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In order to receive Hivelights you must be a current member of your provincial association. Non members such as Hobby Beekeepers, Honey Packers, Urban Beekeepers or Canadians with interests in Beekeeping can subscribe to the magazine for a $25.00 subscription fee per year.

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Looking back on 2016, it is my belief that the CHC was able to make some significant contributions to beekeeping in Canada. Still, all was not candy and roses. The year started with some very good overwintering numbers in almost all regions of Canada. This was offset, however, by a dramatic drop in honey prices which hit many commercial beekeepers very hard. Over the course of the year, honey prices have rebounded a little, but nowhere near the prices witnessed two years ago. While a number of factors have influenced the price drop, the CHC has focused on adulterated and transhipped honey. Aside from drawing the issues to the public’s attention, we have requested detailed information from CFIA on the extent of their testing of imported honey and the investigative work conducted on the country of origin paperwork. Much more work needs to be done on this file.

For the past four years the CHC has been working with the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) focusing on the temporary foreign worker’s four in four out rule. To put the labour issue in context, CAHRC released an “Apiiculture Industry Labour Market Forecast” which contained the following information:

“Beekeepers face major labour shortages that affect the industry’s production capacity and growth potential. Labour shortages were a significant factor for beekeepers in 2014 with nearly two-thirds of operations (63%) reporting that they were not able to find all the workers they needed. This is much higher than the sector average of 41%.

Beekeepers were also much more likely to report delaying or cancelling expansion plans as a direct result of not having enough workers. Labour shortages are estimated to have cost the industry $7 million in 2014, or 4% of sales, which is higher than the sector average of 2.7% in last sales.”

Many commercial beekeepers were losing employees as a result of the cumulative 4 in 4 out rule but in early December the Government of Canada announced that the four-year cumulative duration rule will no longer apply to temporary foreign workers in Canada, effective immediately. The cumulative duration rule, known as the “four-in, four-out” rule, was put in place in April 2011.

Honey labelling has continued to be a matter of concern with both CFIA and Health Canada now proposing labelling changes. Numerous consultations are on-going and there is little doubt that some labelling changes will come into effect. The job ahead for the CHC, in cooperation with each provincial association, is to ensure that new labelling requirements do not in any way hinder the sales and reputation of Canadian honey.

Honey promotion remains a key initiative of the CHC. This past year three directors were involved in the SIAL Paris trade show and came back with positive reports. A short report from them is printed in subsequent pages of this issue.

In the spring of 2016, Health Canada announced a new antimicrobial policy, a policy change that could have major ramifications on beekeepers access to tylosin and oxytetracycline. Presentations were made in the summer to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the CHC is continuing to push for a solution that will not encumber beekeepers while at the same time recognizing regulatory requirements.

The Canadian Bee Health Roundtable was active and published the “Canadian Best Management Practices for Honey Bee Health”. The manual’s content ranges “from regulations for pest and disease treatment thresholds to management of colonies during pollination services.” Copies of this document can be downloaded on the CHC website and limited hard copies are available on request. Also being published are two documents related to forage and nutrition. “Planting Forage for Honey Bees in Canada” provides an overview of where and how honey bee forage can be created in Canada. “Honey Forage and Bee Habitat: Programs, Management Practices, and Gaps in Canada” outlines current available programs in Canada. Again, these can be downloaded from the CHC website.

Late this fall the CHC launched its CHC app. The app can be downloaded for free at the app store and accessed by typing in honey council. While still working out some kinks, the app will allow up to the minute updates, access to survey information and connect users with key biosecurity and food safety information. With regards to food safety and biosecurity, the CHC continues to push beekeepers to adopt practices that enhance these practices. Information will soon be available that outlines how these practices can open up market opportunities in Asia.

The work your Board does for industry often goes unnoticed and is under appreciated by many. To Kevin Nixon, Stan Reist, Dani Glennie, Allan Cameron, Scott Plante, Mario Swinkels, Bernie Rousseau, Jim Coneybeare (now Albert Devries) Bill Termeer (now Ryan Poelman) many thanks for your support and guidance. May the New Year bring the board, as well as each and every one of you, a prosperous and successful bee season.
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Maritimes

Well it’s mid-December and I’m sure everyone is looking forward to some down time for the holidays after a long season. Winter is days away but it feels like mid-winter. After a nice warm early spring period, cold has set in quickly at the end of November giving us some brutally cold weather in December. I always can’t help but wonder this time of year, did we do enough for the bees to survive the winter. Most people reported a low mite count that should help with winter losses.

This is the time of year we can look to next summer’s workload and how to make it easier, boxes and frames to build, patties to make. The Nova Scotia government has already brought the 2016-2017 pollination expansion program to the forefront which makes planning easier. There is still lots of room for growth in the maritimes.

The industry is not without its hardships, and they seem to keep piling up this year. Pollination contracts are being clawed back as blueberry land and 12-13$ for 1Kg. The prices for honey in the barrel seem to be holding at 2.00$/Lb for honeys produced in Québec. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Quebec

As this is being written beekeepers are seeing the consequences of a drought in July and August of this year. With little to no nectar entering during that period the queens cut their brood cycle, thus giving us much smaller clusters in the fall. Early news is that packages and nucs will be in high demand in the spring, with also a possibility of having less hives available for blueberry pollinations in 2017.

The need for quality beehives during blueberry pollination is an ever increasing issue. This year’s contract signing this fall for hives in 2017 has hovered around the $150 mark. A delegation from the Québec Beekeepers Federation is set to meet with the blueberries growers in the month of January in Lac St-Jean. This is a yearly event that has helped to stimulate the Québec beekeeping industry by opening channels of communication, to help in negotiating prices for hives and their quality during pollination.

The retail prices for honey seem to be holding at around 7-8$ for 500g and 12-13$ for 1Kg. The prices for honey in the barrel seem to be holding at 2.00$/Lb for honeys produced in Québec.

Ontario

The weather for Ontario was excellent this fall. The frost was quite late allowing foraging through much of September. In fact it was reasonably warm and dry through November, allowing beekeepers to get hives treated, fed up and wrapped for the colder months. Most report healthy looking clusters going into the winter. Both spring and fall were warm allowing for a longer brooding period. Mite counts and viral load could be a factor for wintering. This coming spring will tell the tale.

Wholesale honey price is still a large concern with some beekeepers holding back honey loads. I have heard of a few producers finding niche markets to wholesale into and those with retail sales are thankful for the market. With the rumour of less hives required for blueberry pollination the financial squeeze is hitting our industry from various directions. The next year appears to be quite challenging with labelling changes, antibiotic availability to beekeepers being amended, as well as the financial hurdles of low wholesale prices.

Finally, I have had the opportunity to serve as Ontario rep for CHC over the past two years. Due to family and provincial association commitments I am stepping down allowing Albert DeVries to take my place in 2017.
place. I have been challenged by the experience and have appreciated getting to know the others who serve on the CHC board. Albert has served on the Ontario Beekeepers Assoc. board for several years and is quite capable of carrying on with CHC.

Manitoba

Allan Campbell

It's been a wild ride in the last quarter of 2016 in Manitoba. Weather wise, most of the province had a very cloudy and wet October with our area in Dauphin receiving over 305 mm of rain for the month which was well above average and made moving bees very difficult and messy. Once the skies cleared we had beautiful warm temperatures with lots of flying days and feeding weather through November which gave us plenty of time to catch up with our winter wrapping for those hives staying home outdoors and moving all of the rest West for winter. December however has brought some bitter cold spells and plenty of snow to cap off the year with the first week of 2017 having us under extreme cold warnings all week so far.

I hope that we see good overwintering success for our province, but I have heard reports of variable sized populations going into winter as well as higher than expected mite loads in some areas that give me some cause for concern. That and the fact that Oxalic acid vapourizers seem to be the darling of the day. I hear lots of reports of continued large mite drops with every application and not a very satisfying tapering off effect as one hopes for. It will be interesting to see what mite loads are in the spring and watch every application and not a very satisfying tapering off effect as one hopes for. It will be interesting to see what mite loads are in the spring and watch every application and not a very satisfying tapering off effect as one hopes for.

We held our AGM in November 2016 and attendance was about on par with previous years. We heard reports from Rod Scarlett of Canadian Honey Council, Stephanie Cruickshanks was on hand to talk to us about changes in the TFWP and we also had a report from MASC on our beekeeper insurance programs. Included in regular business were new director elections as we said good bye to long time directors Bryan Ash and Bruce Podolski, as well as Phillip Waldner who had been with us for a while as well. Replacing them we welcome back Marg Smith who served a year with us as an appointee from the Red River Apiarist group and is now a full fledged director as well as Jeff Warburton, and Paul Gregory who had been on the board in the past. We also welcome new director Lee-Ann Vendepoele to the board. I am staying on for the rest of my term as past president and CHC director and congratulate Mark Friesen as our new President.

