. The handle is then turned and the honey is forced out of the comb. The extractor will be able to extract up to 4 frames in about 5-15 minutes depending on honey viscosity

After extraction the machine is easily stored (vertically) without taking up much space. Its light weight ensures effortless handling.

Swienty A/S manufactures beekeeping equipment since 1981 and specializes in honey processing equipment, queenbreeding equipment and polystyrene hives. The company is based in the southern of Denmark, exports world wide, has business partners, agents and retailers on all continents.

Further information:
Marketing coordinator
Dennis Svane Christensen
Swienty A/S
Tel: +45 7448 6969
email: dsc@swienty.com



The Irish minister of Agriculture presents the gold medal to Bjorn Andresen Swienty A/S

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Other services: Our business also relates to plant surveys, environmental impact statements, reports concerning land use and remediation of sites for both the private and public sectors.

Sample preparation: We require 50 grams of raw unprocessed honey from each drum that is identified for shipment.

Samples can be mailed to:
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Phone 902 674 2524 email cwcromp@auracom.com
Keep on the lookout for our upcoming website.

Staff: Clifford W. Crompton Dip. Agric. M.Sc. Author of
"Pollen Grains of Canadian Honey Plants" and
Alina Stahevitch-Crompton B.Sc., M.Sc. Ph. D.

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So, Let them eat cake !

Peter Dillon, Commercial Beekeeper, Calf Mountain Honey Farm, Darlingford, MB

The rural Café is the meeting place for all that has to be discussed in farming country. Canola, wheat and BSE are the staples of conversation here in south central Manitoba.

Tongues work overtime between gulps of coffee. The good, the bad, the hopes and fears are expressed with varying degrees of ability and accuracy.

Comprehension that Beekeepers are also affected by many of the same pressures pre-occupying farmers is not usually acknowledged. This is not due to disrespect or lack of interest but rather that the Apicultural profession is a hidden, quasi mysterious activity. The average farmer is not certain about managing bees other than knowing he does not wish to get too closely involved.

Honey prices raise few eyebrows in the local coffee house!

At a beekeeper meeting or a chance meeting in the field, put two beekeepers together and inevitably, the topic of honey prices will arise. It is central to whether it is good year or not.

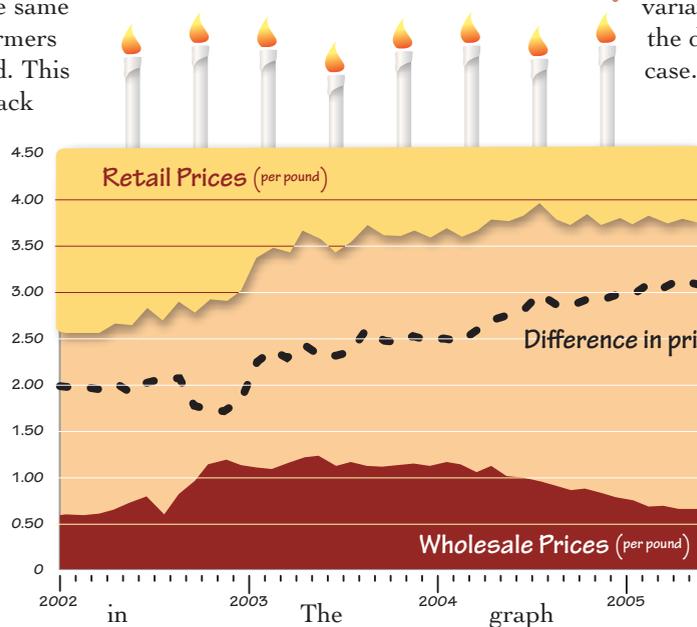
Listening to many beekeepers, it is apparent that they are often fatalistic about honey prices, sometimes equating the causes as an "act of God". The how and why of prices is a practical unknown. The common conclusion is that prices are too low at the present time.

Is this last comment fair, or even true?

Useful data on honey prices are limited and not readily accessible to

beekeepers. It is clear from the figures available that profitable beekeeping is unsustainable in the current financial environment.

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for their crop should allow for the cost of production and a profit margin for sustainability and potential business development. Honey prices being offered this year do not permit this.



