

February 2008  
Vol 21 # 1



# Hive Rights

[www.honeycouncil.ca](http://www.honeycouncil.ca)

Canadian Honey Council





Bees need both protein and carbohydrate for good build-up and large honey crops.

Feed protein patties in spring to ensure colony health, maximum build-up and maximum production

Be ready this spring. Save time, money, hassle and mess.

Call now and order

## Ready-Made Pollen Patties

made to *your* specifications

Global is faster, better and cheaper than your other options.

Order one of our standard formulas using yeast, soy, pollen\*, BeePro and sugar, or request your own recipe and patty size.

We'll supply all the ingredients, or use supplies you provide.

Call Frank at 1-866-948-6084 today

or email [frank@globalpatties.com](mailto:frank@globalpatties.com)

Global Patties can be delivered in boxes or on pallets

Visit us at [www.globalpatties.com](http://www.globalpatties.com)

\*Pollen in our formula is irradiated by Iotron for prevention of bee disease

## Bad Beekeeping

by Ron Miksha

(a book about really, really, really BAD beekeeping)

From the prairie badlands of southern Saskatchewan to the palmetto swamps of Florida, this is the story of a beekeeper and his family who survived drought, low prices and Canadian politics, to make a million pounds of honey.

Available from Ron Miksha  
 \$30 CAN or \$25 US  
 email: [miksha@shaw.ca](mailto:miksha@shaw.ca)  
[www.badbeekeeping.com](http://www.badbeekeeping.com)



**Herb Isaac Sales Ltd.**

Box 45, Sinclair, Mb, R0M 2A0  
 Ph: 204 662 4401  
 Fax: 204 662 4547  
[www.herbee.com](http://www.herbee.com)

**New & Used  
 Beekeeping Equipment**

### Extracting Lines

Some replacement parts  
 New Cowen uncapper knives

### New Supers, Frames & Foundation

Wax dipped supers available

### Ezyloaders & accessories

to save your back, time & money



## CHC Forging a New Direction

As our readers know, CHC is the national organization of the Canadian beekeeping industry and Hivelights is the industry's magazine.

Over the past 18 months CHC has been in the process of restructuring to better serve our industry. CHC will become an "organization of organizations" and Hivelights will continue to be one of our major communication vehicles. Support for the work of the CHC is provided by magazine subscriptions, advertising revenue, sponsorships, and memberships.

From now, members of the CHC will be organizations (such as provincial beekeeper associations, industry sectors etc.), not individuals. In 2008, all individuals who belong to CHC member organizations will receive complimentary copies of Hivelights.

In future, associate members and sponsors may also receive Hivelights and other benefits, in return for their financial support. If you want to become an associate member or sponsor, please contact the CHC office.

If you do not belong to a member organization and do not wish to be a sponsor or associate member, but still want to receive a subscription to Hivelights, and continue to be a "Friend of Canadian Apiculture", please contact the CHC office.

Hivelights is published quarterly (Feb./May/Aug./Nov.) by the Canadian Honey Council. The opinions expressed in the articles printed in Hivelights are those of the authors, and do not imply the endorsement of the Canadian Honey Council for the promotion of any product, goods or services mentioned in this publication unless specifically stated.

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

Publication Mail Agreement number

40031644

ISSN 1489-730X

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to  
CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL  
Suite 236, 234 -5149 Country Hills Blvd. NW  
Calgary, AB T3A 5K8  
chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca  
www.honeycouncil.ca  
(403) 208 7141

# HiveLights

February 2008 Vol 21 #1

*The cover shows a caging crew in Chile. More details in the article on Chilean queens by Ron Miksha. Speaking of queens... once more the spine of Hivelights changes to indicate the queen colour for 2008.*



## Table of Contents

- 3** Canadian Honey Council Activities  
Heather Clay
- 4** Provincial Reports  
CHC delegates
- 10** Book Reviews Natural Beekeeping - Bees, Biology and Beekeeping
- 12** Plants for bees  
Douglas Clay
- 14** Chilean Queen Breeding  
Ron Miksha
- 15** Queens from Chile  
Rhéal Lafrenière
- 20** Saving & Making Money by Drying Honey Faster  
Pierre Faure
- 21** Bottom boards with tubes  
Jean-Pierre Le Pabic
- 22** Classifieds
- 26** Island Abbey Foods Introduces the Honey Drop™  
Jodie Trainor

### Illustrations

Directors ..... Billy Burgos  
Cover ..... Photograph courtesy of Ron Miksha  
Chilean Queen Breeding ..... Ron Miksha  
Cotoneaster ..... University Berkley



## *A reliable partner*

Beekeepers have had to broaden their management skills even further with increasing challenges by diseases and pests.

We can help by supplying you with the information you need to make informed decisions about disease prevention and the role of pharmaceuticals in your management practices.

Suppliers of  
Oxytet-25 Soluble  
Fumagilin-B  
Formic Acid  
Bee Repel  
Apistan  
FoulBrood Mix



## Canadian Honey Council: A New Beginning

Heather Clay, National Coordinator CHC

Change is in the air. The Canadian Honey Council (CHC) is poised to take a new path and commit to a restructure plan that will strengthen the organization. After eighteen months of discussions and negotiations, the board of directors is ready to approve changes to the bylaws of the organization. It is a pivotal moment in the history of the CHC.



The need for a national organization has never been stronger. The problem was how to achieve the new organization and develop consensus across a diverse country. With the assistance of Agriculture Agri-Food Canada the CHC embarked on a process to reinvent the organization and to forge a new direction. Any ideas had to meet the Rotary International Four Way test, Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? After eighteen months of hard work, the project team and steering committee gathered and honed the input from the four Future Directions committees and from interested members of the industry and the public to develop the new plan. Industry leaders voted to unanimously support the plan in October 2007. They endorsed twenty founding principles for the new organization. At the Annual General Meeting held in Calgary the delegates will vote for new bylaws that support the changes to membership, participation, and

structure of the organization. It is a new beginning. With the changes will come a change of name. The new organization will have a new name that will be announced in the next issue of Hivelights.

The new organization will be an organization of organizations. We are no longer in competition with provincial associations for members. Each of the provincial associations will be a chapter of the national organization and every member will receive the benefit of membership in the new CHC. This closer working relationship will bring benefits to beekeepers such as receiving Hivelights magazine. In the future we are hoping to achieve cost efficiencies by working with the provinces to have one magazine on a more frequent basis. As well we will be communicating via the web and e-newsletters. The change positions the CHC as the unified voice of the Canadian honey bee industry, allows it to act as the definitive unified instrument for achieving a sustainable Canadian honey bee industry and brings it nearer to more effectively promoting a dynamic and prosperous Canadian honey bee industry. It is a bold new future.

The Canadian Beekeepers Council was formed in 1940 to assist in negotiating fair practices for labeling, grading, and marketing honey at the national level. The fledgling organization was underfunded and slow to communicate. It was difficult to respond to issues or develop the international markets that the members wanted. It was clear that there was a need for a higher profile and increased international recognition. Under the presidency of Vic Mesley and Don Peer the CBC decided to change its name to Canadian Honey Council. In 1970 the newly named organization sought a higher profile and the team made inroads into the UK market. Prices began to rise and the CHC coasted along. Over time the issues have grown with the arrival of exotic pests and diseases, greater use of pesticides and a surge in pollination services. Different proposals have been implemented in an attempt to raise funds for the organization. A levy on glass containers lasted for a few years but did not have the full support of the packers and eventually failed. The 300 club was introduced in the early 1990s but was not popular and was soon dropped. The organization has been operating on and a shoestring budget with dedicated staff and team of volunteers but the situation is not sustainable.

Use round comb section equipment by Ross Rounds, Inc. and see how this low cost investment can increase your profits.

- 8 oz. Sells For Same As 12 oz.
- Minimal Labor
- Bees Fill Completely
- No Breakage And No Propolis
- Attractive Durable Package

To purchase, contact your dealer.  
For more information call  
toll-free: 877.901.4989

**ROSS  
ROUNDS**<sup>TM</sup>

www.rossrounds.com  
PO Box 11583, Albany, NY 12211



CHC - CCM  
Delegates 2008  
Canadian Honey Council  
Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT** Ed Nowek  
BC Honey Producers  
Association  
5011 Bella Vista Rd  
Vernon BC V1H 1A1  
ph. 250-542-8088  
beeworld@junction.net

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ TREASURER**

Corey Bacon  
Saskatchewan Beekeepers  
Association  
B's Bee Ranch, Box 84  
Kinistino SK S0J 1H0  
ph. 306-864-3774  
fax 306-864-3260  
beeranch@sasktel.net

**CHC OFFICE, NATIONAL COORDINATOR**

Heather Clay  
Suite 236, 234-5149  
Country Hills Blvd NW  
Calgary AB T3A 5K8  
ph. 403-208-7141  
fax 403-547-4317  
chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca

**NON VOTING CAPA DELEGATE**

Stephen Pernal  
AAFC Research Station  
Beaverlodge AB T0H 0C0  
ph 780-354-5135 Fax 780-354-  
8171  
pernals@agr.gc.ca

**CANADIAN POLLINATORS ASSOCIATION**

TBA

**CANADIAN QUEEN BEE BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION**

No delegate

**HONEY PRODUCER-PACKER  
ASSOCIATION**

No delegate

**BEE SUPPLY ASSOCIATION**

TBA

**DIRECTORS**

Tom Trueman  
Maritime Beekeepers  
Association  
200 Etter ridge Rd  
Aulac NB E4L 2V2  
ph 506-536-2854  
fax 506-536-3088  
trueman@eastlink.ca

Jean François Doyon  
287 Rang Beauvillage  
Saint Sylvestre QC G0S 3C0  
ph 418-596-3037  
rucher@altanet.ca

Dan Walker (Acting)  
Ontario Beekeepers  
Association  
9327 Scotchmere Dr  
Strathroy ON N7G 3H3  
ph 519-245-5361  
walkerb655@hotmail.com

Bruce Podolsky  
Manitoba Beekeepers  
Association  
Box 1  
Ethelbert MB R0L 0T0  
ph 204-742-3535  
podolskihoneysfarms@hotmail.  
com

Ron Greidanus  
Alberta Beekeepers  
PO Box 1581  
Stettler AB T0C 2L0  
ph 403-742-8723  
pattiron@telus.net

Lorne Peters  
Bee Maid Honey  
Peters Honey Farm  
Box 98  
Kleefeld MB R0A 0V0  
ph 204-377-4242  
lppeters@mts.net

# Provincial Reports



## Maritime



Paul Kittilsen

Winter has arrived early in the Maritimes, over night it seems. Is this global warming?

At the time of writing this report the cold is threatening to push the mercury through the bottom of the thermometer and break it, if the wind doesn't blow it off the side of the house first. All ready this winter it seems we have had more snow than during all of last year.

The Maritimes was blessed with a good honey crop this season. The fall weather was dry and warm for getting work done to the beehives.

New Brunswick beekeepers have recovered well after their devastating loss last winter. After a 60% loss they have recovered all but 10% of their fall 2006 number. The New Brunswick beekeepers have embarked on strategic planning sessions to determine the future direction of their association.

Nova Scotia's annual meeting will be held February 22 and 23 at the Kentville Research Station. Mr. Kirk Webster, organic beekeeper and author for the American Bee Journal and Vermont beekeeper will be the guest speaker.



The demand for bees for blueberry pollination is expected to be strong in the spring of 2008 due to the high price of blueberries and retirement of one of the larger beekeepers in the province.