The CHC AGM is being held in conjunction with the North American Beekeepers Conference and Trade Show in Galveston TX and we look forward to moving ahead on some important work that our members have deemed important to the industry and I welcome the chance to work with our peers in CAPA and the American Associations and Federations to move this industry forward especially in the areas of bee health, food safety and security and improving national honey prices for us all. Best wishes for us all in 2017!

Saskatchewan

Dani Glennie

There is little movement in the market here in Saskatchewan, as it is across the country. The price leaves much to be desired, and many beekeepers are frustrated by this circumstances. I urge many of you to keep your chin's up and have hope for the future that we have seen the bottom and now are climbing up.

The fall was wet here in Saskatchewan, as October brought many centimeters of rain and terrible weather, this made feeding and wrapping a nightmare with saturated roads and lanes into bee yards. November, on the other hand, was one of the most amazing months we had all year, with the resurrection of gorgeous weather it made it allowable for the bees to remain outside which was a blessing to help dry out equipment before winter storage.

Saskatchewan has just finished hosting its annual convention where we were able to gain almost complete support in the merger of our two boards. The interim board will continue until next year at this time so that we can finalize all our plans and dot all of the “I”s”.

I look forward to meeting with all the CHC members in Galveston, Texas in January, there are still a few I haven't met in person yet and this will be a great opportunity to network with many others.

Alberta

Kevin Nixon

It has been a very busy winter between board work and our personal life. Hope everyone had a great Christmas season. As I write this, I am just preparing to go to the North American Beekeepers Conference in Texas where the CHC will be having its AGM. I am sure this will be a fantastic event. Back in December, we received the official announcement from government that the cumulative duration rule was immediately removed. This will hopefully be a significant help to the beekeeping industry to prevent losing our experienced trained workers. We will need to continue working with the government to hopefully see some further improvements in the current programs.

It seems like we are constantly getting nailed in the honey market lately and unfortunately the most recent hit to the teeth is coming from our own government, CFIA and Health Canada. The industry has been requesting labeling changes for decades, particularly country of origin, with no results. Over the past year, we are being told our nutrition label will be changing, which makes honey appear to be “unhealthy”, and recently, we are being introduced to proposed front of label packaging requirements in order for the public to make healthy choices. The proposed label for honey would have all honey with a logo or text of “high in sugar”. Keep in mind, neither of these rules are for honey only. They are being applied to all foods, so there are many sectors I believe who will not be happy with these changes. The CHC has responded against these changes. We hope your provincial delegates brought this back to your organizations in each province for individuals and organizations to respond as the timeline for response was fairly short.

The CHC also continues working on the issue of imported honey and possible adulteration and transshipment. After waiting for 4 months for a response from government, the response seemed to have been written by someone in Grade 9 who simply googled what the rules are for honey imports and CFIA’s obligations and copied and pasted. Hopefully a more direct letter with some political involvement will demand some legitimate answers or conversations.

December was fairly cold for the most part in Alberta with a short reprieve in between the cold snaps and it continues on into January so far. Many beekeepers seem to be nervous about how the bees will come out of winter due to some higher mite loads last fall. I have heard of a fair bit of honey moving through the fall and winter and I don’t believe there is a great deal of honey sitting in warehouses in Alberta.

Ryan Poelman

Well it has been a typical southern Alberta winter so far. We seen 20°C in November, then -20°C beginning of December to an extremely gusty (upwards of 120 km) 4°C before Christmas. We had snow on the ground which was nice to see. Agriculture has had a rough time in Alberta recently due to new Provincial and Federal policies. Ranchers have particularly seen hard times with the cattle quarantines happening in the province. Some issues that are going to affect our industry in Canada coming up is how we access our
British Columbia

This was not a fantastic year for a honey crop in some areas and in others they did not too bad, luck of the weather draw. The bees are looking healthy going into winter, treatments all done and out, and none floated away in the torrential rains that blessed us, thirty days in the month and we had twenty nine days of rain, not bad considering this happened for two months in a row. 40 + 40 + 40. Almost biblical. Forty days and forty nights and forty mm per hour of the liquid stuff, scary. And the people on the weather channel say this is going to be the new normal for weather extremes.

I guess we will have to wait and see how this current weather situation will effect survival of the hives come spring, cold weather for the island lots of snow for the Fraser valley and colder temps on the way. This might be a year for hiving packages in the snow, haven't done that in quite a few years. We are looking early packages for the end of February, right now and the list is growing. We have also had the usual inquiries, my hive died why, did you treat for mites? No, well this is the result. So we still have people not treating for mites or just feel they don't have to, sad. If you haven't treated for mites you still might get away with Oxalic acid vaporised within the next month, but no guarantees.

It's almost New Year's Eve so I have to get this report in, and in 8 days I am off the convention in Galveston TX. To promote the CHC and Api mondia in Quebec in 2019.

Well it's that time of the year when we say Happy New year to all. I hope everyone has had a good Christmas. And enjoyed the holidays with their family and friends, at my age it's all about the grand kids and family, and another year of togetherness and hopefully many more.

The AGM in Richmond this year was a good event with many speakers and a lot of good information on beekeeping. Of special note was Paul Stamets from Washington State. His talk was on mushrooms. Looks like there might be some really promising results on the treatment of viruses in our bee stock.

I asked our first President for info on the upcoming meetings and here's what he wrote, so I deleted mine and inserted his and hence you have all the info from the source.

The B.C. Honey Producers Association will hold its 2017 Annual General Meeting in Kelowna on Oct 27-29.

This will be the third year that the BCHPA has held an expanded AGM and Education days, with two power-packed lecture days, Saturday and Sunday. The event is being hosted by the Kelowna chapter of the BCHPA, which also hosted the annual event in 2013.

Kelowna, B.C.'s fourth-most populous city, is located in the sunny Okanagan valley, in the centre of the province's historic and established tree fruit industry. It is also home to some of B.C.'s accomplished commercial beekeepers and a growing contingent of hobbyist and urban beekeepers.

BCHPA first vice-president Jeff Lee, the conference speaker organizer, is working on a program that will draw a significant keynote speaker from the U.S., he's at the North American Beekeeping Conference this year in Galveston, TX, recruiting speakers. He also expects to also draw on some of the established, exemplary research scientists who will be at the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists AGM that will be held in Kelowna along with the BCHPA and CHC meetings.

The BCHPA program will include a business day on Friday, a plenary session of speakers on Saturday, and a hands-on workshop on Sunday. More details of the speakers will be released in February.

The conventions for all three associations are being held at the Coast Capri Hotel, which has been recently renovated and updated.

Conference hotel details:
Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Ave., Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 6E8 Ph: (250) 860-6060

The Coast Capri Hotel is holding a block of rooms for BCHPA registrants at the rate of $115 a night for standard, and $130 a night for upgraded. When booking, please call the hotel directly and tell them you are attending the BCHPA convention.

The BCHPA is also pleased to announce that it has confirmed Mike Palmer, an experienced and sought-after beekeeper, as the keynote speaker for the association's semi-annual convention on March 10-11 in Kamloops. Palmer, who lives in French Hills, Vermont and has practiced beekeeping for 40-plus years, keeps 700 production hives, produces his own queens, and annually produces about 30 tons of honey.

Palmer argues that for beekeepers to be successful - and sustainable - they need to produce their own queens and not rely on those raised in California, Alabama and southern states. He is a frequent guest speaker at meetings around North America, focussing on nuc production, overwintering on double-stacked five-frame side-by-side hives, and sustainable honey production. Palmer's presentation is scaled over half a day. The semi-annual convention will also feature a multi-pronged look at the local, Provincial and federal rules around the production and sale of honey. Whether it is selling honey at the farm gate or farmer's market, or creating a market inter provincially or even internationally, the health and labelling regulations governing honey can be confusing. With Health Canada now considering changing mandatory labelling for honey, the time is right for the BCHPA to hold a session trying to demystify the rules for both hobbyist and commercial producers.

A full conference agenda will be posted to the BCHPA website shortly. Also at the semi-annual, the association's education programmers plan to hold a Certified Instructors course for teaching beginning beekeeping.

Conference hotel details:
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites 675 Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC V2B 3H7 Ph: (250) 376-8288. The Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is holding a block of rooms for BCHPA registrants at the rate of $115 per night. When booking, please call the hotel directly and tell them you are attending the BCHPA semi-annual convention.

