



Saskatchewan Beekeepers  
Development Commission

Summer 2019  
Volume 27 Number 2

# Saskatchewan Beekeepers *Newsletter*

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### **Did you know?**

**As part of your SBDC paid  
paid membership you are entitled to receive the  
template for CFIA requirements for licensing a Honey  
Production Operation. If you haven't received  
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*Thank You*



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Saskatchewan Beekeepers  
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## President's Report *by Simon Lalonde*

Honey season is well underway, and in some places, possibly getting close to wrapping up.

A big thank you to Murray and Ruby Hannigan, Dave Phillips, and Lydia and Matt Graham for hosting the field day on June 22nd. At the time, the rain was more than welcome for many producers, with the skies clearing just in time for the BBQ. It was wonderful for Premier Scott Moe and Honourable Randy Hoback to take time out of their very busy schedules to attend the BBQ and bring greetings from their respective offices. The turnout was great, discussion was lively, and socializing was abundant.

The hottest topic at field day would likely have been the discussion on the intent to allow open feeding for a portion of the season. This topic was initially discussed during the bear pit session at convention 2018, and dates proposed at the field day were even more open. The current proposed changes to the Apiaries Act would allow open feeding from September 1 – June 15th. Considerable thought was put into the dates, as it is recognized that timing of the same activity can occur over a 3-week window depending on what part of the province you are in. We realize everyone

has their own opinion on allowable dates, please reach out to a Board member in the near future if you would like to offer alternate dates. However, please remember that the entire province will need to be covered under one term - the weather conditions in any given season could move your season back or forward by a couple weeks. This is intended to be a solution that will provide the greatest flexibility to the greatest number of beekeepers.

Please remember SBDC registrations are due beginning September 1. Again, the term 'Production Hive' is meant to describe anything with a bottom board that your earned an income from in spring/summer/fall 2019. Nucs started in 2019 are exempt (unless your produced queens from them for sale), as the intent is that they would be paid for in next year's check-off when they become a full production hive. If you have any questions at all, please contact Linda at the office, or and Board member.

Convention 2019 is approaching much too quickly. We are in the same location as years past, although the hotel is now named the Delta... Please join us November 28-29 and 30th

*continued on next page*



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## President's Report... *continued from page 3*

Information regarding a room block. Information regarding Saturday session for the Safe Food for Canadians Handbook that was distributed to all members. Gerry Hayes will be attending as our headline speaker, with appearances by Leonard Foster (University of British Columbia – Mass Spectrography analysis for honey), Hannah Neil, SK Ministry of Apiculture, Elemir Simko of the TAT Team, and others. Please watch the website and your email for a schedule to be sent out in the near future.

On a side-note, in our operation we stack our supers as 6 supers high/pallet, and 3 pallets high in the warehouse. In fall 2018 as we were putting supers away for the season, we wrapped the supers on each top pallet in plastic wrap hoping to provide some additional safety when moving/stacking the pallets. However, the plastic wrap stuck to the neighbouring pallets (it might be tough to see in the photo), possibly a result of the warmth of the spring, static, or physical contact of the wrap when the pallets were stacked. What started as a way to try and improve on our safety caused issues of a different kind, as we needed to side-shift and slowly back up so the plastic wrap would 'release' from the wrap on neighbouring pallets, prior to pulling them down. New ideas often come with a catch, and it may take some new thinking to come up with the perfect solution!

However you run your operation, take that extra couple minutes that we never seem to have to double check things. Have a safe season everyone.



## SBDC's Final Design for Apimondia 2019



# Summer 2019 *by Derek Moyen*

Hello everyone,

By now most of you are probably well into your 2019 harvest. For us we have seen the bulk of the flow come and go. Can never have enough of those perfect honey days. Weather has not been very consistent this way. We can still see all the walls in the box shed so we have a ways to go yet.

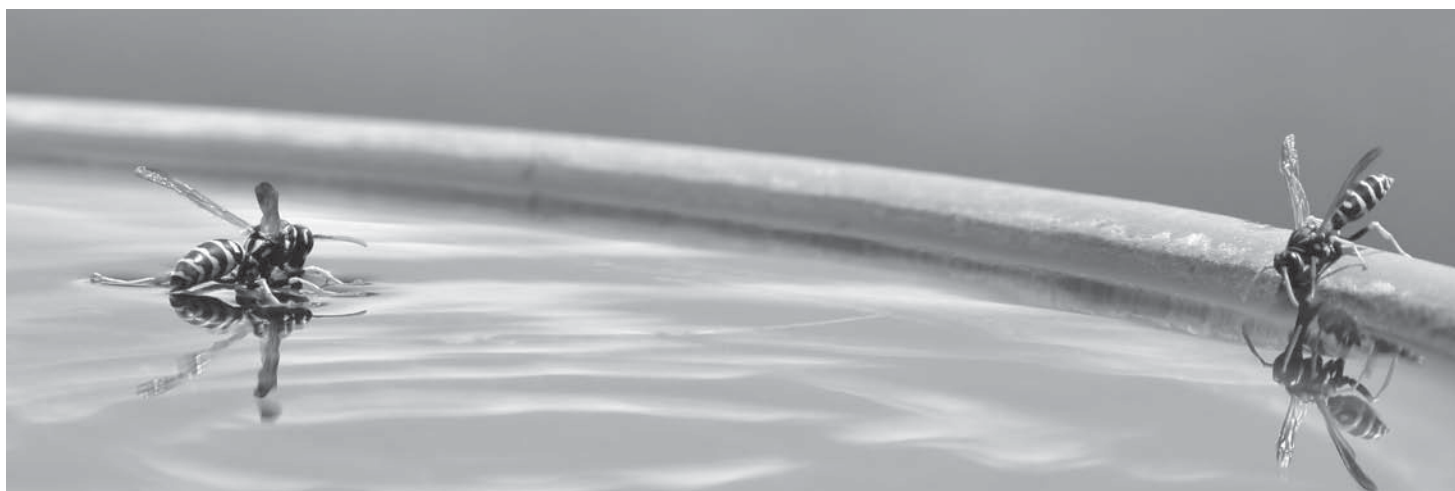
Apimondia is fast approaching and we are looking forward in representing the SBDC and it's members. All of our booth designs have been updated with the new SBDC logo and photos that we have selected to best represent our provinces beekeepers.

Our web designers have been working hard to get our site up and running. We are very close to rolling it out. We will keep the pressure on to have it running by Apimondia.

Our handouts for Apimondia will have a link to the current producers list. Once the new site is created the new producers list will also link to Saskhoney.ca as it currently does now.

TFWP has changes coming. Once we know when they are to be in effect we will cover them off at that time. For now we will continue to monitor the potential changes they are proposing. It's not all bad. The Recognized Employer status will have a learning curve to it, but I have hopes that this will alleviate the LMIA burden on producers. Now to get the same process to happen at the other end is another story.