This is my last report as the Maritime Delegate to the Canadian Honey Council. My term is up and I am being replaced by Mr. Tom Trueman from New Brunswick. Tom will have the pleasure of carrying on as delegate to the CHC as it travels forward in its new direction. Tom will no doubt introduce himself in his first report. I have enjoyed my time as delegate and enjoyed meeting and working with the other directors and Heather Clay. It was particularly satisfying to watch the Forging a New Direction plan develop and now start to be implemented. I think the directors, Heather and Green Isle Consulting are to be congratulated on the monumental effort. I wish everyone the best in the upcoming season.

**Quebec**

The fall season started with perfect weather conditions to help beekeepers feeding colonies for the coming cold winter. It also allowed them sufficient time for treatments against the varroa destructor mite. Now

let's hope wintering will be successful.

The Québec Federation is still working to establish a joint plan and a honey certification for provincial honey. Hoping all members would pull in the same direction !...At the annual meeting held in Québec City, a significant majority voted to continue and complete this project.

U.P.A. (Union des producteurs agricoles) in cooperation with Québec Government is actually working on another project to properly identify farms products sold in food super markets. This project was also presented to the Federal Government. The purpose is to clarify and modify the labelling of products bearing the Canada #1 certification. That certification does not mean that a product so labelled is necessarily produced in Canada.

And now to conclude, we are presently expecting results from the agricultural commission formed to hear farmers' concerns and advise the Provincial Government of the real situation in this matter.

With the end of a year which brought us many problems, we wish to all of you a VERY HAPPY AND FLOURISHING YEAR 2008. We cross our fingers

to have FABULOUS CROPS this summer.

**Ontario**

The OBA held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November in Cornwall. Cornwall is at the eastern end of the province adjacent to the Province of Quebec. The Quebec Beekeepers Federation participated in the general meeting and a number of their members attended. Simultaneous interpretation services were provided and English and French presentations were given.

At the AGM, both Heather Clay and I made presentations to the OBA Directors at a meeting held prior to the main meeting. After discussion the Directors decided to unanimously support the "New Direction for the CHC" initiative. Later at the general meeting both Heather and I spoke to the general membership and again there was unanimous support for this initiative. Ontario has traditionally been one of the bigger supporters of the CHC and the need for a single voice for beekeepers in Canada is once again clearly recognized in Ontario. Congratulations to all who have worked hard over the

past two years to bring this project to fruition.

The general meeting included presentations from the OBA's Technology Transfer Team's Alison Skinner, Janet Tam and Mel Kempers. The results of their surveys of last year's winter losses in Ontario were presented and a preview of part of next summers work on mid season varroa treatments was shown. Ingemar Fries from the Swedish University of Agricultural



John van Alten

Sciences spoke from a European perspective on nosema ceranae and what is known about it. He also discussed honey bee losses, what is normal, and our efforts to modify the normal cyclical variability in honey bee wintering losses. John Henderson from the Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs discussed food safety and initiatives in Ontario that can help beekeepers to meet the standards that the intensive honey inspection program in Ontario is demanding. Maureen Howes from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency spoke on their investigation methods and recalls. Emile Houle from Quebec's Animal Research Centre explained the research work Quebec has been doing on formic

# BeeMaid Honey Ltd.



## Alberta Honey Producers

70 Alberta Avenue, Box 3909,  
Spruce Grove, Alberta T7X 3B1  
Phone: (780) 962-5573  
Fax: (780) 962-1653

## Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers

625 Roseberry Street,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0T4  
Phone: (204) 783-2240  
Fax: (204) 783-8468

## BeeMaid Honey Ltd.

1210 – 100 Street,  
Tisdale, Saskatchewan S0E 1T0  
Phone: (306) 873-2521  
Fax: (306) 873-3455

Carrying a full line of beekeeping equipment from several manufacturers:

- **Dadant & Sons Ltd.** • **Mann Lake Supplies**
- **Maxant** • **Dakota Gunness** • **Walter T. Kelly**
- **Medivet** • **Perma-Dent Foundation**
- **Pierco Canada** • **Cook & Beals** • **Plus Many More.**

Whatever your requirements we would be glad to help. Quality products for the beekeeping industry, including:

- **Woodenware** • **Queen Rearing Supplies**
- **Package Bees & Queens** • **Bee Apparel**
- **Honey Containers** • **Extracting Equipment**
- **Beekeeper Tools** • **Novelties** • **Foundation**
- **Medication & Chemicals.**

Buyers of Light & Dark Beeswax at Competitive Prices. We can arrange your sugar requirements - dry or liquid sugar in small lots or trailer load lots delivered.



## Eliminate AFB and Chalkbrood



Iotron's treatment program offers beekeepers a cost effective, environmentally friendly solution for managing bacterial and fungal disease.

Iotron's proven technology has been recognized as a useful defense against antibiotic-resistant strains of AFB. Iotron has successfully treated more than 50,000 supers and thousands of kilograms of pollen.

For more information please contact:  
Robert Krag-Hansen  
Iotron Technologies Corp.  
1425 Kebet Way  
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 6L3  
Tel: 604 945-8838 Fax: 604 945-8827  
e-mail: [rkhanen@iotron.com](mailto:rkhanen@iotron.com)  
[www.iotron.com](http://www.iotron.com)

acid, oxalic acid, thymol, and treatment techniques. They are also working on pollen supplements, flash formic treatments, timing of feeding, queen performance, queen mating efficiency, and equipment sterilization. Ron Phipps from the National Honey Packers and Dealers Association talked about the honey market and factors affecting pricing. He also discussed the Honey and Health promotion that he is working on in the U.S. He suggests we should be investing our efforts in similar promotions rather than in producing more honey. Ernesto Guzman from the University of Guelph discussed and introduced projects his graduate students are working on. Hanan Gashout is investigating various carriers and organic treatments for varroa treatment. Peter Ungar is looking at inter-relationships between various behaviours and genetic factors and Megan Taylor is developing long term storage techniques for honey bee semen. Katrina Brudzynski discussed her apitherapy related research at Brock University and the need to promote apitherapy through an Apitherapy Society. Oliver Couto talked about some uses of hive products other than honey.

Doug McRory, the Ontario Provincial Apiarist reported that overall wintering losses were 37% last winter. Ontario beekeepers received support from the Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs of \$100 for each

colony above the baseline of 15% of their operation that died last winter. \$600,000 has also been provided for research and promotion. Most Ontario beekeepers have built colony numbers back over the summer and strong colonies are going into winter. The 2007 crop is estimated at 75 pounds, down from a 106 last year. This is being influenced by bees going to pollination and not producing as much honey a result. 11 bee kills from Furadan and Sevin were reported this year, most related to sweet corn production.

### Manitoba Report

**M**y name is Bruce Podolsky, together with my parents, and brother we operate Podolski Honey Farms in Ethelbert. In 1955 my father (Edward Podolski) started with 9 hives and we've never looked back. I've been a director for the MBA for several years and serve on several MBA committees: Imports, Best Management, Center of Excellence, Convention/AGM, Membership/ Fees and Levy, Foreign Worker Program, Pollination, Resolutions, and Strategic Planning.

Spring brought higher than normal losses. With the cold and wet spring, buildup was slow. Weaker hives dwindled making splitting difficult. Many didn't make up their numbers.



By the start of harvest the hives and crops were doing well, expectations for good crop were high. Then the extreme high temperatures came, the crops finished flowering, and harvest was basically over. August remained cool; some producers made only one round. The fall brought normal temperatures for feeding. High demand for ethanol pushed feed prices up. Most producers had a below normal crop. A strong dollar, low honey prices, cheap imports left many troubled. Early reports suggest prices are slowly starting to firm up.

The MBA is currently working with Alan Carson of MAFRI a Strategic Planner working toward a healthier more productive Association. Manitoba strongly supports CHC restructuring and we are in the process of updating our Marketing Act, which will allow us to collect fees from all beekeepers with fifty hives or more. We encourage all beekeepers to support CHC.

### Saskatchewan

**S**askatchewan's average crop for 2007 came in the range of 150 lbs/colony. Though, production was very erratic from region to region. We had reports of crops as low as 120 lbs/colony and as high as 275 lbs/colony. Unique and unusual weather conditions

in Saskatchewan are the primary reason for this erratic honey production by beekeepers across the province. Last years higher winter/spring loses in some regions also factored in on the honey production average as some operations focused on rebuilding colony numbers for next year in light of the current low honey prices. As I thought about this article and the discussions of honey prices last week with fellow beekeepers it seems that low honey prices have been a continuing issue. I looked back at previous Hivelights issues and low prices have been mentioned now going on three years. In Saskatchewan pollination for fees is almost non-existent and we do not have the population for beekeepers to pack and retail most of their honey locally as in other provinces. This leaves beekeepers relying on bulk honey production and sales for the majority of their beekeeping revenue. Of course, this then leaves us vulnerable to the low prices being offered. Honey prices spiked for a brief time last June from the \$0.85/lb range to around \$1.02/lb range. The price quickly dropped back to where it continues to sit today at the \$0.85/lb range. While foreign honey priced extremely low is a factor in the current price, the high Canadian dollar versus the US dollar is also a big factor. If the Canadian dollar was at historical levels versus the US dollar we would be seeing close to another \$0.25/lb for our

► pg 8

product. It seems we will be waiting on the Argentine crop reports before we see a move in prices. If prices hold steady or decline further I suspect that there will be far less beekeepers across the Saskatchewan landscape as beekeepers will exit the industry instead of continuing to subsidize the packers and retailers of honey. The young beekeepers will see the high wages being paid in many other sectors in Saskatchewan's hot economy and head there and older beekeepers will not continue to spend reserves they have worked a lifetime to build up. At our fall business meeting beekeepers supported the proposed new direction for the National body and committed our continuing support and participation going forward and look forward to a better funded organization that will have the resources to better serve our industry at all levels.

**Alberta**

It has been a while since I last updated the country on the goings on in Alberta. In reality there is not much new, but there are a few developments that may have a potential impact on the national industry.

Beekeepers are still sitting on carry over inventory from previous years. However, the amount of



Corey Bacon

honey still available for sale is diminishing. Many beekeepers have sold their inventory and are sold out. The glut of honey that was available at the end of the 2006 year seems to have been 'eaten up'

In terms of prices realized for the honey, little can be said other than disappointing. However, the short term pain it is going to take to realize a "sold out" condition is what it is going to take to see an effective implementation of the law of supply and demand. The

overall consumption of honey remains good across North America (although I expect a slow down in the United States) and the available production seems to be unable to meet this consumption demand. However, the carryover inventory is a dark horse that is keeping the marketplace quiet and buyers hesitant, underbidding the market and hedging their positions. A sold out condition on the beekeepers part is a key trigger that will push prices to a new level.

At Alberta's AGM, there were two key resolutions that are going to have a significant impact on the beekeeping industry. The first has to do with supporting Honey Council. As many of you may already realize, Alberta is divided on Honey Council, some support it and some hate it. Although the debate was less painful than

was expected (I didn't get lynched) in the end, Alberta Beekeepers voted with surprising majority to support the new Honey Council's structure.

The second resolution that Alberta Beekeepers passed which will potentially have a significant impact on the Canadian beekeeping industry is with regard to the opening of the border to the importation of package bees. This resolution was passed by a desire of our northern beekeepers who, over the past several years, have realized a steady decrease in the number of colonies that they have traditionally operated. Many of these beekeepers were unable to recoup the losses that they realized this spring. Many beekeepers in the Peace River Valley are not achieving the yields that they once had. With the increased competition for package bees from off shore sources and the plummeting price of honey, it is becoming increasingly difficult to make ends meet and maintain or expand the operations in this region. The cost differential between packages from New Zealand versus California, is salt in an open wound.