— Jeff Lee

At Bee Maid, we see the value in industry participation to be both a good corporate citizen and to spread the word about our 100% pure Canadian honey brand. In September, we hosted the Winnipeg Chapter of the Canadian Culinary Association for their monthly meeting. Chefs and other industry associates were treated to an after hours tour of the Winnipeg Bee Maid plant as well as an insightful presentation about bees and beekeeping from Bee Maid Chairman, Bill Bygarski. Everyone also enjoyed delicious food prepared and served by Agriculture Team Manitoba.

Our partnership with Agriculture Culinary Team Manitoba will give us many Bee Maid Honey ambassadors as they travel the province and the world competing. Their team will also create recipes featuring BeeMaid Honey and providing us with photos for use on social media and other marketing. We look forward to a fruitful relationship with many up and coming Manitoba chefs!
Happy New Year everyone. We received some terrific and some ??? news in the month of December.

First let’s start with the Christmas present from the Honourable John McCallum, Minister Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC). On December 13th he announced there would be changes forthcoming to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Effective immediately; “In order to prevent unnecessary hardship and instability for both workers and employers, the four–year cumulative duration rule will no longer apply to temporary foreign workers in Canada.” This was outstanding news for those of who use TFWs outside the Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program (SAWP). He went on to say that for those TFWs who do not currently have access, the Government is committed to further developing pathways to permanent residency so that eligible applicants are able to more fully contribute to Canadian society.

To ensure that Canadians have first access to available job opportunities, at some time in the future, the government will require low-wage employers, where appropriate, to advertise to more than one, and up to four under-represented groups in the workforce – youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and newcomers. This will apply to our Apiary Worker and Apiary Technician positions.

The National Agriculture Round Table Labour Task Force and the Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council (CAHRC) have been lobbying hard for this change. Both are supported through our membership in Canadian Honey Council. The complete government news release and the response of CAHRC can be found on our website.

The bit of ??? news was the sudden move by Employment & Social Development Canada (ESDC) to the National Occupational Classification 2011 Codes (NOC 2006). Our NOC 8611 position (Apiary Harvester) and NOC 8431 positions of General Farm Labourer and Apiary Worker will remain the same. The problem lies with the Apiary Technician position. It was classified as a semi-skilled 8253 position under NOC 2006. NOC 2011 combines the 8252 and 8253 classifications, but more importantly moves our Apiary Technician to the low skilled NOC 8431. Among other issues, we will no longer have a position eligible for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP).

When NOC 2011 was first introduced in about 2010, we approached government about the change in classification. We were advised that it had to do with there not being an educational component to the position. We countered that the size of our industry made such an offering uneconomical for an institution. We tried to demonstrate that the skill set required was equal to that of a swine or dairy technician, but was completed through on the job training.

Human Resources, Skills and Development Canada (HRSDC) (the predecessor of ESDC) advised that given some other issues, NOC 2011 would not likely be adopted for Agriculture and the matter could be discussed in the next NOC review likely in 2014/15. Well no review has taken place and we’ve jumped to using NOC 2011. At the time of writing (2016 Dec 14), we are in the process of pleading our case to Government and hopefully by the time you read this, an answer may be posted on our website.

All the best in 2017 everyone.
KEYSTONE, CO, Nov. 28, 2016 — The Honey Bee Health Coalition released a series of videos today to help beekeepers promote colony health and combat costly and destructive Varroa mite (Varroa destructor) infestations. The videos, which provide detailed step-by-step instructions, complement the Coalition’s wildly popular Tools for Varroa Management Guide.

“The Honey Bee Health Coalition’s Tools for Varroa Management Guide has provided beekeepers in the US and Canada with invaluable tools and techniques to confront destructive Varroa mite infestations,” said Mark Dykes, Apiary Inspectors of America. “These videos will show beekeeper real world application techniques that will help them correctly apply treatments.”

The videos provide helpful visual aids and step-by-step directions on how beekeepers can monitor and control Varroa mites through an Integrated Pest Management strategy. The videos cover a range of strategies and tools, including the uses of formic acid, essential oils, and other synthetic miticides.

“Healthy bees support our world’s food supply and farmers everywhere. A single untreated colony can transmit Varroa mites to other nearby hives and threaten honey bee health across large geographic regions,” said Danielle Downey, Project Apis m. “Beekeeping is becoming very popular, and often keeping the bees healthy is a mysterious learning curve. These important ‘how to’ videos bring the Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management Guide to life — and will amplify its impact in the United States, Canada, and around the globe.”

The Coalition’s Tools for Varroa Management has given beekeepers the tools they need to measure Varroa mite infestations in their hives and select appropriate control methods. The guide, which has been downloaded more than 5,500 times since its release, has been updated 4 times with continued refinements and details.

About the Honey Bee Health Coalition

The Honey Bee Health Coalition brings together beekeepers, growers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, conservation groups, manufacturers and brands, and other key partners to improve the health of honey bees and other pollinators. Its mission is to collaboratively implement solutions that will help to achieve a healthy population of honey bees while also supporting healthy populations of native and managed pollinators in the context of productive agricultural systems and thriving ecosystems. The Coalition is focusing on accelerating collective impact to improve honey bee health in four key areas: forage and nutrition, hive management, crop pest management, and communications, outreach, and education.

Through its unique network of private and public sector members, the Coalition fosters new partnerships, leverages existing efforts and expertise, and incubates and implements new solutions. The Coalition brings its diverse resources to bear in promoting communication, coordination, collaboration, and investment to strategically and substantively improve honey bee health in North America.

A list of Honey Bee Health Coalition members can be found at www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org.

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A Canadian beekeeping perspective on colony health and growing our local queen supply

By: Dr. Miriam Bixby, Bee ‘Oomics research project

The Bee ‘Oomics queen research project was launched in October, 2015 funded by Genome Canada among others and led by Dr. Leonard Foster at the University of British Columbia and Dr. Amro Zayed at York University. One of the objectives of the project is to solicit information from Canadian beekeepers about their operations, and specifically their queen buying and breeding strategies, in an effort to better understand the honeybee queen industry in Canada. Ultimately, the project would like to use this knowledge to play a role in further developing queen breeding in Canada with a focus on supplying strong local queens bred to meet the needs of Canadian beekeepers.

During the winter, spring and fall of 2015-2016, the Bee ‘Oomics team recruited beekeepers to complete a queen industry survey and simultaneously facilitated queen breeding focus groups in B.C, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario as part of the provincial beekeeper association meetings. Over 150 Canadian beekeepers (1.8% of all beekeepers in Canada in 2015) managing 106,592 colonies (14.8% of all Canadian colonies in 2015) completed this survey with the vast majority also participating in the focus group discussions.

Beekeepers were asked in the survey to report what they believe to be the causes of their colony losses over the past winter as well as their opinion on the biggest risks to beekeeping in Canada. Queen issues, starvation and Varroa were the top three reasons for colony loss according to beekeepers, representing 62% of all responses (Figure 1).

Figure 1. What beekeepers believed were the causes of their own colony losses over the winters of 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 (beekeepers could choose multiple cause).
Whereas the top risks to Canadian beekeeping were pesticides (17%), Varroa (15%), and importing issues (14%) (Figure 2). The focus group sessions began with beekeepers discussing these risks and how best to address them in the future. Aside from pesticide use, beekeepers expressed optimism that with a multi-pronged approach of limiting bee imports (and associated pest and pathogen imports) while strengthening our domestic queen and beekeeping industries, we could mitigate some of these risks.

It became clear in the discussions that a majority of beekeepers preferred to buy local queens or breed their own and yet there was a frustration with the mindset that queen imports are a “necessary evil” and that local queens are not easily available at bee co-ops. The survey showed that less than half of the queens obtained by the respondents were local (Figure 3) and yet the beekeepers emphasized as a group that in their experience imported queens and packages often result in a net loss for the beekeeper. It is important to note that only 15% of the survey respondents imported queens from Hawaii, however, as a whole Canadian beekeepers import closer to 80% of their queens from Hawaii. Beekeepers suggested that imported bees are of a poorer quality overall compared to local bees, requiring additional care, feeding, treatment and often are less productive and do not survive the season, requiring colony replacement.

To address the issue of poor imports, the discussion among beekeepers focused on expanding the local breeding sector and how to make Canadian queens available early enough in the spring. Several beekeepers argued that by shifting our current paradigm and embracing the possibility of banking queens over the winter or supplying stronger queens later in the spring, we could meet a large percentage of our national queen demands each year.

The survey results show this strong desire for local queens (Figure 4) as well as the reality that the majority of beekeepers surveyed (75%) do not need their queens until May and June (Figure 5), a timeframe that many beekeepers believed could be achieved by most Canadian breeders.

