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CHC is the national organization of the beekeeping industry. It is the vital link between beekeeper associations, governments and provincial apiculturists. Beekeepers in business can claim CHC membership and travel to the annual meeting as eligible business expenses for tax purposes.

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

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HiveLights

February 2006 Vol 19 #1

The colour for marking queens in 2006 is white. In keeping with our colour scheme for the front page, this year's cover will have a white margin.



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Provincial Reports

Maritimes

This year most beekeepers in the Maritimes had average or above average honey crops. The fall was very wet but unusually mild, which assisted beekeepers with the fall mite treatments. This fall saw many beekeepers in the Maritimes switching to coumaphos for the fall treatment as the Pettis test showed increasing resistance to fluvalinate. A number of beekeepers have taken advantage of the oxalic acid approval and used it this fall for treatment.

We usually have snow before Christmas and this year was no exception. Fortunately most beekeepers had wrapped their hives and moved them in from fields to handy locations. Others moved them to indoor wintering facilities. We look forward to a good winter season.

The commercial beekeepers in Nova Scotia have been working with the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission to investigate the possibility of the commission providing bear damage insurance to

beekeepers. They are also looking at the possibility of winter loss insurance.

At the request of the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association the Nova Scotia Community College is studying the feasibility of offering a course to train people to become beekeepers. It is hoped that this



Paul Kittilsen

will help ease the labor shortage for Nova Scotia beekeepers and may help bring some new people into the industry.

Québec

It is incredible how fast a season can just fly by. Our 65th annual Council meeting in Québec City is barely over and already we are planning our season for 2007.

The price of bulk honey has gone down a bit on the store shelf. The price to beekeepers has not come down yet, so that is good news for the time being.

Québec beekeepers are somewhat confident that the health of our bees is good. We are in better shape

knowing that we now have oxalic acid as an alternative option for treatment.

The Québec Fédération of Beekeepers has just received a mandate from its members to seriously look into the process of establishing a commission. In the past when Québec had a higher membership the Association had sufficient money to operate. Today the number of beekeepers has gone down and our Fédération is just maintaining its office with no surplus for research or future projects. We have a lot of work in front of us to maintain our industry. Let us hope that we can make it viable for the future.

Ontario Report

A warm fall season allowed us in Ontario to get our winter preparations done, even if we happened to fall behind in our work. Winter has set in with a vengeance with two winter storms before Christmas and more on the way.



Alain Moyen

The Ontario Beekeepers Association held their annual meeting in Mississauga in November. A resolution to support the CHC

action against honey being dumped in Canada received unanimous approval. We have also formed a committee to look into the feasibility of setting up a commission to collect a levy to fund the activities of the OBA and CHC. This has been looked at in the past without success. However we are in different times now and it may be the right path for the future.

Our provincial department of agriculture (OMAFRA) decided to take a cross section of Ontario honey and test it for residues. While most of the tests came back clean, there were 3 that required a CFIA recall for sulphur residues. This is cause for concern. The producers of the recalled honey are adamant that they didn't use sulphur drugs. How did it get in there? Are there environmental factors that could have played a role? All this illustrates the need for research into residues in honey. As laboratory testing becomes more and more sophisticated, residues will become an increasing issue.

Our Tech Transfer team is putting the finishing touches on two manuals. One is a basic beekeeping manual, the other a queen rearing manual. They have had a very busy summer working on the various ongoing

Canadian Honey Council Activities

Heather Clay, National Coordinator CHC



Anti dumping action

The price of honey remains low and there is no end in sight. Beekeepers across Canada have indicated support for an antidumping action against countries that are dumping or subsidizing honey in our marketplace. The CHC has chosen a lawyer and are drawing up an official complaint. Legal action is expensive and more beekeeper donations are needed to allow us to continue the process. All donations are gratefully accepted. Information about the Assessment of Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties Under the Special Import Measures Act can be found on the Canadian Border Services Agency website www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca.

Honey Promotion

The CHC believes that promoting Canadian honey as a premium product could help us win the battle over low honey prices. Karo Design, a Canadian advertising company, has been contracted to help us develop a mascot and logo for branding Canadian honey. Their plan is to run a test market in Winnipeg and measure consumer awareness before and after the campaign. We expect that the results will be positive and are earmarking funds to continue supporting the promotion of 100% Canadian honey.

Working Residue Limits WRL

The Veterinary Drug Directorate and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have set working residue limits for a number of antibiotics that are registered for other animals but not for honey. The VDD website states:

"In the July issue of VDD's Communiqué to Stakeholders, it was reported that a draft VDD/CFIA Working



Residue Level (WRL) policy was being finalized. The draft policy was posted on Health Canada's Web site on September 2, 2005. This pilot project is solely for drugs for honey production and VDD will not be considering a similar approach for other

drugs/species under this policy. It is important to note that all of the drugs listed in the WRL policy table that is posted on Health Canada's Web site had previously been approved for use in other food-producing animals. This policy does not represent approval of this list of drugs for use in beekeeping and must not be interpreted as an encouragement of the use of additional antimicrobials"

Our industry is concerned that there may be a perception that unregistered antibiotics are permitted in honey. This is not the case and the CFIA will prepare a question and answer brochure to explain the reasons for working residue limits.

On Farm Food Safety

The new On Farm Food Safety program called C-BISQT which is being developed by the CHC will allow beekeepers to have their honey production system accredited. The new program will allow for regular audits and a system that provides assurance of safety and traceability of product. This will provide beekeepers with a tool to leverage better prices for their product and establish credibility for our quality honey.

Under world trade rules we cannot impose standards on imported honey that are not mandatory for beekeepers in this country. All the more reason to pursue mandatory registration and certification of honey production in Canada.

Emergency Use Registration of Checkmite

The application for the Emergency Use Registration of CheckMite+™ (coumaphos) has been prepared for 2006 by the CHC. The documentation included support letters from the CHC, provincial beekeepers associations, provincial apiarists, each Minister of Environment and the manufacturer of the chemical, Bayer CropScience. This is the second year that a co-operative approach has been taken. We are looking forward to a label extension for CheckMite+™ in the future so that there will be no further need for Emergency Use Registration.

Future of Honey Council

Selected stakeholders were invited to a facilitated meeting on the future of the CHC prior to our annual general meeting in Quebec City. The structure of voting and funding for the association were reviewed. The outcome will be reported in the May issue of Hivelights. 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.

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President's Report

Alain Moyen, Federation des Apiculteurs du Quebec, QC

INCREDIBLE! is the first word that comes to mind. I can only hope that I did my job when even at times I was not sure what direction we should take.

The biggest challenge was dealing with the information as an industry and not as an individual beekeeper. At times it was a case of overload. At those times I realized that each new president must follow a steep learning curve. I will salute all past presidents, because the work that was done to maintain and bring honey council to where it is today is phenomenal. But let us never forget that behind each president there is an office staff that provides the institutional memory that keeps us all on track! I mention this because for the past eight years it has been Heather Clay that has kept the Canadian Honey Council on track. She has listened to beekeepers whine over and over and still got the job done. This over a period of increasing industry turmoil.

Because of Heather's experience in the industry over the years, she has been able to synthesize information and steer us in the right direction. After being president for one year, I've realized that having a vision for an industry as diverse as ours, is mind boggling. Deciding what direction to take means talking to as many beekeepers as possible. It's funny, today we have a potential of transferring information so fast that the difficulty is the time we need to assimilate all this information and make proper decisions. Heather has served beyond the job but the issues facing our industry are coming at us at an alarming speed. It is beyond the capacities of willing volunteers. We as provincial association delegates do not have the necessary time to help Heather, especially in the honey or pollination season. The structure of the Canadian Honey Council today does not meet the needs of tomorrow.