The scientific reasons for keeping the border closed, is somewhat vague and out of date. The



Ron Greidanus

Alberta Beekeepers has determined that to forward this resolution to Honey Council immediately may well be counter productive. Alberta's plan is to perform a study on what the impact would be on the beekeeping industry if the border was open to package bees from the mainland United States. This would include an update, by third party, to the risk assessment, a re-evaluation of existing pests that Canada is wanting to keep out, and the development of a protocol for importing the packages that would address the regional concerns across Canada to safeguard our beekeeping industry. Yes, this means we will be consulting the different regions across Canada to find out what concerns each of us with regard to the border.

I sincerely hope that these initiatives that my province's organization has embarked on, does not cause division. The desire is to think and plan ahead. Beekeeping needs to be sustainable and current. If we want a future we need options. We need to plan for tomorrow today.

**British Columbia**

About 75 of our members endured the elements of Northern British Columbia in late October to attend the AGM in Dawson

Creek. Many of the early attendees took advantage of the opportunity to visit and tour the Beaverlodge Research centre. Dr. Steve Pernal and staff enlightened everyone about the facility and recent research projects on queen insemination, bee disease lab, overwintering and bee behavior. Included in the education program Friday and Saturday were presentations by Dennis vanEngelsdorp from Pennsylvania, Leonard Foster UBC, Steve Pernal, Medhat Nasr, Abdi Saffari, Adony Melathopoulos as well as information with a bit more entertainment in their flavor from Tom Swanky, (marketing \$25.00 per pound honey,) and John Gibeau, (bees in the movie industry.)

The 2007 Beekeeping Production survey results have been tabulated and could be summarized as follows: Provincial average honey crop of only 50 lbs. per colony perhaps the worst crop in recorded history, 2006 – 07 average winter losses of 32%, much above an average of 20% for B.C. and above the 29% national average for the year. Of the estimated 2007 crop of 2,275,000

lbs. of honey, about 75% will be marketed direct at retail prices averaging about \$3.22 per lb. An estimated 38,000 pollination sets were used in 2007 by B.C. beekeepers, down from 48,000 in 2006. These pollination numbers may be skewed by the increased use of out of province colonies that are being overwintered in the more moderate climates of southern British Columbia.



Ed Nowek

Statistics and ongoing compilation of data on acreages of crops dependent on insect pollination indicate that British Columbia's available colonies can no longer meet its crop pollination requirements. Should trends continue in increasing blueberry, cranberry and vegetable acreages, we can expect increased difficulties in meeting the pollination requirements of these growers.

In my last report in the November issue of Hivelights I mentioned restrictions on the movement of bees onto Vancouver Island and a will to change the restriction. This may have upset some of our membership.

I apologize for that as it was not my intention and I would like to note that there is no current initiative to change this quarantine.

The BHPA is proud to have endorsed the proposed changes to the Canadian Honey Council, the change of name and fee structure, the Principles and Roles of the new organization and has formed a new committee to deal with how membership will cover the additional cost of participation. Initially our goal is to increase our membership numbers and only marginally increase our fees to cover the additional benefit of Hivelights while attempting to collect the individual dues previously submitted directly to Canadian Honey Council.



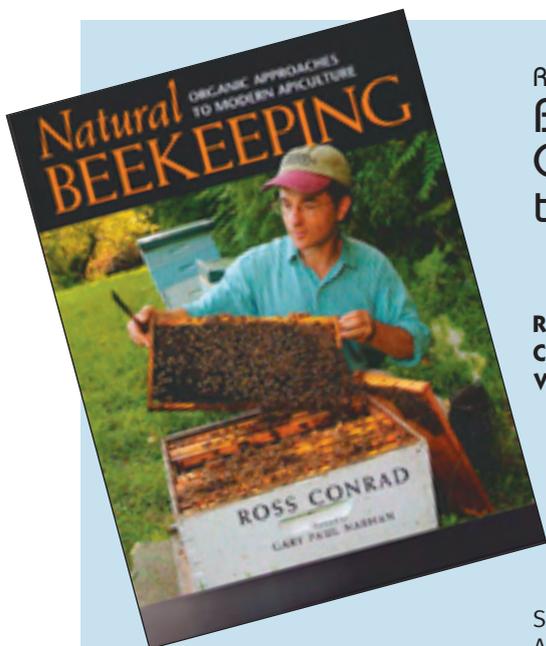
**AT** the Annual General Meeting of Bee Maid Honey Limited held Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Mr. Bill Bygarski, Jr. was re-elected as Chairman and Mr. Elmer Zumwalt was elected as Vice-Chair. Mrs. Cleta Dieken, representing the Alberta Honey Producers, did not stand for re-election to the Alberta Honey Board due to family commitments. We extend a very warm thank you to Cleta for her many years of service and dedication to the Boards of Alberta Honey and Bee Maid. Her insight will be missed. The Executive members of Bee Maid Honey Limited this coming year are Mr. Neil Specht

and Mr. Phil Veldhuis. Mr. Lorne Peters is replacing Mr. Barrie Termeer as the Canadian Honey Council representative after Barrie expressed his intention to step down due to other commitments. Thanks to Barrie for his hard work on the Council during the past three years.

Bee Maid is pleased to continue with the Bee Maid Fiftieth Anniversary Scholarship Award established to celebrate the formation of Bee Maid Honey in 1954. The family of Members or Employees of Bee Maid Honey and the two Cooperatives are eligible for the award. The Scholarship recognizes and encourages the pursuit of excellence by rewarding outstanding achievement. Two scholarships, one for each Cooperative, will be awarded, each valued at \$500. Applications are available from any Bee Maid office and must be submitted by January 31, 2008.

Bee Maid is also pleased to announce the continuation of its research funding for apiculture in Canada. Bee Maid has taken the lead in supporting research in Canada for the beekeeping and honey industry and encourages other organizations to support these worthwhile projects as well.

**MENTHOL BOARDS**  
**Please order early**  
**HAMILTON BEE RANCH LTD.**  
**Box 1169, Nipawin SK S0E 1E0**  
**Phone 306-862-4194**  
**Fax 306-862-4193**  
*Producers of Northern Blossom Honey*



## Reviews of **Natural Beekeeping. Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture**

**Ross Conrad, Chelsea Green Publishing Company, White River Junction Vermont, 246pp.**

*Well written and lots to think about*

S Briles Eagle Mountain Utah writes on Amazon.com

All too often beekeepers are all too quick to treat a perceived problem with a drug or a chemical. Unfortunately this has been a problem in all agriculture for decades.

Ross Conrad in his book, *Natural Beekeeping*, discusses the problems associated with this approach and suggests alternative ways to handle the problem without chemicals or drugs. Much of his writing is about his philosophy of beekeeping and that of organic beekeeping. Don't expect a recipe approach to beekeeping

problems or exacting details. They are not there. On the other hand, he gives many very good ideas and approaches one can try or research. He realizes that there is

more than one approach or method to keeping bees and that there are regional differences and needs in beekeeping. Therefore, there is no right or wrong way to keep bees as some other books would lead one to think. This book is excellent at giving beekeepers ideas on keeping healthy

**APINOVAR**

**Key Tool for an Easy Control of Varroa**

*You can now buy directly from the warehouse (pallets of 150 units) (819) 828-3396*

*Monitor easily*

*Treat efficiently by the "flash" method*

*Updated IPM guide and new IPM schedule on our web site*

MADE IN CANADA

distributor:  
**F. W. Jones & Sons**

*relneschapleau.wd1.net*



**Fraser Auction Service Ltd.**  
Brandon, Manitoba

**SERVING BEEKEEPERS  
IN ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN,  
AND MANITOBA  
FOR OVER 20 YEARS**

If you are thinking of buying or selling, please call  
1-800-483-5856 or 204-727-2001  
Fax: 204-729-9912

or check our website:  
[www.fraserauction.com](http://www.fraserauction.com)

hives naturally developing a program that will work in one's climate and style of beekeeping management. Mr. Conrad is on target and echoes many of the same principles of chemical free beekeeping I have tried to teach those that I mentor. It was reassuring to hear it from another source.

Diane Donovan  
MidWest Book  
Review Oregon WI

**B**eekeepers face new challenges in keeping bees alive and healthy but until now there's been no holistic orientation on beekeeping. *Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches*

*Any collection  
strong in organic  
gardening,  
harvesting or  
beekeeping  
needs NATURAL  
BEEKEEPING*

*To Modern Apiculture* offers up an alternative to chemical practices and delivers a program of natural hive management using nontoxic methods to control mites, eliminate common bee diseases, and produce naturally resistant, healthier hives. Both novices and neo-pros receive tips on everything from genetics and breeding to pests and harvesting, with chapters coming from one who learned from world-renowned

beekeeper Charles Mraz.

workers, and migration. Activities associated with food-gathering and efficiency help explain optimal foraging theory.

No book on bee biology is complete without a description of the remarkable ways that bees communicate by chemistry (pheromones) and by dance about conditions and places within the hive and outside.

Remarkable is the capacity for honeybees, and other bees, to incubate brood and stay warm over winter. Insects' nervous systems show many functional similarities to our own, despite differences in structure. The brain, of about 850,000 cells, and segmental ganglia are not only in neural processors, but also work in chemical control of development and behavior. Sensory systems and organs, such as vision, olfaction, taste, mechanical senses, and others (SECTION VII) link through the brain, with inputs stored in memory and used in complex behaviors, including an amazing capacity for learning and navigation.

From a strong biological basis, the book proceeds to beekeeping. Historical roots are followed from the Stone Age to modern apiculture. The year for a beekeeper is described briefly, relying heavily on basic information in SECTIONS IV to VI. As with all domesticated organisms, bees suffer diseases, predators and pests (SECTION IX). The "why" of beekeeping concerns hive products; i.e. honey, bees' wax, pollen, royal jelly, venom, brood, and the far more valuable service that bees provide through pollination (SECTION X). Pollination services to agriculture, to nature, rely heavily on honeybees, but other bees are important (SECTION XI). Some are integrated in agriculture, and the conservation of all pollinators is now a matter of international concern.

## Bees, Biology and Management

by Peter G Kevan, Professor, Environmental Biology, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

**B**ees, Biology and Management." is not just about "How to keep bees" but why bees are kept, what it is about them that makes them amenable to management and domestication: their anatomy, physiology, behavior, diversity, ecology, and value to agriculture and the natural world.

Of course, the main study organisms are European races of the Western honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, but other bees are far from forgotten. This book contains much basic insect biology (entomology), with bees at the centre.

The book has eleven sections, and a total of 51 short chapters. The order of the chapters represents only one way in which bee biology, ecology and behavior can be integrated and explained as applicable to beekeeping. There are many cross-references so

readers can follow their own leads to understanding the complex whole.

The first part of the book (SECTIONS I to III) introduces castes and anatomy of social bees. That provides a framework for understanding colony structure and bees as micro manipulators of their own world (SECTIONS IV to VI). Honeybees pass through the four stages, egg, larvae, pupa, and imago (adult) and develop into different castes according to genetic programming and nutrition. Development and age dependent behavior are under hormonal control.