All the best,  
Derek Moyen



## Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission 2019 Schedule of Events



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Sept. 8-12, 2019	Apimondia International Apiculture Congress	Palais des congrès - Montreal, QC
Oct. 4-6, 2019	B.C. Honey Producers Association - AGM, Conference & Trade Show	Coast Inn - Prince George BC
Nov. 4-6, 2019	Alberta Beekeepers Commission - 2019 AGM, Conference & Trade Show	Fantasyland Hotel - Edmonton, AB
Nov. 28-30, 2019	Annual Convention and Members Meeting	Delta Hotel by Marriott Downtown (formerly the Radisson Hotel Saskatoon)



# Sun River Honey Nosema Trial Update *by Sara Comerford*

As promised here are the results from our “in house” treatment trial to determine if treating or not treating with Complete Bee in the fall would have any noticeable effect on the Nosema levels in the hives coming out of winter.

## Trial design:

For this trial we tracked the Nosema levels in two adjacent bee yards separated by approximately 200 meters and a row of caragana bushes.

In May 2018 both yards showed Nosema levels of just over 2,000,000 spores per bee based on a composite yard sample taken from the front entrance of the hives. We treated both yards with 4 treatments of Complete Bee drench, four days apart. The post treatment tests done in June 2018 showed that the Nosema levels in both yards had dropped in half. The levels were still just over threshold of 1,000,000 spores per bee but better than the pre-treatment tests.

In the fall of 2018, our pre- treatment tests on these yards showed zero Nosema, based on a composite yard sample.

With these results we were tempted to **not treat** our bees in the fall but were advised by our Provincial Apiculturist, Geoff Wilson, to treat the operation regardless of these results because these feed supplements are supposed to help maintain the health of our bees rather than cure the bees of any disease.

In the fall of 2019, we treated the whole operation once again with two drenches of Complete Bee. However, this time we opted to not treat one of these two test yards as part of an “in house” experiment to see if there would be a difference in the Nosema levels in the fall treated bees coming out of winter versus the untreated fall bees coming out of winter. We also wanted to see if there would be a difference in the mortality in the yard that was not treated with Complete Bee in the fall as compared to the yard that was treated with Complete Bee in the fall.

## Results:

In the pre-treatment sample taken in April 2019, the fall treated yard had Nosema levels off 3,425,000. This was from a yard that was showing zero Nosema in the fall of 2018!

In the pre-treatment samples taken in April, 2019, the fall untreated yard had Nosema levels of 7,350,000. This was from a yard that was showing zero Nosema in the fall of 2018!

## Discussion:

1. The fall Nosema test was not a good indicator of the potential Nosema levels in the hive. Likely the test in the fall gave a false negative because it was done on bees that had not been confined to the hive for any significant length of time. Likely the spring test is a better indicator of the true Nosema levels in the hive.
2. This quick and dirty test seems to suggest that the Complete Bee may have influenced keeping the Nosema levels lower in the treated hives as compared to the untreated hives. Both yards had similar Nosema levels in the spring of 2018 both in their pre and post treatment tests before and after both yards were treated with Complete Bee. Both showed zero Nosema in their pre- treatment test done in the fall of 2018 but in the pre- treatment tests done in the spring of 2019, the hives that were treated with Complete Bee in the fall had Nosema levels that were half as high as the Nosema levels in the untreated hives in the adjacent yard. The only difference in the management practices of these two adjacent yards was the fall Complete Bee treatment in the treated yard.

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## Differences in the winter mortality in these two yards:

- The untreated yard had 1 out of 44 hives die but there were 5 weak hives in this yard
- The treated yard had 1 out of 48 hives die but there were 2 weak hives in this yard.

This result seems to suggest that there was very little difference in the mortality rate between the treated and untreated hives however the number of weak hives in the spring of 2019 was double in the untreated yard versus the treated yard.

## Conclusions:

This quick and dirty test seems to suggest that the Complete Bee treatment may have made a difference in promoting or maintaining the health of the bees in the treated hives versus the untreated hives, during the long winter confinement.

More research must be done on this to see if there are any significant improvements to the health of bees with the use of this and other feed supplements. Hopefully the current SBDC, ADF research project on Prebiotics and Probiotic feed supplements will shed some more light on this topic.

## Post Note:

We treated our whole operation with several rounds of Complete Bee in the spring of 2019 and then had the good fortune of being able to access some Fumagillin B and treated our whole operation with Fumagillin B in the spring of 2019.

The Fumagillin B brought our post treatment Nosema levels down to well below threshold in the fall treated hives and reduced the Nosema levels in the untreated fall hives by 77% to just over treatment threshold levels.



## Summer 2019 *by Jake Berg*

Apimondia plans are coming together very well. Hopefully we'll see you in Montreal September 8th to the 12th. -If you haven't updated your contact information with Linda, please do so before September, for the producers list. As the SBDC booth will be promoting the producers list as the main access point for Saskatchewan beekeepers for honey, wax, bees, and queen sales.

As I'm writing this the summer is moving right along, the honey is flowing but we've been seriously lacking flying weather. At this point, it's looking like our honey crop will be reduced due to poor weather conditions. That being said, we are still hopeful that we will have a bountiful honey crop. Somehow, those great little bugs always seem to produce.

2019 so far has been an unusual and challenging year. The bees required twice as much feed than normal this spring. Now, we have a huge bee population that hasn't had enough good weather days to make the amount of honey I would expect. The canola that didn't come up on time now has caught up and is maturing quicker than normal. All these things combined just go to show that your never done learning and Mother Nature can always throw you a curve ball!

Jake



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[www.apimondia2019.com](http://www.apimondia2019.com)



## *Montreal will be hosting the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2019.*

**September 8, 2019 - September 12, 2019**

**Palais des congrès de Montréal  
1001 Place Jean-Paul-Riopelle  
Montréal, QC**

As many of you know, APIMONDIA is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations. Its major objective is to facilitate the exchange of information and discussions by organizing Congresses and Symposia where beekeepers, scientists, honey-traders, agents for development, technicians and legislators meet to listen, discuss and learn from one another. Apimondia meetings are fabulous events that offer great opportunities to learn about all the aspects of the beekeeping world. During these meetings, from morning until late evening, participants explore various exhibits and learn about cutting edge research from all parts of the world.

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# Bear Fence Program Updates and Some Food For Thought *by Nathan Wendell*

I hope that everyone has had a safe and fruitful harvest season. I wanted to give a couple of updates on the Bear Fence Program. In the last newsletter, I shared that the board had had a discussion with SCIC regarding the expansion of the bear fence program and the possibility of adding rebates for conibear trap expenses. At the field day in June – a big thank you to Murray Hannigan for hosting the event this year – Geoff Wilson spoke on behalf of the SCIC to inform us that unfortunately, the SCIC chose not to approve the rebate program for expenses related to conibear and live traps in the bee yard. However, the increase of the Bear Fence Rebate limit was approved. The maximum eligible rebate for a given fiscal year has been increased from \$3000 to \$5000. This means that you may now claim up to \$6250 of eligible bear fence expenses to reach your maximum rebate. At the time of writing this, I am still waiting for confirmation from SCIC as to whether the increase will take effect for the current fiscal year or will go into effect in the next fiscal year (April 1st, 2020). By the time the newsletter comes out, I should have clarification on that point, so if you have reached your rebate limit (\$3000) for this year and are considering purchasing additional supplies, please call

or email me to get clarification on whether the increased limit will apply for this year.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to speak a little bit about something that is often at the forefront of my mind as I am sure it is for many of you – honey prices. Despite our highest hopes and expectations, there is still little movement (or at least not in the right direction) on bulk honey prices, leaving most of us to have to accept prices that are near or in some cases even below the cost of production. It seems unlikely that this problem will resolve itself and it leaves me wondering what it will take to right the ship and see bulk honey prices rebound for Canadian producers.

