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Canadian Honey Council



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 LARGE COMMERCIAL (300 +)\$200
 INDUSTRY.....\$250

CHC is the national organization of the beekeeping industry. It is the vital link between beekeeper associations, governments and provincial apiculturists.

Beekeepers in business can claim CHC membership and travel to the annual meeting as eligible business expenses for tax purposes.

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HiveLights

November 2004 Vol 17 #4

Edgar Colpitts first president of the Maritime Beekeepers Association sold honey and apiary equipment to beekeepers around the maritimes.

This photo of Colpitts Bros honey exhibit was taken at the turn of the century circa 1900

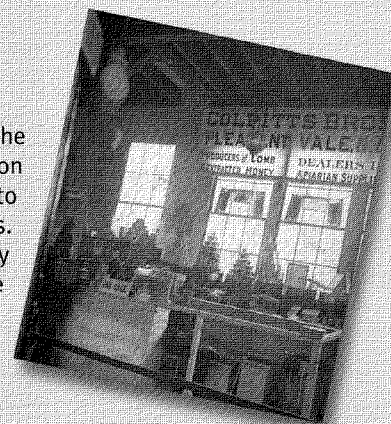


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Next Issue

Spring is around the corner
Pollination Potential
Research News
CBISQT update

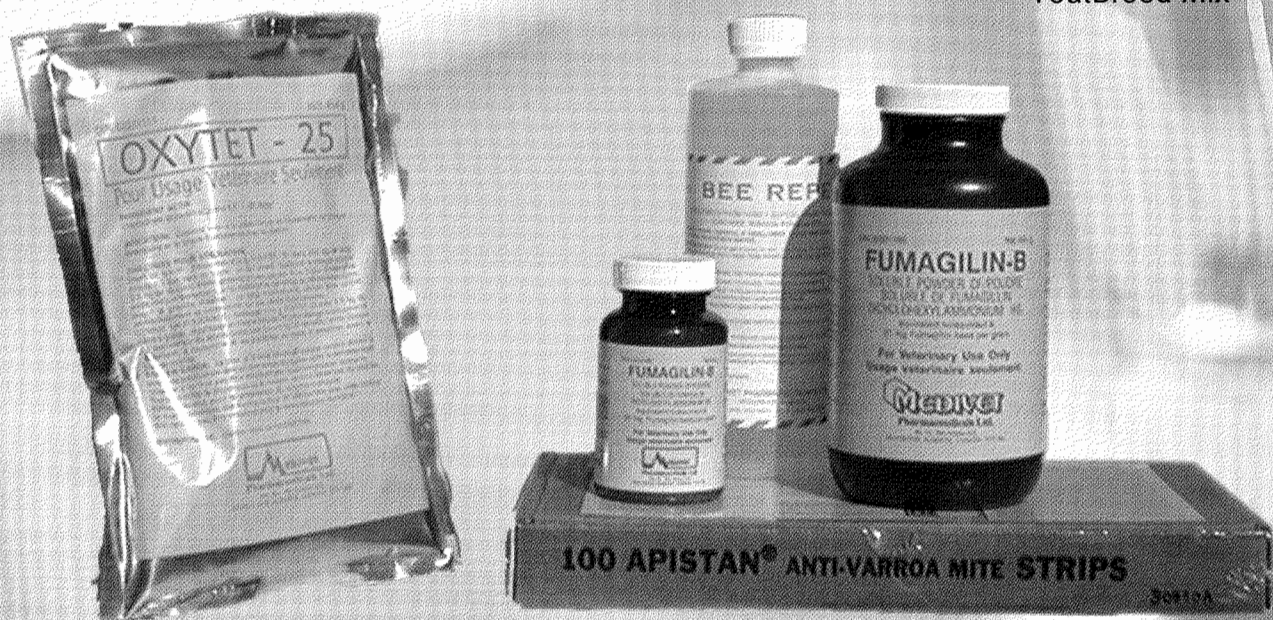


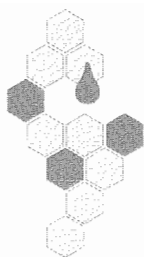
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CHC Activities

Heather Clay, National Coordinator CHC

SOUR GAS AND BEES

The media has recently been interested in a story about the relationship between sour gas (hydrogen sulphide or rotten egg gas) and honeybees. The concern arose after research showed a link between sour gas and loss of memory in snails. Dr Ken Lukowiak, Calgary Brain Institute, faculty of Medicine, raised a cautionary flag in a recent article in the Journal of Experimental Biology. His study was initiated in response to the concerns of a nurse who observed that children down wind of sour gas wells, were having difficulties learning at school. His work showed that snails exposed to sour gas lost their ability to learn new information and that even low levels, considered by government to be safe for humans, caused impairment of long term memory. There is no reason to believe that bees are not affected in the same way.

Over the past few years Alberta beekeepers have reported declines in production and higher winter losses. It is not clear what is the cause because there are many different reasons. Apart from weather problems there has been a change in the pattern of pesticide use and a ramping up of exploration for oil and gas. Some of the beekeepers in oil and gas areas believe that their recent losses could be related to an increase in sour gas emissions.

The oil and gas industry has become more environmentally responsible in recent years and not as much sour gas is flared as there used to be. But there



are times when beekeepers know that there is a problem, especially when bee losses are concerned.

The Canadian Honey Council has no way of doing research and can only disseminate information. There could be a problem in sour gas areas and bee-

keepers should monitor the situation. Where possible, hives should be relocated to areas away from gas emissions. The same advice would apply to hydrogen sulphide emissions from sewage treatment plants, coke ovens, paper mills, and manure gas produced from decomposing animal waste.

C-BISQT - 100% CANADIAN

There is a need for producers of Canadian honey to be able to identify their product as 100% Canadian. The CHC committee for On Farm Food Safety has established the Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality and Traceability (CBISQT) program. As part of the traceability and quality aspect of the program the CBISQT committee is working on developing a marketing technique for identifying 100% Canadian honey. One of the possibilities is providing a geographic fingerprint of honey through isotopic analysis. The CBISQT committee has contacted Agrosolab, Germany, to investigate the possibility of using this technique in the Canadian honey industry. According to the lab they can identify the region of origin of the honey. This may provide consumers with assurance that the honey is 100% Canadian.

SURVEY

The CBISQT steering committee is looking for input on the future needs of beekeepers for record keeping. They developed a questionnaire that is designed to help gain an

understanding of the type of records that beekeepers keep and what may be required in the future. Each of the provincial associations mailed out the questionnaire to their members. If you did not receive a copy it is available on the website at www.honeycouncil.ca under the news section. We are interested in all opinions, whether hobby or commercial, or industry. Please send the completed form to the Canadian Honey Council.

2005 ANNUAL MEETING

The 64th annual general meeting will be held in Saskatoon at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, February 2-5, 2005. The province of Saskatchewan is celebrating 100 years so this will be a special occasion. After the Thursday business meeting there are two days of research symposium with updates on the latest research and presentations on issues that affect beekeepers. The itinerary and registration form can be found on the CHC website www.honeycouncil.ca. We look forward to seeing you in Saskatoon.

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

The costs of running a national association have increased annually without any increase in the cost of membership. As a result, the directors decided to increase membership fees for 2005. There has also been a change to the categories of membership to better reflect the makeup of our industry. The new fee structure is as follows:

HOBBYIST (1 TO 49 COLONIES)	\$50
SMALL COMMERCIAL (50 TO 299)	\$100
LARGE COMMERCIAL (300 +)	\$200
INDUSTRY	\$250

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Provincial Reports

MARITIME

Again this year there was a strong steady demand for bees in the blueberry fields. Nova Scotia appears to have met the demand but there is still a shortage in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Cloudy cool weather dominated the summer weather in Nova Scotia this past summer. This has resulted in average to below average honey crops for the Maritimes. At this time of writing beekeepers are in the middle of removing their honey crop, feeding and of course treating for mites.

In Nova Scotia results from the Pettis test indicate that there is still only limited resistance to Apistan.

A successful Maritime Apiculture Symposium and Tour was held in Memramcook July 30 and 31. Guest speakers included Dewey Caron who spoke on general beekeeping, Heather Clay who spoke on some of the history of the Maritime Beekeepers Association and David Westervelt of Florida spoke on beekeeping in Florida. The second day was a day of touring which started with a tour of an apple farm / winery and include other stops such as a Carriage Museum, Fort Beausejour

and Belliveau Farms. Lunch was provided by Belliveau Farms and the Trueman Family. Tom Trueman and his wife Krista are new to the beekeeping business and graciously showed their new beekeeping facility. Their Apiarist Bozhidar (Bobby) Bogdonov showed their queen rearing techniques and mating yard operation.

As summer has drawn to a close and we move into the fall and winter I wish all beekeeper the very best.



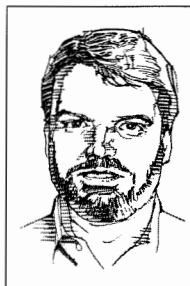
QUÉBEC

Another season has just passed us by. Incredible!

I have the impression we went through this season at warp speed!