The colony itself goes through a seasonal cycle, and in this book the example of the north temperate zone is used. The interesting features of bees' mating and genetics combine naturally with colonial reproduction, swarming, supersedure, absconding, laying-

**SHERRIFF**  
est 1968

The Proven Protection

ref: S21 vest      ref: S41 jacket      ref: S28 smock

ref: S36 Apiarist All-in-One

The ORIGINAL

BE SURE BUY SHERRIFF

BEEKEEPERS PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

B J SHERRIFF  
Manufacturer of Fine Beesuits  
Carclew Rd., Mylar, Palmouth, Cornwall, T8Y1S6W

ALBERTA HONEY PRODUCERS  
(780) 962 5573

COUNTRYFIELDS: (506) 387-6804  
F W JONES: (514) 248-3323  
Ray GRESHAM (250) 477 5732

www.beesuits.com www.beegifts.com



Douglas Clay, Research Scientist, Calgary AB

# Plants for Bees

## Cotoneaster

### Common Name

Cotoneaster: A common species found in Canada is the Peking or hedge cotoneaster.

### Scientific Name

*Cotoneaster acutifolius* Turcz.

### Native Range:

The genus *Cotoneaster* is a member of the Rosaceae family. There are about 66 species native to the temperate regions of Europe, Africa, and Asia. The *Cotoneaster acutifolius* is native to Siberia and northern Asia.

### Canadian Distribution:

All *Cotoneaster* species are exotics to North America. The Peking cotoneaster is described in the USA as suitable for USDA hardiness zone 6 to 8, however, the variety sold through Aubin Nurseries in Carman, Manitoba has done well in southwestern Alberta in zone 2. These plants and many of their relatives are found across Canada and north to the Yukon and NWT. In fact, the Peking cotoneaster survive anywhere with more than 120 frost-free days. Most of the Canadian plants have come from a breeding program at Agriculture Canada's Morden Experimental Farm in Manitoba.

### Description:

These perennial shrubs and small trees grow from 1 to 3 m tall in form from prostrate to upright. They have multi-stem trunks. Cold tolerant

species of cotoneaster are deciduous while those of warmer regions of the USA can be evergreen. The alternate oval leaves are shiny dark green with small flowers ranging from pink to white. Leaves are 3 to 6 cm long, shiny dark green. Cotoneaster often have colourful fall foliage while makes them popular as ornamentals.

### Ecology

Cotoneaster do well in deep moderately well drained silty to sandy soils with a pH range of 5.5 to 7.5. They are generally hardy and often used for hedges and shelterbelts or windbreaks. They are salt tolerant.

The bark, as with many fruit trees, is attractive to mice and other subnivean (living beneath the snow) rodents. 'Ring-barking' can be a major issue, particularly near rural apiaries, as it is difficult to protect the multiple stems.

The flowers are small (7 to 8 mm) but can be attractive because of their abundance. The shrub blooms in mid spring – May to June in most of Canada. The resulting black fruit (6 to 10 mm) has 1 to 5 seeds in August and September.

### Methods of Reproduction and Spread:

*C. acutifolius* generally must be grown from seed as cuttings and other vegetative means of reproduction are unsuccessful.

**Honey/Pollen Potential:**

Cotoneaster was identified as rare to occasionally visited by honeybees (0.5 – 5 bees per 3 minutes) in California (although it was unclear how this was assessed – the values were similar to Phacelia, vetch, and the true clovers – all popular honey producers). As there are few mass plantings of cotoneaster, evidence is mostly from observation. There is little quantitative information on honey production although Ramsey ranks it as a first class bee plant visited eagerly by bees. Cotoneaster provides both honey and nectar and is recommended by Howes for planting artificial bee pasture.

**Reference:**

Anon. 2003. *Flowering plant species and their relative attraction to honey bees and native California bees*. Online version. 9pp. (available at: [nature.berkeley.edu / urbanbeegardens / docs / FullPlantList.pdf](http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/docs/FullPlantList.pdf)).

Howes, F.N. 2007. *Plants and beekeeping: an account of those plants, wild and cultivated, of value to the hive bee, and for honey production in the British Isles*. Faber and Faber Ltd., London, UK. 256pp.

Lovell, H.B. 1977. "Honey plants". *Gleanings in Bee Culture*. Medina, USA. 96pp.

Ramsay, J. 1987. *Plants for beekeeping in Canada and the northern USA*. IBRA, Cardiff, UK. 198pp.

Slabaugh, P.E. and N.L. Shaw. 2007. "Cotoneaster Mediak." In: *Woody-Plant Seed Manual*. USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC, USA. Online version. (available at: [www.nsl.fs.fed.us / wpsm](http://www.nsl.fs.fed.us/wpsm) ).

USDA, NRCS. 2003. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Greetings from England

I am a on "wild" honey chase. Excuse the "pun"!!

I am now 70 years young and owe my life to Honeyboy Honey. Some 35 years ago, I was struck down with a very severe case of Yellow Jaundice and was confined in an solitary isolation unit in an infectious diseases hospital.

At the time, I was NOT aware that my next of kin were notified of my likely demise. After 6 weeks, I was discharged as cured, clear of a disease for which there was no cure. Bed rest and plenty of water, was the only Kill or Cure solution available. It transpired that I had had the highest bilirubin count of anyone ever admitted to the Hospital and had not been expected to survive.

As I said, no one told me of my impending demise, so I was enjoying a good rest, laid in the sunshine and getting a good tan, even though my Yellow Jaundice was actually more "Apricot" than yellow.

I had a restricted diet, but after a week, I developed a yen for "Jaffa Cakes" and Honey. The cleaner started to shop for me and brought me a box of Jaffa Cakes and a 3lb (imperial pounds) tub of "Honey boy honey", every 2 days. I ate the lot in the 2 days. I sat eating the Honey with a dessert spoon "neat", this continued until my discharge and beyond, though the honey consumption did drop as my diet returned to normal. The only OFFICIAL MEDICINE I was given was steroids in the last week, when my bilirubin count dropped dramatically and a Biopsy had shown no liver damage. After 3 months convalescence, I was able to resume my manual work as a North Sea Gas Convertor, although I was never able to return to my previous regular alcohol consumption, only having a drink at Birthdays and Christmas.

I subsequently heard of a considerable number of deaths of relatives of friends of mine. Apparently the "Middle Ages medicine" was Mead.

But I am convinced that my "Yen" saved my life. I had always and still do love honey in moderation. BUT I can not find a supplier of Honeyboy Honey, can you help? Is it still sold to the UK and What was the main FLOWER component, as I still regular eat honey, but would love to be able to find a source, the same flower type.

My health is not as good as it was and I want to try to regain some of my vigour of earlier years.

If you can help in this matter, I would be very grateful.

Seasons Greetings

Jack Whittaker  
5 Cherry Tree Avenue  
WITHERNSEA  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
ENGLAND  
HU19 2LY

Editor

*This is the second enquiry that we have received about "Honey Boy" brand honey. It was sold in the UK in the 1970s and early 1980s. The fact that customers recall it fondness says a lot about brand recognition. The brand was owned by a Canadian distribution company and was packed by Bee Maid Honey. Unfortunately, the brand was discontinued in the early 1980's. The Canadian Honey Council passed on the enquiry to Bee Maid Honey and the CEO Gordon Marks has contacted Mr. Whittaker with information about where he can purchase BeeMaid export honey under the Clover Crest label.*

# Chilean Queen Breeding

Ron Miksha, geophysicist, beekeeper, Calgary AB

Many of us have been less than satisfied with the quality of queens entering Canada. High rates of supercedure, drone layers, and generally listless stock may be the results of disease, poor mating conditions, or generally sloppy breeding practices. Naturally, to protect an investment (and stay in business), a beekeeper must look for better bees. Years ago, it was predicted that Canadian queen producers could meet North American demand for April and May bees. Despite some really good results from some exceptional Canadian bee masters, domestic queen production never covered more than ten percent of commercial demand. As a result, beekeepers have been importing queens but have not been totally satisfied. The search continues.

November 2007 found me in Peru, South America, teaching geophysics for the Canadian International Development Agency. Halfway through my project, I found a break in my work, so I boarded a plane for a long weekend in Chile. Although

Peru and Chile are neighbours, the flight from Lima to Santiago was a surprisingly long (4 hour) flight. Culturally and economically, the two countries are a world apart. Peru is developing quickly, but is a poor, third-world country. Guards with guns surround hotels and business visitors are whisked around in fast-moving black cars with dark, bullet-proof windows. The atmosphere in Chile is entirely different.

Chile is California with nicer and fewer people. Roads are quiet and unhurried. Scenery includes the snow-capped Andes and the white-capped surfs of rugged beaches. Chile's extensive agriculture rivals anything in the world. Tens of thousands of hectares of vineyards, walnuts, avocado, citrus, olives, almonds, apples, kiwis, plums, raspberries, blueberries, peaches, cherries, plus exotics like quince, physalis, carica, and chirimoi fill Chile's irrigated central valleys. Eucalyptus forests blanket the less arid hillsides. And some lucky beekeepers are in the center of it all.

I met several of these beekeepers, including a recent entomology graduate who might be convinced to search through his acquaintances and coordinate the export of queens. But this seemed a long shot, so I was pleased to meet Francisco Rey Martinez.

Mr Rey is an able beekeeper with about 8000 colonies in avocado pollination and 3000 mating nucs on his 30 hectare ranch. This queen breeder of 25 years experience employs about a dozen assistants, some performing tedious labour, but most of them capable beekeepers grafting and caging queens.

Dr Tom Sanford, now retired from the University of Florida, sites Rey's Pacific Queen company as "a partnership between France and Chile - Pacific Queens are rigorously selected by the Bond test," which Sanford describes as the "Live or Let Die" system advocated by Francisco Rey's business partner/geneticist, Dr John Kefuss. Sanford continues, "Kefuss is involved in queen rearing operations in both the Old (France) and New (Chile) World. He was a student of two apicultural research giants, Dr. Walter Rothenbuhler (father of hygienic behavior) and Dr. Fredrich Ruttner of Germany. Dr. Kefuss is bringing his considerable knowledge about queen genetics and breeding to bear on the issue of the day, resistance to Varroa mites... The overriding consideration is selection for certain measurable traits, with

▶ pg. 17



Top: Rey demonstrates marking a freshly found queen.  
 Centre: Francisco Rey, left, with author Ron Miksha  
 Bottom: Cell-builders yard.  
 Far left: Empty, combless equipment is stored outside in the mild arid climate, but is kept off the ground on oil-painted stands to discourage colonization by ants.



## QUEENS FROM CHILE DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

by Rhéal Lafrenière, Manitoba Agriculture, Winnipeg MB.

The idea of importing queens from Chile is not new. Over twenty years ago a delegation from Canada visited Chile to investigate the possibility of importing queens. At the time, the risk outweighed the benefits, so the project was terminated. Now, the idea of importing queens from Chile is not only a possibility but a fact.

This summer, Kemnay Apiaries (Merv Malyon — Brandon Manitoba) in partnership with Oaknook Honey Products (Hilliard, Todd and Ryan Yakimishen — Ashville Manitoba), were the first beekeepers in Canada to take advantage of the new importation agreement to allow queen honey bees to be imported from Chile. Unfortunately, the importation agreement between Canada and Chile was not finalized until June 2007, so only 80 queens were imported for evaluation purposes. Their import permit was dated July 10th and of course it wasn't in their hands till after that. The first 40 queens arrived on July 25th and the second group on August 9th.