We are about to meet in Québec City to see if we can develop a common vision to provide the Canadian Honey Council with the proper tools to do the job.

I do believe that there is a lot at stake. Our industry and our future depend on it. We are competing with the world in a Global Village. We must bring the Canadian Honey Council into the 21st Century.

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NHB HONEY LABEL CONFUSION STUDY

National Honey Board, Longmont, CO

An increasing number of honey pretenders are being introduced into U.S. retail and food service markets.

These products are manufactured using both honey and other sweeteners as ingredients. Significant differences in price exist between honey and the other sweeteners; the other sweeteners are typically predominant. Most of these products prominently feature the word "Honey" on the label's principal display panel and use the word "Honey" in the product's identity statement. These "honey blend type sweeteners" can be found in store settings in place of pure honey products; the packaging is identical or similar to pure honey products, often in plastic squeeze bears. The words on the principal display panel are confusingly similar to labels on pure honey.

All packaged food sold in the United States must bear a statement of identity on the principal display panel of the food (21 CFR 101.3). For nonstandardized foods (i.e. products without standards of identity promulgated by the FDA), the name used as the statement of identity must be either the "common or usual name" of the food (i.e. "Honey" is the common or usual name of the food known as 100% Honey) or an appropriately descriptive name that is not misleading.

The National Honey Board has expressed concern that the statement of identity of honey blend type sweeteners is confusingly similar to the statement of identity for 100% pure honey. In October 2005, the National Honey Board conducted a label study through Jeffrey B. Gross Market Research.

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projects around mites and the diverse treatments. We are very fortunate to have them working on our behalf. One of their projects involved mite scouting services, which could be very beneficial to those of us who are not sure of our actual mite counts. That information is vital in making treatment decisions.

At the University of Guelph, our new researcher, Dr. Guzman, is settling in nicely to our northern climate. I understand that he will be presenting some of his work at the CHC convention in Quebec City in January. I look forward to seeing a lot of you there.

of Manitoba honey.

Several producer graders set up attractive displays of packed honey, pollen, honey spreads, gift packs and novelty bee items for sale.

This year two feature displays were added.

One was a large "Colors of Manitoba Honey" display with over forty jars filled with a wide assortment of varietal honey from around the province. This attractive display was a popular place to pause and check the labels identifying the different nectar sources. The other exhibit was an interactive and informative display on "Honey Classification" and "Read the Label" to identify the origin of the packed honey.

Many who visited the Honey Show are now better informed. Numerous visitors made the comment that they did not realize that their

recent honey purchase had been brought in from another country. Because containers on the store shelves are imprinted with the words "Canada No. 1 White" or "Product of Canada" it can be confusing for customers to determine the origin of the honey.

Honey producers, in Manitoba, are appalled by the unreasonably low prices currently offered for bulk honey. Combined with poor honey yields in many areas of the province these low prices are causing hardship for beekeepers. Producers in Manitoba are optimistic that an antidumping action can help to alleviate the poor prices caused by the flood of cheap imports.

June field day as well as recent CHC activities. They also received a provincial apiarists report. One of the main discussions centred on the anti-dumping initiative. After an introduction and report on the action, one thing was very clear. Support was very strong

for such an action. We all realize that making a living off honey production at \$0.70/lb is not feasible and our industry needs to take immediate action. The SBA board had previously pledged \$0.20/colony for every colony in the hands of commercial beekeepers (85,000 colonies - \$17,000) towards the anti-dumping action with the challenge being made to the ABA and MBA that they match our contribution. While the ABA and MBA have not accepted our challenge, our membership felt so strongly about this action that they unanimously voted in favour of proceeding with a \$17,000 donation towards the anti-dumping action. Our membership voted unanimously on other important issues including a vote in favour of supporting CHC in working towards revising the one-way movement of bees on comb from Canada into the US. This would potentially develop another source of income for Canadian beekeepers, as well as help the Americans with their shortage of bees for pollination. Our organization also unanimously voted in favour of encouraging CHC to



John van Alten



Corey Bacon



Ron Rudiak

Manitoba

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Honey Show was a notable success. Presented annually by the MBA and the Red River Apiarists' Association, and held in a large, busy, shopping mall, this show features a honey competition, a honey baking competition and an assortment of displays designed to promote beekeeping and educate visitors. Several beekeepers are always on hand to answer any questions, provide demonstrations in the use of beekeeping equipment and give out samples of different varieties

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan held their semi-annual business meeting in Prince Albert in mid November. Members in attendance were updated on SBA activities since the



Manitoba Beekeepers Honey Show display

Plants for bees

Dandelion



Doug Clay, Research Scientist, Calgary, AB

Common Name Dandelion

Also called lions tooth, puffball, blow-ball

Scientific Name *Taraxacum officinale* Weber

Description

Taraxacum officinale Weber is the most familiar species of the 40 to 60 member dandelion genus; a complex and evolving taxonomy that has some scientists identifying over 250 species in the genus. The dandelion can be recognized by its solitary, yellow circular flower (15 to 25 mm across) composed of a compound inflorescence or head made up of 100 to 300 ray flowers. The number of flowers is one reason why bees can spend so long on each blossom.

Deep tap-roots with virtually no stem lead to the leaves which form a rosette, 5 to 35 cm in diameter. The leaves are variable in shape, and generally serrated. One or more stems grow from the center of this rosette. The stem is hollow – 30 to 45 cm in height - and oozes sticky white latex when broken. The flowers are produced on this upright stem.

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Delegates 2006

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investigate the possibility of establishing a national levy on honey, including foreign honey entering Canada.

A unanimous vote in favour of supporting a national advertising campaign, undertaken by CHC, to brand and promote our product was also passed.

Alberta

In the last Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Beekeepers, the only resolution regarding anti dumping action was defeated. This particular resolution requested that the Alberta Beekeepers support the anti dumping action by contributing \$15,000.00 to Canadian Honey Council for legal fees.

What I would like to do is explain what Alberta really said when they voted "no".

The problem that the entire industry faces right now is low commodity prices. There are several possible remedies to this problem. The first is to do nothing. Honey prices are historically cyclical. The prices seem to take a 10 year cycle peak to peak or crash to crash. The industry could just wait things out and prices would creep back up. It could actually be considered quite healthy to have low prices because consumption is directly related to purchase price. The lower the price,

the more people will buy. And eventually demand will drive up the price.

The second remedy to low prices is to knuckle down and start promoting our product. The last two speakers to address the Alberta Beekeepers at the AGM were advocates of marketing and promotional efforts. One was the president from the California Almond Board, the other a professional advertising executive from Calgary with a plan to market honey. The end result of a marketing thrust is to increase demand for a specific product, in our case, Honey – regardless of commodity price.

In the face of increased demand, prices should also increase.

The third remedy is to interfere in the global market through anti dumping and countervail action against imports. This legislation would increase the price of import honey to equal the Canadian cost of production, making imports less attractive for purchase. The net result does not increase demand, however it shifts the focus of the demand.

In the discussion at the AGM, all three options were considered but no consensus was reached. All three options have valid pros and cons. No one remedy can claim to be a definitive solution. The resolution put to the Alberta Beekeepers was for a specific amount of



Ron Greidanus

money. Our association is in the process of changing into a commission. At the time of the AGM, the commission budget was unknown. It was the decision of the membership to not commit money from the soon to be formed commission without first knowing what the budget was. In the discussion that ensued, few disagreed with an anti-dumping action, however if given the choice between promotion or anti dumping, the membership would rather spend dollars on promotion. This second remedy was perceived to be the better long term solution.