Earlier this year beekeepers who either didn't sample their hives or did not want to admit resistance to Fluvalinate (Apistan®) reported losses from 50 to 100%. The losses for other beekeepers were 20% or less. As a result the Québec centre for research into agriculture (C.R.A.A.Q.) sponsored an information day to advise beekeepers of all the possible treatment methods.

It is a delicate subject mentioning what products are suitable. Some of the products are not yet reg-



Alain Moyen

istered for use in Canada. Beekeepers are using many different products such as Oxalic Acid, Formic Acid, Thymol, mineral oil, Apistan and Checkmite. Recognizing that some or all of these products are being used in one form or another, CRAAQ wanted to inform beekeepers of the possible uses, how to apply and especially the danger associated. The whole day, basically, was devoted to integrated pest management which is becoming the latest buzz in beekeeping.

This year's honey crop is not a pretty sight. At the start of June and July the honey flow went very well but in August there was basically nothing. We normally expect a reasonable Golden Rod flow but not this year. Early reports suggest approx. 70 -90 lbs / hive, depending on the region.

ONTARIO

Ontario has experienced a wetter and cooler than normal summer. The honey crop for most of the province was late in coming but as of mid September most beekeepers reported near average crop. The latest prices apparently offered for container lots of 68 barrels was \$1.45 range. Most beekeepers are holding out for better prices. Varroa mite levels appear low for those who used Check Mite last fall. Fall treatments of formic acid are being

applied with sufficient time left to bring levels back to acceptable limits.

MANITOBA

This year poor weather continued to affect the agricultural community throughout Manitoba. Crops which were seeded early experienced too much moisture and delayed germination while many late seeded crops may not ripen in time to prevent major frost damage before harvest.

Beekeepers were similarly affected by the cold and very wet weather. Wintered honey bee colonies, nucs and packages were slow to build up this spring because early nectar and pollen sources were delayed by approximately three to four weeks by the unseasonably cold weather. As summer approached, continuing cold and very wet conditions delayed plant development. Honey producers reported that

nectar collection was unusually slow even when canola, clover and alfalfa fields were in full bloom.

Around the province, honey production reports vary considerably; from 100 pounds

per colony to approximately the long term average of 175 pounds. Late honey production, which continued into the first weeks of September, was due to slow

development of sunflower and canola crops. Most producers reported finding various amounts of granulation in some honey supers brought in from the field. At times this crystallization made extracting difficult.

Most beekeepers experienced difficulty accessing some bee yards because of muddy roads. With the honey producing season coming to a close, everyone is now concentrating on getting their bees ready for winter and hoping for a better season in 2005



Ron Rudiak

SASKATCHEWAN

When I prepared my article for the summer issue, our province was receiving some general rains. Since we were experiencing drought conditions, and since there had been little runoff from the previous winter's snowfall, most beekeepers were happy and were looking forward to the bountiful crops that would result from that pleasant rain. So much for optimism! The rain continued and the warm weather did not come. At the end of August the imagined bountiful honey crop has become, in reality, a poor one. Our provincial average will certainly be lower this year, than has been experienced for several years. Initial offerings for the crop have also been lower than in the past couple of

years, but many beekeepers that I have spoken to, plan to hold onto most of their crops for a time, to see if the market improves.

Our plan to form a commission has taken a further step forward. At our Spring Field Day, a motion was put on the floor and approved by an almost 100% support vote, for the Board to put in place a commission document that could be voted upon at our Fall Business Meeting. Our beekeepers endorsed the idea of a commission that could levy funds for research and promotion, as they could see the benefits that would accrue from those activities. The members also indicated that they wanted the levy to be based on hive counts. Although there are certainly going to be some hurdles as the Board moves forward with this plan, I expect that by this time next year, we will have our commission in place.

Saskatraz, our own Saskatchewan experiment to help identify colonies that show resistance to varroa and tracheal mites, has been established. For those who didn't see the article in the August issue, Saskatraz has been

populated with selected stock from all over Saskatchewan, including some of Russian origin. These colonies will be inoculated with similar mite loads, and will be care-



Glen Ackroyd



Wink Howland

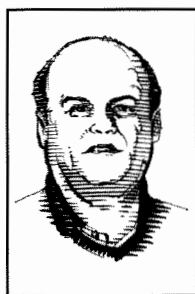
fully monitored to see how they handle those loads. Colonies indicating resistance will be genetically analyzed to determine the gene markers for resistance. That information will be used for breeding bees with even greater resistance. Will it work? The evidence to date, indicates that some colonies have shown themselves to be more resistant to mites than others. We know that some Russian lines have shown themselves to be highly resistant, and we know that genetic markers have been found, that identify stock as being Russian. We feel that there is a very good possibility that the genes indicating resistance will be found, and if found, will be able to be bred into new stock. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could go back to keeping bees that weren't bothered by mites?

Saskatchewan has, in conjunction with CHC, been fleshing out the program for this year's annual meeting. It will be held at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Look for a program of events under the convention information elsewhere in this issue. Saskatchewan is noted for hosting a good convention and we are hoping that it is well attended this year. 2005 is Saskatchewan's centennial year, and although our association is not quite in its centennial year, we do plan to act as

if it is a year to celebrate. There will be lots of good information shared and the research symposium is a "must see and hear" event. We look forward to a good time and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

ALBERTA

The most impressive piece of beekeeping information that has come my way, during the busy harvest season, was a new beekeeping book. 'Bad Beekeeping' is an interesting tale of a young beekeeper's move to the wilds of Western Canada from the eastern U.S.. Ron Miksha



Grant Hicks

is able to communicate all the emotional and irrational reasons that enthrall beekeepers and make us husbandmen to something as unruly and unpredictable as honeybees. The economics of being a beekeeper are no more predictable than the behavior of the insects. The Mikshas kept bees through good production years and poor, reasonable prices and poor, and then moved on. This book should be on everyone's Christmas wish list, if you can wait that long. Oh yes, and my favourite page, 243.

Honey producer organizations have reached the limit of what can be achieved by a token financial commitment economic. Ron's version of the difference between Canadian and American society, might be analogous to where our bee associations are, and where

they could be if we as producers take ownership of our industry, financially and intellectually. Our industry has huge upside potential for financial growth, but producers need to commit to excellence and integrity. The Alberta Beekeepers Association will be voting on changing our organization to generate greater funding to put towards the growth of our industry. The model proposed is not new or unique, it is a standard organizational model for agricultural commodity groups. The question is whether our producers are ready to make a greater commitment to excellence.

The season of 2004 may be one where the honey production is not what is remembered, in Alberta. Production will probably prove to be near average. The fall has been atrocious! From August 20 we had 23 straight days with some rain. Three mediocre days, one of which actually had some sunshine, has been followed by more rain. On the east side of the Peace Country we have had up to 10-12 inches of rain. Try getting around on those roads with no gravel under these conditions. Fall conventions should feature a wall of things that have been invented to cope with the wet fall. The swather tires on a four wheel drive one ton is a good one. Bobcats and trucks bottomed out in



Ed Nowek

mudholes don't count, too mundane. Our province is set for a fall election. The party leader promising more gravel for rural roads may sweep the province.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The crop reports for the 2004 season are coming in with considerable variance. Some excellent early build up, nectar abundance and great weather led to bumper crops in the Fraser Valley and Interior regions. Other regions report drought and still others excessive moisture in areas like the B.C. Peace country. Concerns still prevail on the nature and extent of Kashmir Bee Virus and the potential effects on overwintering honeybee colonies.

There have been two recent resignations from the executive of the BCHPA. As well there are many significant issues involving the AgriFood Futures Fund. Further discussions will be held at the fall AGM. The BCHPA Annual General Meeting and conference, hosted by the Cowichan Valley Beekeepers, was held October 28 - 30, 2004 at Duncan B.C. with this year's theme "Dealing with Varroa." Speakers Dr. Tibor Szabo, Dr. Rob Currie, and Adony Melathopoulos brought us up to date on varroa issues and Tim Townsend discussed the COFFS program.

Further information on BCHPA activities please visit the website at www.bcbeekeepers.com

BEEMAID

The Canadian beekeeping industry is at a crossroads. Imported honey continues to flow into Canada. At a time when Canadian beekeepers are having difficulty finding a home for their crop, imports continue to enter Canada at record levels. In 2003, Canada imported almost 20 million pounds of honey at an average price of \$1.30 per pound. In the first three months of 2004 over 4.4 million pounds has been imported into Canada at an average price of \$1.09 / lb. In some major retailers in Canada, it is now difficult to find 100% Canadian honey. Canadian honey has historically achieved a premium price in the world market because of its quality. This premium price is now being eroded in our home market because of lower priced imports on Canadian grocery store shelves.

In the last few issues of *HiveLights* we have read that a 100% Canadian Honey logo is being developed by the CHC. Once this logo is developed, an educational initiative will be required by the industry to spread the word on the high quality of Canadian Honey. Canadian beekeepers produce some of the finest honey in the

world, and the Canadian consumer must be made aware of this. Canadian consumers are confused by labeling that is misleading.

Consumers must understand that there is a difference in quality and taste between Canadian honey and these imported blends and to make sure that the honey they select is marked "Product of Canada".