The top seven bee traits sought after by surveyed beekeepers were honey production, gentleness, overwintering ability, hygienic behavior, mite resistance, brood pattern and bees being disease free, collectively representing 69% of all responses (Figure 6). These traits are all key variables being studied in the Bee ‘Omics project with the objective of providing multi-trait analysis of bees (encompassing these traits among others) to beekeepers during the life of the project. 89% of beekeepers expressed a strong or moderate interest in sending samples of their bees to an independent lab for trait analysis using a new Marker Assist-
ed Selection (MAS) tool currently being developed at UBC by Dr. Foster’s lab and at the National Bee Diagnostic Center (NBDC) (Figure 7).

Figure 6. Beekeepers’ preferences for traits in their bred or bought queens.

There was a concern raised by beekeepers that local queens are undervalued, making local breeding operations not financially viable. The survey responses indicate that queens selected for a beekeeper’s top two traits are very highly valued (Figure 8). This would suggest that Canadian breeding operations that engage in accurate and consistent selective breeding (potentially through MAS), would be in a position to succeed economically.

Figure 7. Beekeepers’ valuation of purchased queens, their own bred queens, and their willingness to pay for a queen with their top two most desired traits (bred or bought).

Beekeepers also expressed an interest in a third party assurance of the bee traits in the form of government certification (Figure 9) or as discussed in the focus groups, an independent third party such as the NBDC lab with mandatory re-testing every year to provide some risk mitigation to the buyer.

Figure 9. Beekeeper desire for government confirmation of a queen’s traits.

The focus group participants suggested that a tech transfer team or other industry support framework be established during the initial stages of the trait sampling and testing in order to effectively bring this beekeeping tool into beekeeping communities across Canada. Beekeepers were keen to receive the results of trait testing to either implement the findings in their own breeding operations or to more accurately predict the performance of local breeders’ queens.

The focus groups and survey wrapped up with a final question about the value of further developing our domestic queen supply industry in Canada. 93% of all respondents indicated that increasing domestic queen supply would strengthen beekeeping overall in Canada (Figure 10). There is a strong desire among beekeepers surveyed and in discussions to address the key issues facing honey bees in Canada by adopting more effective breeding strategies and tools and supporting local bee breeders. Bee ‘Omics research aims to bring scientific selection tools to Canadian beekeepers with the overall objective of increasing local breeding, strengthening Canadian honeybee colonies and ultimately making our agricultural industries more autonomous and sustainable.

Figure 10. Beekeepers’ beliefs about increasing domestic queen supply in Canada.
Welcome to the Honey Bee Research Centre’s online beekeeping video series! Our goal was to provide new and advanced beekeepers with demonstrations by our staff on a variety of topics ranging from how to open a hive to queen rearing.
Here is the list with the videos available. (http://www.uoguelph.ca/honeybee/videos.shtml)

- Getting Started With Bees
- Hive Location & Set-Up
- Hive Equipment
- Protective Clothing
- Smoke Use
- Stinging
- Working With Bees
- Opening Hives
- Colony Inspection
- Introducing a Nucleus Colony
- Working With Queens
- Finding Queens
- Re-Queening
- Marking & Clipping Queens
- Colony Management
- Supering
- Swarm Control
- Splitting Hives
- Moving Hives
- Harvesting Honey
- Feeding Bees & Overwintering
- Abnormal Colony Conditions
- Part I - Failed Queens & Chalkbrood
- Part II - Wax Moth, Monitoring Mites & Antibiotics
- Part III - Laying Workers & Sacbrood
- Double Nucleus Colonies
- Making Double Nucleus Colonies - Part I
- Making Double Nucleus Colonies - Part II
- Fixing Problem Double Nucleus Colonies
- Transferring Double Nucleus Colonies
- Queen Rearing
- Grafting
- Cell Building - Part I
- Cell Building - Part II
- Making Mini Nucleus Colonies
- Miscellaneous
- UoG's Honey Bee Research Centre - All About Bees
- Buckfast Queen Mating Station on Thorah Island
- Bee Beards
Please join me in congratulating Sarah Wood, inaugural Canadian Pam-Costco scholar!

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our latest addition to the PAm-ly tree. We are pleased to announce the first Canadian PAm-Costco Scholar, Sarah Wood. As you would expect, Sarah has a very good academic record, she is successful and driven and has accomplished much already. However, what you might not expect to learn is that she is a veterinarian! Sarah is pursuing her Ph.D. at Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. During finalist interviews this month at the Alberta Beekeepers AGM, it was clear that she has a strong commitment to beekeeping and bee research and has played a key role assembling a lab group with over 200 colonies for their studies which she maintains without a technician (a remarkable undertaking!). It is also worth mentioning that bridging the fields of veterinary science and bee science could not come at a better time, as regulations are changing for the use of antibiotics to treat honey bee maladies. Veterinarians and beekeepers will have to find a way to do business together.

This has never happened in the past, but Sarah’s work to offer veterinary students elective courses in apiculture is of great long term value to develop a new facet of that profession and bring veterinary animal science experts’ attention to honey bee health. Sarah’s chosen research project: “The histopathology of worker honey bees (Apis mellifera) exposed to sublethal doses of the neonicotinoids” has great potential to apply techniques that could offer standard, low-tech methods to assess honey bee health and toxicity of agrochemicals, something our industry has been requesting for years. Well-spoken and pleasant, and full of great questions, we believe Sarah will be an excellent representative for the PAm-Costco Scholar award. Make sure to congratulate her if you get the chance!

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The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has granted full registration to Bayvarol®, flumethrin strips indicated for control of Varroa mites (Varroa destructor) in honey bee colonies. Varroa mites prey upon both the adult bee and the developing larva, carry bacteria and viruses and are implicated in significant hive losses.

The Varroa mite originated in Asia, but has since spread towards the West. This parasite now threatens the Western honey bee and is present in almost all hives in North America and Europe. There are currently only a few ways to protect bees from the mite. Using the few effective control products and measures available, combined with good beekeeping practices, it is possible to reduce the mite’s impact on the bee yard. The Varroa population can double every four weeks during the breeding season, which enables it to wipe out even a strong bee colony over the winter, if left untreated.

Treatment is an essential part of maintaining a healthy hive. Of the options available, some have demonstrated variable results. Canadian beekeepers are currently concerned about mites developing resistance to amitraz and thymol has exhibited efficacy rates below 30% when used under fall conditions¹.

In 2005 and 2006, Dr. Ernesto Guzman (University of Guelph) and the Ontario Beekeepers Association (OBA) Technology Transfer Program (TTP) tested the efficacy of Bayvarol in Canadian bee colonies. The researchers found that Bayvarol strips controlled more than 95% of the Varroa mites and that there was no resistance to the product, even among colonies demonstrating resistance to fluvalinate. For more information about this research project, please contact the OBA TTP at (519) 836-3609 or visit www.ontariobee.com.

To treat honey bee hives with Bayvarol, four strips should be distributed per mature brood chamber for a 42-day period. Bayvarol should not be used when honey supers are present. Bayvarol will be available for sale later in 2017. For more information about this new treatment, please contact your beekeeping equipment distributor or contact Bayer Animal Health at 1-888-663-5326 or at vetservicescanada@bayer.com.

¹ Al Naggar et al., (2015). Effects of treatments with Apivar® and Thymovar® on V. destructor populations, virus infections and indoor winter survival of Canadian honey bee (Apis mellifera L.) colonies, Journal of Apicultural Research, 54:5, 548-554,
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GPRC welcomed Dr. Richard Hall, Senior Virology Scientist of New Zealand’s Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to campus this summer while visiting Grande Prairie for a tour of GPRC’s National Bee Diagnostics Centre (NBDC) in Beaverlodge, AB.

Dr. Hall was visiting on behalf of MPI, who is commencing a similar bee survey as the one in progress at the GPRC NBDC, to identify the range and prevalence of bee pathogens present in New Zealand.

“Over the span of three years, our research is going to produce a focused and detailed study that will give us insights on pathogens in New Zealand and how they impact apiary productivity,” says Hall. “It’s important that we ensure our diagnostic methods are consistent with the methods used internationally at other specialist bee centres.”

GPRC’s relationship with MPI first developed when GPRC Research & Innovation Applied Scientist and GPRC NBDC Manager, Dr. Carlos Castillo attended the National Apiculture Conference in New Zealand in June 2016.

Dr. Castillo first connected with Dr. Lou Gallagher, MPI’s Project Lead on this research initiative.

“I first learned about Carlos as a researcher when he went out of his way and came to visit our centre in Wellington,” says Dr. Hall. “He was able to bring us insights and answer questions about what GPRC NBDC does, which is proving extremely helpful.”