Graph indicating difference between retail and wholesale prices by month in US dollars since January 2002

indicating average wholesale prices paid for honey shows the trend since the year 2002. (Data from Bee Culture magazine – used with permission.).

For many varied reasons, the price of wholesale honey has fluctuated. Low priced imported honey when present on the market governs the level at which other honeys are sold. There is little regard for cost of living and production rates of Canadian farmers. If for what ever reason there is a disruption in the supply of low priced honey, within a short period of time

the market corrects and wholesale prices start to reflect a more realistic value for the costs of production.

Once the source of low cost honeys reappears on the market, the price again falls to the previous depressed level.

Compare the wholesale price trend against that for the average price of honey in the retail situation. Here the price since 2002 has progressed steadily upwards. The difference between the wholesale price and that of the retail price should be expected to show similar trends – reflecting the variation in wholesale prices. From the data presented, this is not the case.

During 2002, when low priced Chinese honey was excluded from the market place wholesale prices rose, as did retail prices. This was followed by a period of relative stability for wholesale prices. However, retail prices continued to rise, widening the gap between wholesale and retail. As low priced Chinese re-entered the marketplace in 2004, wholesale prices collapsed back to the previous low levels. Retail prices continued to increase. The gap between wholesale and retail prices is continuing to widen.

The malaise from low prices within the beekeeping industry expresses itself in different forms. Evidence is apparent in run down equipment, lack of proper insurance cover for equipment and buildings, inability to move to more hygienic production standards, the constant need to chase higher production levels to maintain gross business income levels, regular demands upon external bodies for financial support allowing short term continuation of professional activity.

American Honey Producers are pursuing Dumping and Countervailing

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cells. Furthermore, oxalic acid has also been reported to be more effective at controlling varroa in singles than in doubles (Skinner et al. 2005). In theory, oxalic acid could be applied to colonies just prior to moving into the wintering buildings, allowing for an effective, easy and one-step pre-wintering treatment.

In the autumn of 2004, we discovered that a group of 19 colonies were infested with varroa mites at Beaverlodge Research Farm and we decided to perform a small trial to evaluate the efficacy of two different application methods of oxalic acid. This trial was performed on singles that were to be wintered indoors. The oxalic acid treatments were:

- 1) Drip - 5ml of solution per frame space full of bees, where the solution consisted of 1L of water, 1kg sucrose and 75 g oxalic acid dihydrate (6 colonies), and
- 2) Vapour - 2.4 g oxalic acid dihydrate per colony sublimated with a VarrEX (Zuzgen, Switzerland) evaporator (7 colonies) (Figs 1, 2).

The dosages we used were experimental and were based on the drip recommendations for New Zealand and Sweden as well as the VarrEx specifications from the manufacturer. Consequently, the drip and vapour treatments we tested were applied at 1.3 and 1.2 times greater dose, respectively, than that being proposed for label use in Canada (see insert in magazine for application guidelines).

Fig 1b.

Two treatment methods for applying oxalic acid to colonies: (A) Drip using oxalic acid in sugar syrup. (B) Vapour using a 12-V heating plate.



Fig 2

The evaporator for the vapour treatment was applied to colonies while the entrance was sealed.

Colonies were treated before they entered the building because vapors are highly toxic to the applicator (see insert). The two treatments were applied outdoors to single brood chamber colonies (Langstroth, full depth) on 2 Nov 04, when the outside temperature was 5° C and colonies had only small amounts of brood (0.49 ± 0.06 frames per colony). Colonies were moved into an overwintering building the following morning (3 Nov) and remained there until 7 Apr 05. The temperature indoors was maintained at approximately 5° C.

Varroa drop onto the bottom boards was counted weekly on non-adhesive sheets from 28 Oct 04 to 11 Apr 05 to determine mite mortality across three periods: pre-treatment: 6d prior to applying treatments (28 Oct – 2 Nov 04), treatment+winter: from the beginning of the treatment through to the end of the wintering indoors (2 Nov 04 – 7 Apr 05) and post-treatment: 14d of CheckMite+ (coumaphos) treatment, following winter to determine how many mites survived the treatment (7 - 21 Apr 05). The varroa infestation prior to treatment was below the level at which varroa causes colony wintering mortality; the 9.36 ± 2.47 varroa per day we observed (Fig. 3) is half that of the injury level of 18 varroa per day for our region (Lafrenière 2001, Currie 2005)

Within specific time periods, both oxalic acid treatments increased varroa mortality. The first evidence of this was that after treatment, varroa counts on bottom boards increased

continued on pg. 24

Duties on China and Argentina. Canadian producers are considering anti dumping trade action. These are short term solutions to a long term problem.