Neil Specht

Do we continue to lose control of our grocery store shelves or do we fight back? There is an urgent need for a national promotion program to educate the Canadian

honey consumer to read the label and to choose honey with a 100% Canadian honey logo and marked "Product of Canada". BeeMaid has spent its own resources advertising the quality of Canadian honey however we cannot do it on our own.

The beekeeping industry needs to invest in their own market. We urge everyone at their upcoming regional, provincial and national meetings to discuss this problem and do whatever they can to support a program that will promote "Canadian Honey". If we choose not to do so, we risk a continuation of the erosion of our presence in the Canadian honey market and the loss of our livelihood.

Changing the structure of CHC

John Pedersen, past chair CHC Bylaw committee, Cutknife, Saskatchewan

There is no doubt that as presently constituted; the CHC is sadly underfunded. There is also no room for questioning the need for a national voice for beekeepers, whether it is the present CHC or some successor organization.

The Council is funded by a voting delegate fee for each of the individual organizations that holds a seat on the Council. These institutional memberships do not supply enough money to finance CHC activities. So in addition to these institutional memberships, the CHC also solicits individual beekeepers to become "members." Becoming an individual "member" entitles the person to attend meeting of CHC and to speak, but not vote, at these sessions. The "member" also receives a subscription to the CHC's publication; "Hivelights." Despite constant urging for beekeepers to take out individual "membership" in the CHC, the vast majority of beekeepers do not bother. The reasons for this non-interest are probably varied, but the net result is that CHC is constantly struggling to obtain sufficient revenue to carry out its mandate.

There have been previous attempts to broaden the scope of CHC. During the 1980s the "300 club" was established. This extended voting privileges to individual members who paid a membership fee of \$300.00. The "300 club" fell apart in the late 1980s during the heated debate over whether to close the border or retain imports of American bees and queens.

Another attempt to increase revenues to CHC was the aborted effort to impose a mandatory check-off, either on a per hive count, or on pounds of honey sold. This check-off proposal was floated in the early 1990s.

Some individual members of CHC, and many who are not members, contend that it is the way the Honey Council is structured that deters more beekeepers from joining. The feeling is that while the CHC is interested in taking their money they are not interested in hearing their opinions. The stated objective of this group of beekeepers is that if a person has a membership he or she should be allowed to vote at any general meeting of the CHC. While this view would certainly be the most democratic, it does introduce some problems. Because the CHC is a national organization they try to vary the meeting locale from year to year so that no beekeepers, in whatever area of the country they may be, will feel excluded. Given this shifting location of annual meetings of CHC, some people argue that it would be no problem for local beekeepers to pack a meeting and therefore

Continued on pg 10

Plants for bees - Canada Goldenrod

Douglas Clay, Research Scientist, Calgary

COMMON NAME Canada Goldenrod
Also referred to as Common Goldenrod, or in the USA as Field Goldenrod. Recently the Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima* L.) has been reclassified as a variety of *S. canadensis* L.

SCIENTIFIC NAME *Solidago canadensis* L

PRONOUNCED sole-ih-DAY-go.

NATIVE RANGE

The goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) are members of the sunflower or daisy family (Asteraceae (Compositae)) that are native to North America. The family also includes the asters (*Aster* spp.), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia serotina* Nutt.), ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense* Scop.), burdock (*Arctium minus* Bernh.), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* Weber), etc.

In North America there are over 100 species of *Solidago* spp. and another dozen species are native to South America, Europe, and Asia. The greatest number of species is found in the southeastern USA. The most common goldenrod in Canada and possibly the world is the *Solidago canadensis*, a species with 5 varieties found in different geographic regions of North America. Most provinces and states identify 2 dozen or more species as occurring in their region.

The goldenrod is a highly adaptable genus that occupies many different environments from salt marsh to dry prairie. This has allowed them to become a 'successful' invasive species when introduced into new ecosystems. They tend to impact native species by direct competition and displacement. Because of their wide tolerance of ecological conditions the scale of impact can be severe. Their showy flowers have led to their horticultural introduction throughout Europe and their adoption as the state flower in Nebraska (*S. gigantea* Aiton) and Kentucky (*S. canadensis*).

CANADIAN DISTRIBUTION

Canada goldenrod (*S. canadensis*) is the most common of all goldenrod, found in every province and territory. It is often found on dryer upland sites. Other common species include the low goldenrod (*S. missouriensis* Nutt.) and the rigid goldenrod (*S. rigida* L.).

DESCRIPTION

The goldenrod as a group are well known and widely distributed, turning fallow fields and meadows yellow every fall. They are coarse-looking perennial herbs that are usually about 0.5 to 1.0 m tall but can reach from 2 m in height down to 5 cm. They have alternate leaves surrounding the central stem. The larger leaves occur on the lower stem and have three main veins. Each leaf is lanceolate, acuminate (leaf with a tapering point) and toothed. The leaves have no petiole (stalk).

The stem is downy and grayish; several flowering stems exist at the top of the plant and form a panicle-bearing mass of tiny yellow flowers. It may have fine flattened hairs.

Goldenrod is often classified on the basis of the plant shape or silhouette. Identification can be difficult due to the large number of species and varieties and in addition, this genus hybridizes freely. Characteristics of *Solidago* spp. include elongated flower stalks with yellow flowers (except the silverrod (*S. bicolor* L.) which has white flowers) and often a basal rosette of leaves distinctly longer than those found on the upper stem. (Figure 1, pg 16)

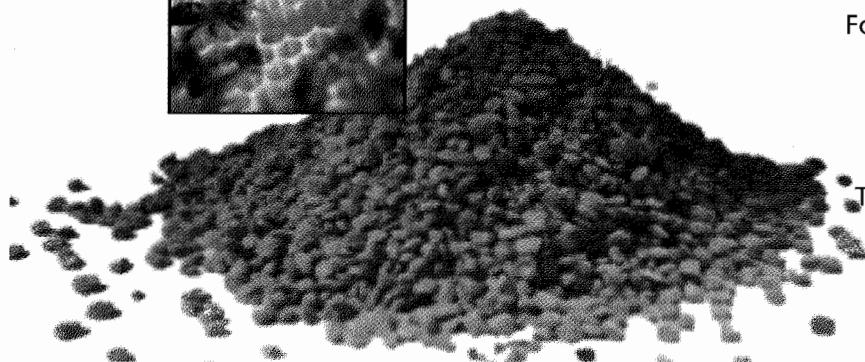
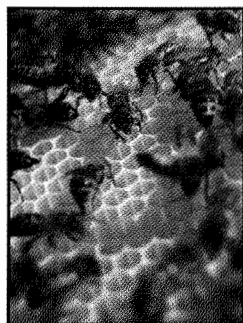
Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / *USDA NRCS. 1995. Northeast wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species. Northeast National Technical Center, Chester, PA.



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S. canadensis is in the family Compositae, named such because the blooms are made up of numerous tiny flowers (a mean of 9,700 flowers/stem). Each flowering blossom that makes up the plume has 9-15 ray flowers and approximately 7 central flowers with 5 petals on each one. They are so tightly packed together that it is hard to be sure of the exact number of petals. When the flowering is over, the calyx holds a crown of hairs (pappus), which later carry the small fruit on the wind. The fruit is an achene (thin walled single seed).

ECOLOGY

Wind-pollinated plants usually have dull flowers and light, abundant pollen. Goldenrod on the other hand has brightly colored flowers that attract color-sensitive insects. The pollen grains are relatively large, heavier than air, because they have evolved to be carried off by flies, bees, butterflies, even ants or birds, but not by the wind. Goldenrod is often incorrectly considered responsible for hay fever. This misconception is because the showy flowers appear at the same time the less conspicuous ragweed (*A. artemisiifolia*) with its green flowers that produce the airborne pollens that are largely responsible for the autumn hay fever season.

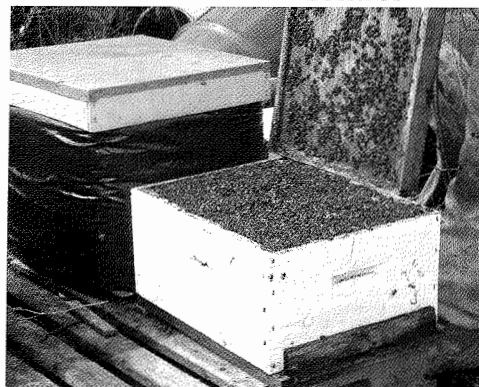
S. canadensis is a rhizomatous perennial herb that forms large clonal colonies. Despite this, it is not a serious weed in annual crops, and it seldom reaches densities that are a problem in rangelands. It does, however, invade poorly managed pastures and can be a pest in forest nurseries as well as perennial gardens and crops. Canada goldenrod

continued on page 16

HARD CHEMICAL RESISTANCE?

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ensure that the issues that were current for that area would be those that were approved for that year. This would lead to inconsistent and contradictory policy initiatives that the CHC would be forced to adhere to. The perceived danger is that such possible changes in direction would weaken any political influence that CHC might have.