GPRC NBDC is the first comprehensive laboratory in Canada to provide a full array of diagnostic services for honeybee pests, pathogens, and parasites. The centre provides diagnostic services for beekeepers, researchers, agencies and industry with the aim to contribute towards a healthy, sustainable and profitable apiculture in Canada. Additionally, the NBDC is one of 25 Technology Access Centres (TAC) funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

“Having centres like GPRC’s NBDC is a necessity because of how important their work is,” says Dr. Hall. “What’s happening with bee hives is a general public concern, and for GPRC NBDC to be able to house research and information to come up with solutions and next steps is huge and provides the public with this knowledge. GPRC NBDC is really reassuring us that honeybees are being looked after.”

GPRC is looking forward to working with MPI and researchers like Dr. Hall and Dr. Gallagher to ensure research methods are being adapted and produced at the highest quality, while also ensuring a consistency in results between international laboratory operations.

“We’re very thankful to GPRC, Carlos and the rest of the GPRC NBDC team,” says Dr. Hall. “It’s very important to us to have this human connection in our research partnership. We are looking forward to working together and keeping this communication and connection strong.”
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The small hive beetle (SHB or Aethina tumida Murray), is a honey bee colony pest endemic from Africa (Lundie 1940), that has been found in Canada and many other countries since 1998 (Murilhas 2004, Neumann and Ellis 2008, Palmieri et al. 2015). It is considered as a potential emerging threat in many other regions with the abundance of import/export of bees. Detection of SHB in hives, typically made by visual inspection and traps, is time-consuming and must be accomplished by trained inspectors (Neumann et al. 2013). Furthermore, presence of SHBs may not be detected when levels of infestation are low (Spiewok et al. 2007, Neumann and Hoffmann 2008). Thus, it is important to develop a reliable and quick way to assess the SHB infestation status of colonies where there is a high risk of invasion. Detecting DNA from tissues of SHB by screening hive debris is a promising method (Ward et al. 2007). Ward et al. (2007) successfully distinguished different haplotypes of SHB from honey bees, varroas mites and other Coleoptera and detected adults and larvae SHB from spiked debris. They also detected SHB in one sample of naturally infested debris.

The objective of this research is to assess the sensitivity of PCR to detect SHB in debris from naturally infested colonies with low numbers of adult SHBs. Bottom board debris were collected in 4 apiaries: 1) one apiary of uninfested colonies from Quebec (negative control) and 2) three apiaries of infested colonies from southern Ontario. Each hive was visually inspected to assess the SHB status of the colony. None to 19 SHB adults were found in the 118 colonies inspected. No larvae were found during the visual inspections. DNA extraction and PCR analysis will be conducted on the debris in the following months. DNA sequences will be compared to the sequences available for Aethina tumida from the NCBI database as well as DNA extracted from adults collected in Ontario. This research will hopefully provide new information on this promising tool to monitor SHB emergence in areas at risk of invasion.

This work was made possible by financial assistance from the Agri-Innovation – Salubrité, biosécurité, traçabilité et santé et bien-être des animaux – axe 3, entered into by the Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under Growing Forward 2, by the Canadian Bee Research Fund and by the Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault.

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In an effort to increase exports to the European Union with a new Canada/EU free trade agreement, the Canadian Honey Council received an AgriMarketing Grant through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to send representatives to help promote Canadian honey in Europe. The event chosen was the SIAL international food exhibition.

The three representatives chosen were Dani Glennie from Saskatchewan, Bernie Rousseau from Alberta (Beemaid) and Scott Plante from Québec. The Canadian Honey Council Booth was situated within the Canadian delegation to SIAL. Many leads were established with honey brokers, importers and packers of not only Europe but the middle east and Asia. A list of all those interested in acquiring and or brokering Canadian honey and other hive products was submitted and is available for consultation. To get a list please call or write to Canadian honey Council.
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¹ Ives LE CORRE and Dolez CRAUSER - UMR 500, INRA/IAAP - Invertebrate Ecology, Laboratory of Biology and protection of the bee, INRA/Aix-en-Provence, France. 2006.
CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Bee Maid Honey Limited will consider project proposals in any area of apiculture, hive health or honey production. Preference will be given to the area of honey quality and good practices of producing pure quality Canadian honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry.

Proposals for projects must be submitted to the Bee Maid Honey Research Committee by February 28, 2017. Projects are expected to be completed within one year of funding, although renewal applications will be considered.

Proposal Procedures and Criteria Cover Page

- Principal Investigator: Name, address, phone, FAX, e-mail, signature
- Collaborating Individuals/Institutions: Names, addresses, phones, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, signatures
- Title of Project
- Total of proposed budget for each year
- Names and signatures of relevant administrative persons, if any
- Summary: Provide a brief summary of the objectives and potential benefits of the proposed research

Project Description

Please describe the proposed research, in no more than 4 pages. The proposal should describe clearly the:

- Objectives of the project
- The methods used to meet the objectives
- The economic or other benefits that will result
- Where the results might be published
- How transfer of new technology to the beekeeping industry will be accomplished

Budget

List the proposed annual budget for each category below for each year requested:

- Salaries and benefits
- Equipment (non-expendables)
- Supplies (expendables)
- Travel

Describe:

- Other (specify)

Describe and justify the expenses. Overhead, institutional overhead, administrative costs, and the purchase of long-term capital assets are not eligible for funding.

Timetable

Please include:

- A detailed work plan
- Specific milestones to meet the objectives of the project
- Resources and personnel available for the project
- Responsibilities of each collaborator
- Location of work, etc.

Matching Funding

Projects with additional or matching funding will be preferred.

Describe:

- The funding that you or your institution will contribute to the project
- List other funding for which you have applied or will receive towards this project

Attachments

Please attach:

- Curriculum vitae for the principal and collaborating applicants
- Other information relevant to the proposed research (i.e., reprints of completed relevant research, other grant applications, supporting letters, etc.)

Reporting

A requirement of the Bee Maid Honey Limited, Research Committee is that the successful applicant must provide an abstract of their results to the Bee Maid Honey Limited office by November 30th of the year in which the grant was awarded. A final report must be submitted by March 15th.

By February 28, 2017, please send application and five hard copies to:
Bee Maid Honey Limited
Attention: Guy Chartier
Research Committee
625 Roseberry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0T4

Please forward an electronic version of the application to: guychartier@beemaid.com.

Assurance Systems Grant: Report (January 2017)
Integration of CBISQT and the Bee Biosecurity Standard

Prepared by: Svenja Belaoussoff, Project Manager

This report refers to the project concerned with the integration of the Honey Bee Producer Guide to the National Bee Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard (i.e. the Bee Biosecurity Standard), and the Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability Producer Manual - Good Production Practices (i.e., CBISQT). That integration took the form of the Canadian Beekeepers’ Practical Handbook to Bee Biosecurity and Food Safety (i.e., the Handbook) (see http://www.honeycouncil.ca/handbook.php).

A. Activities from April 2016 - January 2017

The major activity on the Handbook has involved the preparation of a revised version that includes minor editorial corrections, new tables, references to the The Canadian Best Management Practices for Honey Bee Health, and a section to help beekeepers negotiate the paperwork required to export honey to international markets.

In December 2016 there was a presentation to the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association. 2017 presentations are scheduled for the Manitoba Beekeepers’ Association meeting and still to be confirmed, the semi annual BC Beekeepers Association meeting.

B. Plan of Action until March 2017

On-line presentations explaining the Handbook, its importance to beekeepers and how to manipulate templates in Word and Excel will be launched.

Another article will be made available at that time to all beekeeping groups once the updated version is on-line.

Beekeepers questions and Handbook template troubleshooting will also continue over email.

C. General Feedback from beekeepers:

General feedback from beekeepers continues to be positive.

The main positive comment has been that the templates are very useful because they are customizable and have made record keeping for beekeeping operations manageable for smaller operators. Larger operators generally scan the Handbook to see if there are any suggestions to improve their recordkeeping and intend to use it as a reference guide to negotiate CBISQT and BeeBiosecurity Standard. For them one of the valuable features of the Handbook is that it is on-line (with links to CBISQT and BeeBiosecurity) which make it easy and quick to find needed references.

Beekeepers and representatives of the beekeeping industry also feel that the revised version of the Handbook will be of great benefit to the industry as it will help beekeepers expand into new markets.

A particular striking anecdote at a meeting in Kamloops was was made by a representative from a grassroots organization in Vancouver who is working manager of an eat local co-operative. She claimed that her group was able to get permission and insurance to keep bees and sell honey based on a workplan which includes using the templates in the Handbook.