The most obvious factor impacting prices is the widespread adulteration of honey that has been well documented in recent years. I applaud the CFIA's recent efforts to sample and test honey from store shelves in Canada and although their impact was relatively small and insignificant at this time, it serves to continue to keep the issue in the public's eye and begin movement to better monitoring and penalties for those who continue

*continued on page 11*



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## Bear Fence Program Updates and Some Food For Thought... *continued from page 9*

to package and retail adulterated honey. It is my sincere hope that with pressure from the industry that CFIA will ramp up their efforts to test and confiscate not only retail honey from Canadian store shelves, but also be more diligent about testing bulk honey coming into the country. As we all know, much of the cheap, adulterated honey ends up in the industrial ingredient market where it can no longer be tested for purity. If it were an easy task, I am sure that CFIA would have already stopped the flow of adulterated honey into Canada, but I do believe that they can do a better job and that our industry needs to continue to advocate for this.

We are also up against labeling issues that are strongly stacked in favor of the sugar industry. My understanding of the new labeling law is that honey (as an ingredient) will now be listed under "sugar" and grouped together with any other sweetener in that particular product. Not only that, but many popular, nationwide brands, use the word "Honey" to sell everything from Mustard to BBQ Sauce, to Salad Dressing, when in reality, the primary sweetener in all of these products is sugar. When it comes to labeling laws, the sugar lobby seems to have taken control and has every imaginable advantage over honey, thus misleading consumers and underselling the value of the natural sweetener which we work so hard to produce.

Finally, I wanted to talk about retail honey. In defense of their two-tier system for bulk honey prices, the Americans have referenced the fact that there is suspicion that bulk honey from Canada is an adulterated, transshipped product. While this may be true in a small number of cases, it is certainly the exception rather than the rule. The other reason I often see referenced, is that packers can purchase, pack and sell 100% American honey as "Made in the USA" and demand a premium price for that product. While I do not in any way believe that this justifies the two-tier pricing system, it does make some sense to me – promote your home grown product as a premium product and ask for a premium price.

So it came as quite a shock to me that one of the biggest packers of 100% Canadian honey is not following this model, but is in fact doing the exact opposite. A friend recently sent me an online offer from Costco – 2kg of BeeMaid 100% Canadian, unpasteurized, creamed honey for \$11.99. Let me say that again....2kg of BeeMaid 100% Canadian honey for \$11.99. If you break this down to price/100g as most honey is in retail locations, that is \$0.59/100g. So to do some comparison, I went to my local Co-Op grocery store and looked at the honey there. The lowest price for honey in the Co-Op was \$1.07/100g and some of the fancier brands sold for over \$4/100g. To compare with other products (all measured in price/100ml rather than per 100g, but sufficient for comparison) there was Maple Syrup for \$3+/100ml, Aunt Jemima Table Syrup for 0.68/100ml and White Corn Syrup for \$1/100ml. The list of products in the Co-Op

grocery store that were more expensive than BeeMaid Honey goes on and on and on. So the question that I ask myself is if perhaps the most popular and widely used Canadian brand of honey – proudly touting itself as 100% Canadian – is selling honey cheaper than corn syrup, what message does that send to consumers, retailers and buyers? If we do not value our own product enough to ask a reasonable price for it in a retail environment, why would we expect anyone else on the world market to value it? In all fairness to BeeMaid, my price comparison was at Co-Op rather than Costco and the selection of honey was all in smaller containers, but even so, I do not see how selling honey at 0.59/100g can in any way support beekeepers or the honey industry in Canada. I do know that we have members who sit on the Board of the Manitoba Honey Co-Op and I would be curious to hear their response to this issue.

With that all said, there are clearly some challenges ahead for us when it comes to bulk honey prices. Obviously, I have many thoughts and many questions, but what I don't have is a lot of answers. I hope that as an industry, we can continue to pressure both provincial and federal parties and agencies to recognize the seriousness of these issues and their impact on beekeepers both here in Saskatchewan and in Canada as a whole.



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## Biosecurity Funding Program for Bees

### 3 Simple Steps

#### **FUNDING AVAILABLE:**

- Eligible equipment costs are reimbursed at 50% of eligible expenses, to a maximum program payment of \$15,000 per beekeeper (\$30,000 in capital costs made by the beekeeper).
  - This is a 5 year program, so you can use the entire funding in Year 1, or spread it out.
  - Claims need to be submitted prior to December 31, 2022.
  - Please note the non-eligible items on Page 1 of the Rebate Application Form.
- Program payments are subject to a minimum rebate of \$250.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- Demonstrate a minimum of \$15,000 total gross farm income in Saskatchewan (from all aspects of farming).
  - If you do not currently declare \$15,000 of gross farm income in Saskatchewan, but expect to meet this within the time-frame of the funding program, you are able to purchase equipment upon approval for the program. You can then submit receipts upon achieving this level of gross farm income.
  - If you do not meet this requirement in any year of the funding program, you will not be able to submit a Rebate Application Form.
- Take the industry training (Biosecurity course) provided by the SBDC.
  - The first course was held on December 1, 2018 in Saskatoon. A certificate will be issued by the SBDC to all participants of this course.
  - Additional courses will be announced as they become available.
- Complete an on-site self-assessment and have the Provincial Apiculture Specialist validate the equipment selected.
  - Eligible equipment is listed on the Biosecurity Equipment Recommendation Report – Bees.
- Have a Premises Identification number (PID).
  - This has been generated for all beekeepers who were registered with the Province prior to 2017. If unsure of your PID, it can be obtained by contacting the Ag Knowledge Center at 1-866-457-2377.

#### **STEP 1: Take the industry training as provided by the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission.**

#### **STEP 2: Complete the “Assurance System Producer Program Biosecurity Equipment Recommendation Report Bees”**

<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/20/109216-Equipment%20Recommendation%20Report%20-%20BEES.pdf>

Complete this form and submit it to the Provincial Apiculture Specialist. Note that you do not need to specify a certain model or obtain pricing prior to having your planned purchases approved. Upon validation by the Provincial Apiculture Specialist, purchase the equipment as approved.

#### **STEP 3: Complete the “Assurance System Producer Program Rebate Application Bees”**

<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/20/109215-Assurance%20System%20Program%20Rebate%20Application%20-%20Bees.pdf>

Submit documentation as required by the Rebate Application Form. Note limitations and exclusions on the rebate form.