Having said this, many beekeepers in Alberta have indicated strong support for anti-dumping and have committed their own personal funds to support this action. An apparent contradiction? I don't think so. Many see anti dumping for what it is – a short term Band-Aid. Our current situation demands action – anti-dumping is perceived to be a necessary initial step. Promotion is not going to happen overnight. To increase per capita consumption is going to take time. Nor is marketing cheap. The bottom line is that the beekeepers in Alberta are in support of Anti dumping – with their own money. Many of these same beekeepers also concede that promotion is a must. Beekeepers like the milk, egg and beef producers need to take responsibility for the

promotion and marketing of their product.

British Columbia

The delegate from BC was not able to supply a report for this issue.

Beemaid

Bee Maid Honey, along with Alberta Honey and Manitoba Honey recently held their Annual General Meetings. The Alberta Board of Directors remains unchanged with Cleta Dieken remaining as Chairperson,



Barrie Termeer

Elmer Zumwalt Vice-Chair and Clem

Dubeau, Peter Gunning and Barrie Termeer as Directors. Ron Bacon from Kinistino Saskatchewan was elected as a new Director for Manitoba Honey. Phil Veldhuis remains as Chairperson of Manitoba, Bill Bygarski Jr. Vice-Chair and Lorne Peters and Otto Boettcher, remain as Director's along with Ron Bacon. Special thanks to Margaret Smith for her contributions the past three years as a Director while serving on the Board's of Manitoba Honey and Bee Maid. Bill Bygarski Jr. was re-elected Chairperson of Bee Maid and Cleta Dieken Vice-Chair. Barrie Termeer was re-appointed as Bee Maid's Canadian Honey Council delegate.

At the Annual Meeting of Alberta Honey, an honorary

lifetime membership in the Alberta Honey Producers Cooperative was presented to Mr. Gus Rouse of the Kona Queen Company. For many years Gus has been a dedicated and reliable supplier of quality queens to Canada, distributed through the Coop bee supply outlets. We have enjoyed a great working relationship with Gus over the years and appreciate the outstanding service that he has provided to Derrick Johnston and the Bee Supply outlets during the very demanding queen-rearing season. Gus has also recently married so special congratulations to Gus and his new bride Sandy.

This past year saw the official retirement of Martin Nechwediuk following over 33 years of dedicated service to Bee Maid Honey and the Honey Coops. The Bee Maid Board at the Manitoba Annual Meeting recognized Martin and his wife Leona with a golfing holiday to enjoy with their newfound leisure time.

Bee Maid is pleased to announce the addition of Ms. Isela Arroyo to the Bee Maid marketing team. Isela will be concentrating on our "Good for You!" honey campaign in Canada, promoting the health and goodness of high quality Canadian honey packed by the Bee Maid.

Letter to the editor

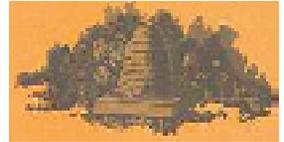
The American Beekeeper Federation is most appreciative of the Candian Honey Council's willingness to share, for a reasonable fee, the data CHC had developed and submitted to the Pest Management Regulatgory Agency (PMRA) for the registration of oxalic acid for the treatment of varroa mites.

This data will be of great assistance to ABF as we apply for registration of oxalic acid with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I am sure that it will enable us to achieve U.S. registration much sooner than otherwise.

Sincerely,

Troy Fore
Executive Director
American Beekeeper Federation

BeeMaid Honey Ltd.



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Anti dumping action; An insurance policy

Corey Bacon, B's Bee Ranch, Kinistino, SK

The price of honey, like all commodities, is cyclical by nature. There are highs and lows. In the history of beekeeping the

average yearly price of honey has only held above \$1.00/lb during 4 years. Two of those years followed directly after the American anti-dumping action and Chinese Chloramphenicol residue problems. Is it realistic to expect honey prices to climb above \$1.00/lb for the next 5 consecutive years without a crop shortage or significant action from our industry on a number of fronts? We are small players in a global market where the trends show developing countries growing exponentially in the agriculture sector. This will also prove true for honey production. While we cannot compete with \$1.00/day labour, we can legally protect ourselves through an anti-dumping action and at least lock in our price at our cost of production.

I believe we (Canadian Honey Council) need a multi-faceted approach heading forward.

First, is to successfully pursue an anti-dumping action. This will hopefully give us 5 years of a \$1.00/lb base price. However, after a 5-year review it is not uncommon for actions to be in force for 10 years or even longer.

Secondly, we must promote our product to our consumers and educate them so that they will want 100% Canadian Honey.

Thirdly, we need to be one strong national organization and present a united presence in Ottawa. We need a properly funded national council that has the ability and financial backing to operate more effectively on a national stage to promote and protect our industry. No one will do it for us; we must achieve that on our own.

Fourthly, we need to achieve a national levy (or some other means to properly fund ourselves). Such a levy would also be imposed on imported honey. This would also give us better access to information on imported honey. We would also be able to use the levy on imported honey to promote our Canadian honey. A levy of 1/2 a cent/lb would enable the CHC to have an operating budget of \$450,000 (\$100,000 of that from foreign honey imports). This type

of budget would allow for continuous marketing, education and promotion of our product plus give us the ability to truly operate more effectively on a national level.

Finally, we need to get the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on board. Not only do we need honey regulation changes to address issues of truth in labelling, the misuse of the word "honey" and adulteration of honey, we also need some type of mandatory food safety regulation (mandatory plant facility registration and inspection, potable water, etc) that would also be imposed on producers importing honey into Canada.

Implementing these steps would likely eliminate most foreign honey entering Canada; increasing the price of domestic honey. With action that leads to increasing honey prices, producers would likely be more willing to spend the money to meet some sort of mandatory food safety regulations, further increasing the value and return for our product.

If we continue to allow foreign honey into our market, maintaining a cost to producers at below the cost of production, there is the risk that the Americans could one day take action against us. Also, if consumers go to the supermarket and the only choices of honey they have are Chinese, Australian/Chinese blend, Argentine, Chinese/Argentine blend where will that leave our Canadian industry in the future. Check out your local Superstore and see how much 100% pure Canadian honey you can find?

For me, the simplest way to look at anti dumping action is as an insurance policy. Basically, you are buying insurance that should protect the price of honey from falling below approximately \$1.00/lb for 5 years. Like all insurance, it may not be needed but thank God it's there if it is needed.

Cost vs. benefit example:

For an operator of 1,000 colonies this action costs \$500 in support (\$.50/colony requested by the CHC), or more if you wish. For that \$500 you are buying insurance that the price of honey should not fall below \$1.00/lb. At 200 lbs/colony, production for one year would be 200,000 lbs. If this action was able to increase your price by \$0.20/lb for that one year, it would be an increase of \$40,000 in revenue, an 8,000% return on your insurance. That's \$4,000 for every \$0.01 increase in the price of honey. If that were the case for 5 years, you would be looking at a \$200,000 increase in revenue. At a worst case scenario, honey climbs to \$1.00/lb on its own and maintains that level for 5 years. You are out of pocket \$100/year to ensure that minimum return of \$1.00/lb. That's a very small price to pay!

It's time to move forward, together. Let's not let the past impede the future!

I encourage you to support this action by donating at least \$0.50/colony to the anti-dumping fund and encourage your beekeeping peers across Canada to do the same. While the funds are very important, it is also important for the CHC to show how the effects of cheap foreign honey being dumped into Canada have impacted Canadian producers. The CHC is requesting volunteers who would be willing to provide records to complete the action for submission to the CBSA. What we need is records/examples of:

1. loss of sales because you could not/would not lower your price to compete with foreign honey
2. reduced sales price due to foreign honey or packer requiring less Canadian honey due to foreign honey
3. larger on farm inventories due to lack of demand and or adequate price for Canadian honey due to foreign honey

We are very close to launching this action. I think it is imperative that we have this action launched before the Chinese and Argentine honey crops are harvested in late January and early February. If you can help or have questions please contact your CHC delegate or the CHC office.