Less positive feedback has been that some beekeepers find some of the templates to be confusing and prefer their own record keeping methods.
Help Wanted: Beamsville (ON) 7 seasonal beekeeping laborers. Contact: Charlie-Bee Honey E-mail: charlie-beehoney@sympatico.ca Mike Parker 1-905-563-7285 7 Seasonal beekeepers wanted April to Nov. at $11.43/hour. Work is physically demanding and long hours. Includes holding, disease inspections and maintenance. Must have valid and clean drivers license. Charlie-Bee Honey requires 2 apiary technicians for the 2015 season. Apiary Technician- experience: 2 years minimum in the apiary field. Seasonal with potential for year round for the right person. Duties- handle, feed, care for bee colonies, supervise crew members. Recognize bee health issues and take remedial action. Prepare hives for transportation for pollination and honey production. Bee yard maintenance. Operate and maintain machinery relevant to our apiary. Harvest honey, build and maintain bee hive equipment, keep proper records. Able to interact with other people we deal with in our operations. Wages- depends on experience. Working Conditions- long hours at certain times of the year. A lot of jobs required outside in all kinds of weather. Heavy lifting involved. Must be a team player and be able to work well and efficiently alone or in a crew. A lot of travelling in Ont. and Manitoba required. Must have valid and clean drivers license. DZ or AZ beneficial but not necessary. Operate machinery but will train. Own transportation to and from work.

Help Wanted: Souths (MB) 2 Apiary Workers (8431) for the 2017 season, April 1 – Octo ber 31. Wage $12-$15/hour depending on experience. 1-2 years experience preferred. Drivers License an asset. Duties include feeding, unwrapping hives, moving hives to summer locations, queen checking, disease inspection, supersing, pulling and extracting honey, fall feeding, moving hives to winter locations, wrapping hives. Send resume to Irwin Harthon, Harthon Apiaries, Box 644, Souths, MB. R0K 2C0 or email iharthon@myzen.net

Help Wanted: East Selkirk (MB) Apiary Worker 2 positions (NOC 8431) Beekeeping farm. Seasonal full time, days, evenings, Sundays. $11.35-13.00/hour for 50 hrs. per week. Employment from March 31/ 2017–October 31/2017. At Wald bee Honey Farms Inc. Box 9 Group 19 RR1, East Selkirk, MB. R0E 0M0. Language is English. Minimum 1 year experience required. Duties will be to handle, feed and care for bees; help in replacement of hives and production of nucs; move hives; collect honey; maintain and drive vehicles; maintain bee yard; manufacture, assemble and maintain bee hive equipment; maintain and operate other apiary related equipment; Must be able to handle heavy loads, and work is physically demanding. Must work well with others, as well as the ability to maintain basic production records. Report to Supervisor. Would require steel toed safety boots. Send resume by mail to above address or by email to philip@waldbee.com

Help Wanted: Rocanville (SK) B. Strong Apiaries Ltd. Box 501 (Land Location NE 17-61-31- W1) Rocanville, SK. 8 Full Time Apiary Laborer Positions needed for 6 months April- Oct. 2017 Duties include helping with: -Field work requires heavy lifting -Checking hives -Applyingmite treatments -Unwrapping hives, making nucs -Installing queens & queen cells -Harvesting honey -Assemble bee equipment -Bee yard maintenance -Fall feeding and unwrapping hives. 4 Full Time Laborer Positions needed for 5 months July-Sept. 2017 Duties include: -Honey House Maintenance – washing walls, floors, windows, painting. -Honey Extraction – includes loading and unloading of extractor and cleaning up. -Honey – filling containers and barrels. -Working around bees. Reporting to work at B. Strong Apiaries Ltd. 1 mile south west of Rocanville. Land Location: NE 17-61-31-W1 All jobs require the ability to work in heat and to work well with others. -All positions 8am – 5pm Monday to Friday typically -Must be available to work evenings, holidays and some weekends. -Experience and ability to speak English is an asset but not neces sary, willing to train on the job. -Possible bonus at the end of the season based on performance and production. Contact: Brian Strong bstrong@sasktel.net Fax: 306-645-4591

Help Wanted: Big River (SK) West Cowan Apiaries, Box 425, Big River, SK. S0J 0E0 (SE 14- 56-8 W3) Start Dates: April 5 - October 27 2017 Training is provided on an ongoing basis, but experience may be required. 2 Apiary Technicians - minimum of 2.3 full seasons of apiary experience required. Wage $14.05-$17.00 per hour dependent upon experience. Job includes: Must be able to work in the presence of honey bees and will assist with honey management, honey extraction and processing; recognize and report bee health issues and apply appropriate disease controls or supervise and give direction to other employees, keep field and production records and any other apiary jobs that are required. 2 Apiary Workers - minimum of 1-2 full seasons of apiary experience required. Wage: $11.64-$14.00 per hour dependent upon experience. Job includes: Wrapping/unwrapping hives; spring and fall main tenance; feeding hives; creating nucs; queen rearing; supering; pulling honey boxes (80lbs+); extracting honey; moving hives (evenings and some weekends if needed by). You may be asked to do other assorted duties with regards to apiary work. Most tasks are performed outdoors in all kinds of weather. Work is repetitive and physically demanding. Requirements: No formal education required but with at least Grade 12 education is an asset. Valid driver’s license and have a vehicle to get back and forth to work. Experience driving stand ard trucks preferred. Be in good physical condition and be able to work in a team environment. Employment Details: Seasonal (F/T) 40 hours per week. Contact: West Cowan Apiaries, Box 425, Big River, SK. S0J 0E0 Phone: (306) 469-4700 (306) 469-7902 (cell); Fax: (306) 469-3779 Email: cwarton@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: MacGregor (MB) 11 SEASONAL BEEKEEPERS (Applicants must be current residents or citizens of Canada only) 4 Apiary Technicians employment period March 1, 2017 to Feb ruary 28, 2018, Wage range $12.50-$16.00 per hour 7 Apiary Workers employment period March 15, 2017 to Octo ber 15, 2017. Wage range $13.55-$13.30 per hour Valid driver’s license an asset, previous experience working with honeybees is necessary for technicians and an asset for apiary workers. Can didates must be willing to work flexible hours in a fast paced, repetitive & physically demanding environment. Duties include: assess, feed, and medicate honeybee colonies, remove/extract honey, split/balance/relocate colonies, clean/colllect pollen, build/repair beehive equipment, and perform routine light mainte nance on hives. Contact: Nichol Honey Farm Ltd., Box 461, MacGregor, MB, R0H 1R0, Phone (204) 252-2770, Fax (204) 252-2219, or email: nicholhoney@yahoo.ca

Help Wanted: Pitt Meadows (BC) 3 Experienced beekeepers & 1 Honeybee Farm Supervisor Experienced beekeepers wanted for January 15 – November 15, 2017, and 1 honeybee farm supervisor on a permanent full-time basis starting January 1st 2017. Preference will be given to candidates with queen rearing experience. Hourly pay rate $13 - $25, depending on experience. Send resumes to manager, Honeyland Canada. email: manager@Honeyland-Canada.com Seasonal Help Wanted: Kinistino (SK) Apiary Harvest Labourers and Apiary Harvest workers required for seasonal work in a commercial honey production and bee rearing operation for the 2017 season. Five Apiary Harvest Labourer positions available for 5.7 months (starting March/April). Labourers perform (but are not limited to) tasks such as supering hives, harvesting honey, cleaning honey extraction and storage equipment; barrel filling and moving; repair, assemble and maintain hive equipment and bee equipment; bee yard maintenance. Knowledge of the industry, a valid drivers licence and English speaking skills an asset but not mandatory. Wage starts at $10.72/hr with subsidized housing option and potential for bonuses based on performance, attitude and character. Three apiary harvest worker positions available for up to 8 months (March to November). Apiary Harvest Workers perform (but are not limited to) tasks such as supering hives, harvesting honey, cleaning honey extraction and storage equipment; barrel filling and moving; repair, assemble and maintain hive equipment and bee equipment; bee yard maintenance; assistance with colony treatments; assist with moving colonies; assist with feeding colonies. Canadian beekeeping industry knowledge, 1 year experience, valid drivers licence and English skills required. Wage starts at $11.64/hr with subsidized housing option and potential for bonuses based on performance, attitude and character. Availability to work long hours, evenings/nights, holidays and weekends is required for all positions. Work is faced paced and physically demanding with heavy lifting. Email resume and cover letter with references to B’s Bee Ranch Inc at beeranch@sasktel.net

Help Wanted: Dauphin (MB) DURSTON HONEY FARM APIARY TECHNICIANS AVAILABLE NOC Code 8253 - $12.94/Hour Upon Experience (Min. 2 Years Ex perience. START DATE: February 15, 2017 DUTIES: Handle, feed and care for honeybee colonies; Coordinate the production of nucs, and/or replacement bees; Recognize and report beehive health issues and apply appropriate disease controls/ treatments; Move beesvices; Collect and package honey, pollen and/or bees wax; Supervise employees; Drive and maintain vehicles (includ ing large trucks and forklift); Maintain bee yard; Manufacture, assemble and maintain bee hive equipment; Operate and main tain other apiary related equipment; Keep field and/or production records; Interact with external farm personnel.