Because of this late arrival of the queens the evaluation of the colonies with the Chilean stock does not include the crucial period of pre flow build up and honey flow performance. The colonies that were established were closely monitored for introduction acceptance and subsequent late summer brood performance. A significant number of the queens that were introduced went into winter looking pretty good, all things considered. The critical evaluation will be to see how the queens and her progeny survive the winter.

Kemnay Apiaries and Oaknook Honey Products are planning to import a lot more queens from Chile in 2008. They are also looking to sell Chilean queens in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta this spring (look for their ad in this issue of Hivelights).

This project got off the ground following a trip to Chile in December 2006 where our group gained first hand experience of beekeeping there. Merv, Todd, Hilliard, Ryan and I were invited to Chile for a tech transfer trip to talk about how the beekeeper associations in Manitoba work with government and the university to provide a strong resource infrastructure to help develop a prosperous beekeeping industry. Many of the beekeepers that we met in Chile pride themselves on the condition of their bees. We were impressed with the fact that, despite not using many chemicals in their hives to control diseases or pests, the majority of the colonies we saw, appeared to be healthy. Rearing queens

► pg. 17



# Tony Lalonde Sales Prt.

## Buy

Honey  
Wax  
Propolis

Bentley extractors  
Cowan extractors  
Swinger Forklift  
High Fructose Corn Syrup  
Sucrose Syrup  
Inland Plastic Winter Wraps  
TLS Bee Apparel  
Mahurangi Hiveware  
Bee Pro Pollen Supplement  
Mountain Bee Products - bee suits, veils  
Oxytet  
Permadent  
Frames  
Supers painted and unpainted

## Sell

Beekeeping Supplies  
Extracting Equipment  
Used Equipment

Supers assembled and unassembled  
Lumber for supers  
Helmets  
Hive tools  
Hive lifters  
Smokers  
Honey containers  
Feeder pails  
Barrels  
Liners  
Barrel Grabber  
Barrel Carts  
Pallet puller

Distributors for some or all of the supplies

**Alberta**  
Alberta Honey Producers Coop.....780-960-8010

**Manitoba**  
Manitoba Honey Coop .....204-783-2240

**Maritimes**  
Claude Hachey.....506-546-6687

**Ontario**  
Munro Honey ..... 519-847-5333

**Quebec**  
Réjean Lambert.....819-828-2549

**Saskatchewan**  
Tony Lalonde Sales..... 306-931-0155  
tonylalondesales@sasktel.net



Tony Lalonde Sales Prt.  
Box 42, Clavet Sk,  
Canada S0K 0Y0  
Ph: 306-931-0155  
fax: 931-1646

the ultimate test being survivability. Thus, Dr. Kefuss says, selection is really nothing more than a process of elimination.”

In my brief encounter with Mr Francisco Rey, I saw evidence of efforts to develop and maintain superior stock, including ample use of drone comb foundation being introduced to selected stock hives. I also saw evidence of careful queen breeding practices that should result in generally superior queens. I liked Francisco’s assurance that queens are caged to meet current shipping deadlines – they are not banked and rarely caged for more than a day or two. Pacific Queens Ltd is less than two hours from the Santiago airport and delivery trips are planned to coincide with flights and thus reduce transit time.

Grafting occurs in a modern, well-lit grafting house and nucs are stable, large units – 4-frame Langstroth deeps. The mating nucs are spread along a 3 kilometre trail on the 30 hectare farm. Individual nucs are randomly oriented and painted with a variety of colourful patterns. These simple basic practices keep acceptance at an average 85 percent over the course of the season. The excellent Chilean climate – very little rainfall and bright, mild summer weather (typical highs are 30 C) obviously also help. In the southern hemisphere, the prevailing currents are from the east, so the climate is drier than California’s and doesn’t suffer from the periodic fogs that sometimes damage mating in areas like the Napa Valley.

Although Pacific Queens is situated on a ridge with easy bee-flight access to two different valleys – with differing ecosystems and somewhat varied flora – it is still necessary to supplement carbohydrates. Hence, supplemental feed is available to the cell builders and mating nucs. Nucs are kept supported on treated stands for ease of caging but also to eliminate tiny

ants from hoarding into the boxes. I’m not sure what happens to the elevated nucs during earthquakes. Fortunately, severe seismic activity is rare.

My extremely quick visit to Chile – wedged between other projects in South America – was just a teaser for me. I have no doubt that among Chile’s 450,000 colonies and 1800 beekeepers there are quite a few other interesting apiaries and other capable queen breeders. If there are long-term beekeeping challenges in this rich, progressive country, they might include the possible future arrival of Africanized stock. Although AHB has been found in some of the tropical regions of neighbouring Argentina, it will not be able to cross the Andes, which completely isolate Chile from the rest of South America. Arrival would have to be by ship, as occurred in Florida twenty years after AHB settled in Texas. But this is a long-shot as ports are few; are well-monitored; and, commerce is mostly long-haul with largely North American and trans-Pacific trade partners.

If you are interested in importing queens from Chile this year, there might still be time to make arrangements. 90 day permits are available for a fee from your local CFIA office - mine faxed a ten-page application with instructions to my office. Several Canadian beekeepers will be importing queens from Chile this spring and the CHC has some of their names available for distribution.

But February is a brilliant time to check out Chilean queen breeding for your self. Anyone who would like to contact Mr. Francisco Rey directly may call 011-56-9-8255053. More information, including more photos and a video, are available by following the Chile Beekeeping links at [www.badbeekeeping.com](http://www.badbeekeeping.com). You may also reach this author, Ron Miksha, at 403-269-7255 or [miksha@shaw.ca](mailto:miksha@shaw.ca).

from strong hives, replacing old comb on a regular basis and making up splits to replace failing hives is their primary form of disease control. Natural selection at its finest!

Although many of the beekeeping operations in Chile are too small to begin raising a large number of queens for the export market, there are some beekeepers/businesses that can. Meeting those beekeepers/businesses and seeing their potential, really lit a fire in their belly to try to help these beekeepers reach their potential. It was not easy, there were a lot of problems with communication, but perseverance and hard work did finally payoff.

In my opinion, the queen export



market from Chile is in its infancy, a so called “diamond in the rough”. Kemnay Apiaries and Oaknook Honey Products are already looking at trying to introduce genetic material to Chile from well respected “Canadian” stock. Currently, this is prohibited. Chilean regulations on importing bee stock from other countries is extremely restrictive and is probably one of the reasons why they have been able to keep problems such as Africanized honey bees out of the country. The benefit of having imported queens with genetics from select Canadian breeding stock would be huge. It is going to take some nurturing and it is not going to happen over night, but the potential is definitely there.

A huge amount of credit for the possibility of importing queens from Chile has to go to the two Alberta beekeepers who filed the initial request to have CFIA investigate the risk of importing queens from Chile. Their foresight started a series of events that led to the recent approvals and ▶ pg. 25

# Saving & Making Money by Drying Honey Faster

Pierre Faure, Notre Dame de Lourdes, MB

We have run a 700 hive beekeeping business in Notre Dame de Lourdes in southwestern Manitoba since 1999. We realized, after a short time, that the drying of honey prior to extracting was a primary problem when it came to performance in our field of business. Time is a scarce commodity for beekeepers, especially during the honey flow, and producing high quality, low moisture honey can be quite difficult when relying on traditional drying methods.

Our extracting facility resembles any typical commercial outfit in Manitoba or in Canada. It consists of a hot room right beside the extracting room. Six ceiling fans run continuously and simultaneously with a state of the art floor heating system which maintains the appropriate temperature (32°C). An industrial dehumidifier (Drisair 1200/2400 model) removes excess humidity when the room is full of boxes from the day's harvest.

During our first four seasons, high moisture honey was a concern in our operation, causing major slow down times in honey extraction and loss

of revenue on the employer's side as well as for the employees. Frequently, hired personnel had to be sent home because of high moisture levels in the honey. In an operation where success heavily relies on everything running smoothly and rapidly, high-moisture levels in the honey to be extracted was an issue.

Our only solution to this persistent problem was to stop the extraction line altogether and wait an extra day for our "Drizair" dehumidifier to bring the moisture down to a reasonable level. When honey moisture level was over 20%, the day was lost.

In 2004, after the construction of our new honey house, we decided to go back to the drawing board and rethink the way we extract honey. We decided against installing a better hot room system that we knew from experience did not work in the way we wanted.

After some study we decided on a new approach or strategy which was to run our extracting facility on a daily

basis without taking into consideration the moisture levels in the honey. The plan was to return empty super boxes to the bees more regularly and to extract honey moisture at the end of the extracting process, the exact opposite of what most beekeepers do.

It is well known in the business that honey moisture levels can be lowered in a hot room over a period of time using a dehumidifying system. However we decided to investigate the removal of moisture from the opposite end of the extraction process ie. after the honey has been extracted from the supers. In addition bees use a lot of time and energy to evaporate honey moisture from the cells and my other focus was to redirect this energy to maximize their field foraging time.

With my bees visiting more flowers instead of spending time drying honey, I should be able to definitely increase my average honey production.

## How do we operate Now?

When the new honey house was finished, we installed a brand new Honey Moisture Removal System (HMRS) bought from the well-known Cooks and Beals beekeeping equipment manufacturer in the state of Nebraska in the USA. This machine cost over \$5,000.00 US at that time.

This machine does two operations at the same time. First it blows warm dry air over the incoming honey that flows on a very long tray (16 feet long) and then it recycles the hot air inside a condenser which collects moisture from the air. (See Figure 1)

In other words, water evaporates very slowly during the few minutes that honey flows on the tray, then the water is trapped inside the condenser and removed thru a simple drainage system. ( This process is very similar to an air conditioning system.)

At the end of our extracting day, if honey is too wet (determined with a regular refractometer), the HMRS is

*10.000 watts heater and condenser on the left*



turned on. A little bit later, when the HMRS reaches the correct air temperature (45°C), the honey pump is activated and the liquid honey starts its long drying process.

This unit uses a powerful heater which blows warm air (45 degrees Celsius) inside a very long tray on which honey is pumped continuously. Honey slowly flows on the long tray and as it gets warm is pumped through the HMRS with a Viking pump (1 1/4 inch diameter) that is installed just under the stainless steel tank.

The HMRS machine has been installed at the end of the extracting line where

extracted honey is stored in large stainless steel tanks below the drying machine. We have chosen to use a stainless steel milk tank (7000 lb capacity, approximately 11 drums) to store our honey. It has a built in oil heater to keep our honey warm. The thermostat is set to 32° Celsius.

Our 14 feet honey house ceiling gives us enough clearance between the tank and the HMRS to hang the drying machine with 8 threaded rods from the honey house rafters just above the milk tank. Honey flows throughout the HMRS and goes back to the milk tank using gravity so it can be pumped again and again inside the HMRS.



This machine works continuously and the 7000 lb of honey are pumped inside the HMRS several times till the drying process is finished. We check moisture levels several times a day with a digital refractometer to determine when the drying process must stop. With two years of experience, we know approximately how long the process will be depending on the quantity of honey and the level of moisture.

With a full tank of honey (11 drums) and 20% moisture honey, we know the process can be as long as 24 hours. If the honey holds 2% extra moisture, we have to extract 45 liters of water (sometimes more) to get a high quality honey (18% moisture or less).

Sometimes, when honey is very wet, the HMRS is turned on at noon to start the drying process sooner. Most of the time, we know roughly the percentage of honey moisture just by listening to the noise of the honey splashing inside the spin float machine. Dry honey does not make much noise, but wet honey

#### *The dehumidification system*

splashes against the sides of the spin float.