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Start Date: Monday, Feb 13, 2006

Required: • Completion of high school • Class 5 Drivers License • 3-5 years commercial beekeeping experience that includes queen rearing and pollination services • Speak, read, write English

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To Apply: By Email: Gibeau@honeybeecentre.com, By Fax: (604) 575-2338, or By Mail: Honeybee Centre, 7480 176 Street, Surrey, B.C, V3S 8E7



Honeybee Centre



Russian Bee Project Results are promising

François Petit, Pilgrim Community Ventures, Apple Hill, ON

It has been 6 seasons since the Russian bee stock has been introduced into Canada. The stock has been distributed modestly across

Canada in all provinces, with the exception of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. This article will attempt to give an assessment of the progress from 2002 to 2005.

The objectives of the Russian Bee Project are as follows:

-  utilize the genetic material acquired through natural selection for resistance to Varroa found in Eastern Russia,
-  continue the selection needed to bring this stock to acceptable level of productivity,
-  distribute the stock to beekeepers and breeders across Canada, and
-  provide a long-term solution to the invasion of Varroa mites in honeybee populations across Canada.

Summary of work so far

The stock was first imported to the University of Guelph, Ontario in 2000. It underwent extensive study by Geoff Wilson, under the supervision of Dr. Medhat Nasr. To maintain purity of stock, until 2002, it was bred in isolation on an island. Importation has continued every year since then. This study yielded important observations on their genetic traits including their ability to resist Varroa mites (Wilson et al. 2002).

In 2001, the stock began to be turned over to our commercial operation for further development, and distribution across Canada. We began in 2001 by establishing drone colonies, using eggs from the island breeder colonies. This gave us open mated Russian colonies, but the drones were pure Russian stock. These





Excellent hygienic behaviour

colonies would be used the following season for mating in an isolated area.

In 2002, the third importation occurred, and we requeened the majority of our production colonies with pure Russian queens. We also produced a number of 4-frame nuclei (both open and closed (pure) mating) to be offered for sale in spring 2003. These nucs disappeared like hot cakes!

In 2003 we continued producing 4-frame nuclei, pure and open mated queens, for selection and distribution purposes. Another importation occurred. We now had 11 families (lines) to work with. We also began testing the stock raised in 2002 with the Hygienic Test and the Quick-Test, for resistance to Varroa, brood diseases and Honeybee Tracheal Mites (HTM).

This kind of breeding involves a lot of planning and attention to details. It takes 2 years to select a queen for breeding purposes. We had to wait until 2004 to be able to fully utilize the data from the 2002 queens that we collected in 2003.

In 2004, we proceeded in our breeding and selection process, selecting the best queens we could find in our operation, both mother and drone colonies. We were able to distribute open mated queens and nuclei to beekeepers across Canada. Testing was done again on another generation of pure Russian queens. For the first time, we were able to measure honey production for each pure colony. Another importation was successfully completed, thanks to the Tech-Transfer Team of the Ontario Beekeepers Association, who organized everything each time. Another kind of test was ▶ pg 20

François Petit, Janet Tam (OBA Tech Transfer Team) and student Katie Marshall, holding frames with imported pieces of comb and eggs. These are introduced into nursing colonies in quarantine area behind.

The Easiest Way to Colour Grade Honey; The Hanna Honey Colour Analyzer

Dan Lalonde, Hanna Distributer, TLS Prt, Clavet, SK

The Hanna C221 Honey Colour Analyzer is an excellent way to eliminate associated errors in the colour grading of honey. The instrument provides quick precise digital readings which are accurate to ± 2 mm Pfund. It has a grade range from 0 mm to 150 mm allowing use for the lightest water white samples to the darkest melter honey samples. Samples will never have to be colour graded by eye again.

The Hanna Colour Analyzer requires a 5 ml sample of honey, placed in a cuvet with a syringe. Each cuvet has a 10 mm light path through which a beam of light is transmitted. The amount of light that passes through the honey, and is received in the receptor, determines the colour grade. The honey sample should be free of all wax particles, air bubbles and must be in its liquid state to give an accurate reading.

The analyzer is calibrated using glycerol which sets the machine to 0.0mm Pfund. Once this is complete the cap is removed and the honey sample replaces the glycerol in the chamber. One touch of the "read" button will give a quick judgment of the honey sample. This process can be repeated for any amount of samples under one calibration as long as the analyzer remains on. Ten minutes of non-use will automatically turn the instrument off and then it must be recalibrated with glycol before another honey sample can be judged.

The Hanna colour kit includes the color analyzer and cap, power adaptor, two 5 ml syringes, five cuvetts, 30 ml of glycerol and an optional refractometer. Additional cuvetts can be ordered by the case of 82 which also comes with two extra syringes and 30 ml of glycol. The dimensions of the analyzer are 9" long by 6 1/2" wide by 3 1/2" tall, so it requires little storage room. With the ease of use and accuracy of this unit, it would make a popular addition to any beekeepers operation.



The tap-root is long, commonly 15 to 45 cm deep but occasionally over 100 cm. This length is also a weakness as it provides an effective means of biological control — tillage that cuts the root 10 cm below the crown will generally kill the plant.

The Latin name means “official remedy for illnesses”. The word dandelion comes from the French name for the plant, *dents de lion*. This means teeth of the lion and refers to the jagged edges of the leaf of the plant.

Native Range

A perennial weed, *T. officinale* is an aster of the family Compositae. Although the dandelion is a plant native to Eurasia, it is now common throughout the world, particularly in the temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere. It has not become well established in most of South America.

In Roman Times it became a standard potherb and medicinal plant and as a result was moved across Europe to France and the British Isles. During the colonial era, settlers took the dandelion around the world. The first recorded appearance in Canada was by the French settlers in the 1700s. It was brought to the new world for use in salads and as a health remedy.

Canadian Distribution

The dandelion is found across Canada from Newfoundland and Labrador to British Columbia and through most of the USA.

Ecology

Dandelions are hardy forbs that grow best in moist areas with full sun. They are found in most regions of Canada in nearly every habitat. The rosette of leaves forms a funnel shape that brings rainfall to the center at the tap-root. This simple tap-root allows the dandelion to adapt to various soil types and moisture regimes. Once established they can survive dry conditions.

Dandelion leaves are edible. They are used in salads and provide good quality grazing for animals. Their presence in forage does not significantly reduce the nutritive value of the crop. The dandelion is related to chicory, which is why the root is often used as a coffee substitute.

Flowering begins in early spring. Often it is one of the first blooms, but limited flowering can continue throughout the growing season with a limited ‘second’ bloom at the end of summer. Dandelion seeds are an important food to many small birds.

Methods of Reproduction and Spread

T. officinale can reproduce asexually by new shoots from the root crowns or sexually by seeds (3 to 4 mm). The seed head comprises a ball-shaped cluster of about 200 small, long - white, tufted, one-seeded fruit. The seeds or achenes are attached to small parachute-like hairs that allow the seed to be spread by the wind.

Honey/Pollen Potential

The dandelion produces abundant pollen and nectar. Colonies rarely produce a surplus of dandelion honey because it is used in the early spring build up. The sugar concentration of the nectar is about average, less than most of the clovers but greater than the goldenrods at about 20% to 50%. Pollen production is high, up to 1.2 mg/ flower/day, with a high protein content. The blossom can be so attractive to honey bees that it may cause problems for pollinators in orchards where fruit trees and dandelions often bloom simultaneously.