Is there a middle ground between the narrowly based delegate structure of the present CHC and the possible anarchy of a wide open, all members vote, type of structure? To try and find this middle ground was the mandate of the committee that was established following the December 2002 meeting of CHC at Niagara Falls. The committee has come up with several options, ranging from maintaining the status quo, through various versions of institutional plus member delegate systems, to a wide open one-member one-vote type of system. Details of the voting structure proposals are on the CHC website; www.honeycouncil.ca

So what would be the advantages of changing the structure of CHC to broaden the voting membership? There are several benefits. These include:

- Make the organization more democratic by expanding the participating membership.
- By expanding the participating membership it should be possible to attract many new members, which leads directly to the next point.
- By expanding the membership base of CHC it should ease the perennial problem that CHC faces, namely lack of funds which leads to an inadequate job.
- With an expanded membership the CHC would have a heightened political profile, which would make its lobbying efforts easier.

There are some disadvantages to changing the structure of CHC. Some of these are:

- Once agreement is reached on what a new structure should be, there would have to be a major revision of the By-laws. This would probably require at least a year in order to draft new By-laws, have them circulated, and then have a general meeting to adopt them.
- Many people feel uncomfortable moving away from something that is familiar to something new. This conservative tendency is inherent in any organization, but it seems even more entrenched in a federated rather than a direct membership type of organization.

My fear is that without a major restructuring of CHC, some beekeepers may be tempted to try

to establish a competing direct membership organization. This, in my opinion would be a mistake. The Canadian beekeeping industry is not large enough to have two competing organizations purporting to set policy and lobby on behalf of beekeepers. One has only to glance to our neighboring beekeepers in the US, where they do have two (and sometimes three) competing organizations. These organizations seem more interested in fighting each other than in actually developing and implementing policy and lobbying government on behalf of the industry.

The structure of the CHC will be discussed at the annual meeting in Saskatoon Saskatchewan Thursday February 3, 2004. Interested parties should contact their delegate with their view and arrange to participate in this important discussion.

Tracking Nature

Geographical fingerprints in food ingredients add transparency to organic chain

Staff, Organic & Wellness News, www.organic-and-wellness-news.com

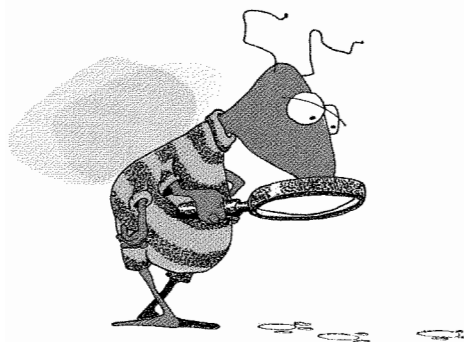
Jülich, Germany – Has corn syrup adulterated a shipment of honey? Is a shipment of organic butter really made from milk coming from cows fed with GM maize? Agrolislab, a German state-of-the-art laboratory offers precise answers.

"An isotopic analysis of a small sample of the product in question provides reliable information about the quality and legitimacy of the origin of the products you are buying", said Sven Burucker of Agrolislab GmbH, a laboratory established from the joint venture between Agrosom GmbH in Echem and the Research Center in, Jülich Germany.

"The structure of water changes depending on the region where it comes from", stated Burucker. "Water leaves a "geographic fingerprint" in all organic matter and the isotope analysis shows this natural labeling by the internal structure of elements such as hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and sulfur that have different isotopes depending on the geographical location". Plants and animals take water from their environment. So the water in their tissue shows the isotopic ratio of their region. As a result there is a natural invisible

fingerprint that cannot be changed by chemical additives.

The isotope analysis is a technology known for over 25 years in the wine and beer industries and to serve archaeologists and geologists and other research fields. But it was only recently introduced to serve other foodstuffs. Agroisolab is one of the few laboratories capable of analyzing isotopes of all bio-elements and the last two years has been able to trace back the origin of samples of raw vegetables, fruits, eggs, milk, honey and transformed food like butter and jams to a particular region or even to the farm itself.



"You do not only need excellent technology, but an interdisciplinary team of qualified agricultural scientists, biologists, food chemists, agricultural and chemical engineers", said Burucker. Agroisolab has a dynamic, interdisciplinary in-house team under the leadership of Prof. Hilmar Förstel

and managing director Markus Boner, with the back-up support of laboratories specializing in other fields, if their customers request further research.

"If a company needs a test, they send us a sample in a vacuum package and the results are provided within 5-10 workinays, at a cost ranging between 200-€ and 350-€ per sample", declared Burucker.

Agroisolab serves retail chains, traders, food producer associations, food inspection agencies and other authorities, especially those dealing with products from the European Union. "We have been able to identify fraud cases of adulterated wine and honey, or shipments that claim a fake country of origin to take advantage of the subsidies", said Burucker.

Prof. Förstel's team can see differences between milk coming from the USA and Canada or even between Northern and Southern Japan. But if a sample of butter is made with milk from different regions, it is harder to establish the geographic fingerprint. "Then you know there might be a case of fraud if the paperwork tells otherwise", said Burucker. And although Agroisolab has a worldwide database mapping the water structures, they also need, in special situations, a sample of the foodstuff from the claimed region of origin.

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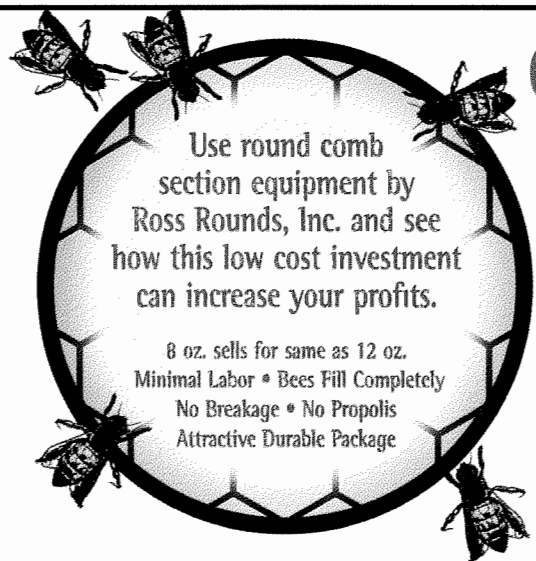
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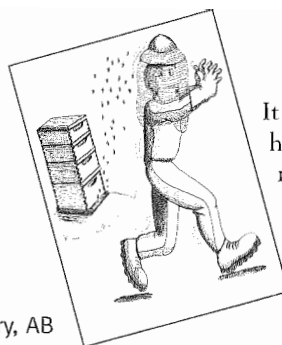
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First Frost

Passages from the book *Bad Beekeeping*

Ron Miksha, Calgary, AB



It was late September. I built hive equipment. The blade on my table-saw spun for hours as I trimmed spruce boards and plywood sheets into new covers and bottoms for new hives.

I sorted combs, arranging pollen and honey and empty frames so that the new bees I would bring from Florida the next spring would have the things they needed to call a box a home. I cleaned, washed, rewashed, then painted my extracting shop. Getting ready for the next honey season, nine months away.

One night, the windows of my tiny house shook, a north wind rattled the panes. The glass whitened. Snow - wet and heavy - replaced leaves torn from the trees during the night. The prairie looked fresh and clean, clad in white. I enjoyed the crisp cold air. But I was leaving for Florida in a few days to raise queen bees and produce orange blossom honey. I kicked at the snow with my boot; the Val Marie villagers tramped upon the slosh. They would be staying in this winter-wonderland, it would be months before they would enjoy long sunny days again.

The morning after the first snowfall of winter, I began wrapping wintering material around my hives, brushing snow off the hive covers, replacing it with fuzzy pink fiberglass. I stretched kolomax - heavy, black, water resistant paper - over the boxes and insulation, then looped baler twine around everything. It took three days to wrap my hives. They wouldn't be touched again for six months.

I had no reason to spend the winter in Val Marie. Other bees I owned, in the States, had finished their season in Wisconsin. I needed to cart them to Florida. I drained water from the pipe that led up to the honey shop. I emptied the water pump in the basement, dumped antifreeze into the toilet and sinks, as Frank had done a year earlier. Then I went to Wong's for lunch.

The weather in southern Saskatchewan had been pleasant throughout August. The big sky was clear, pale blue. And the sun was warm, not hot. Grain fields turned yellow. Farmers plodded across their land with big red and green machines. In a few days, brown and gold wheat transformed into white stubble. I saw farmers working long hours, late into the night. Headlights, flashlights, and brilliant spotlights lit trucks, tractors, and machinery in dark wheat fields.

My bees made a lot of honey in July, but by late August they'd turned lazy. The air no longer scented by sweet nectar becoming honey. The bees flew more slowly as they left their hives. When I drove into the apiaries, the bees met my windshield with interested curiosity. In July, I had been ignored by the busy bees, except for the few that absent-mindedly banged their heads into the truck windows. By the middle of August, I had taken honey from each hive twice. Five shallow boxes the first time, three the second. A hundred pounds, then sixty pounds, from each hive. Most of the hives still had one extra box for surplus honey as September approached. I left two empty boxes on a few exceptional hives. But it looked like autumn was coming quickly.