APIARY WORKER 2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE NOC Code 8431 - $11.46/Hour Upon Experience (Min. 1 Year Experience). START DATE: February 15, 2017 DUTIES: Handle, feed and care for honeybee colonies; Assist in the production of nucs, and/or replacement bees; Recognize and report bee health issues and apply appropriate disease controls/ treatments; Move bee hives; Collect and package honey, pollen and/or beeswax; Manage the bee yard; Provide support work; Assist in the production of nucs, and/or replacement bees; Recognize and report bee health issues and apply appropriate disease controls/treatments; Move bee hives; Collect and package honey, pollen and/or beeswax; Maintain bee yard; Manufacture, assemble and maintain bee hive equipment; Operate and maintain other apiary related equipment; Keep field limited and/or production records; Reports to supervisor. Apply online through our website: durstonhoneyfarms.com Telephone: 204-638-6315, Fax: 204-638-3736, Email: careers@durstonhoneyfarms.com Main Office: Highway 5 & 10 South, 2KM South of Dauphin, Manitoba, SE 28-24-19

Help Wanted: Saskatoon Area (SK) Apiary Workers 2017 Meadow Ridge Enterprises Ltd; Box 1 Site 602, RR6, Saskatoon, SK located 10 miles east of Saskatoon is looking for 5 full time seasonal apiary workers in 2017. Employment would commence April 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017 minimum of 40 hours a week, must be able to work independently. Duties will include spring feeding, hive maintenance, commercial queen production, supering hives, harvesting honey, extraction of honey, fall feeding, wrapping hives for winter, yard maintenance, equipment repair and building. Experience and having a drivers license an asset. Physical strength requiring heavy lifting and end urance needed for long working hours. Wages $11.00 to $15.00 depending on experience. Apply to j.robertson@sasktel.net.
HIVES. POSITIONS AVAILABLE FROM MARCH 15, 2017 TO OCT 30, 2017. WAGES STARTING @ $13 per hr. CONTACT NAME: GERRY MOYEN PH: 306-767-2440 FAX# 306-767-2626 Email resume to: moyenhoneyfarms@gmail.com

Help Wanted: Zenon Park (SK)
MOYEN HONEY FARM LTD. Box 249 Zenon Park, SK S0E 1W0
11 FULL-TIME SEASONAL APIARY HARVEST LABOURER FOR 2017 SEASON
HELP WITH:
• SPRING FEEDING
• ASSEMBLING NEW EQUIPMENT
• HARVESTING HONEY
• FILLING HONEY CONTAINERS
• CLEANING HONEY EXTRACTION EQUIPMENT
• EXTRACTION HONEY
• FALL FEEDING
POSITION AVAILABLE FROM MARCH 1ST, 2017 TO OCTOBER 30, 2017. WAGES STARTING $11-13 PER HR. CONTACT NAME: GERRY MOYEN PH: 306-767-2440 FAX# 306-767-2626 Email resume to: moyenhoneyfarms@gmail.com

Help Wanted: Fort Macleod (AB)
POELMAN APARIERS LTD requires General Farm Workers (Harvest Laborer): 2 required, experience is an asset but will be trained, starting wage at $12.20/hr. Apiary Worker (Low Skill Worker): 14 required with a minimum of 1 year experience, starting wage at $12.95/hr. Apiary Technician (Skilled Worker): 6 required with a minimum 2 year experience, starting wage at $14.05/hr. All positions to be filled by the 2017 Season. All wages are negotiable upon experience and production. A valid driver’s license is a benefit. Ability to speak English is an asset; must be physically fit. Email resumes to peterpolen@gmail.com attention POelman Apiaries or fax to 403-687-2410.

Help Wanted: Ethelbert (MB)
WEST 10 HIVE LTD. Box 505, Ethelbert, MB R0L 0T0 has the following positions available: APIARY LABOURER POSITIONS (4): Wage: $11.00 up. Dates required: April 1st, 2017 for 7 months. No experience required. Duties: Handle, feed and care for bees; Help in replacement of hives; Harvest honey; Maintain bee yards; Maintain and drive vehicles; Manufacture, assemble, and maintain beehive equipment; Maintain and operate other apiary related equipment; Wrap hives. Reports to Supervisor.


APIARY TECHNICIAN POSITIONS (5): Wage: $12.94 up. Dates Required: April 1st, 2017 for 7 months. Minimum 3 year experience preferred. Duties: Same as above plus Help in replacement of hives and production of nucs; Detect and report hive health and apply correct disease cures and/or controls; Keep field and/or production records.

ALL POSITIONS: Seasonal full time, days, evenings, Saturdays as required, Medical Benefits; Language is English and Spanish; Must have own transportation; Must be able to handle heavy loads as work is physically demanding; Must work well with others and be able to learn continuously. Send resume by mail to above mailing address or by email to west10honey@gmail.com.

Help Wanted: Surrey (BC)
Honey Bee Centre is seeking 3 apiary workers, March 15 to Octo- ber 15. Pay is $13.50/ hour for approximately 50 hours per week. Minimum 3 years experience in beekeeping, including brood nest management, hive, livestock production, honey production, and disease and pest control. Beekeepers are also required to clean, maintain, and assemble beekeeping equipment, and be able to operate small engine equipment, such as syringe pumps and spray pumps. Beekeepers must be in good physical condition, able to work well with others, and be able to understand instructions in English, Spanish, or Chinese. Beekeeping protective clothing, smokers, and living accommodations are provided at no cost. Beekeepers are responsible for their own food and luxuries. Please apply to Mr. John Gibeau at gibeau@honeybeecentre.com. More information at www.honeybeecentre.com.

Help Wanted: Wenden Honey (SK)
3012352 Manitoba Ltd. o/a Wenden Honey Box 1439 Roblin MB. R0L 1P0. Reporting to work at Wenden Honey, one mile east of MacNutt, Saskatchewan. Transportation provided from there to various bee yards.
12 full-time positions available at Wenden Honey in 2017
• Apiary Worker with Spring check, hive assessment and manipulation
• help with pest and disease control
• help with grafting, making nucs and raising queens
• offer equipment
• offer beehive
• offer harvest honey
• help keep field production records
• help maintain beehives
• help with Fall feeding, assessment and treatments
• help to wrap bees
• Positions available from April 10, 2017 to mid-October 2017
• Min. 2 years of experience working with bees necessary
• Work is physically demanding
• Wages $15.00 - $19.00 per hour depending on experience with Wenden Honey
• Possible production bonus
Email Isabel Wendell at isw@wenden.ca for fax 204-564-2568 or phone 204-937-7767
12 full-time seasonal positions available at Wenden Honey in 2017
• Apiary Worker to o assembly equipment o help with super hives o offer harvest honey o help maintain beehives o help with Fall feeding o help to wrap bees
• Positions available from May 15, 2017 to mid October 2017
• No experience necessary
• Work is physically demanding
• Wages $12.00 - $15.00 per hour depending on experience with Wenden Honey
• Possible production bonus
Email Isabel Wendell at isw@wenden.ca for fax 204-564-2568 or phone 204-937-7767
Saskatraz Breeding Stock Available in 2017

Queen cells from tested Saskatraz breeders ($20). Closed population mated breeder queens ($300), out crossed breeder queens ($100). Saskatraz stock carrying VSH trait also available as queen cells, in Saskatraz hybrids and breeder queens in 2017.

Saskatraz Hybrid production queens available April 15th to August 15th ($30 US). These hybrids will produce pure Canadian Saskatraz drones for stud use. All breeding stock tested and certified. Limited number of nucs available in 2017 with Saskatraz hybrid queens. See www.saskatraz.com for breeding information and updates.

Saskatraz stock bred in Saskatchewan for honey production, wintering ability and resistance to mites and brood diseases.