Although every homeowner’s nightmare is endless fields of dandelions, such expanses are rare. When concentrations of blossom are available, honey production can range from 100 to 200 kg/ ha. Yields per colony can range from 9 to 95 kg per season. In Europe, a surplus of dandelion honey is expected only once in ten years.

Dandelion honey is light coloured, yellowish orange, and can have a peculiar taste, very sweet but also with the slight aromatic scent of the dandelion

BeeMaid Supports Bee Research in Canada

Gordon Marks, BeeMaid Honey, Winnipeg, MB

BeeMaid Honey is proud to announce that they will be contributing financial assistance to the following research projects this coming year:

Dr. Stephen Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge Research Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta

Management of Honey Bee Diseases Using Lysozyme. Options for the control of the bacterial brood diseases of honey bees, American foulbrood and European foulbrood

and

Medhat Nasr, Alberta Provincial Apiculturist- Research Scientist. Edmonton, Alberta

Study of Environmental Sources for Antibiotic Residues in Honey

Bee Maid considered project proposals in the area of apiculture or pollination research. Preference was given to the area of honey, and the production of pure quality honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry.

Budget constraints limit our funding capacity. The beekeeping industry in Western Canada recognizes the need to support research and is responding. The Alberta Beekeepers Association is shifting to a commission format and has increased the levy commercial beekeepers are

flower. It has a high glucose level, thus there is a reported tendency for unisource dandelion honey to granulate easily, although this is generally not a problem as the honey is usually a spring mixture. Crystallization of honey is related the glucose/fructose ratio and having a high glucose level would increase the tendency to granulate. Spring honey, often comprised of dandelion and various trees sources (e.g. apple, chokecherry, maple, etc.), when produced in surplus is considered a specialty honey for its light colour and mild flavour.

Although honey allergies are rare, in Europe, it has been found that 3/4 of people with such allergies are sensitive to what is identified as dandelion honey. The cause is generally believed to be the dandelion pollen.

Other Uses

Dandelions are sensitive little weather instruments that respond to precipitation, sunshine, temperature and humidity as they grow. All of these factors affect when a dandelion will produce its first bud and when it will blossom into a flower. If a winter has been long and cold, and the

spring has been cloudy then the flower will bloom later. If the spring is early, sunny, warm, and with enough rain then the dandelion will bloom earlier. The wide distribution, early bloom, and sensitivity to weather has made the dandelion a selected indicator that Environment Canada has used with school children across Canada to monitor climate change. More information can be found at the DandelionWatch web site: http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/plantwatch/dandelion/why_watch.html.

Reference:

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assessed. Saskatchewan beekeepers are in the process of altering their format and increasing dues. One of the primary stimuli for these changes is to increase and direct research funding from the entire industry.

Bee Maid Honey is the marketing organization owned by the Alberta Honey Producers Cooperative Ltd. and the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Ltd. Both member owned Cooperatives have lead the beekeeping industry in their support for beekeeping research. With the formation of the Alberta Beekeepers Commission, Alberta beekeepers are supporting these research projects more than ever before. Alberta Coop members are supporting research through both the Commission and the Bee Maid Research Program. All Bee Maid Coop members are supporting research through their Bee Maid contribution, Provincial Association and the Canadian Honey Council's; Canadian Bee Research Fund. Bee Maid and the membership of the two Coops recognize the importance of research and take pride in their leadership and urge all beekeepers to support their Provincial Associations and the Canadian Honey Council research projects.

For further information, please contact:

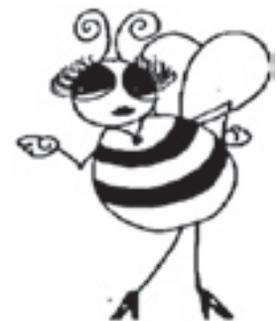
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Oxalic Acid Approval

Heather Clay, National Coordinator, Canadian Honey Council

It's official. Oxalic acid is approved for the treatment of varroa mites in honeybees in Canada.

The approval was granted after a lengthy process. The Canadian Honey Council spent months preparing the documentation for an application for the registration of oxalic acid with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. The application was lodged in January 2005. After review and discussion of the data that we supplied, the PMRA announced October 3, 2005 that oxalic acid has been approved for the treatment of varroa mites on honeybees. The approval is not a full registration and not an exemption. The official status is not well defined and we are seeking clarification or full registration. In the meantime beekeepers can legally use oxalic acid according to the method specified on the PMRA and CHC websites.

A great deal of work went into the oxalic acid project. Without the Canadian data provided by researchers in eastern and western Canada we might still be waiting for approval. We would like to thank researchers Pierre Giovenazzo, University of Laval, who conducted research on alternative treatments for varroa mites in Quebec. He provided important data on efficacy and residues.

Alison Skinner and Janet Tam, Ontario Tech Transfer program, provided efficacy data from successive years of work in Ontario. Medhat Nasr, Alberta Provincial Apiculturist assisted with reviewing the documentation and providing data from his research on alternative pesticides for varroa mites. Willy Baumgartner, Medivet



1

with financial donations. We would like to thank those beekeepers as well as BeeMaid Honey and Medivet for contributing to the success of the project. It took months of superhero work to gather the information and prepare the documentation. For this we thank Adrienne Clay.

The CHC offered the oxalic acid information package that was developed for registration in Canada to the American Beekeeping Federation. They recognised the value of the offer and agreed to proceed with registration in the USA. We all look forward to oxalic acid being available to beekeepers throughout North America in the near future.



2



3

Pharmaceuticals provided Swiss documentation, translations and technical advice where necessary. We also appreciate the help that was given by PMRA staff. Our application for registration did not fit their normal process and the review team showed patience and understanding in working with us.



5

Canadian beekeepers supported the oxalic acid project



- 1 *Willie Baumgartner*
- 2 *Adrienne Superhero who assembled the data package.*
- 3 *Pierre Giovenazzo*
- 4 *Alison Skinner and Janet Tam*
- 5 *Medhat Nasr*

Rudy Gelderblom, CBISQT committee, AB

The Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability (C-BISQT) program for on farm food safety is undergoing final amendments before its technical review by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The program should be rolled out to beekeepers later this year. At the Alberta Beekeepers Association in November, the committee took the opportunity to meet face to face and resolve some outstanding issues. The record keeping system was reviewed and some holes in the beekeepers manual were filled.

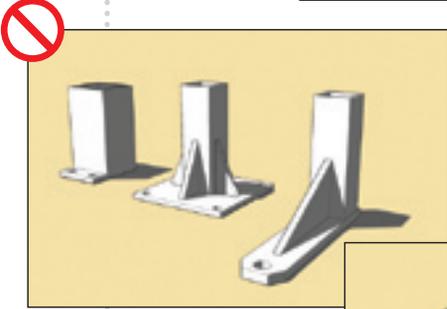
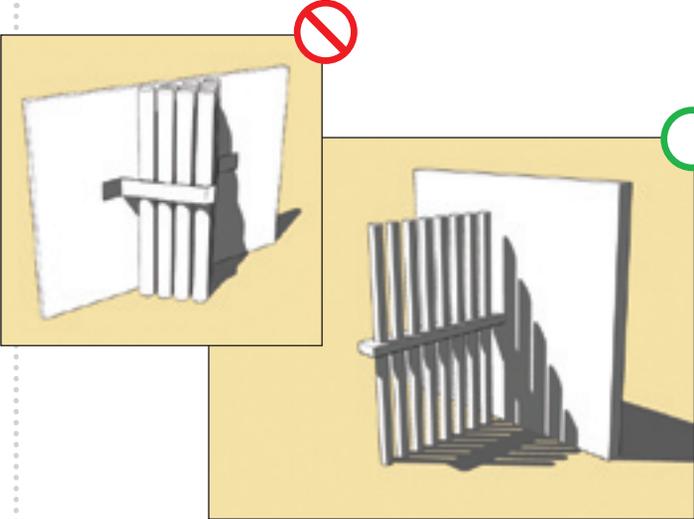
The proposed record keeping system is designed to be as flexible as possible. Beekeepers currently not keeping records can be supplied with a set of forms that they can use and be confident that their records will meet the requirements of the programme. Beekeepers who have a record keeping system in place and prefer to use their own system can do so as long as all the data points that are described

in the “official” C-BISQT record keeping system can be retrieved from their record keeping system. They will have to transcribe a portion of their records to the C-BISQT system for the auditor. It would not be feasible for an auditor to get up to speed with a large variety of record keeping systems.