The HMRS machine has changed a lot of things in our business, especially for me, regarding the organization of the farm and the harvest schedule. Now, we extract on a regular basis without taking the high moisture honey into consideration. Empty supers are returned to the fields after only 36 hours spent in the honey house. The rounds for collecting and returning supers now take a very short period of time and bees can keep busy filling empty cells. Turning on a power switch to solve the high moisture honey problem has been a large relief to me.

During our first season operating this machine, we saved approximately 14 days, enabling us to do hundreds of other things instead of waiting for honey to dry. Employees were occupied every day of the season and did not lose any wages.



### **F.W. JONES & SON LTD.**

SINCE 1878  
44 DUTCH STREET, BEDFORD,  
QUEBEC J0J 1A0  
(450) 248 3323 PHONE  
(450) 248 2592 FAX  
E-MAIL: info@fwjones.com



**We stock a complete line of beekeeping  
Equipment for all your needs.**

**Woodenware, Queen excluders,  
containers in glass and plastic.**

**Queen rearing equipment,**

**Queens, Comb Honey**

**Containers, Foundation, smokers,**

**Extracting Equipment**

**Beekeeping Tools and much more.**

**Please call or write to receive your  
Free catalogue.**

**Branch Office: F.W. Jones & Son Ltd.  
105 St. Regis Crescent, Toronto, Ont. M3J 1Y6  
416 783 2818**

honey dryer from pg. 19

We are able to ship low moisture honey to Winnipeg and get a bonus on the honey price. This pays for the investment and its operating costs.

Increases production is difficult to estimate as the honey flow is never the same year after year. However this machine is very useful in a year like 2007 when the main honey flow was a short season.

Our 200 amp electrical panel has been more than sufficient even if all our machines run at the same time. Regarding some technical specs, our new honey drying system needs a 60 amp breaker and an additional 30 amp breaker for the condenser unit.

Putting costs together, the full unit uses 14,500 watts per hour at about 6 cents per kilowatt. So the total cost (not including the capital cost of the machine) for one cycle of drying is

around 21 dollars per 24 hours. This works out at \$1.90 per drum. Other costs for setting up this system were about \$5,000 for the electrical wiring, milk tank and stand, pumps and materials.

If producers could dry their honey to 17.1% to 17.4% moisture, a bonus of \$18.90 dollars per drum would be added to their regular price compared to a 18.1% honey drum. (This is based on Beemaid's current grading policy for low moisture honey)

Any beekeepers who want to see this machine are very welcome to visit. Please telephone me at the French Bee Farm (204-248-2645) in Notre Dame de Lourdes or contact Pierre Faure at my email address <fbf@mts.net>



### ONE PIECE PLASTIC FRAME & FOUNDATION

Canadian Distributor

Tim Townsend

R.R.1, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1X1

780-963-7573

E-mail: ttownsen@telusplanet.net

#### Eastern

Guy Anderson, Kincardine ON 519-396-3529

#### Central

Lewis Farms, Austin, MB 204-637-2277

Manitoba Co-op Honey Producers, 625 Roseberry St, Winnipeg, MB 204-783-2240

#### West

Alberta Honey Co-op, 70 Alberta Ave.

Spruce Grove AB, 780-962-5573

Stawn's Honey, Vernon BC 250-542-9977

J.J. Bee Supplies 5693-176 St.,

Surrey BC Ph 604-574-3400 Fax 604-574-9728

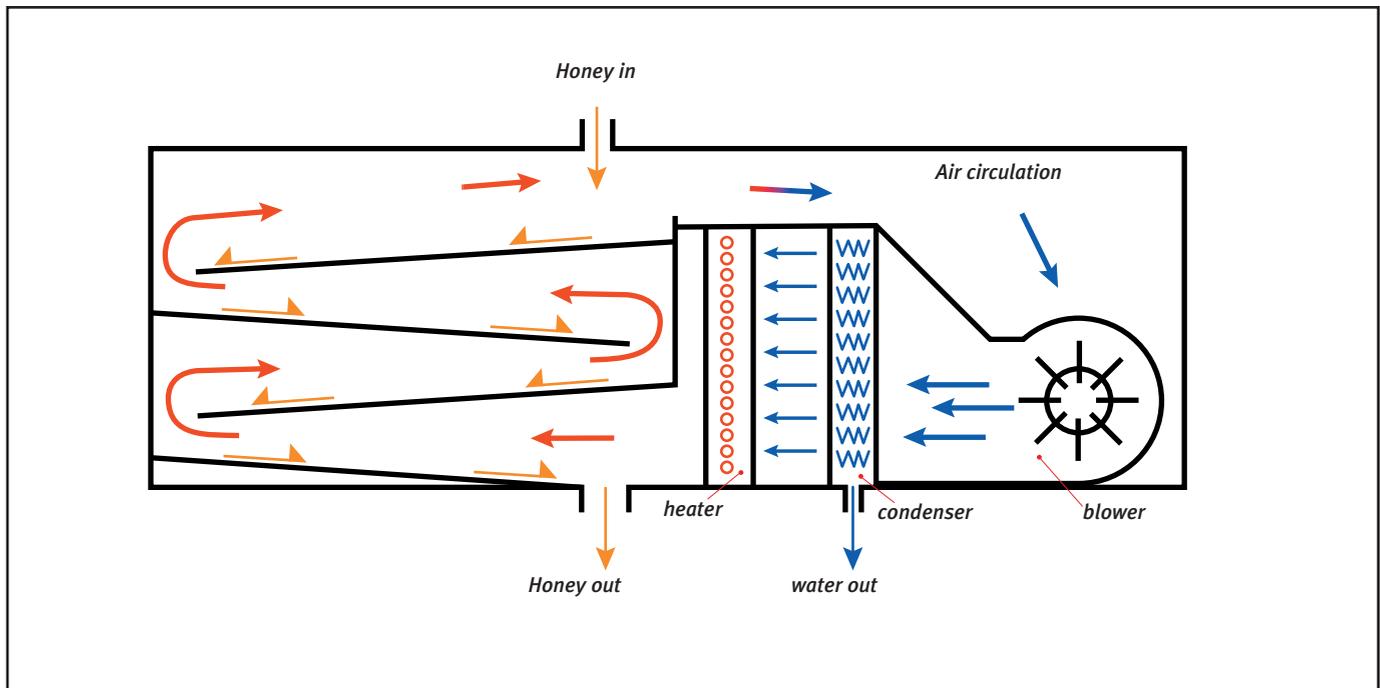
Flying Dutchman 6124 Metral Drive,

Nanaimo BC ph/fax 250-390-2313

*Now available*

**One-piece plastic drone comb**

Figure 1. Honey Moisture Removal System (HMRS) after Cook and Beals





Bottom board available with (shown here) and without pollen trap.

## Bottom boards with tubes

Jean-Pierre Le Pabic, Rueil-Malmaison, France

The TUBES BOTTOM BOARD was invented in 1993 by Marcel Legris, a beekeeper from Marseille (south of France)(see Hivelights, Feb. 2002). At that time, it was discovered that numerous feral bee colonies survived without any anti-Varroa treatment, and it was believed that the reason was that a certain amount of Varroa mites fell out of the cluster to disappear under the colony in places unvisited by the bees. The tubes bottom board was created to reproduce these conditions.

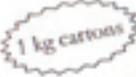
The Legris design was made with rigid tubes fitted into holes inside the wood on each side. The tubes were expensive and manufacturing was complicated. The lack of profitability quickly caused Mr. Legris to abandon this business. Having bought some of these boards, I personally made careful observations particularly on Varroa mites infestation, strength of the colonies in spring and honey production. My discoveries motivated me to research a more economical design for the board.

In 2002 I rolled out the new tubes bottom board under the "HAPPYKEEPER" brand name. The tubes were no longer fitted into holes inside the wood but instead held by three struts punched from plastic sheets. It then was possible to use more cost effective polyethylene tubes on which nothing would stick. The tubes are not rigid or perfect, so a strut must be placed in the middle to keep them parallel. After four years, a recent development has compelled me to replace the punched struts with molded struts on the Dadant 10f/Langstroth models. The overall quality of the board is greatly improved.

Some beekeepers have noticed a considerable increase in Varroa mite drop immediately after placement of a Happykeeper bottom board. The strictly controlled atmosphere around the cluster makes the bees stronger, healthier, more productive and so better able to get rid of varroa mites. If an infestation rate of 5% or less is found in the Spring, no treatment whatever is needed.

More information is available at the [happykeeperusa.com](http://happykeeperusa.com) website.

Contact Jim Vermeer  
Oregon City, OR, USA  
Phone: (503) 226-6000  
[jim@happykeeperusa.com](mailto:jim@happykeeperusa.com)

 <b>New Zealand Packaged Honeybees</b> <small>Direct from Kaitiaki Honey on the North Island of New Zealand</small> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pick-up or delivery</li> <li>• With or without Queens</li> <li>• Dates available throughout March, April and May of 2008</li> </ul>	 <b>Queens</b> <small>We also supply Queens from both New Zealand and Hawaii.</small> <i>Call for pricing &amp; availability</i> <b>Scandia Honey</b> <b>403-362-3951</b>
--	---



**Odem**  
INTERNATIONAL INC.

**WE CONSIDER  
YOU  
OUR PARTNER**



**WE BUY HONEY, BEESWAX, AND POLLEN**

CALL *Elise* TOLL-FREE 1-800-567-3789

193 A, TURCOTTE STREET, ROSEMERE, QC, J7A 3A7  
TEL.: (450) 965-1412 FAX: (450) 965-1425  
WWW.ODEM.CA  
ELISE@HONEY.CA



Take care of your bees  
and your bees will  
take care of you!

## Mite-Away II™

Formic Acid Pads

For treatment of varroa and tracheal mites



**A natural choice:**

- Mite-Away II™ is a proven treatment and fully registered with Health Canada.
- Formic acid is found naturally in honey and the environment.
- Food Grade formic acid ensures a residue free, quality, end product: pure honey.
- Mite-Away II™ is easy and safe to use.

**"We're In the Bee Protection Business!"**

**NOD Apiary Products Ltd.**

P.O. Box 117, Frankford, Ontario, Canada K0K 2C0

Toll free info: 866-483-2929 Fax: 613-398-0495

[www.miteaway.com](http://www.miteaway.com) [info@miteaway.com](mailto:info@miteaway.com)



**Lewis & Sons**  
Enterprises Ltd.

**BOX 316, AUSTIN, MANITOBA**  
Toll-free 1-866-800-2077  
Phone: (204) 637-2277 Fax: (204) 637-2033  
Murray or Adam Lewis

**QUALITY WOODENWARE BOXES,  
FRAMES, ETC.**  
Unassembled, Assembled  
and/or Wax-dipped  
Food-Grade Finish

**Please order well in advance.**

**BEEKEEPERS  
BUILDING FOR BEEKEEPERS.**

## Classifieds

### For Sale

For all your foundation needs, any size, wired or without, organic or conventional, place orders by phone 780-835-2115 or fax 835-2873 or email tegart@telusplanet.net.

### For Sale

RV Cut Comb Honey Trays (340g) etc.

### For Sale

Active Beekeeping business with retail packaging market. Registered packer, stainless steel extracting plant. Equipment for 500 colonies, queen rearing, package and nucleus colony production, pollination. Contact Mike McLennan, Flower Power Apiaries, 4550 Hillview Rd Grand Forks BC V0H 1H5 phone 250-442-2933.