My first season in Val Marie ended with a big freeze. On the second morning in September, the dry air of the high plains chilled to ten degrees below frost. I quickly gathered the four hundred honey boxes that were still on the hives. The bees were evil, viciously wicked. Flowers that had distracted them when I formerly rampaged through their hives were blackened and dead. This angered the bees. They aggressively defended

the boxes of honey that sat above their brood nests. I was stung a lot. It hurt. I was tempted to take all the honey from some of the hives, so they would starve and die. But I didn't. I left enough honey with each colony so the bees might survive the long winter ahead, only pulling the surplus. Soon, the last of the crop was extracted and drained into drums. I had twelve more barrels, seven thousand extra pounds of honey, another four thousand dollars. With all the steel barrel lids hammered and bolted into place, I had one hundred twelve drums - seventy thousand pounds of honey. Enough to fill a big swimming pool.

I had made enough honey to earn enough money to buy trucks, gasoline, equipment, and machinery so I could keep bees again the following year. The season had been good. I'd be in business the next summer. I had learned a lot. Next year would be better. I had equipment from Earl, enough to start four hundred new hives. I had three hundred hives that would be wintering on the prairie. I'd have seven hundred hives the next summer. More work, certainly, but it had been an easy year, I knew I could work harder next season. Twice as many bees, twice as much honey, twice as much money. And I wanted to make more money.

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Harry Wong was selling his restaurant and moving to Swift Current. He smiled at me and took my order. Then he came out of the kitchen with something in his hands. He handed me his abacus. He hadn't used it in years, he told me, it had sat idly above the stove in his café kitchen. His grandfather's abacus had a thin layer of grey rust, the beads longed to be dragged across their wires, to count and add. "You like numbers," Harry said. "You keep this now."

The American agents who worked the border apparently weren't paid enough money. They had to make up the difference on their own. I learned about this my first year in Canada. When I left for Florida, I had four hundred pounds of honey in the back of my truck. Fifty neatly packaged clean white pails. Gifts for family, friends, and people in Florida who let me put bees in their orange groves.

The American officer looked in my camper. "I heard about you," he said. "The Hutterites say your bees make the best honey."

I started to thank him for the compliment. He interrupted me.

"We wanted to buy some honey from you this summer, but never made it up to Val Marie. Can I get some now?"

I was going to say no. All the honey pails had previously assigned homes. But he was wearing a gun.

"I don't have any cash on me," he continued. "I'll pay you next spring, when you come back. You are coming back, right?"

I gave him an eight pound pail of honey.

"What else ya' haulin'?" he asked.

Did he want some of my clothes? "Clothes."

"OK. How many pounds of honey are you haulin'?" He was counting my pails.

"I had four hundred pounds. Now I have eight pounds less."

"The duty on four hundred pounds of honey is eight dollars."

I knew that the tax was one cent a pound, four, not eight, dollars. I told him. I had become bold because it looked like he wasn't going to take any of my clothes.

"Is it?" he said. "OK. Maybe you're right." I gave him four dollars. He stuffed the cash into his shirt pocket. I wondered if he'd still be working there the next spring. He wasn't....

The book *Bad Beekeeping* is now available on line at Chapters.com, Traffords.com or from the author (see page 19).

Correction

Dr Mark Feldlaufer of the Beltsville Bee Research Laboratory kindly wrote to Hivelights regarding a short note in the August 2004 issue entitled "Kashmir Bee Virus, Mites and Bees". There are two inaccuracies; first, that virulence is a measure of the deadliness of the virus to the host and the study did not assess virulence. A more precise word would have been susceptibility, since the honey bee pupae are more susceptible to KBV when more mites are placed in a pupal cell. The study showed that virus frequency was directly correlated with the number of mites per cell. Second, the statement "...found molecular evidence that varroa mites can carry KBV both internally and externally" is wrong — a misquote from a very busy meeting on KBV at Beaverlodge AB.

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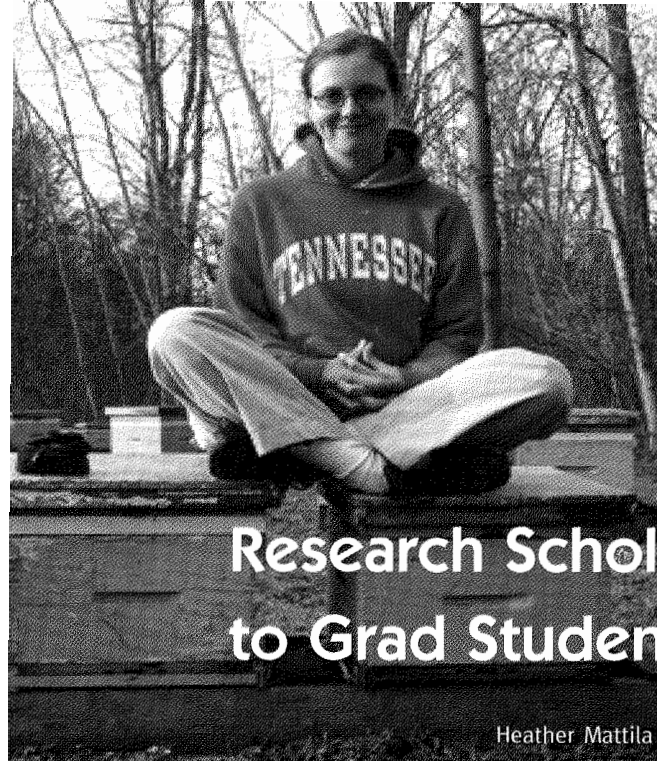
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Research Scholarships Awarded to Grad Students

Heather Mattila

Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees,
Jessup, GA

The Board of Trustees for the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees recently announced six scholarship awards to graduate students doing research on honey bees. Two of these students are from Canadian Universities and each will receive \$2,000.

The Foundation is supported by the American Beekeeping Federation. It hopes that this will encourage the young apicultural scientists in their work towards solutions for some of beekeeping's problems

HEATHER MATTILA – UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Heather is a Ph.D. candidate researching the effect of manipulating the protein (pollen) status of colonies in fall and early spring and quantifying the effects on both individual bees and their colonies. She is also investigating the effects of pollen nutrition on resistance to nosema disease.

ROBYN UNDERWOOD – UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

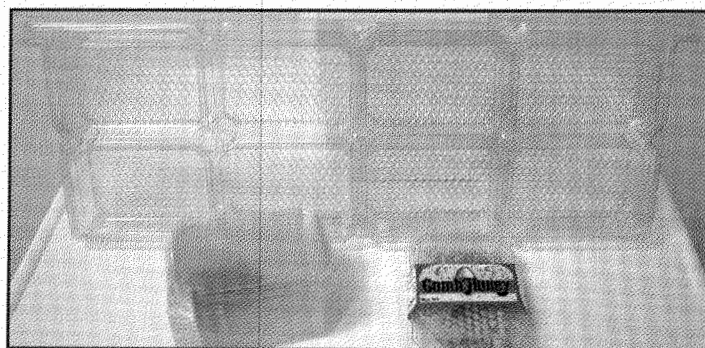
Robyn is also working on her PhD. Her work on the efficacy of formic acid for overwintering treatment of

honey bees earned her a Masters degree. She is now working on a doctoral thesis on fumigating colonies with formic acid in wintering buildings and on understanding how formic acid acts when used on colonies treated outdoors.

One of the criteria for the scholarships is that recipients must attend the January 2005 convention of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), where they will present a review of their research to the ABF and/or the American Bee Research Conference. In addition, they will be recognized at a luncheon sponsored by the Foundation.



Robyn Underwood



Bee-O-Pac Receives Dupont Silver Award

DuPont Packaging, Delaware

ATa ceremony at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, on August 6, 2004, DuPont announced winners of the 17th DuPont Awards for Innovation in Packaging. The competition honors innovation in food processing and packaging from all across the supply chain - from technology and processes to equipment and converters to the end use packagers. With 104 entries, this year's 8-member judging panel had a difficult task. Twenty-two international

continued on pg. 22

Maritime Beekeepers' Association: 100 year Anniversary

Heather Clay
National Coordinator, Canadian Honey Council

IN July 2004 the Maritime Beekeepers' Association (MBA) celebrated its centenary anniversary. Beekeepers from around the Maritimes came to help celebrate at the historic Acadian village of Memramcook, NB. The event was a time to reflect on the past and the future of the association.

It is not certain when the first bees arrived in the Maritimes. In 1784 Nova Scotia and New Brunswick became separate colonies and at the same time thousands of Loyalists arrived in the Port of Saint John from the USA. Many think that the Loyalists may have brought bees but considering they had few possessions and were on the move it is more likely that the early European settlers brought beekeeping to the Maritimes in the early 1800's. The hives were transported as skeps, packed in sawdust and ice to keep them cool during 3-5 week voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. We do know that the first bees were the German black bees, a distinct colour that is still dominant in some New Brunswick apiaries.

The world of beekeeping began to change after 1851 when Rev. L.L. Langstroth invented the movable frame hive, based on the "bee space". It took a few years for his innovations to filter to eastern Canada but by the 1880's Maritime beekeepers had begun to switch to movable frames.

In 1887 Edgar Colpitts, one of the early entrepreneurs in the Maritime bee industry, bought his first hive at the age of 13. Ten years later he had a large apiary at Pleasant Vale, NB with

several hundred colonies (Colpitts, 1983). Another beekeeper George Beach was reported in the 1897 St Croix Courier to have produced 3 tons honey from 215 hives in the St Stephen area, an average of 32 lb per hive (Cloney, 1987).