I ask the simple question: Why is it possible that sectors above the primary producer are able to maintain a level of profitability by reflecting their costs in their pricing, when the primary producer cannot?

The answer is complex, consisting of many factors and diverse reasons. A recent report by The Honourable Wayne Easter, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food attempts to answer my question.

His report titled "Empowering Canadian Farmers in the Marketplace" (see sidebar) investigates the inability of Farmers in Canada to establish a income base upon which their financial stability is reasonably assured.

The whole report may be viewed at <http://www.wayneaster.com/News%20Releases.htm>

Exploring and implementing the Honorable Wayne Easter's recommendations would help create an environment where public and private concerns generate a fairer distribution of wealth and profit.

As for the present day situation, activities exemplified by the "Big Box" mentality of commerce result in a bias and advantage for packers and brokers. Beekeepers are disadvantaged and will require allied lobbyists to improve the system.

Simply put – What is happening today is "Legalised robbery".

Empowering Canadian Farmers in the Marketplace

Hon Wayne Easter MP, July 2005 Excerpts affecting beekeepers

General: That:

- all governments place a priority on measures that will enhance farmers' economic returns from the marketplace.
- ministers and ministries of agriculture see their primary role as advocating on behalf of primary producers.
- ministers of agriculture meet internationally to discuss how to improve the incomes of primary producers from the marketplace.
- governments consult primary producers and their representatives in the design and review of farm support programs.

Consolidation & Market Power: That:

- governments work with farmers to support, develop and maintain collective marketing initiatives, particularly through assisting New Generation Co-operatives and other farmer-owned corporate structures.
- information regarding the farmers' share of the retail food dollar be published and distributed as widely as possible.

Producer Costs: That:

- society bear the cost when farmers are required to take actions that benefit the public at large.
- governments work with primary producers to identify costs, such as inspection fees, that government can either reduce or pay for entirely, while remaining compliant with trade agreements.
- governments evaluate the cost impact of new regulations and policies on producers.

Competitiveness: That:

- the federal government improve Canada's pesticide

licensing process and specifically the performance of the Pest Management Review Agency (PMRA).

International Trade: That:

- the federal government take a balanced approach to international trade negotiations...
- the federal government defend the interests of Canadian producers in international trade negotiations...
- Canadian provinces and stakeholders emphasize their common interests in international trade talks and negotiate with one voice,
- the federal government ensure foreign products entering this country meet the same quality, safety, health, environmental and labour standards as Canadian products.
- the federal government review existing international trade agreements and identify items that can be pursued legitimately to improve the competitiveness and cost structure of Canadian producers. Specifically, that the federal government work with producers to identify WTO "green-box" areas in which support to farmers could be expanded.
- those Canadian governments pursue bilateral and regional trade agreements to provide more targeted market access for Canadian products.

Innovative Marketing & Product Development: That:

- governments preserve and enhance research into primary agriculture, particularly at the regional level, and that research results be released to producers in a timely manner.
- governments support research and funding for niche markets, but not at the expense of more pressing needs and longer-term solutions to the farm income crisis.
- the federal government work

with the organic sector to establish an organic value chain roundtable addressing issues that restrict the production, distribution and retailing of organic agricultural products

 governments consider supporting a "Green Label" initiative proposed by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Enhanced Consumer Communications: That:

 governments undertake campaigns to educate citizens about the benefits provided to the country by Canadian agriculture.

 the federal government act to differentiate "made-in-Canada" food products from those products merely processed in Canada.

Investment in Infrastructure: That:

 the federal government ensure that young farmers have access to the Farm Improvement and Marketing Co-operatives Loans Act (FIMCLA).

 governments allow producers to shelter a portion of their earnings in good years, and to withdraw them in lean years.

 governments invest in foreign animal disease infrastructure to prevent further outbreaks of diseases.