### For Sale

300-500 Hives on pallets. Nicola Valley Apiaries. phone 250-378-5208

### Wanted to Buy

Buckwheat honey in drum. Contact Henry Nauta phone 905-640-1564, fax

### For Sale

Extracting equipment: Rebuilt Cook&Beal uncapper and SS tank; SS sump tanks (1Jones+1Maxant); SS radial extractors 36 Jones (2); brass gear pump 1" with motor (2); SS bulk tank 5000 lbs (MILK TYPE). All machines in good working order. Best offer wins. Reason for selling: getting a new Cowen system. François Petit, Moose Creek, ON 613 527-2711 or 613-577-6

### For Sale

300 superd nuc for sale includes 10 frame laying queen no less than 3 brood pollen feed, inspected and treated, winterd outside ready for May 15 to June 5, some queens from Chile and mark available. contact Rod Boudreau 204-885-3344

### For Sale

Beekeeping Operation southern AB 1500 colonies with pollination contract Full beekeeping operation for sale. 1500 hives with pollination contract. New Cook and Beals

extracting line, new Swinger fork lift, trucks and much more. Located in Lethbridge, Alberta. Contact Brian at b\_man@telusplanet.net or call 403-330-5488

### For Sale

Beekeeping Operation BC 1500 colonies and equipment FOR SALE: Beekeeping operation located on the Alaska Hiway, retail sales, 1500 live colonies 5 high. 10 acres of land with house, warehouse with extracting plant, 40X 40 building for over wintering, beehive manufacturing equipment. All or in parts. For more info: VAN HAN APIARIES, Rick at (250)789-3428 or Dale at (250)789-9113

### For Sale

25 AUSTRALIAN and CHILEAN QUEENS Arrival Dates: through April and May. Shipping from Toronto to major Canadian centres. Confirmed orders by mid March. Contact: Peter Mewett, RR 4, Stirling, Ontario, K0K 3E0 Tel: 613-395-3225 Fax: 613-395-1835 Email: pmewett@hotmail.com

### Help Wanted

Two beekeepers helper needed for 2008 season in northeastern Saskatchewan. Minimum one year of experience. Accommodations are available. Season runs from mid April until mid October. Wages based on experience and work ethic. Reply to honey.bee@sasktel.net McKee Apiaries Brent McKee Box 329 Arborfield, SK S0E 0A0 (306)769-8830

### Help Wanted

Beekeepers help needed for 2008 season, April to mid October. Basic beekeeping knowledge an asset, wages negotiable with experience; willing to train on the job. Accommodations available. Phone Dennis Keays at 306-873-4273, or email at keays01@sasktel.net.

### Help Wanted

Two seasonal beekeeper (7-8 months from April to November) and four seasonal workers (2-3 months from July to Sept) are required in Northeastern Saskatchewan for two commercial honey operations. Experience and knowledge of bee colonies and honey production would be required. A valid drivers license is necessary and English speaking skills would be an asset but must be physical fit. Available to work evenings, weekends and some holidays is a must. The hours will vary, but range from 36-60

hours per week and rate of pay between \$8.50 to \$12.75 depending on experience and attitude.

Contact:  
Bacon Apiaries @ FAX resume with cover letter to 306-864-2451  
Baconian Bee Farm @ FAX resume with cover letter to 306-864-3680

#### Help Wanted

Two Seasonal Beekeepers required in rural Saskatchewan for work in a commercial bee and honey production operation from March through to December. Experience and knowledge in hive health and manipulation, bee (nuc & queen) production, honey production, maintenance and colony preparation would be looked upon favourably as well as a valid drivers licence and English speaking skills. Must be physically fit and available to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Hours per week typically range between 35 - 65 hours.

#### Help Wanted

Six Seasonal beekeepers required in rural Saskatchewan for work in a commercial bee and honey production operation from mid-July through mid-September. Knowledge in honey processing would be an asset, as well as English speaking skills, but not necessarily required. Must be available to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Hours per week typically range between 32 - 60 hours. Wage range from \$8.50/hr - \$12.75 with bonuses, based on experience. Housing and transportation may be an option. For the right individual, this could lead to full time employment. Contact Corey Bacon Fax 306-864-3260.

#### Help Wanted

Experienced beekeepers wanted for 2008  
3 experienced beekeepers wanted for February - November. Preference will be given to candidates with queen rearing and royal jelly production experience. Monthly salary range \$2300 - \$2800, depending on experience. Send resumes to Honeyland Canada Fax 604-460-8887

#### Help Wanted

Experienced Beekeepers wanted for seasonal position in Nipawin area of Saskatchewan.  
Experienced Beekeepers wanted for seasonal position in Nipawin area of Saskatchewan. Pay based on experience, housing and transportation. Contact Yves Garez ph: 306-862-5979 fax 306-862-5974 or email y.garez@sasktel.net

#### Help Wanted

Seasonal help in commercial operation  
Looking for seasonal help in commercial operation in Shellbrook, Sask. Wages are dependent on experience and accommodations. Contact 1-306-747-3299 or PO Box 367, Shellbrook, SK S0J2E0

#### Help Wanted

9 Beekeepers Wanted( Full time beekeeping help, April to October. Beekeeping experience would be preferred. Wages start at \$12.00 per hour. Contact Mark Knox , 306-862-5657, Box 179 Nipawin, Sask. S0E 1E0.

#### Help Wanted

Experienced beekeeper wanted for April to October. Wages based on experience \$12-15 per hour. Contact Brad Lechler 306-278-2198, Porcupine Plain SK.

#### Help Wanted

Full time beekeeper required. Beekeeping experience an asset. Apr till Oct \$12.00 per hour. Glory bee Honey, phone 306-743-5469 or email Dennis for more information

#### Help Wanted

Seasonal Beekeepers Wanted for Saskatchewan operation. April - Oct. Experience Preferred. Wage \$12.00/hr based on experience Contact: B.STRONG APIARIES LTD. email bdstrong@sasktel.net fax: (306) 645-4591

#### Help Wanted

Beekeeper helper for April to October  
Golden West Enterprises is now looking for seasonal help for April thru Oct. Wages dependant on experience \$10 to \$12 per hour. Contact Lester at martts@sasktel.net or 306-665-2178

#### Help Wanted

Seasonal Beekeeper Wanted in Saskatchewan Honey Operation. Work period From April to November. Wages base on Experience. Contact Gerry Moyon phone 306-767-2757 or Fax Resume 306-767-2626.

#### Help Wanted

2 experienced beekeepers needed from May to Oct. Queen rearing experience essential. Starting wage \$12 per hour. contact Valleeu apiaries Saskatchewan

#### Help Wanted

Golden Eagle Apiaries is looking for beekeepers and crew leaders (\$12.75 - \$15.00 / hour) for the 2008 season (January 15th - November 15th). Qualified candidates will have a minimum of one year experience, skills in disease recognition, colony management and queen rearing, forklift training, and preferably a valid class 5 drivers license. Applicants should submit a resume of experience and qualifications by fax (604 460 0955) or email Apiary Manager

#### Help Wanted

Experienced beekeeper needed for 1000 hive operation May to December. Must have knowledge of queen rearing along with a good driving record and must be medically fit. Must also be able to work independently with long hours during peak periods with heavy lifting. Contact Ben Hogan, 6605 Loyalist Parkway, RR 1 Bath, ON K0H 1G0. 1-866-283-8781 or ben@bhoganapiaries.com

#### Help Wanted

6 experienced beekeepers wanted from March-November. Preference will be given to candidates with

queen rearing experience. Must be able to operate truck and forklift. Wages based on experience. Golden Ears Apiaries BC. Phone 604-820-6924.

#### Help Wanted.

We have openings for several positions in 2008. Full time, year round warehouse and maintenance person. Applicant should be self motivated, and reliable. Some heavy lifting. Full time, year round beekeeper. Applicant will be responsible for various beekeeping related tasks. Valid Ontario drivers license and previous beekeeping experience required. Full time, seasonal, Beekeeper assistants. March through October. Beeyard and honey house work. Heavy lifting, No bee sting allergies please.

Send resume to: John Van Alten Dutchman's Gold Inc. 300 Carlisle Rd, Carlisle, Ontario L0R-1H2 or email to: info@dutchmansgold.com



## Honey Wanted

Call for Current Market Conditions

**Toll Free**  
**1-800-789-4391**

**Trusted By Beekeepers for Over 50 Years!**

**ELI GROSSMAN - EXT 230**

**e-mail: egrossman@billybee.com**

**Billy Bee Honey Products Ltd. 68 Tycos Drive,  
Toronto, ON M6B 1V9**

**TEL: 800-789-4391**

**FAX: 416-789-9112**

**www.billybee.com**

Exciting times are ahead in the field of,

# Apitherapy

Get on board and join the team today!

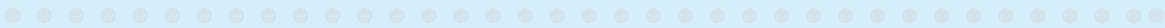
Health is wealth!

Improve your health with understanding the therapeutic use of all the beehive products & becoming more knowledgeable about apitherapy. Have these products available for family, friends and potential customers.

It is a bee-autiful and healthy aspect of beekeeping.

- ▶ Visit [www.apitherapy.org](http://www.apitherapy.org) - American Apitherapy Society
- ▶ Visit [www.apitherapy.com](http://www.apitherapy.com) – European Apitherapy connection  
Check out the Apitherapy Internet Course & consider joining an email Apitherapy List (English, French, German or Spanish)
- ▶ Join the team for a proposed **Canadian Apitherapy Society**. FREE! Fill out this attached form and send in to contact information below...
- ▶ Sign up for a proposed December 2008 – (International) **Apitherapy Conference & Course** in Niagara Falls, Ontario, CANADA, being offered as a 'joint-effort', with a concurrent agenda to the - OBA's (Ontario Beekeeper's Ass.) Annual Convention which is to be a combined meeting with CHC /Canadian Honey Council & CAPA/Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists) ...STAYED TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!!! But, Mark your Calendars now, December 11-13, 2008.

## You Too Can Be Involved With Apitherapy



Sign-up form

PLEASE INCLUDE, BRIEF QUESTIONNAIRE:

YES NO

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Interested in receiving Apitherapy news & events (via email)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. In favour of supporting proposed Canadian Apitherapy Society (CAS)                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Volunteer to be involved in the planning and organization committee of CAS.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Interested in attending the proposed Dec. '08 Canadian Apitherapy Conference in Niagara Falls. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Interested in providing input and suggestions for the planning of the CAS 2008 Conference.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please forward form to:

Mail or fax:

Annie vanAlten, 300 Carlisle Rd., Carlisle, ON L0R 1H2; Fax: 905-689-7730

email:

[anniesapitherapy@execulink.com](mailto:anniesapitherapy@execulink.com)

Chilean queens from pg. 17

successful importation. The other group that worked on our behalf to make this happen is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, more specifically Dr. Maria Perrone who assisted in pushing the file through the system. Through this work it is now possible to access health stocks of queen bees from Chile.



Your Leading Supplier of:

\*Natural Menthol Crystal

Please indicate your interest in Thymol Crystals, Call for Availability

\*Bee Feed Pollen

\*Fresh, Frozen Royal Jelly

Call for Competitive Pricing and for a Free Copy of our Full Color Mail Order Catalog.