# CFIA's proposed changes to the Guidelines for Product of Canada and Made in Canada label *by Sara Comerford*

At field day the SBDC board notified members that the CFIA is proposing changes to the guidelines for the use of the Product of Canada label and for the Made in Canada Label. We have since learned that Honey will be exempt from these changes because Honey is "already on a list that is regulated at 97% for Product of Canada" The proposed changes are for other products such as Fruits and vegetables and other processed or manufactured products. This will basically create a "...double standard where the consumer would need to understand that if honey is Product of Canada it is 97% Canadian honey vs. a sausage or pickle that might have 85% Canadian Content."

We believe this will undermine the value of the Product of Canada label and the Made in Canada Label and will decrease the transparency of products for the consumer and only serve to confuse the consumer.

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission does not support the Proposed changes to the "Product of Canada" and the "Made in Canada Guidelines for the following reasons:

1. The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission (SBDC) believes reducing the amount of Canadian content in products labeled "Product of Canada" from 97% Canadian content to 85% Canadian content will compromise the value and credibility of the term "Product of Canada".
2. This change will be misleading to the consumer because people generally assume that an item labelled "Product of Canada" is nearly 100% Canadian.
3. This change will negatively impact the Canadian primary producer who will see less demand for their Canadian grown product.
4. Reducing the percentage of Canadian grown ingredients and increasing the percentage of foreign ingredients allowed in a product labeled "Product of Canada" may also undermine the value of the label itself, especially if

the foreign ingredients are not sourced from the same quality or subjected to the same rigorous production standards as Canadian grown products. Food produced in Canada is some of the best quality food in the world, in large part due to the standards producers are required to meet during production.

5. We believe, reducing the Canadian content requirement would be a step backwards in the CFIA's effort to maintain some of the most rigorous food standards in the world.
6. The option to provide additional labeling on a package – to allow packers to identify the Canadian content of a package will simply confuse the issue for the consumer. Right now, if a consumer sees the label "Product of Canada" they assume it to be basically 100% Canadian. Going forward If a packer chooses not to include the percentage of Canadian content in the package, the packer may continue to capitalize on the perceived quality from using the label, "Produced in Canada" while only needing to source 85% of their ingredients from Canadian primary producers.
7. We believe this change undermines the value of the brand "Product of Canada" that CFIA has fought for so many years to bring to the forefront of quality and value.
8. We believe the proposed changes to remove the requirement for qualifying statements from the "Made in Canada" label that reveal the source country of the ingredients in the products, is also a step backwards in terms of promoting transparency in the food production industry.
9. This proposal will make labels less transparent to the consumer and even misleading to the consumer who, seeing nothing but the "Made in Canada" label, will assume the product is sourced from basically 100% Canadian Ingredients.
10. This proposed change will further negatively impact the Canadian primary producer who may have even less demand for their homegrown product if the manufacturers of the "Made in Canada" product, choose to source all their ingredients from foreign countries.

In summary, the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission does not support either of the proposed changes to the "Product of Canada" or the "Made in Canada" labeling guidelines.

While these proposed changes will not directly affect the Honey industry because we are regulated by different standards, having two sets of guidelines for the same label we believe will ultimately undermine the value of the Product of Canada Label and the Made in Canada Label.



# Sara's Musings and A fond farewell to the SBDC board! *by Sara Comerford*

Convention 2019 will mark the end of my term on the SBDC board. I have enjoyed my years on the SBDC board, but it is time now to pass the baton on to the next runner in the race! As in every year, there are two positions open on the SBDC board. For my position, there will be no incumbent running for re-election. I encourage everyone to consider running for the SBDC board. Serving on the board has been a rewarding experience for me. It has given me the opportunity to give back to the beekeeping community and to share some of what I have learned over the last 20 years of beekeeping. It has also given me the opportunity to learn about new things happening in our industry that could be of benefit to our members. The time commitment as a board member is not onerous depending on the level of committee work you take on. More than half of the board meetings are now done via conference call, with the remainder of the meetings happening in person, either at the SCIC building in Saskatoon or at the SCIC building in PA. I encourage everyone to consider letting your name stand for the SBDC board. Your time as a volunteer board member is well worth the effort. Your out of pocket expenses for travel and accommodation, if needed, are covered by the SBDC.

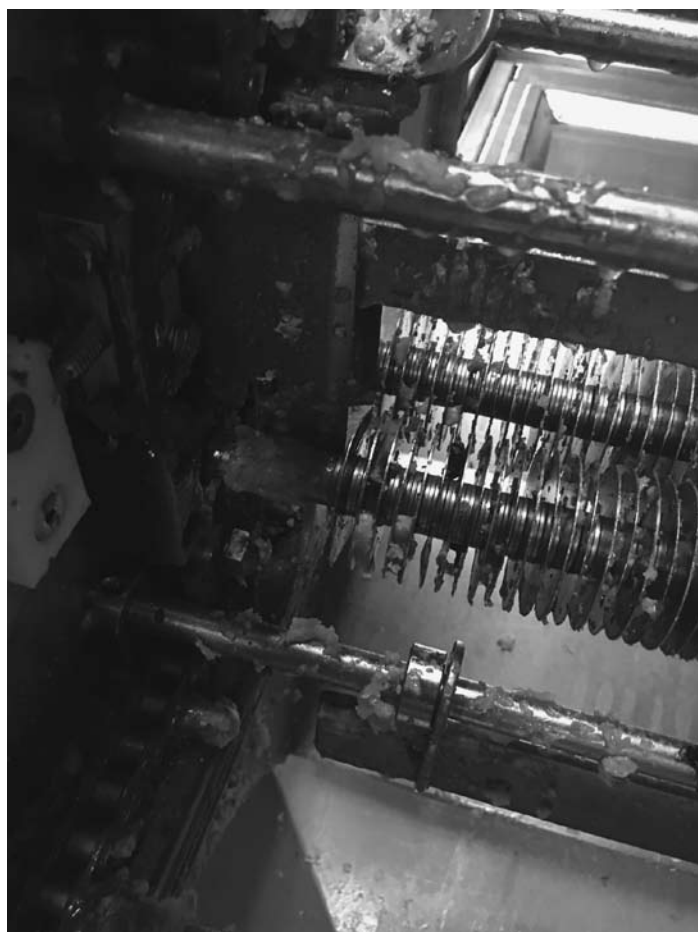
## Innovations in Hive Record Keeping

This year, we at Sun River Honey (SRH) took our hive management record keeping to the next level. You will recall, since 2016 we had been using One Note to keep track of all our hive records, treatment records etc. Using this web-based platform meant that all our hive information was accessible to everyone in our management team anywhere, anytime. The one draw back to this system was that the information in each yard record was not integrated automatically into a summary page. Every time I entered something into the hive record page, I would have to enter it again onto a summary page. In 2019 Aaron Comerford moved all our record keeping activity from One Note to EXCEL 365 stored on One Drive. There he developed a fully integrated system of record keeping that takes our yard information and integrates it automatically to a summary page that gives the whole management team up to date information of what is happening in every yard in real time with only one entry required.

As a way of giving back to the industry, we at SRH are happy to share the templates for these spreadsheets with anyone in the Saskatchewan Beekeeping industry who has an interest in electronic record keeping and would like to give it a try. We are not offering ongoing support for the Excel program but because these sheets have been developed in Excel 365 you are free to modify our templates to suit your own needs.