Investment into Rural Development: That:

 governments enhance internship programs to provide opportunities for young people seeking careers in rural professions.

 governments help fund community-based land banks and land trusts that could help ... small-scale farmers to expand.

Vita launches new honeybee health research award at Apimondia

Vita Europe (Ltd) Press Release.

A new award to promote research into honeybee health has just been launched by Vita (Europe) Ltd, the honeybee health and mite control specialists. Valued at up to €10,000, the award will be made on a regular basis to help fund new honeybee health research. Any individual or organisation can apply.

President Viktor Yuschenko of the Ukraine, a life-long beekeeper, has agreed to become the Award's Patron.

"This award is designed to stimulate new research into any of the diseases that affect honeybees," explained Jeremy Owen, Sales Director of Vita. "We will be especially, but not exclusively, interested in naturally-based treatments that are really effective since that is clearly a priority for many beekeepers across the globe."

Owen continued: "We are naturally thrilled that President Yuschenko has agreed to become the Award's patron. As a beekeeper and a president, he fully understands the significance

of a healthy honeybee population to national economies."

Amongst the diseases and pests of particular interest to Vita are those which as yet have no known effective controls: the small hive beetle which is spreading globally and almost established a foothold in Europe last year; chalkbrood which seems to be increasing in prevalence in certain areas; and the long-established problems of varroa and foulbrood.

The inaugural winner of the Vita prize is Dr Alexandros Papachristoforou of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece for his ongoing work on chalkbrood control. As a fungal brood disease, chalkbrood can debilitate colonies and is especially serious in certain parts of the world. As yet, the incidence and extent of chalkbrood is not fully understood and until now there has been no effective treatment. Papachristoforou is discovering that both a new bacterial product CBB and Apiguard can be very effective and is undertaking further work to establish the conditions for its maximum efficacy.

Application details for the next award will appear on the Vita website in September 2005. See www.vita-europe.com

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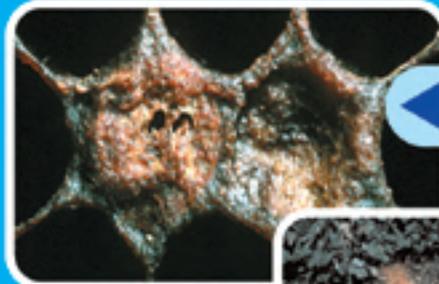
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European Foulbrood (EFB) is a bacterial brood disease caused by several agents the main being the bacterium *Melissococcus pluton*. It occurs most

frequently in the spring or early summer during brood rearing and is thought to be caused by stress in the colony and lack of pollen. Symptoms can be variable which makes EFB difficult to identify with certainty; frequently disappearing once there is a nectar flow. But EFB can seriously affect brood development and needs to be identified in a colony as soon as possible.

American Foulbrood (AFB) is an infectious brood disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae var larvae*. It is the most destructive and widespread of the honeybee brood diseases.