PO Box 2744 Eugene, OR 97402 USA  
Toll Free (800) 456-7923 Fax (541) 762-7173  
www.GloryBeeFoods.com  
Sales@GloryBeeFoods.com

# Queens From Chile

Canadian Distributors - *Our 2<sup>nd</sup> importing year!*

Mated Carniolan Queens From Chile

CFIA Inspected Stock



*"In Manitoba, we have experience with using queens from Chile in our commercial operations in the 2007 honey season and are currently overwintering these colonies outside. We look forward to our 2<sup>nd</sup> importing year for distribution in 2008."*

**LIMITED SUPPLY - Available April through July**

***Ensure your order and quantities for 2008!***

***Inquiries and questions, contact us:***

OAKNOOK HONEY PRODUCTS LTD  
Dauphin, Manitoba  
Phone: (204) 548-4060  
Email: info@oaknookhoney.com

***We've Bee'n There!***

KEMNAY APIARIES  
Brandon, Manitoba  
Phone: (204) 725-1479  
Email: mervmalyon@rfnw.com

**Visit: [www.oaknookhoney.com/ChileanQueens.html](http://www.oaknookhoney.com/ChileanQueens.html)**

# Island Abbey Foods Introduces the Honey Drop™

## A Honey You Can Hold

Jodie Trainor, Island Abbey Foods, Montague, PEI

Island Abbey Foods Ltd. has introduced the world's first 100% pure, no mess, non sticky honey product: the Honey Drop™ - a honey you can hold.

The Honey Drop™ solves a common problem: liquid honey can be messy. The Honey Drop™ is an individual serving (one teaspoon / 5 g.) of 100% pure dried honey without any additives or binding agents. It is ideal for sweetening tea or coffee. Simply drop into a hot beverage and stir. You have all of the natural honey flavor without the usual honey mess.

Inventor and entrepreneur John Rowe first conceived the concept of no

mess honey after several 'liquid honey accidents' in the 1990's. Mr. Rowe thought that dried honey would be the ideal solution to the messy honey issue. After spending many years searching, Mr. Rowe realized that an

all natural, dried honey product did not exist. "I have seen many dried and candied honey products, however, they all contained sugar, corn syrup, or other additives," stated John Rowe. "In my search for a natural, non messy honey this was simply unacceptable. I did not want corn syrup in my tea. I decided to take measures into my own hands, and several years later the Honey Drop™ is the result."

The Honey Drop™ comes in two flavors: pure honey and pure honey and lemon. The Honey Drop™ is available in packages of 20 units for retail sale or in bulk for food service. The Honey Drop™ has a shelf life of one year and does not contain any artificial coloring, flavoring, or preservatives. The Honey Drop™ is an all natural product of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.NoStickyFingers.com](http://www.NoStickyFingers.com).

### Enquiries:

Island Abbey Foods Ltd.  
Jodie Trainor, Marketing Manager  
Phone: 877-564-5035  
Email: [jodie@honibe.com](mailto:jodie@honibe.com)

## Are you interested in a premium price for your Mono-floral honey ?

Canadian Medicinal Honey Company is supporting ground breaking research into the medicinal properties of Canadian Honey being conducted by Dr. Katrina Brudzynski at Brock University, St Catherines Ontario.

**Our Goal:** To bring standardized grades of Canadian medicinal honey to market.

We are currently testing mono-floral honeys for their level of antibacterial activity.

We need samples of your honey that are:

- Mono-floral
- Repeatable annual crop

For more information or to obtain a *Honey Sampling Kit* please contact:

**Canadian Medicinal Honey Co. Ltd.**

Email: [samples@CanMedHoney.com](mailto:samples@CanMedHoney.com)

Tel: 250-308-0666

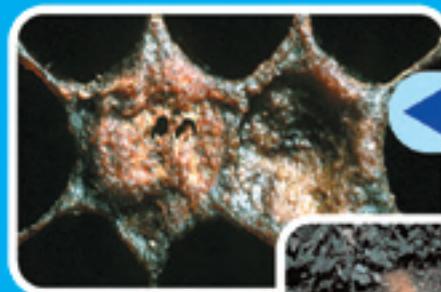
*We are dedicated to bringing the healing powers of the hive to people everywhere*



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.



## 2 NEW VITA DIAGNOSTIC KITS *For the early detection of* EUROPEAN FOULBROOD OR AMERICAN FOULBROOD



It is vitally important to detect EFB & AFB as early as possible in order to prevent its further spread to healthy colonies.

Vita's quick and effective Diagnostic Kits, developed with Central Science Laboratory Pocket Diagnostics enables every beekeeper to test their hives at the first suspicion of the presence of EFB or AFB.

Vita's Diagnostic Kits take just 3 minutes to give a result and have been validated with 98%+ accuracy



**Vita (Europe) Limited**  
*Investors In Beekeeping*  
[www.vita-europe.com](http://www.vita-europe.com)

Sold in Canada by **Medivet Pharmaceutical Ltd.**  
+1 (403) 652-4441  
[www.medivet.ca](http://www.medivet.ca)

# More Convenient Than Ever!

Bees require proper nutrition to produce new bees and to increase longevity. Here at Mann Lake we have been involved in bee nutrition for over 20 years - supplying the best feed products at the most economical pricing available!

**Don't be taken in by hype and high prices.  
Nutrition is based on good science.**

Amino acids are the building blocks of protein. Different protein sources contain different amino acid levels; and it's for this reason that a mixture of protein sources should be included in a pollen substitute. A correct amino acid balance is the key to efficient utilization of protein.

Protein quality is determined by its level of essential amino acids. A shortage of any one essential amino acid makes overall protein utilization by the bee less efficient. (Example the bees require 4% Iso-leucine and if the current feed you are using only has 3% Iso-leucine that means the bees can only utilize 75% of the available protein.)



**800-880-7694**  
[www.mannlakeltd.com](http://www.mannlakeltd.com)

Pre-Made Patties



Dry Pollen Substitute products are best used in secluded areas and during weather conditions conducive to bee flight. During high humidity or damp conditions, pollen patties are a better option than dry feed.

**Mann Lake Ltd.**  
**800-880-7694**  
**[www.mannlakeltd.com](http://www.mannlakeltd.com)**

Authorized Dealers:

Manitoba Cooperative  
(204) 783-2240

Alberta Honey Producers  
(780) 962-5573



# Wanted

your quality honey call Dick at GloryBee Foods Inc. Eugene OR 1-800-456-7925.

GloryBee Foods Inc.



## WIPE OUT YOUR MITE PROBLEMS

Safe and least expensive method for applying formic acid to control bee mites in honeybee colonies. Available at your local beekeeping supplier or call:

Telephone (519) 847-5333 Fax (519) 847-5340

E-mail: dbryans@xcelco.on.ca

## BETTER BEE SUPPLIES

265 AVENUE RD., CAMBRIDGE ON N1R 5S4

Phone (519) 621-7430

A complete line of beekeeping supplies.



Delivered to Door on Time  
At Temperature 80-90 degrees F.

High Fructose Corn Syrup  
Food Grade Sweetener  
Dealer for ADM Corn Processors  
Serving Manitoba & Saskatchewan

PO Box 190 Fisher Branch MB R0C 0Z0

Telephone 1-800-990-1390

E-mail-paul@interlakeforageseeds.com



## PLANET BEE HONEY FARM TOURS & GIFTS

5011 Bella Vista Road  
Vernon, B.C. V1H 1A1  
Phone 250 542-8088  
email: info@planetbee.com  
website: www.planetbee.com

Retail / Wholesale &  
Distributor Pricing,  
Re-sellers Wanted

Specialty Honey, Pollen,  
Propolis, Royal Jelly,  
Filtered Beeswax

## BEEKEEPERS' SUPPLY Co.

Everything for Beekeepers, their Bees, and more.

P.O. Box 227, St. Davids ON L0S 1P0

Phone/Fax 905-685-8111

Candle making supplies in stock.



VANCOUVER ISLAND APIARY SUPPLY  
Beekeeping Supplies Equipment & Glassware  
Larry & Marilyn Lindahl  
6456 Cowichan Valley Hwy  
PO Box 1491 - Lake Cowichan BC V0R 2G0 -Canada  
250-749-3800 - www.thebeestore.com



## Benson Bee Supplies Ltd.

Box 9, (8358 Victoria St) METCALFE ON K0A 2P0

Rendering & Refining Beeswax

Honeycomb Candle Supplies • Bee Equipment

Art & Audrey Benson 613-821-2797 or 1-800-214-7366 Fax: 613-821-2621



## Cook's Bee Supplies

A complete line of Beekeeper's Supplies  
Quality & Service for over 70 years  
91 Edward St., Aurora, Ontario L4G 1W1  
Phone/Fax 905-727-4811 1-888-645-9722  
A CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR DADANT & SONS

## API Nutrition Ltd.

Quality Bee Pollen from Peace River, Alberta  
or Rural Ontario

Buying Canadian bee pollen.  
Fresh frozen pollen available

Call Chris Toll-Free 1-866-624-8175

Tel. (519) 773-5902

11302 Imperial Road, Aylmer, Ontario, N5H 2R3

www.apinutrition.com

chris@apinutrition.com

## VESPER TRANSPORT LTD.

Fully reconditioned and #1 Quality Export Drums - Offering custom trucking across western Canada and western states.

Office/Cory 250-499-5773 - Lee 250-499-5753 -

Fax 250-499-5752

### Mite-Away

Use Mite-Away II Single Application Formic acid Pads in the spring and fall for control of varroa and tracheal mites. See our updated web site at [www.miteaway.com](http://www.miteaway.com) or call toll free 866-483-2929.

You can purchase Mite-Away at the following distributors:

**Ontario:** F.W. Jones & Sons Ltd, Toronto, 800-665-6637  
Cook's Bee Supplies, Aurora, 888-645-9722  
Better Bee Supplies, Cambridge, 519-621-7430  
Benson Bee Supplies Ltd, Metcalfe, 800-214-7366  
Peter Mewett, Stirling, 613-395-3225  
Grey-Bruce Bee Supplies, Markdale, 519-986-4980  
Clovermead Apiaries, Aylmer, ON 519-773-5503  
Tannenhof Farms, Oro Station, 877-772-8753  
Sudbury Bee Supplies, Sudbury, 705-566-0743

**Quebec:** F.W. Jones & Sons Ltd., Bedford, 800-665-6637

**Maritimes:** Country Fields Beekeeping Supplies,  
Upper Coverdale, N.B., 506-387-6804

**Western Canada:** BeeMaid, Winnipeg MB, 204-783-2240  
Vancouver Island Apiary Supply,  
Duncan, BC 250-746-1676

## Country Fields Beekeeping Supplies Ltd.

1848 RTE. 112, UPPER COVERDALE, N.B. E1J 1Y5

Serving the needs of large and small beekeepers alike

• Extraction equipment • Medications • Hive parts • Honey containers  
• Books • Beeswax candle sheets • Protective clothing

Tel: 506-387-6804

Fax: 506-386-2599



# CAPILANO LABONTÉ Inc.

## A New Beginning!

## HONEY WANTED

530, rang Nault Victoriaville

PH: (819) 758 3877 FAX: (819) 758 9386



# SECURE THEIR FUTURE

## Get control of Varroa mites with Apistan.

- Up to 100% Varroa control
- Cost effective and convenient to use – one treatment gives a full year's protection
- Safe for bees and beekeepers
- Considered the best anti-Varroa product by beekeepers around the world
- No detectable residue in honey
- No risk of applying too much, or too little



**THE BEST DEFENSE**

*For additional information contact your favourite bee supplies company  
or call 1-800-263-2740.*

Please read label carefully for directions and precautions. APISTAN is a registered trademark of Wellmark International.

**CENTRAL**  
Garden & Pet