By 1900 Edgar Colpitts had established a catalogue business and sold beekeeping supplies around the Maritimes. He sent equipment to Nova Scotia by train and traveled in his Model T Ford to help beekeepers switch their

colonies from old crocks and skeps to the new movable frame hives. Package bees were imported from Ohio, also by means of the train.

Around the turn of the century there were a number of beekeepers getting into business so arrangements were made to hold the first MBA meeting at the Atlantic Winter Fair which was held in Amherst in December, 1903. Edgar was the first president and the \$1 membership fee also included a new Italian queen and a discount on Langstroth equipment (Craig, 1904).

Beekeeping expanded in the Maritimes through the years leading up to the First World War. In 1913 the NB government sent the Provincial Apiarist, Beecher Durost, on a travelling rail show called the "Better Farming Coach" to rural areas around the province. The coach cars of the train carried displays of agricultural interest including fertilizers,

continued on pg 17



Maple Leaf Apiary Colpitts Bros. Pleasant Vale N.B. July 1, 1897

is one of the first species to invade following disturbances including fire and is often a colonizer of disturbed sites.

Goldenrod is considered an "increaser", a species that extends its cover under ruminant grazing. There appears to be little effect from insect herbivores.

CANADIAN HABITAT:

Canada goldenrod can be found in waste areas, tall grass prairies, along roadsides, fence lines, dry open fields, and in open woods or damp meadows that dry out every year. It is not found on waterlogged sites and only rarely on very dry sites. It can tolerate a fairly wide range of soil fertility and texture, but is typically found in moist well-drained soils. In some regions, species with limited distributions and specific habitat requirements can become threatened due to loss of critical habitat.

METHODS OF REPRODUCTION AND SPREAD:

Canada goldenrod reproduces sexually from seed and asexually from creeping rhizomes. The flowers are self-incompatible and thus must be pollinated by insects. The seed is wind dispersed, with most seeds falling within 2.0 m of the parent plant. After the first year of growth it can also reproduce from rhizomes. One erect stem usually forms at a rhizome node. Each rhizome can produce a single shoot from its apical tip.

It is generally enhanced by fire regenerating from on-site soil-stored seed and/or underground rhizomes. Goldenrod often has long lived spreading root system and there some who believe plants can be decades old.

HONEY/POLLEN POTENTIAL:

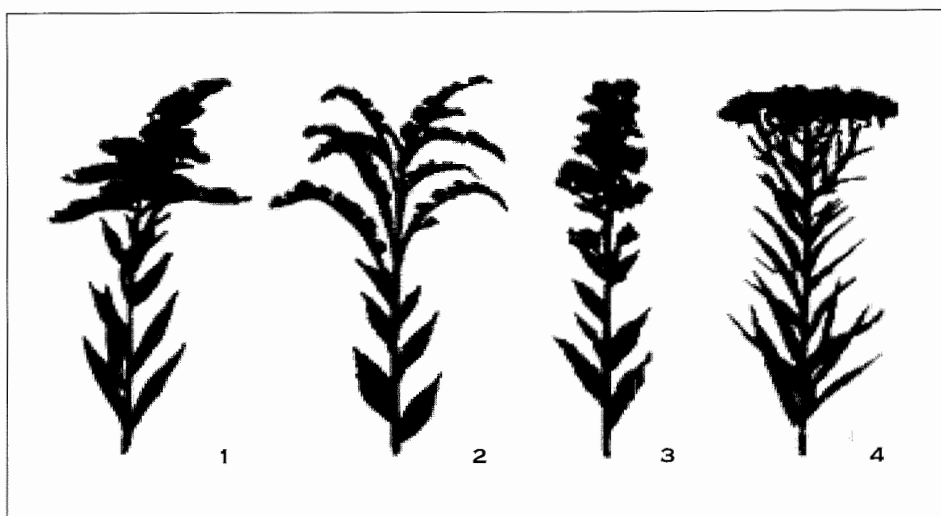
Solidago spp. flowers are an important source of nectar and pollen for honeybees. Flowering occurs in late summer and fall – often continuing after the first frost. They provide an important source of winter stores, often co-mingled with fall asters, after many cultivated crops have finished flowering.

Goldenrod is more important in the Maritimes than in central Canada, while in western Canada it can be locally important. It yields well in cool damp weather but does better in a warm dry autumn. It appears to yield best on moist sites or in years with ample rainfall. This fall nectar supply can be crucial for overwinter success. In regions where the fall honey flow has the tendency to crystallize in the comb, many beekeepers will remove the fall honey and feed the bees sugar syrup for their overwinter supplies.

The nectar has a low to medium sugar concentration of about 32%.

Edison found that certain species contain latex. Some species (sometimes called dyer's-weed) have yielded a yellow dye, and the leaves of many species have long been used by native North Americans for medicinal preparations and teas, whence the botanical name [Latin: *solidare* =to make whole]. The active principles - saponins, floral pigments, and tannins - are used in the treatment of kidney and intestinal inflammations.

An antioxidant, diuretic, and astringent; the goldenrod is a valuable remedy for urinary tract disorders. It is used both for serious ailments such



after Peterson and McKenny (1968).

Figure 1. Goldenrod can be classified on the basis of the plant shape; 1 plume - (*S. canadensis*) (now includes the Tall Goldenrod, formerly *S. altissima*), 2 Elm-branched - (*S. rugosa* Miller), 3 Club - (*S. squarrosa* Nutt.), or Wand - (Ontario Goldenrod *S. simplex* Kunth.), and 4 Flat-topped - (*S. graminifolia* (L.) Nutt.)

Goldenrod can be a high producer of honey (from 100 to 500 kg/ha) although it is difficult to separate what is collected from goldenrod from that co-collected from aster flowers.

The honey has a distinctive smell that permeates the apiary providing ample notice to bears and others of a plentiful food supply. Goldenrod produces a dark golden yellow to amber honey with a strong flavor, it often forms coarse crystals within two months of extraction.

OTHER USES:

Goldenrod attracted short-lived commercial attention when Thomas

as nephritis and for more common problems like cystitis. The herb also reputedly helps flush out kidney and bladder stones. Goldenrod's saponins act specifically against the *Candida* spp. fungus, the cause of many yeast infections and oral thrush.

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drainage and methods for raising honeybees. Durost suggested a need for a provincial beekeeper's association and the New Brunswick Beekeepers Association held its inaugural meeting in the fall of 1913 (Clay, 1994). Directors travelled to the meeting by train. Their remuneration for being on the board of directors was a train ticket and a hearty thank you.

During the First World War honeybees provided a small income and a source of sweetener for many families. Sugar shortages made honey a desirable product. The price of honey ranged from 20 to 33 cents a pound. Compare this with a price of bottled honey 85 years later which is about \$1.50 to \$2.00 per pound.

Beekeeping grew through the post war and depression years. In 1939, Phil Bishop, a well known beekeeper in Sackville, NB had a thriving operation where he selected queens for overwintering ability and honey production. He produced one sixth of the total NB crop (16,000 of 90,000 lb.). Phil was the Maritime delegate to the Canadian Honey Council from 1950-56. Among his numerous inventions were an electric chain driven extractor (believed to have been a precursor of the Maxant extractor) and a radial parallel extractor powered by planetary transmission from a Model T Ford. The Bishop Trophy was for many years awarded to the top Honey Exhibitor at the Atlantic Winter Fair.

During the Second World War sugar was rationed but beekeepers were allowed extra coupons for 15 pounds of sugar per hive (Moore, 1946). This was not enough sugar to overwinter a colony of bees and beekeepers were forced to obtain additional sugar through the black market. Commercial beekeeping stagnated for lack of manpower and low supply of bees during the war years. Most of the honey produced was sold at the farm gate and there was a shortage in the retail stores.

After the Second World War, beekeeping became more popular and the role of bees for pollination became more important. Endel Karmo, NS Provincial Apiarist from 1950-1977, conducted a great deal of research on blueberry pollination. He also investigated overwintering techniques and bee health. Many of his documents are still used in extension work throughout the Maritimes and beyond.

Sometime around 1960 there was a "sea change" of attitude towards pollination in the Maritimes. Pollination was known to be important but growers were not willing to pay for bees. After research indicated the great importance of honeybees for a good fruit set, progressive blueberry and apple growers began renting bee colonies. Hive rental was generally equivalent to a replacement package of bees (\$6-\$8).

Insecticidal sprays have always been a problem to beekeepers renting bees for pollination. High losses were common in the 1960's-1970's where there was aerial spraying of the forests. In 1976, a landmark court case had an important outcome for beekeepers in the Maritimes. Blueberry producers, Bridges Brothers, St Stephen, NB sued the aerial spray company, Forest Protection Limited (FPL). This company was responsible for the aerial spraying of fenitrothion, an organophosphate pesticide, over thousands of acres of forest to control spruce budworm caterpillars.