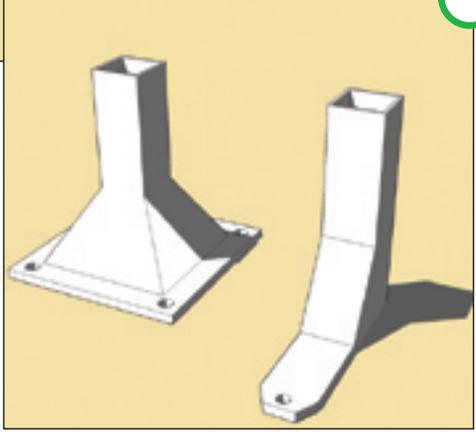
The manual describes Good Production Practices in beekeeping operations whether certified under the program or not. It also provides beginning beekeepers with information that they can use to set up a new business or hobby.

The manual begins with a description of the Clean Design principles that should be followed when constructing or renovating a facility. These principles are really common sense design features for a structure that facilitate cleaning. For instance, it is fairly obvious that certain profiles for structural members are easier to clean than others (see illustrations). These

principles do not add much, if anything, to construction cost.



“dirty” structural members and their “Clean” equivalents. At left there are many corners that are hard to clean, two designs on the right have no sharp corners where dirt and debris could collect.



Grouping cable in a tight group makes the cables hard to clean. Right illustration shows how to lay out cable that must be exposed so it can be cleaned effectively.

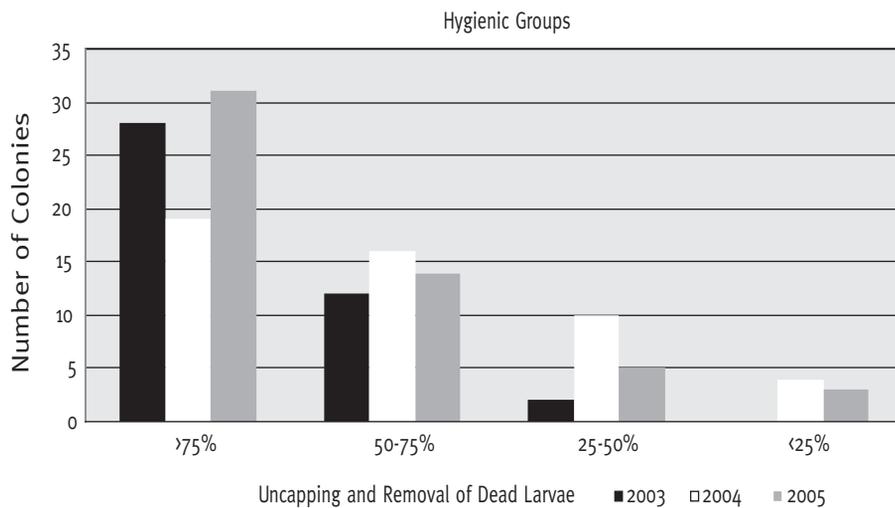
The manual describes step by step the production process for honey and details any conceivable hazard encountered on the way and how to eliminate or reduce the risks to human health posed by various kinds of contamination.

The record keeping system is described in detail and a reference section with a glossary of terms and contact information for government agencies and labs. A Self Audit form that allows beekeepers to

assess their own operation in terms of the requirements described in the manual, concludes the manual.

The next steps in the development of the programme, after a successful technical review, involve creating auditing standards; frequency of audits, field audits versus desk audits, how auditors are selected and trained and how the C-BISQT certification process takes place.





performed at the end of the season. The 24-Hour Mite Drop measured the size of the Varroa mite population in the colony at the end of the season. This allowed us to detect which colonies had a relatively low level of mites compared to the other colonies in the same apiary.

In 2005, we began to observe encouraging signs of improvement in overall colony behaviour and strength. They came out of winter with larger clusters, they built up faster, and produced surplus honey with the dandelion flow. This year (2005), we harvested our best honey crop since we began with the Russian stock in 2003. Remember 2001 and 2002 were transition years and the honey surplus came from our previous Ontario stock.

The objective of this work was to gather a large gene pool to set up a closed breeding program. The ultimate goal is to improve the stock in terms of

resistance to both mites (Varroa and HTM), overall production of honey, and bees for pollination. In addition as this is believed related to hygienic traits, it will give the beekeeping community a long-term approach to managing for antibiotic-resistant AFB without sacrificing overall production.

Now, let us take a closer look at the test results. These include the Hygienic test, the Quick-Test, the 24-Hour Mite Drop, and honey production.

Hygienic Test

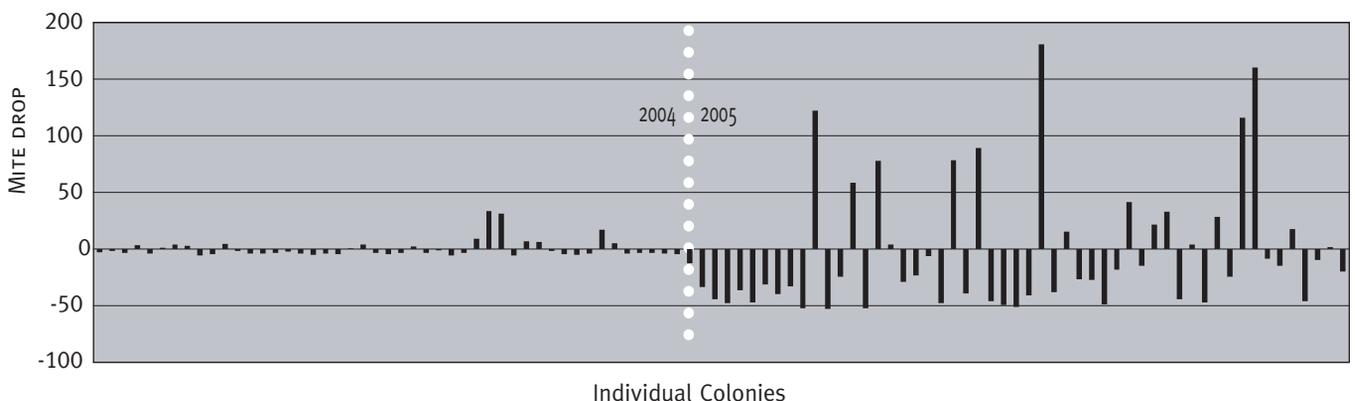
The Russian stock is hygienic. From the start, it exhibited strong hygienic behaviour in the test results. The graph above demonstrates this clearly. Most colonies tested are classified as Group 1 or 2. Group 1 being >75% uncapping and removal of dead larvae, Group 2 - 50% to 75% uncapping and removal, Group 3 - >25% to 50%, and Group 4 <25%. This was observed

The Hygienic Test consists of removing a frame of capped brood, placing a ring of known area on the brood, and pouring liquid nitrogen on the area of capped brood to freeze-kill the pupae inside. 24 hours later the number of cells that have been uncapped and the dead pupae removed are counted. This test measures the ability of the colony to detect, uncap and remove the contents of capped brood cells affected by disease or Varroa mites, thus cleaning out infection before it spreads.