Email: a.j.robertson@sasktel.net
Phone: (306)-373-9140 Cell: (306)-270-6627 for prices and availability.
Help Wanted: Augie (MB)  
Gryskay Apiary Inc. 5 Full time seasonal apiarists 2017. Full time seasonal apiarists, wages are $12 to $15 per hr. depending on exp. Job duties include: beekeeping, harvesting and extracting honey. Wages start at $13.00 per hour. email: garezz@sasktel.net or fax (306) 862-5974

Help Wanted: Porcupine Plain, (SK)  
Knudsen’s Honey Inc. is looking for 4 apiary workers. Job includes spring and fall management of beehives, building equipment, supering and collecting honey, extracting honey, moving hives, feeding hives. One year experience with beehive work. Work will be available from April 1, 2017 - Oct 1, 2017. Wage $15/hour or more depending on experience. Work includes harvesting and extracting honey during the summer and cleaning up. Must have commercial beekeeping experience. Must be able to work in a team environment, speak English and or Spanish. Apiary Technician must have a min. of 2 years commercial beekeeping experience. They will handle feed and care for bees in a manner appropriate for the season. Assist in the production of queen cells, nucs, queens and or replacement colonies. Recognize, report and monitor hive health issues and apply appropriate cures/controls. May drive and maintain vehicles including large trucks and forklifts. Maintain hives. Operate and maintain other apiary related equipment. Keep field and or production records. Apiary harvesters do not require experience. They will super hives, harvest honey, extract honey, clean honey extraction and storage equipment. Must be able to lift 100 lbs. Apply to: Mike Lewis at: mike- beekeeper@hotmail.com, or mail to RR1, Tales, AB T0C 2N0.

Help Wanted: Alvinston (ON)  
Wanted: 6 Seasonal Beekeeper Labourers in Alvinston Ontario Canada, from April until December 2017. Work is physically demanding and includes hive management and maintenance. An International Driver’s License is required. Must be able to follow instructions in English. Wage will be no less than $11.43 per hour and not under 40 hours per week. Send resume to: info@munrohoney.com or mail to: Munro Honey, Box #428, Alvinston, Ontario, Canada N0K 1A0

Help Wanted: Mission (BC)  
Golden Ears Apiaries is seeking employees for the 2017 season. Apiary Technician NOC 8433: 12 positions at $15.85 - $15.90 per hour depending on experience. Apiary worker NOC 8433: 3 positions at $11.81/hr. Work starts in mid Feb, 2017 and ends late Oct. 2017. Some evening, night and weekend work, full time seasonal work. Applicants must be in good physical condition and be able to work in a team environment, speak English and or Spanish. Apiary Technician must have a min. of 2 years commercial beekeeping experience. You will handle feed and care for bees in a manner appropriate for the season. Assist in the production of queen cells, nucs, queens and or replacement colonies. Recognize, report and monitor hive health issues and apply appropriate cures/controls. May drive and maintain vehicles including large trucks and forklifts. Maintain hives. Operate and maintain other apiary related equipment. Keep field and or production records. Apiary harvesters do not require experience. They will super hives, harvest honey, extract honey, clean honey extraction and storage equipment. Must be able to lift 100 lbs. Apply to: Jeanmarc Lor dez@jeanmarc1lordez@gmail.com or mail to: Golden Ears Apiaries Inc. 33197 Int Place, Mission, B.C. V2Y 3W7

WANTED  
Use 60 frame Crow extracting line. Phone 519-245-5361 Dan Walker or email walkerb655@hotmail.com

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Order now for the 2017 honey season. We have Chilean Queens, 1.2kg Honeybee Packages for sale with Queens available from March until the first week of June and Chilean packages are available from March to April. In the middle of May until June we have 4 Frame Nucs with a new Queen that are locally produced and from June until the first week of September Alberta/ BC Local queens are available. Please contact us either by email or telephone for pricing & delivery dates. Chris Stewart (403)427-3472/ cashtaneystarthoneyco@outlook.com / www.cashtaneystarthoneyco.com or Lorne Newby at (250)506-0015/ dchegutcer@outlook.com

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Help Wanted: Auburn, (ME)  
Two positions available for full time, seasonal apiarists at New Rutherford Apiaries (4647204 Manitoba Ltd) located north west of Austin, MB, Road Lane #63074 for 2017 season. Apiarist Technician with day to day colony management, extract- ing and honey processing. 3 Apiary Harvesters/labourers (NOC 8431) Full time, seasonal apiarist, Technician 1 position and Apiary Labourers, or workers, 3 positions, available at Busy Bee Apiaries, a honey farm near Rural Austin, MB, Road Lane #63074 for 2017 season. Apiarist Tech- nician: April 1, 2017 until Nov 15, 2017. Job duties include: medicating, feeding, harvesting, extracting honey, maintenance, clean-up, other duties as assigned. Must have drivers licence $13.50-15.00/hour based on qualifications. Apiarists Labourers or Workers: 2 positions June 15-Oct 15, 2017. Position 1 April 2-Oct 31, 2017. Duties: supervised hive management, harvesting, ex- tracting honey, clean-up, other duties as assigned $11.00-13.00/ hour based on experience. Send resume to Busy Bee Apiaries Ltd. C/O Chris Rempel, Box 558, Austin, MB, R0H 0C0, e-mail pilotman1977@gmail.com

Help Wanted: Good Spirit Lake (SK)  
5 Seasonal Beekeeper Helpers (apairy workers) for the 2017 honey production season at Howland’s Honey Farm, Good Spirit Lake, SK. May to September 2017, $13.00 to $17.00 per hour depending on experience. Experience or educational requirements for this position. We are looking to work in a team environment. Wolfe Honey Company Is located at #1 Main Street, PO Box 289, in Guy, Alberta, TOH 1Y0. The hamlet of Guy is located in the Municipal District of Smoky River. Ap- plicants are invited to email the attention of Gilbert Werke at sharoon@honeybunny.ca or phone 780-925-2282 fax 780-925-2943

Help Wanted: Granum (AB)  
SUPERNICE APIARIES located near Granum, AB. M.A. 215032 TWP Rd 104 has the following positions for the 2017 season. APIARY WORKERS (Low Skilled Worker NOC 8433) 4 positions; wage starting at $12.05/hour or current wage according to NSL code), needed full time (45+ hrs/wk) from March 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017. Some evening, night and weekend work will be required. Accommodations are available. 1 year experience required. Duties include assisting with beehive maintenance and treatments, building and repairing bee equipment, moving hives, harvesting, and extracting honey, and winter preparation. All wages are negotiable based on experience and productivity. A valid driver’s license and the ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit and accustomed to working with honeybees. Email resumes to aovinge@gmail.com or fax to 403-687-2154.

Help Wanted: Langesborg (SK)  
12 Seasonal Workers: 5 Apiary technicians to: - Help with Spring check, do hive assessment and manipulation. - Help with pest and disease control. - Help with grafting, building and looking after nuc bees. - Help queens raise? 7 Apiary technicians Assistant to: - Help apiary technicians - Assemble equipment - Help super hives - Help harvest honey - Help handle queen bees - Help maintain bee yards - Help with feeding, assessment and treatments. - Help to wrap bees. 2 Honey House workers to help with harvesting. Positions available from April 15, 2017 to October 31, 2017. Work is physically demanding. Wages $13.00 - $20.00 per hour depending on experience. Glory Bee Honey, phone 306-743-5469 or email denisephotos@gmail.com or mail to RR#1, Yegbee Management Ltd, Mission, MB T0C 3R0. 

Help Wanted: Shellbrook (SK)  
Wanted 4 beekeepers for May to October 2017. Wages depending on experience. Contact Jason Rinas, Email: jasonrinas@hotmail.com or Phone: 306-747-7220 or 306-764-4503 or 306-747-3130

Help Wanted: Tres (AB)  
*TIES BRIEFS INC.* requires: Two APIARY TECHNICIANS (NOC 8253) with a minimum of 3 years experience working on a Canadian style commercial apiary in the min. capacity of Apiary Worker or General Farm Worker with employment March thru October 2017 ($14.05-$17/hour depending on exp. with possible bonus) ($145+ hrs/wk); Four APIARY WORKERS (NOC 8433) with a minimum of 1 year experience and with employment April thru November 2017 ($13-$16/hour depending on exp. with possible bonus) ($165+ hrs/wk); One GENERAL FARM WORKER (NOC 8431), experience is an asset but not required, wage $12.00-$16.00/hr depending on exp. with possible bonus) ($180+ hrs/wk) with employment April thru November 2017. All wages are negotiable based on experience and productivity. Applicants are required to work in the presence of honey bees and will assist with colony management and honey extraction/ processing. All positions may require some evening, night & weekend work. All applicants must be in good physical con- dition and able to work in a team environment. A motor vehicle li- cense recognized in the Province of Alberta is required for the NOC 8253 positions. *Contact: Jeremy 403-686-8569 or email teebsbees@gmail.com or mail to RR1, Tres, AB T0C 2N0.*

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