During the period 1971-72, Bridges Brothers documented their loss of bee colonies and blueberry production, after FPL sprayed active blueberry fields. FPL was fined \$58,500 plus costs for damages (Rashid, 2003). More importantly they were forced to impose a 3.2 km buffer zone from all blueberry fields. After the court case, FPL began providing maps and notification of spray zones which helped beekeepers in their struggle to survive the spray program. It was several years later before the link was made between Reye's syndrome

continued on pg 23



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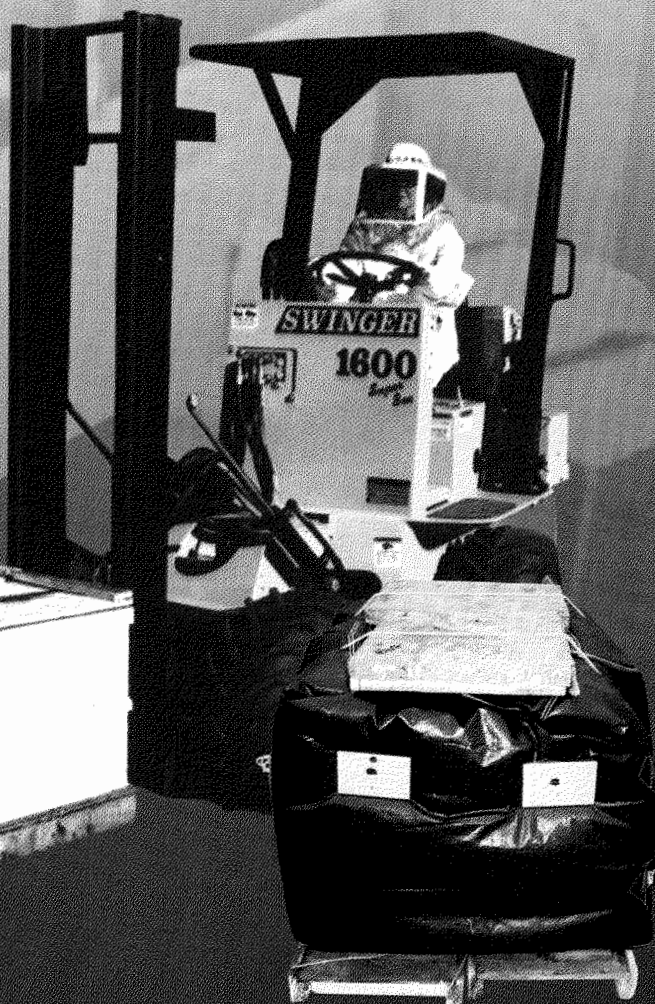
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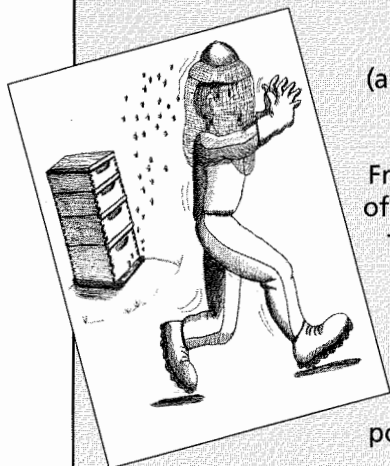
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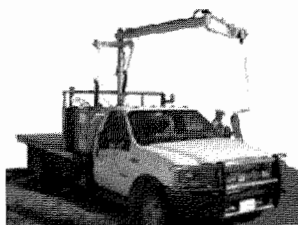
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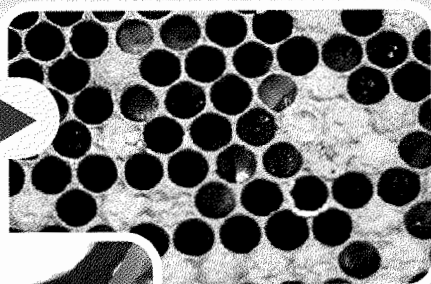
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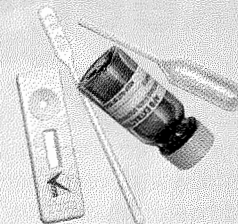
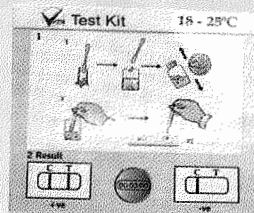
European Foulbrood (EFB) is a bacterial brood disease caused by several agents the main being the bacterium *Melissococcus pluton*. It occurs most

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

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

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

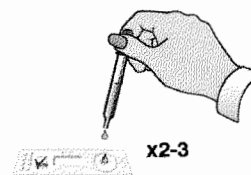
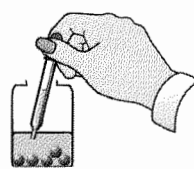
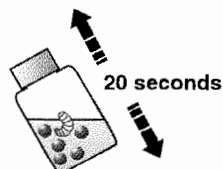
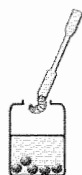
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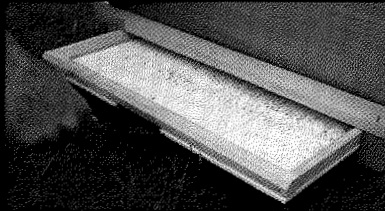
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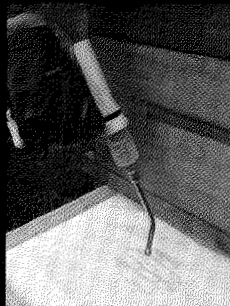
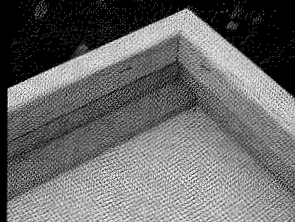
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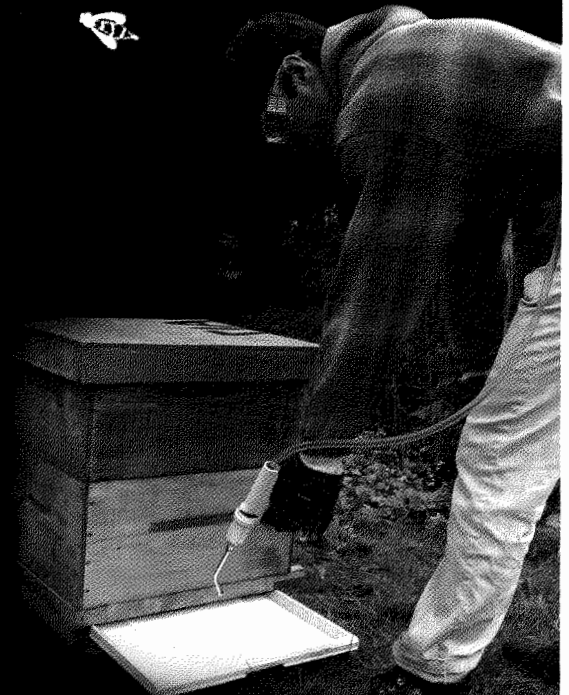
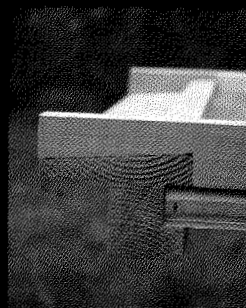
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food and non-food packaging innovations received awards

The Silver Award was presented to Canadian designed product Bee-O-Pac plastic packaging system for the collection of comb honey. The award was presented to the partners Shepherd Thermoforming and Packaging Inc. – Canada, Bee-O-Sphere Technologies – Canada and Petco - Canada

Bee O-Pac is a completely new way for beekeepers to harvest comb honey from their bees. This patent-pending invention is taking bees and harvesters by surprise. The frame is thermoformed using APET material and is designed to be used in the hive with individual package bases filled by the bees. Once filled, the bases are separated from the frames. A lid has been designed to snap to the bases and incorporate a label wrap for tamper evidence.

BEE-O-PAC PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The Bee-O-Pac comb honey system consists of eight easily assembled clear, food grade, PET plastic frames which are inserted directly into a 6 5/8" Langstroth super. Each frame consists of two halves that are attached together at eight points with a pair of pliers. The frames have eight "pacs" integrated into each side and each "pac" is embossed on the bottom surface with a comb pattern to guide the bees. The frames have built in spacers to maintain the bee space and control the fill level.

At harvest time each frame is separated into sixteen "pacs" along the die cuts, the accompanying lids are snapped on to complete the package. Each "pac" contains about 115 to 130 gms (4 to 4.5 ounces) of comb honey in a clear package, allowing the customer to see the comb from all angles. A wraparound label is recommended to provide security as well as labelling and the "pacs" are ready to sell. (note: freezing the comb will avoid any waxmoth problems)

DuPont Awards Facts:

The DuPont Awards for Innovation in Food Processing and Packaging were inaugurated in 1986 as an international industry competition.

DuPont sponsors the competition in cooperation with Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Association in Gloucestershire, England, and the National Food Processors Association in Washington, D.C.

Entries are evaluated on the following overall criteria:

- Degree of innovation
- Breadth of application
- Significance/impact on industry or consumers
- Marketing innovation of the packaged product
- Impact of the packaging on consumer or industry buying decisions

The Awards recognize industry innovations that utilize plastic packaging materials in food and non-food categories. The food category recognizes advancements from all parts of the food chain, which are made possible, or more productive, by the use of plastic packaging.

Canadian Bee Research Fund Call For Proposals

Rob Currie, Chair Canadian Bee Research Fund

The directors of the Canadian Bee Research Fund invite calls for proposals for the 2005 competition. Grants will be considered in any area of apiculture or pollination research, but preference will be given for subjects identified by the Canadian beekeeping industry as high priority.