The Quick-Test consists of introducing newly emerged worker bees (not infected by HTM) into a colony highly infected with HTM. A week later the same bees are collected, dissected and the number of mites counted and assessed. The results are used to determine which colonies are least affected by HTM, and therefore exhibiting resistance.

The 24-Hour Mite Drop Test

measures the number of dead Varroa mites falling off the cluster onto a sticky board placed on the floor of the colony over a period of 2 to 3 days. This test is normally done at the end of the season. This value is representative of the population of Varroa in the colony. The colony shows resistance to Varroa buildup if the count is low compared to the apiary average.



Results from 24-hour mite drop test in 2004 and 2005. The mite drop is standardized to the apiary mean of each year, 5.5 in 2004 and 63 in 2005.

Canadian Honey

Rudy Gelderblom, CBISQT committee, Calgary, AB

The CHC supports the promotion of Canadian honey as a premium product. However sourcing funding and developing a strategy for a successful campaign is a daunting task. We have enlisted the aid of Karo Design to develop a brand for Canadian honey. They have expertise in branding and creative design. Over the next few months they will work with us to produce effective advertising for different media and co-ordinate a marketing campaign for Canadian producers.

Those in attendance at the ABA meeting in Edmonton in the fall may have heard the presentation from a spokesman from Karo Design on branding. It was well received as it articulated the sense that many producers have that a Canadian brand of honey not only would be good for the industry, it might be essential.

There is, shall we say, room for improvement in terms of revenues earned by honey producers. The graph published in the previous issue of Hivelights (So, let them eat cake!) shows a flat or slightly rising trend in the price of honey on the shelves in grocery stores — and a decidedly diving trend in the price of honey at the wholesale level.

Major factors implicated in this trend are:

- The availability of inexpensive honey through imports.
- An attitude that honey is honey is honey. In other words, honey is a commodity. The latter promotes the sentiment that, if all honey is the same, why not buy the cheapest?.

Of course, honey is a commodity and to that extend subject to price fluctuations driven by variations in supply and demand. But it can be more than just a commodity.

There is room in the market for honey that differentiates itself from other honeys by virtue of its qualities. A honey that takes pride in its distinctiveness and whose label broadcasts to consumers that it has been produced in accordance with the highest production values and safety standards, produced in an environment ideally suited to the production of superior honey, an environment unmatched anywhere in the world. This is, naturally, Canadian Honey. Honey with a capital H... and priced accordingly.

By making this claim the honey draws attention to itself and develops awareness amongst consumers that some honey has more of a personality than others. It has more flavour and a more distinctive flavour because it has not been blended with other honeys to remove any distinctiveness (the cynics among us will contend that almost any flavour would be an improvement over some of the bland product currently on the shelves). It promises to be more enjoyable than that other, commodity honey and worth the premium. It has greater nutritional value. It is a safe product, free of contaminants. It is, in fact, honey; produced by bees, not synthesized from other sweeteners and not diluted with other sweeteners.

Canadian honey can deliver on this promise. It can meet the expectations built in the market place through an effective marketing campaign. It can be differentiated from other honey if labeling accurately reflects the content of what is labeled. A product labeled, “Canadian Honey” is Canadian honey, not Argentinian or Chinese honey blended with Canadian honey and/or packed in Canada to meet the current definition of being Canadian. It is Canadian honey because the honey was produced in Canada, by Canadian producers with Canadian bees. (OK, technically the queens immigrated from Hawaiï, but then, a lot of beekeepers are immigrants too....)

The process of transformation of honey produced in Canada, under the current definition, to Canadian Honey involves:

- **Building the quality assurance program.** A common production standard in the industry with documented procedures and regularly audited records to attest to the adherence of the established standards, assures the public that the honey they consume is of the highest quality and earns the public trust required to support an enduring brand.
- **Legislated labeling requirements** that ensure accurate representation of the content labeled. If anybody can call almost any honey Canadian honey there is no such thing as Canadian honey. There have to be more restrictive criteria in place than is currently the case.
- **An icon** that captures and personifies the qualities of Canadian Honey. The presence of an easily recognized and memorable icon unites honey from different suppliers as being part of this same family of Canadian honey.
- **A promotional campaign** that delivers to the public the promise of Canadian Honey and that introduces the icon by which Canadian Honey can be recognized.
- **Money.** The industry will have to invest money to pay for the radio spots, billboards, printed ads, market research, mascots and demos in stores. But money is also available through:

Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agrifood (ACAAF),

Canadian Agriculture and Food International Program (CAFI),

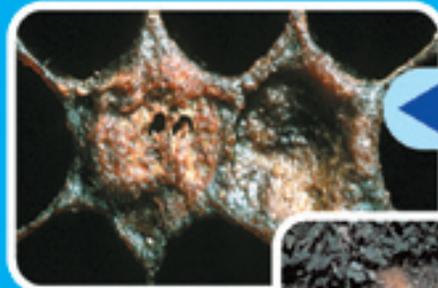
Provincial government marketing and export assistance.

And, eventually, consumers will start to support Canadian Honey through their purchasing habits, both at home and abroad.

EFB



AFB



TREATMENT!

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.

AFB disseminates rapidly through the colony and, if left unchecked, spreads quickly to other healthy colonies both in the same apiary and those nearby.



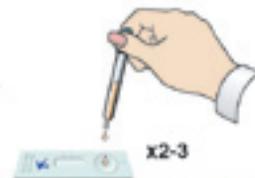
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before our own selection had begun. Over the years, we have maintained and improved this characteristic.

Quick-Test

For the Quick-Test, it is a different story. The test results indicated some resistance, even on the first test, before selection for this trait; but the distribution of the trait was not prevalent. In other words, we did not find that the majority of the colonies fell into Groups 1 and 2, like the Hygienic Test. Instead, they were evenly distributed among all Groups, indicating that about half (50%) of the colonies possess this trait. Actually, this is good compared to the Ontario stock. When the local stock was first tested for tracheal mite resistance, it showed higher levels of mites, and it took several generations to bring it to where it is today. The Russian stock was at this same level at the beginning of our program.

24-Hour Mite Drop Test

The 24-Hour Mite Drop Test when performed in September provides an indicator of the size of population of Varroa mites in the colony. This suggests that the colony is able to somehow prevent the growth in population of Varroa. By surveying 25% or more of each apiary, we establish what we consider the Standardized Apiary Average. This apiary average was determined using random colonies in each apiary, whether they were open mated or closed mated. However, only the pure Russian breeder colonies were tested for mite drop to compare to the mean of these random colonies. We always use strong colonies for this test, not newly established colonies with smaller population of bees and thus lower populations of mites.

We then compare the mite drop of each individual tested colony to this Standardized Apiary Average by calculating the difference. If the colony has fewer mites than the average, then it indicates a greater ability to resist the Varroa. The 2 graphs on page 20 show the number of colonies in the

positive range (more mites than the average), and the number of colonies in the negative (less mites than the average). You will notice that there are more colonies in the negative area, thus showing a skewed distribution of the ability to resist Varroa, i.e. most colonies indicate a good resistance to Varroa with only a few being 'problem' colonies

My plan was not to treat for Varroa for the last 3 years (unless the level exceeded a predetermined level); in order to show the ability of this stock to survive on its own. This is why the Standardized Apiary Mean of the mite drop is an order of magnitude higher (5.5 to 63) in 2005 than 2004. I wanted to see how much these colonies headed by pure Russian queens would compare to open mated colonies - Russian and Ontario. To me the fact that so many colonies show a negative difference is of tremendous value! I want to see this fact, so beekeepers across the nation might be aware of the potential of this stock, especially since there was a lot of research money invested in it.