## Innovations in Uncapping

We at SRH are also happy to share an innovative modification to our Cowan uncapper, developed by both Aaron Comerford and Henry Comerford that we have used now for three years. This innovative uncapper adaptation involves two sets of multiple disks that slice through the cappings, on a honey frame, much like a scratcher. Please see the attached photographs.

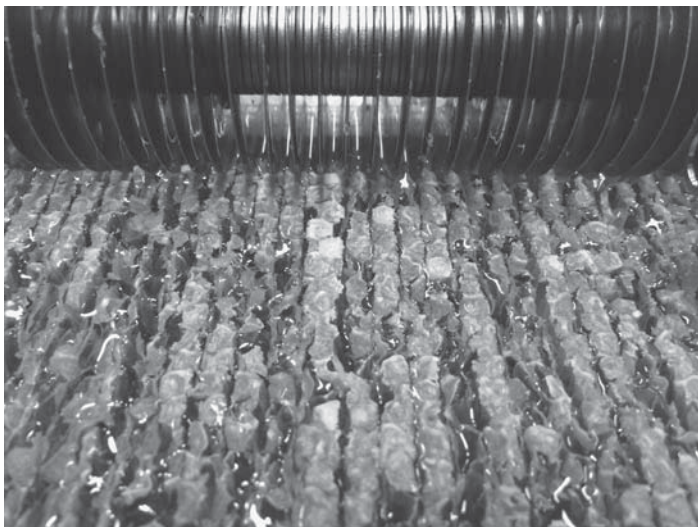


Anyone wanting to try this system of uncapping is free to do so.

As the 2019 crop year ends, we at Sun River Honey are amazed once again by what amazing creatures honeybees are. In our area the season started on the brink of disaster with no significant precipitation throughout the spring. Farmers in the area were debating whether to put seed in the ground because conditions were so dry. The bees were hungry coming out of winter and throughout the spring they consumed all the feed we gave them along with the honey they were bringing into the hive

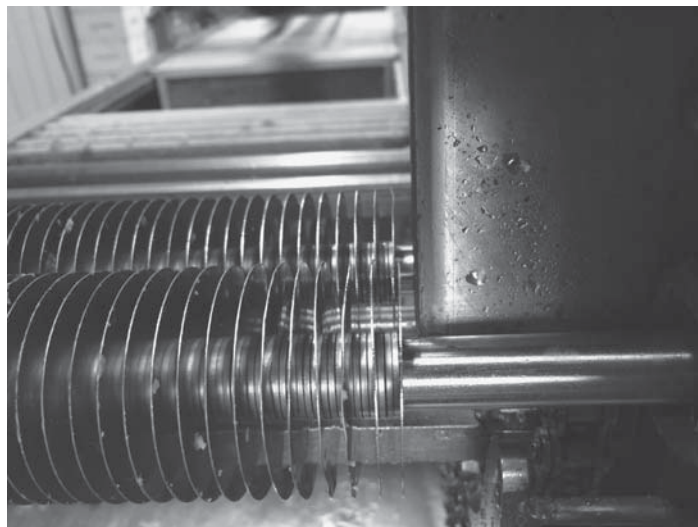
*continued on next page*

## Sara's Musings and A fond farewell to the SBDC board!... *continued from page 15*



and except for a few areas that had received some timely spring rains, there was little to no surplus honey to spare in the hives. Then the rains came along with the sun and the whole situation turned around. Crops that were seeded germinated and flourished and by the grace of God once again we have a honey crop!

We at Sun River Honey hope everyone has had a successful year and that your bees go into winter healthy and strong.



For those of you going to Apimondia, ENJOY! Learn lots and then remember to share what you have learned with the rest of the Saskatchewan Beekeeping industry! It is by sharing and telling our stories that we continue to grow our beekeeping industry in Saskatchewan.

See you all at Convention, 2019.

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[nbcd@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:nbcd@gprc.ab.ca)







## WildlifeDamage

## Bee Yard Fences

### HONEY BEE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program will pay for losses to honey bees from bears. Since 2010, SCIC began administrating compensation for prevention measures taken to limit or reduce damage to colonies and their structures.

SCIC will cover 80 per cent of the material cost for constructing bee yard fences, to a maximum of \$3,000 annually. This is a one-time payment. Subsequent claims on the same bee yard will not be paid if no fence has been erected.

Compensation is applied for through the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association (SBA). The form and original receipts must be submitted to the SBA Bear Fence Program Coordinator. Once compiled, the forms are sent to SCIC for processing.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

SCIC **will not** reimburse for GST, labour costs, tools (including voltage testers) or replacement batteries for existing fences.

SCIC **will** reimburse for the cost of posts, wire, insulators, connectors, gate handle insulators and will reimburse for the purchase of new fences with batteries. The equipment must have a life expectancy of five years or more. Valid original receipts must be provided for all reimbursable costs. Original receipts will be returned to the beekeeper/business prior to reimbursements of funds.

**Note:** If there is no electric fence around the bee colonies, compensation will be paid for bear damage to bee colonies and their structures only on the first occurrence per bee yard. Subsequent claims on the same bee yard will not be paid if no fence has been erected.

*For more information about the Honey Bee Compensation Program, contact your nearest Crop Insurance office, call 1-888-935-0000 or visit us at [saskcropinsurance.com](http://saskcropinsurance.com).*

# Electric Bear Fence Rebate Form

This program is administered by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC)

Business name and /or business representative	
Phone number:	
E-mail address	
Address:	
Fence Location:(nearest town)	
Total number of colonies in operation	

Each year, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) agrees to reimburse beekeeper for 80% of the cost of electric fencing equipment, to a maximum of \$3000, for the purchase of materials to construct and power electric bee yard fences.

## Terms and Conditions:

SCIC **will NOT** reimburse for GST, Labour costs, Travel, Tools (including voltage testers) or replacement batteries for existing fencers. Receipts must be from within the past year.

SCIC **Will** reimburse for the cost of posts, wire, insulators, connectors, and gate handle insulators and will reimburse for the purchase of new fencers with batteries. The equipment must have a life expectancy of five years or more. Valid original receipts must be provided for all reimbursable costs. Original receipts will be returned to the beekeeper/business prior to reimbursement of funds. Please include a sheet summarizing the totals of each receipt. You may be required to submit a photo of the yard if request by the Bear Fence Director.

Note: If there is no electric fence around the bee colonies, compensation will be paid for bear damage to bee hives only on the first occurrence per bee yard. Subsequent claims on the same bee yard will not be paid if no fence has been erected.

For Bear damage claims please call SCIC at 1-888-935-000. For more information contact your local crop insurance office.