The Canadian Bee Research Fund (CBRF) is now in its seventh year of operation, and has awarded grants for research considered important for the survival and prosperity of the Canadian beekeeping industry. The CBRF was established to counteract the problems caused by severe reductions in federal and provincial funding for honeybee research. The Fund has been set up as a long-term endowment to support bee research, with interest generated available for annual grants.

Projects awarded funding for 2004 were

Currie R., \$10,000 "Environmental and Chemical Control of Varroa in Indoor Wintering Facilities."

Pernal, S., \$10,000 "Management of Oxytetracycline Resistant American Foulbrood Disease in Honey Bees."

Robertson, A. J., \$7,500 "Evaluation of Varroa and Tracheal Mite Tolerance in Selected Honeybee Lines and Attempted Correlation of Tolerance with DNA Markers."

Reports of these current projects will be given at the annual CHC/CAPA research symposium in Saskatoon February, 2005.

Applications for this round of grants should be sent to Dr Rob Currie, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MB R3T 2N2. The deadline for submission of proposals is 30 November 2004. Application details can be found on the CHC Website www.honeycouncil.ca

continued from pg 17

in children and the aerial spraying of fenitrothion. Then the less harmful *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) spray was phased in as a replacement.

Pollination fees account for over half of the Maritime beekeepers income. Most commercial beekeepers keep as many colonies as they can efficiently send to pollination. The apiculture industry works closely with the blueberry growers to establish the annual requirement for pollinating colonies. When possible, the number of overwintered colonies is adjusted according to the growers needs.

Over the past decade, Maritime beekeepers have moved towards self sufficiency through

improved overwintering techniques and queen rearing. With the legacy of Bishop's Bees, and well maintained Buckfast stock, there is very little tracheal mite infestation in the Maritimes. Varroa mites have taken their toll but Maritime beekeepers are committed to improving the quality of bee stock. Importation of honeybees is not as important today as it was in the 1980's.

The MBA is an umbrella group for the three Maritime provinces plus Newfoundland and Labrador. Each year the group meets to discuss their concerns and to choose a delegate for the national Canadian Honey Council meetings. Over the years the MBA has been hampered by lack of funds. Many of

the past delegates, including Gerry Smeltzer and Ralph Lockhart not only served on Council for many years but also paid their own expenses to attend. This dedication to the national organization has been a huge benefit to Maritime beekeepers, providing them with a national voice for concerns about pollination issues and imported stock.

Beekeeping in the Maritimes is made difficult by unpredictable wet spring weather and the occasional winter ice storms. It is not easy moving bees to pollination in the freezing winds of early spring or trying to treat for mites when temperatures drop below zero. The beekeepers that survived the loss of honey crops and colonies to weather and pesticides, have developed a Maritime industry that is adaptable, resourceful and resilient. Their natural good humour, self reliance and indomitable spirit will ensure another 100 years of successful beekeeping.

Clay, H. 1994. New Brunswick Beekeepers Association: Eighty

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Craig, W. (ed). 1904. Maritime Winter Fair. Canadian Beekeeping. XI(6):142.

Moore, E. 1946. Report of the Fieldman Apiculture Service. In: Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Fredericton, NB. 4 pp.

Rashid, A. 2003. Compromising the Environment? The Spruce Budworm, Aerial Insecticide Spraying, and the Pulp and Paper Industry in New Brunswick. Volume 8, Number 3 FES Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Series, June 2003. Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. Toronto, Canada 80 pp.

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# 64<sup>th</sup> Canadian Honey Council, Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association and Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists Convention

Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon Saskatchewan  
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## REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fees: Advance Registration deadline is December 1, 2004. Registration Forms post-marked later than December 1st will be charged the Full Registration rate.

Send registration form and payment to: **Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association**

Box 55 RR 1  
Yorkton, SK, S3N 2X5

Name of Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanying Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Advance Registration (December 1, 2004): .....\$75 \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration (after December 1, 2004): .....\$100 \_\_\_\_\_

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Banquet (Friday, February 4, 2004) .....\$45 \_\_\_\_\_

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| TUESDAY FEB. 1ST                                                    |                     |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| CHC directors,<br>Provincial Apiarists,<br>CFIA and Packers Meeting | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm   | EVENING      |
| WEDNESDAY FEB. 2ND                                                  |                     |              |
| Registration                                                        | Noon - 5:00 pm      | MORNING/AFT. |
| CHC Directors' Business Meeting                                     | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm   |              |
| CAPA Business Meeting                                               | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm   |              |
| SBA General Business Meeting                                        | 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm   |              |
| Trade Show                                                          |                     | EVENING      |
| Registration                                                        | 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm   |              |
| Joint Meeting-CAPA/CHC/SBA                                          | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm   |              |
| CFIA honey program                                                  |                     |              |
| CFIA bee import                                                     |                     |              |
| AAFC Marketing                                                      |                     |              |
| Hospitality Evening                                                 | 9:00 pm to Midnight |              |
| THURSDAY FEB. 3RD                                                   |                     |              |
| Provincial Presidents breakfast<br>meeting (closed)                 | 7:00 - 9:00 am      | MORNING/AFT. |
| CAPA breakfast meeting (closed)                                     | 7:30 am - 9:00 am   |              |
| Registration and Trade Show                                         | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm   |              |
| Trade Show                                                          |                     | EVENING      |
| CHC Annual General Meeting                                          | 9:30 am - 5:00 pm   |              |
| Trade Show                                                          |                     |              |
| Wine and Cheese                                                     | 8.00 pm - Midnight  |              |
| FRIDAY FEB. 4TH                                                     |                     |              |
| Registration and Trade Show                                         | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm   | MORNING/AFT. |
| Research Symposium                                                  | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm   |              |
| Guest Speaker Marla Spivak                                          |                     |              |
| Russian Bee project A. Robertson                                    |                     |              |
| Indoor Overwinter Treatments                                        |                     | EVENING      |
| IPM Rob Currie                                                      |                     |              |
| and more.. Steve Pernal                                             |                     |              |
| Banquet Adony Melathopoulos                                         |                     |              |
| Awards Ceremony & Auction                                           | 6:30pm - 10:00 pm   |              |
| SATURDAY FEB. 5TH                                                   |                     |              |
| Trade Show                                                          |                     | MORNING/AFT. |
| On Farm Food Safety program                                         | 9.30 am 2.00 pm     |              |
| Guest Speakers Bruce Boynton,<br>Bruce Boynton, NHB<br>Marla Spivak |                     |              |

# Honey Establishment Inspection Manual

Gail Daniels, Chief Dairy, Eggs and Honey Programs,  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has revised and updated the Honey Establishment Inspection Manual (April 2004) and distributed copies to all registered honey establishments. This seasons' establishment inspection will be conducted using this revised manual.

The previous Honey Inspection manual was published in 1989 and covered information relating to establishment registration and inspection as well as product inspection and grading. This revised manual covers the procedures and policies related only to the registration and inspection of the registered establishment. Updated procedures regarding product inspection (sampling, labelling, grading, import and export) will be forthcoming in a separate manual for Honey Product Inspection.

The manual is organized in Chapter format comprising:

- Chapter 1** - Registration of Establishment
- Chapter 2** - Establishment Inspection Procedures
- Chapter 3** - Enforcement and Compliance Actions
- Chapter 4** - Environmental Controls (Table format outlining the assessment criteria)
- Chapter 5** - Manufacturing Controls (Table format outlining the assessment criteria)

It also consists of a list of acronyms, a glossary and an introduction to introduce the various terms and principles used in beekeeping, honey production and inspection. As well, there are 9 appendices in Chapters 4 & 5 which provide a template for documenting and maintaining written programs and records.

The Honey Establishment Inspection Manual establishes national standards and procedures and provides clear

directions on how establishment registration and inspection are performed. It incorporates many HACCP principles or preventative procedures including requiring written programs and record keeping. Overall, it clearly indicates how establishments are to be evaluated.

CFIA believes that this revised manual will provide inspection staff with clear, uniform inspection procedures and will assist registered establishments to produce safe, high quality honey, in compliance with federal legislation. Any questions regarding this inspection manual should be directed to your local inspector or Area Program specialist.

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Better Bee Supplies, Cambridge, 519-621-7430  
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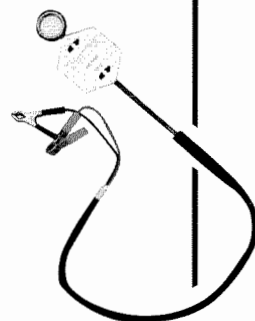
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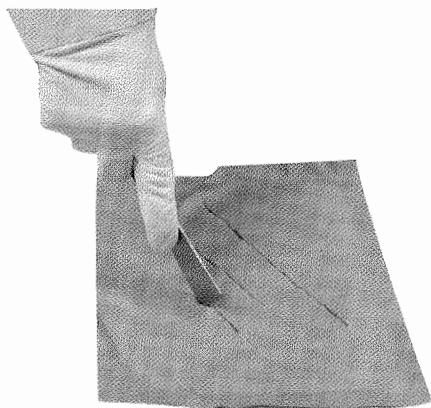
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