Honey Production

In 2004, we measured honey production for all pure-bred colonies (closed mated) present at the time in our operation, mostly queens introduced in 2003. In 2005, we measured honey production for all colonies with pure queens introduced in 2004. The results indicate an evenly distributed range from 0 to 176 pounds in 2004 with a mean of 83.5 pounds and in 2005 a range of 0 to 328 pounds with a mean of 152 pounds. This shows a need for more selection, to select the genes responsible for higher honey production. The 2005 results show an improvement over 2004 however, we can not say for sure that this is due to the season or better bee genetics.

Discussion

The test results discussed above show what may be a trend towards improvement over time of the Russian stock. It shows that this stock has the

potential needed to become productive as well as resistant to mites and brood diseases. It has already proven itself productive in 2 commercial operations in eastern Ontario which have utilized it widely for a few years now. Their reports indicate overall satisfaction with productivity and good resistance to Varroa.

Next phase of breeding program

The next phase for our breeding program will begin in 2006, ending in 2008. This time, we will concentrate more on traits such as spring build-up, disinclination to swarming, gentleness, and honey production; all the while maintaining selection pressure on hygienic behaviour, resistance to Varroa and HTM, and other traits as well. In order to do so, we will pay more attention to fall treatments, making sure the level of Varroa is not allowed to reach damaging proportions, by following a Integrated Pest Management strategy, as recommended by the Ontario Provincial Apiarist. This way, we will have colonies with fewer mites, and we will better able to select for higher production traits. We will continue to produce queens, cells and nucleus colonies for interested beekeepers, as well as queen bee breeder. For more information, visit our website, write or call me; I'll be happy to chat with you. Have a good and restful winter. God bless you all.

References

Wilson, G., M. Nasr, P. Kevan. 2002. Varroa Resistance and Economic Traits of Russian Honey Bees in Canada. *Hivelights* 15 (5): 15-17.

Editors Note:

François is an accomplished beekeeper who has dedicated his life in Christian service. His methodical record keeping and promising results are a testimony to his dedication.

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Classifieds

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Permanent full-time \$13.59/hour, 35 hrs/week in off season. Housing, vehicle, medical insurance provided. Queen rearing, pollination, honey production, construction and maintenance. Experience preferred. Driver's license. English essential. Contact Colin or Ruby, rubidia@telusplanet.net. Phone 403-362-5971 or fax 403-362-7532. M Lazy S Land Co. Ltd., Tilley, AB.

Help Wanted 66

Experienced beekeeper for season April to November for honey and queen production. Phone/Fax Dave 780-826-6013 or email tntapi@incentre.net

Beekeeper Positions 57

3 experienced beekeepers wanted for April-November 2006. Preference will be given to candidates with queen rearing and royal jelly production experience. Monthly salary range \$2200 - \$2700, depending on experience.

Send resumes to Manager, Honeyland Canada Inc manger@HoneylandCanada.com or Fax 604-460-8887.

Beekeepers Wanted 68

2 to 4 experienced beekeepers wanted from March-November. Preference will be given to candidates with queen rearing experience. Wages \$8-11 per hour based on experience. Contact Jean Marc Le Dorze, jmcshipley@shaw.ca Golden Ears Apiaries BC. Phone 604-820-6924.

Beekeepers Wanted 69

Full time beekeeping help, April to October. Beekeeping experience is essential. Wages \$12 per hour. Contact Yves Garez, y.garez@sasktel.net, Nipawin SK.

Beekeeping Help 70

Full time beekeeping help, April to October. Beekeeping experience would be preferred. Wages start at \$12.00 per hour. Contact Mark Knox, mknox@lincsat.com 306-862-5657, Box 179 Nipawin, SK. SOE 1E0.

Help Wanted 71

Full time beekeeping lead hand position available in Southern Ontario. Prospective applicant should have a working knowledge of basic beekeeping procedures, and a good driving record. Seasonal positions are also available. Please send resume and references to Dutchman's Gold Inc., 300 Carlisle Rd., Carlisle, Ont. L0R-1H2. Attention John Van Alten. Fax to 905-689-7730, or email to info@dutchmansgold.com

Help Wanted 72

Beekeepers with a minimum 1 year of experience are required for 2006 at Golden Eagle Apiaries located in Pitt Meadows, BC. Qualified candidates will have knowledge of honey bee colony pathology and management, experience in queen rearing, and good driving skills. This position pays (Can) \$1750 - 2000 per month, plus accommodation benefits. Contact Neil neilm@aquilini.com or fax 604-460-0944

Beekeepers Wanted 73

2 experienced beekeepers needed from May to Oct 2006. Queen rearing experience essential. Starting wage \$12 per hour. Contact Valteau apiaries valteau.apiaries@sasktel.net SK

For Sale 74

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For Sale 75

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For Sale 60

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For Sale 77

Frames of brood with bees, also have Nucs with queen available May 2006. Call Bryan 204-831-7838 or 204-831-0961.

For Sale 76

4-frame nucs available mid May. Queen cells ready for pickup June and July. Mated queens shipped from mid June to September. Contact: Phil Laflamme RR 3 Lanark ON K0G 1K0 613-259-5553.



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Honey label ► pg 5

Nearly 1,500 consumers in 16 cities were interviewed to determine whether the various statements of identity used for honey blend type sweeteners were appropriately descriptive and not misleading, or whether consumers were confused about the identity and composition of honey blend type sweeteners and were unable to distinguish such sweeteners from 100% pure honey. Results of the study revealed that when shown actual labels of honey blend type sweeteners, roughly one third of the respondents mistakenly believed that the honey blend type sweetener contained "only honey" as an ingredient. This data strongly suggests that many consumers are unable to distinguish honey blend type sweeteners from traditional 100% pure honey products.

In contrast to groups shown actual labels, a group was shown a mock label of a honey blend type sweetener with information disclosing the actual percentage of honey and the presence of corn syrup as part of the statement of identity on the principal display panel. The mock label was designed using the general principles set forth in U.S. FDA's Common or Usual Name for Nonstandardized Foods regulation (21 CFR 102.5). The statement of identity in the mock label consisted of the following description: "Honey Blend/ A Blend of Corn Syrup & Honey/Contains 48% Honey." Confusion was reduced by 21% to 37%. The results suggest that incorporating both a) honey content, and b) description of the other sweetener (i.e. corn syrup) as part of the statement of identity, may be important for consumers to correctly distinguish honey blend type sweeteners from a 100% honey product. Without such information, consumers are more likely to be misled by the statement of identity.

Also, respondents in the study who previously indicated a willingness to purchase the honey blend type sweetener, when told that the product contained as much or more corn syrup, sugar and other sweeteners as

there was real honey, were 50% less likely to purchase the product. It can be concluded that many consumers are unwittingly buying honey blend type sweeteners that they would not otherwise purchase, and these purchase decisions are due in part to misleading labels.

It is a fundamental tenant of U.S. food law that consumers be protected from deceptive or misleading food labels. An orderly market requires that consumers have the right to choose and make informed purchase decisions. Although some consumers suffer no confusion as to the identity of honey blend type sweeteners, the magnitude of consumer confusion inferred by the National Honey Board study supports a case for mandatory label disclosures in line with the General Principles set forth in the FDA's Common or Usual Name for Nonstandardized Foods regulation.

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