Total Expenditures including PST (must attach original receipts)	
Signature of Beekeeper (affirming calculations are honest and correct)	
Total amount to be reimbursed by SCIC (80% of allowable costs up to \$3000)	
Reviewed and Approved by SBDC Director <b>Date:</b>	
Reviewed and Approved by SCIC rep. <b>Date:</b>	

**Please return completed form with original receipts to:**

Nathan Wendell, SBDC Bear Fence Director

P. O. Box 199

Inglis, MB R0J 0X0



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CODETTE, SK. | THURSDAY, MAY 16th | 11:00 am

For more information, contact Robert Hamilton 306-862-8427

**DIRECTIONS: From Codette, SK.** NE of Codette, on Highway 35, east from RM office. Google Map GPS 53.286380, -104.023858  
Watch for signs Sale Day.

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Sale conducted by Fraser Auction Service 1-800-483-5856 [www.fraserauction.com](http://www.fraserauction.com)

**NOTE:** Since bees are being consigned from Apiarists all over Manitoba the sale will be conducted at the Fraser Auction Service Barn in Brandon, MB by video presentation. Buyers wanting to see the bees in person will need to do so prior to sale. Seller contact information will be listed on our website closer to sale date so you can contact them for directions to hive yards and info about their bees.

**CONSIGN NOW TO BOOK YOUR SALE ORDER**

## HAROLD LOEWEN

APIARIST RETIREMENT AUCTION

STEINBACH, MB. | MONDAY, MAY 27th | 11:00 am

For more information, Harold Loewen 204-371-9576 or Josh Loewen 204-381-2905

**DIRECTIONS: From Steinbach, MB.** 3 miles south on #12 highway to #303  
2 miles east on #303 to Road 36E. 1.25 miles south on Road 36E to sale site  
on west side (Driveway #30132) Watch for signs Sale Day.

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# A Season in the Bees *by Noah Eisner, TAT Research Assistant*

I was hired by the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission for the 2019 research season, acting as a research assistant primarily focused on Nosema testing. While I had accrued a general knowledge of bees through years of fascination and university learning, I did not have direct experience working bees prior to the 2019 season. Gladly, I was eased into honeybee management by a few Saturday morning tutorials with the Provincial Apiculturist, Geoff Wilson. During tutorials with Geoff, we learned a variety of management techniques, from basic handling methods to honeybee genetics and queen rearing. While these lessons provided a solid foundation for honeybee management, our team still had to conduct Nosema research, requiring a collaborative effort with Dr. Elemir Simko's Lab at the University of Saskatchewan.



Nosema is a strain of fungus that inhabits the honeybee midgut, which can jeopardize a colony's survival if an infection within a hive is left unchecked. To test possible solutions to Nosema infections, Prebiotics (stabilizer for healthy gut microbiota communities) and probiotics (bacterial cultures capable of boosting levels of beneficial digestive bacterium) are being examined as part of a multi-year study. As well, gut microbiota within honeybees has been shown to have effects upon gene expression and immune response, leading to our partnership with the University of Saskatchewan to complete the genetic testing portion of the research. This work is imperative to the future of successful honeybee management, not only for beekeepers within the province of Saskatchewan, but also at national and international scales. While I would have enjoyed spending more time visiting the University of Saskatchewan lab full of frankensteinesque experiments rearing honeybee brood outside of hives, more field work was required to accomplish the season's research goals.



Field work largely consisted of recuperating colony losses experienced by the devastating effects of Nosema from the previous year's research, an unavoidable risk during formative Nosema prebiotic and probiotic testing, further highlighting the importance of such work. As well, a variety of sampling occurred to ensure research colonies were

*continued on next page*

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## A Season in the Bees... *continued from page 13*

healthy and not being impacted by confounding variables, such as alcohol wash sampling and varroa mites. Despite our team's best attempts at monitoring the research colonies, fieldwork is inherently a chaotic environment, which resulted in a few unexpected swarms during mid-summer. While I interpreted the initial 30-foot-high swarm amassed in a scraggly tree to be a lost cause, we ended up retrieving all swarm attempts by harnessing an arborist skillset provided by my co-worker, Monica, as well as creative thinking by team lead, Hannah. It was through collaborative, creative and unique experiences, such as swarm control, that elevated the season from being routine fieldwork to a stimulating work environment.

Fieldwork also meant interacting with the plethora of wildlife that inhabit remote areas of Saskatchewan bee yards are often located. While this initially meant dealing with pests, like the American dog tick, we soon had to contend with larger fauna in the area. One such encounter occurred while waiting for Hannah to arrive with a trailer of donated colonies, in which a yearling bear curiously climbed upon the back of Monica's vehicle while we waited inside to escape the harsh midday sun. Even though this experience was shocking, it was surely more frightful for the bear, which bolted for the treeline once we roused from the vehicle. Two weeks



later, we encountered a second bear from a more distant perspective while driving in a farmer's field, the largest black bear any of our team members had ever laid eyes upon. It was through these unexpected experiences in honeybee management and research in Saskatchewan that made this summer so memorable, with many of the skills I learned setting me up for a lifetime of future research endeavours and honeybee rearing (it is a surprisingly addicting profession/hobby)!

We would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous donations and contributions to the research with the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission, 2019 season: Danni Glennie (Glory Bee Honey), Neil Specht (Sweetheart Pollinators), Shawn Meckelborg, Richard Roney, Murray Hannigan (Hannigan Honey), and The University of Saskatchewan (Western College of Veterinary Medicine and Elemir Simko's Lab).



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## Dates to Remember

August 31, 2019	Fiscal Year Ends
September 1, 2019	2020 Fiscal Year Begins
October 15, 2019	2020 Check-off Fees are Due
October 30, 2019	Call for Nominations to the Board 2 positions (3 year term)
November 29, 2019	Annual General Meeting Delta Hotel by Marriott Downtown (formerly the Radisson Hotel) Saskatoon, SK





LOADING 0%

PLEASE WAIT.....

## ***It's almost time for the NEW Website!***

The Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission (SBDC) is excited to report we will be launching our brand new website in the next few months. Our committee, chaired by Derek Moyer has been working on a website that promises to better define and communicate our mission and vision as well as provide a richer experience for our membership. The new site will promote Saskatchewan Honey as the best in the world and will put the spotlight on our producers and their products. Members will now have the ability to post classifieds directly on the website and link to the newest research developments. Viewers will have better access on mobile devices whether in the field or in the comfort of your home or office.

**We will be starting to upload information in the next two weeks.  
Hoping for September (new year - new website!)**

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# 2019 Field Day Memories – Hannigan Honey



Photo: Dr. Barry Brown

**A very special thank you** to Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, and Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament for Prince Albert, for attending our 2019 Field Day!