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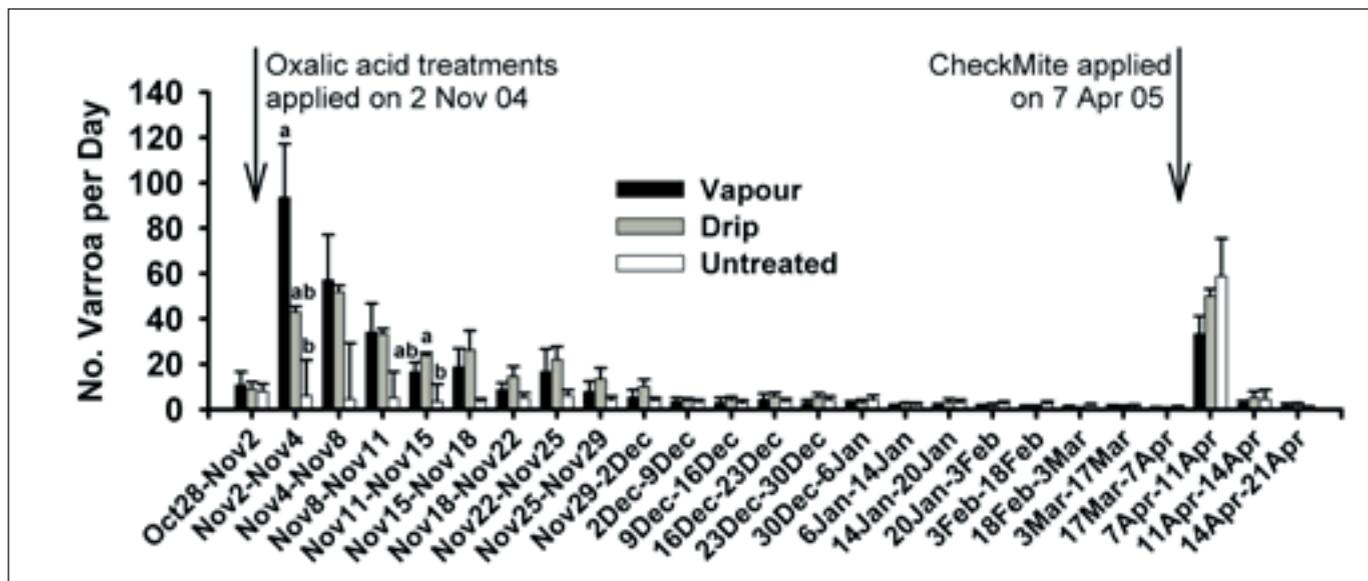


fig 3

continued from pg. 19

among treated colonies while counts remained unchanged among untreated colonies (Fig. 3). There was, however, considerable variability in varroa drop within all treatment groups resulting in significantly higher varroa drop being detected within only one

time interval per oxalic treatment: vapour, 2-4 Nov ($F = 6.51$; $df = 2,16$; $P = 0.009$); drip, 11-15 Nov ($F = 4.13$; $df = 2,16$; $P = 0.0036$). Following treatment, however, the increased drop resulting from oxalic acid was not significantly greater than that observed among untreated colonies (Fig. 4; Trt/Winter period $F = 1.17$; $df = 2,16$; $P = 0.3354$). Furthermore, although the number of varroa remaining in the colonies the following spring was lower in the oxalic acid treated

colonies, this difference was also not statistically different (Fig. 4; Post-Trt period $F = 1.23$; $df = 2,11$; $P = 0.3328$). In fact, both treatments failed to reduce varroa levels below the spring economic injury level (EIL) for the prairies (Currie 2005), and consequently, colonies had to be treated to prevent a loss of honey production that summer.

We found oxalic acid was effective at killing varroa in singles. Not only did varroa drop increase following treatment relative to untreated colonies, but the number of mites remaining in colonies was lower. Spring mite numbers among treated

following fall oxalic treatment than we observed. It is possible that the effectiveness of oxalic acid varies by use pattern, from region to region and among different years, as is the case for other natural products, such as formic acid. Given the small size of our study, however, our conclusions are preliminary and we plan to conduct a larger and more conclusive experiment using the doses being proposed for Canada. We also plan to test the use of a second application of oxalic acid in April, when the colonies first emerge from the wintering buildings, to determine whether an additional treatment can decrease the number of varroa present in the spring.