Photo: Dr. Barry Brown



Photo: Dr. Barry Brown



Photo: Dr. Barry Brown



Photo: Dr. Barry Brown



Photo: Dr. Barry Brown



Photo: Dr. Barry Brown



Photo: Dr. Barry Brown



*Thank you to My Place Catering*



*Sharing of ideas*



*Great Food*



*Bear Fence Update*



*Fun for the kids*



*Having fun in the Bouncy Castle*



*Enjoying the day!*



*CHC Updates*



*Bee Secure booth*



*Bee Outfitters booth*



*President's summer report*



*Networking*



*...and more sharing*





Saskatchewan Beekeepers  
Development Commission

*The Agri-Food Act, 2004*  
[section 12]

**THE BEEKEEPERS DEVELOPMENT PLAN REGULATIONS, 2017 –  
BEEKEEPER REGISTRATION**

**Order No. 07/17.** The SASKATCHEWAN BEEKEEPERS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, pursuant to the provisions of *The Beekeepers Development Plan Regulations, 2017* and *The Agri-Food Act, 2004*, hereby determines and orders as follows:

- 1 Each beekeeper shall be deemed to be registered with the Commission upon remittance of:
  - (a) levy fees to the Commission; and
  - (b) a \$40 registration fee.
- 2 A beekeeper's registration shall remain in effect if the beekeeper has paid a levy pursuant to section 22 for which he or she has not received a refund pursuant to section 23.
- 3 Each beekeeper shall supply to the Commission the name under which the beekeeper carries on his or her business along with his or her mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address (if applicable).
- 4 Order No. 05/16 – Beekeeper Registration is hereby wholly revoked.
- 5 This Order will remain in effect for a period no longer than ten years from the date this Order is approved by the Agri-Food Council.

Order No. 07/17 is made pursuant to clauses 7(1)(b), (c) and (h) and sections 20 and 21 of *The Beekeepers Development Plan Regulations, 2017* and shall be effective upon the date of this Order. By order of the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission.

**The Agri-Food Act, 2004**  
**The Beekeepers Development Plan Regulations, 2017**  
**Order 08/17 LEVY COLLECTION**

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission, pursuant to the provisions of *The Beekeepers Development Plan Regulations* and *The Agri-Food Act, 2004* hereby determines:

1. Commencing September 1, 2017, the levy of the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission is to be determined as follows:
2. By October 15<sup>th</sup> of each beekeeper who has 100 or more production colonies shall remit a levy of \$1.60 per production colony to the Commission.
3. By October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, each beekeeper who has 50 to 100 production colonies may remit a levy of \$1.60 per production colony to the commission.
4. By October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, each beekeeper with less than 50 production colonies may remit a levy of \$80.00 to the Commission.
5. Order No. 04/09– Check-Off Collection, of the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission is hereby wholly revoked.
6. This order will remain in effect for a period no longer than 10 years from the date this Order comes into effect.

**See the attached form:**





Saskatchewan Beekeepers  
Development Commission

Please fill out your 2020 Registration Form as follows:

Contact Information & Option A or B

Mail to the SBDC prior to **October 15, 2019.**

(Please Print)

**THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Apiary or Operating Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTION A: MANDATORY REGISTRATION (100 or more Colonies)** YOU MUST REMIT A CHECK-OFF FOR OVER 99-COLONY OPERATIONS.

1. Number colonies operated at July 1, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.60 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLUS REGISTRATION FEE: \$ 40.00**

**Total Remittance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**OPTION B: VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION (Less than 100 Colonies)**

Please circle your choice, indicate the # of colonies if any, sign the statement below and remit your fee along with this form to the Commission at the address below:

1(a) I operated less than 50 Hives (between 1 to 49 colony) as at July 1/19 and I am registering as a hobbyist at a fee of \$80.00, for the fiscal year September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020. \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate # of colonies)

**Total Remittance: \$ 80.00**

\*\*\*\* O R \*\*\*\*

1(b) I opt to register as a sideliner registering no less than 50 colonies or the number of colonies operated as of July 1/19 and remit a \$1.60 check-off fee per colony for the total colonies operated (50 to 99 colonies) with a minimum fee based on 50 colonies, if more than 50 enter the actual number of colonies.

Number of colonies operated July 1, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.60 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Plus REGISTRATION FEE: \$ 40.00**

**Total Remittance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*\*\* O R \*\*\*\*

1 (c) I do not keep bees but am interested in supporting the Commission and I am registering as an Associate member for a fee of \$80.00.

**Total Remittance: \$ 80.00**

If you are a new SBDC registrant and would like to receive a copy of CAPA Honey Bee Diseases & Pests, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., check here \_\_\_\_\_

*I understand that my information will not be shared outside the SBDC Administrative Office & SBDC Board:*

Signature X \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Print Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (YYYY-MM-DD)

Please Make Cheque Payable to **"S.B.D.C."** and mail it by or before October 15, 2019, to: **Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission, P.O 22083 RPO Wildwood, Saskatoon, S7H 5P1**

- Check-off fee refunds will not be available to any member who does not pay their check-off by the due date.
- Check-off Refund requests must be sent by **Registered Mail** and **postmarked by November 15, 2019**, and must be requested on a **Refund Check-Off Form** provided by the Commission. Contact the Office at the address or email above to request a form or more information.



Saskatchewan Beekeepers  
Development Commission

\*\*\*\*FILL OUT THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU WANT TO POST PRODUCT FOR SALE ON THE PRODUCERS' LIST\*\*\*\*

OPTIONAL: Approval and Permission to Post Your Information Publicly

## Section 1

Please initial YES or NO

### Legal Age

1. I am 18 years or older.  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### Authority

2. I have the Authority to approve and permit the posting of the information, detailed YES \_\_\_\_\_  
NO \_\_\_\_\_  
in Section 2 below, publicly on any media created by the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission (SBDC) for the purposes of promoting products of the hive. **Permission**
3. I give the Permission to approve and permit the posting of the information,  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ detailed in Section 2 below, publicly on any media created by the Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Development Commission (SBDC) for the purposes of promoting products of the hive.

---

## Section 2

**Directions:** Please detail any information that you want and approve the SBDC to post publicly on the producers' list. You can also print other information that you would like to have posted publicly in the "Other Information" Area. *To help us advertise your services*, please specify any specialties/types of items or service your business sells (e.g. people contact the SBDC looking for items such as clover honey, candle beeswax, etc.).

### INFORMATION PERMITTED TO BE POSTED PUBLICLY (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

**Company (Apiary or Operating Name):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town/city:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Phone # (you wish to be contacted at):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK:

**I or my business sells HONEY** ☐

Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

**I or my business sells BEESWAX, PROPOLIS, POLLEN** ☐

Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

**I or my business sells BEES** ☐

Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

**I or my business sells BEE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES RELATED TO BEEKEEPING** ☐

Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Information:

Examples: you sell bulk honey or products, you are interested in exporting, etc.

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Full Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



## ODEM INTERNATIONAL INC. YOUR PARTNER IN SALES



ASK FOR ADAMO, SÉBASTIEN OR NORMAND  
1 800 567-3789 | [info@honey.ca](mailto:info@honey.ca) | [odem.ca](http://odem.ca)

## Teamwork

"Together we can achieve  
the extraordinary"



## Classified Section

**SPRING NUCS FOR SALE:** Nucs include a newly mated, laying queen and a minimum of 4 frames of bees and brood. Expect nucs to be ready in mid-June, assuming favourable weather. Asking \$200.00 each. Location: Southeast Saskatchewan near Kipling, with delivery to the Yorkton area possible. Contact: Michael Langenberger, Phone: (306) 536-3937 Email: [mwlangenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:mwlangenberger@yahoo.com)

**FOR SALE:** We have approximately 700 full size honey supers for sale. The boxes, frames and comb are all in good shape with a lot of it new. No crappy boxes or old black comb. Asking \$65.00 each and there is very little foundation, it is mostly all new comb. Happy to sell it all at once or a box at a time. Also have other beekeeping equipment for sale. Text me at (306) 229-3809 (not available for phone calls during the day) or email me at [doug@jacksonshoney.com](mailto:doug@jacksonshoney.com)

**BEES FOR SALE:** Contact: Carl and Meruert Meyer. Email: [carl.dos@gmail.com](mailto:carl.dos@gmail.com). Phone: (306) 203-0103

**LOOKING FOR COMMERCIAL BEE-KEEPERS:** Looking for Commercial Beekeepers who faced greater than average to significant loss this winter. Our operation believes a significant loss may represent a fantastic survivorship breeding opportunity. We believe it is in the best interest of beekeeping in the province that genetics of these survivors are tested, shared diversified and distributed. We are looking for partners in this breeding endeavour and/or operations willing to queen swap. Contact: Andrew Guran 306-829-3204 or Angela Seto 306-514-3633





# *Sponsors and Donors*

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our sponsors and donors who support us throughout the year. This generous support allows the Commission and our members to come together for the sharing of ideas and to learn what's new in the industry's research that benefit all Beekeepers both provincially and nationally. Once again, a heartfelt thank you.

## **PLATINUM**

Propolis-etc... Beekeeping Supplies

## **GOLD**

Fraser Auction Services Ltd.  
Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers  
Mann Lake Ltd.  
Tony Lalonde Sales PRT

## **SILVER**

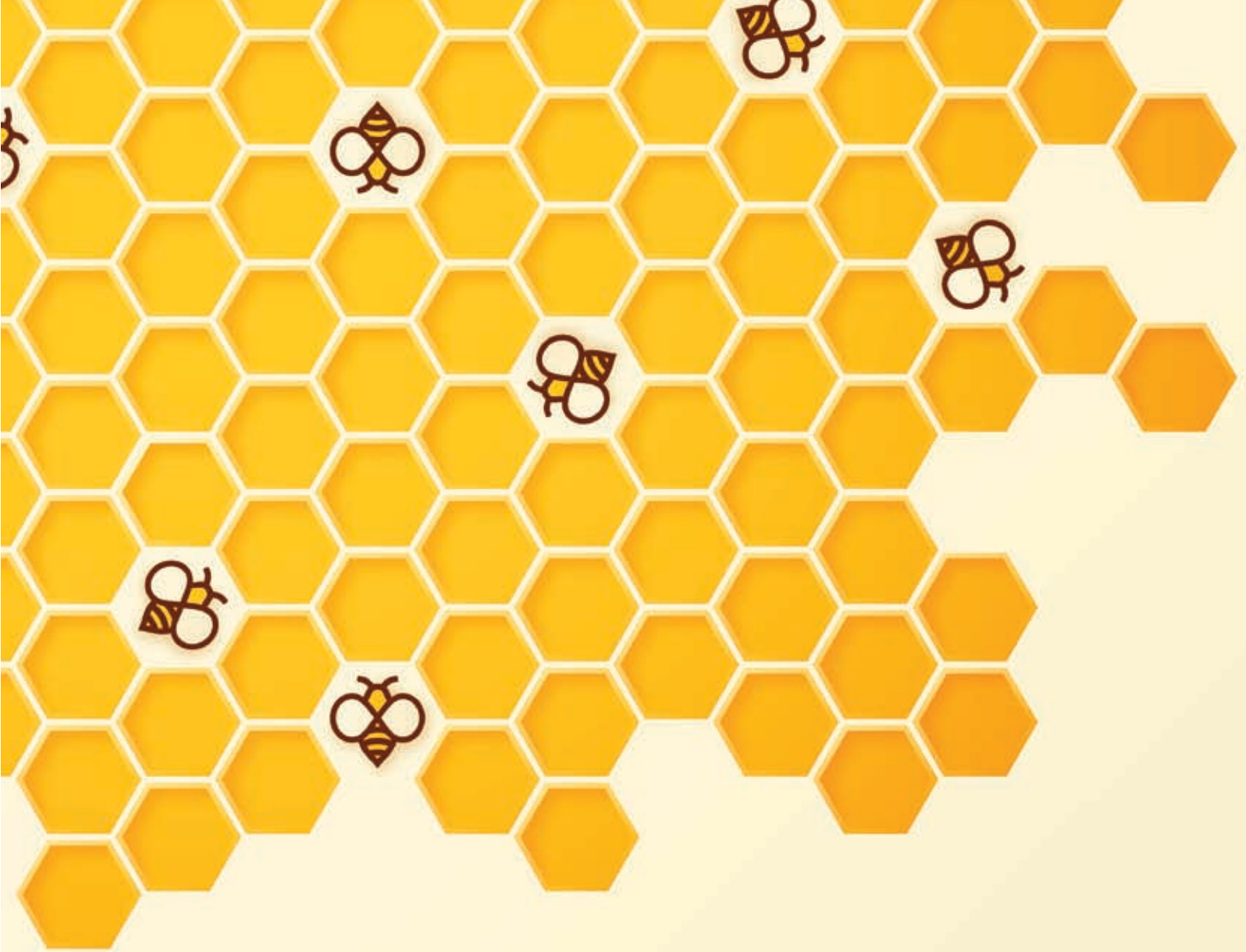
ApiHex Beekeeping Supplies	Joe's Wax Works
Billy Bee (McCormick Canada)	Mauser Packaging Solutions
Clark Bees	Odem International Inc.
Joan's Bees Wax	

## **BRONZE**

Lewis & Sons Enterprises

## **AUCTION & IN-KIND SPONSORS**

Bar2Bee Honey Ranch Ltd.	Mann Lake
Bee Outfitters	Mauser Packaging Solutions
Billy Bee (McCormick)	Moyen Honey Farms
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Fraser Auction Ltd.	SJ Beez
Geoff Wilson	Sun River Honey
Hamilton Apiaries (Andrew Hamilton)	Tony Lalonde Sales PRT
Joan's Beeswax Candles	Wendell Honey Farm
Joe's Wax Works	



## *Value of Membership*

We offer our members:

- Volunteer Board of Directors dedicated to promoting the beekeeping industry and honeybee health with integrity and leadership.
- Your voice is heard in the industry, in government and associations throughout Canada.
- Participation in a Convention with featured seminars, speakers and industry exhibits; the opportunity to network with other stakeholders in the industry.
- Field trips to meet fellow beekeepers with informative speakers and updates on Board activities.
- Reports on research in honeybee health and hive sustainability that benefit Saskatchewan beekeepers.
- Representation at provincial and world events promoting Saskatchewan honey as the best in the world.
- Be part of an organization that puts the spotlight on events and developments by beekeepers in their operations.
- Updates on information relative to the industry such as a Temporary Foreign Workers Program, bear fence programs and insurance.

[saskbeekeepers.com](http://saskbeekeepers.com)



**SBDC**

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RPO Wildwood  
Saskatoon, SK S7H 5P1