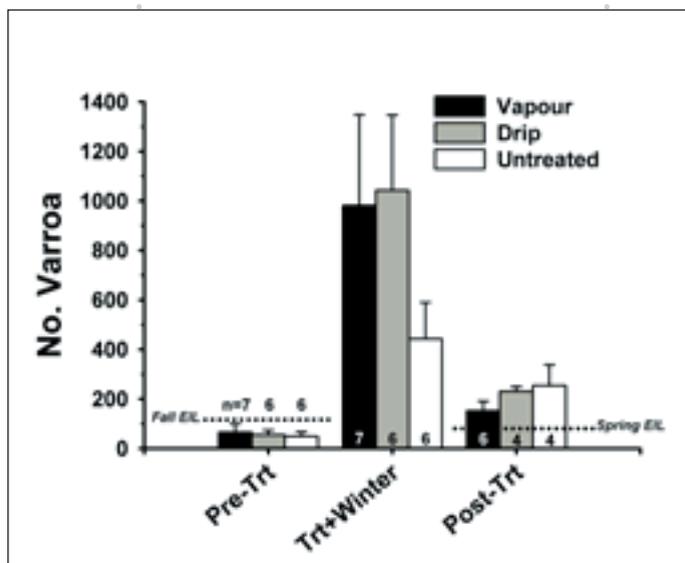


fig 4

colonies, however, exceeded the economic injury level for our region, suggesting that beekeepers treating singles in our region need to monitor colonies to ensure that spring treatments are not required. Other studies from Europe (reviewed by Nanetti et al. 2003) and Ontario (Skinner et al. 2005) have documented higher varroa mortality (>85%)

Acknowledgements

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continued from pg 13

The average efficacies for oxalic acid in one, one and a half and double brood chambers were 96.27%, 89.04% and 94.88%, respectively in 2002.

Discussion

In most colonies in the tested beeyard, tracheal mite levels were not considered to be high, thus not interfering with the winter mortality. The ambient temperature which fluctuated above and below 0°C did not appear to affect the efficacy of the oxalic acid.

Oxalic acid (OA) was an effective treatment in colonies with one (98%) and two (93%) brood chambers. The application of the OA solution was clean and efficient, when using the

syringe. The solution was released deliberately and accurately to ensure that as many bees as possible were coated. Refilling the syringe between colonies was done with ease. It was also an improvement to apply the OA to bees in both the bottom and top brood chambers in colonies which had 2 brood chambers. In doing this, a greater proportion of the bees were coated with the OA solution.

	Pre - Treatment Varroa - 24 hour natural drop	Treatment Varroa Totals	Post-Treatment Varroa Totals	Efficacy %
Apistan	7*	1128	18	98.43
	21	586	1234	32.2
	239	4880	91	98.17
	28	3081	371	89.25
	25	2016	201	90.93
	37	6355	1259	83.46
	5	1254	334	78.97
	15*	1844	18	99.03
	55*	2303	65	97.26
	44*	2047	102	95.25
Oxalic Acid	44*	1604	55	96.68
	34*	1635	25	98.49
	53*	2793	97	96.64
	2*	1197	10	99.17
	19*	2457	19	99.23
	7*	1477	3	99.80
	10*	1024	47	95.61
	189	5055	459	91.68
	17	3733	47	98.76
	123	6337	672	90.41
63	1611	316	83.6	
27	3663	100	97.34	
10	3365	121	96.53	
81	4743	380	92.58	

Table 1 (abridged). Pre-treatment 24 hour natural drop of varroa mites (Oct. 23) and efficacy for colonies treated with Apistan® and 3.5% oxalic acid.

* 1 brood chamber, all others 2 brood chambers

	Pre - Treatment Varroa - 24 hour natural drop	Treatment Varroa Totals	Post-Treatment Varroa Totals	Efficacy %
Apistan	26*	441	1271	25.76
	85*	1468	1660	46.93
	7 *	682	479	58.74
	24*	1062	1632	39.42
	22*	466	681	40.63
	21	2632	71	97.37
	36	3184	116	96.48
	83	1272	828	60.57
	20	142	51	73.58
	54	455	1942	18.98
25	161	2092	7.15	
CheckMite+™	98*	2479	10	99.6
	20*	3543	11	99.69
	11*	1533	12	99.22
	63*	7242	2	99.97
	18*	920	6	99.35
	26*	2691	45	98.36
Oxalic Acid	42*	4967	80	98.41
	19*	1685	252	86.99
	10*	2773	14	99.5
	56*	2692	52	98.1
	34	3970	159	96.15
	48	4104	65	98.44
	81	3429	124	96.51
	23	2793	101	96.51
	10	1015	133	88.41
	112	4701	340	93.26
79*	3288	113	96.68	
47*	309	10	96.87	
72*	5949	3799	61.03	
76*	4941	251	95.17	
13*	84	4	95.45	

Table 2 (abridged). Pre-treatment 24 hour natural drop of varroa mites and efficacy for colonies treated with Apistan®, CheckMite+™ and 3.5% oxalic acid.

* 1 brood chamber, all others 2 brood chambers



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