

CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL  
CONSEIL CANADIEN du MIEL

Minutes  
Special Meeting

Mont Ste Marie Quebec  
July 7,8 & 9, 1985

Minutes of the Canadian Honey Council  
Special Meeting Jul 7,8,9 1985  
Mont Ste Marie, Quebec

July 7

Attendance

Delegates:

Bev Woodburn, Neil Vanderput, Carl Meyer, Dale Hansen,  
Gerry Smeltzer, Pierre Rousseau, Roger Congdon, Jerry  
Awram, Ron Bacon, Keith LaForge, Bill Marshall

Guests:

John Gruszka, President, CAPA, Margaret and Jack  
Annott, Canadian Beekeeping

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:28pm. Awram welcomed delegates and guests and reviewed the agenda. The representatives of Can Beek expressed their intention to attend only the information sessions the following day and to print only those parts of the proceedings agreed upon with President Awram. Since the agenda for the rest of the evening did not pertain to the mite problem, Gruszka took leave of the meeting.

Notice of meeting

MOVED by LaForge, Woodburn that the reading of notice of meeting be waived. CARRIED

Minutes

MOVED by LaForge, Meyer that the reading of the minutes of the last general meeting be waived. CARRIED

Member at large

MOVED by LaForge, Fact that Marshall be appointed member at large delegate. CARRIED. Rousseau questioned the necessity of taking this action. Others questioned the adequacy of the by-laws with respect to replacement of a delegate before the expiration of his term of office as a member of the executive.

Finances

Memberships

Awram reviewed the financial statement for the eleven month period ending June 30, 1985. APPENDIX A  
A discussion of the chronically poor financial condition of the CHC produced the following suggestions and observations.

1. Notices and/or invoices should be sent to lapsed members.
2. The Newsletter is issued too infrequently. It is inadequate in content.
3. Better use should be made of beekeeping supplies catalogues and provincial newsletters to communicate

with beekeepers.

4. Delegates should use a personal approach to persuade lapsed members to renew their memberships. They should also personally solicit potential members.

5. Delegates should display membership scrolls at beekeeper meetings.

6. Appoint a chairman of finance to analyze income and expenditures.

7. Change the structure of CHC so that each association pays a large fee corresponding to the number of members within each association i.e. no individual memberships in Council.

8. CHC is not visible enough. The Newsletter should be larger and carry ads.

9. The Newsletter should reprint articles from provincial sources. Articles on regional beekeeping should be solicited to acquaint beekeepers across the country with regional problems.

10. CHC publications should emphasize aspects of beekeeping other than honey.

The current year's membership list was examined. It is strikingly different from the list of the 1982-83 year.

300 Club

WHEREAS the CHC is in serious financial difficulty, and needs some means to attract new members, and therefore more funds to operate; and,

WHEREAS there has been a high level of dissatisfaction expressed by commercial beekeepers over the years that they are not adequately represented on the CHC; and,

WHEREAS the current small number of 13 delegates makes it difficult to establish an Executive;

it is MOVED by Woodburn, LaForge that the "300 Club" be established.

This organization would be formed of members of CHC in GOOD STANDING. Their contribution of \$300.00 as membership fee would signify their desire to support the CHC in a very tangible way, and allow certain privileges of membership, to be determined by the iltee.

The main advantage of such a group would be that each provincial "300 Club" would have the privilege of testing one member on Council as a delegate, with all the rights and responsibilities of a delegate. There would be minimum membership of 15 (fifteen) before this privilege could be exercised.

Tabled

After discussion it was MOVED by Fast, Hansen that the motion be tabled to a later time in the meeting.  
CARRIED

Flat fee

WHEREAS the present fee schedule for membership in the CHC is not working satisfactorily, and

WHEREAS the CHC is in serious financial difficulty, and is in need of a dramatic means to attract memberships, and  
WHEREAS it is apparent that on the average very few members have been regularly paying according to their accurate number of hives operated, and  
WHEREAS the present minimum fee of \$15.00 does not cover the costs of membership, including four newsletters annually, the printed edition of the CHC Annual Proceedings, and the office overhead in maintaining membership lists, etc.,  
It is MOVED by Woodburn, Smeltzer that the CHC adopt a "Flat fee" for membership. This fee should be set at \$30.00 per year, renewable annually upon receipt of an invoice mailed from the Executive Secretary's office.

Tabled After discussion, it was MOVED by Fast, Congdon that the motion be tabled to a later time in the meeting. CARRIED

Secretary - Treasurer Awarak presented a letter from the president of the Keweenaw Agricultural Producers dealing with the cost of mail service they provide to the CHC. The letter indicates the reluctance of the KAP executive to continue the arrangement except at significantly higher cost to the CHC. APPENDIX B

Termination of Agreement MOVED by Hanson, Smeltzer that the CHC decline the offer from the KAP executive to continue acting in the capacity of secretary-treasurer for Council. CARRIED

Directive MOVED by Hansen, Smeltzer that Awarak and Marshall contact the Canadian Horticultural Council, Linda Gare, and any other appropriate person and to bring forward recommendations of solutions to the problem of a new secretary-treasurer before the end of the special meeting. CARRIED

12:00pm The meeting was adjourned to the next day.

July 8

The assembly reconvened at 9:00am, and welcomed Dr. Robert Trotter, Coordinator, Research Branch, Agriculture Canada. Delegate Labonte was also welcomed.

Biolog Dr. Trottier presented a review of the biology and economic significance of *Acarapis woodi*. APPENDIX C

Coffee 10:15-10:30am. Council welcomed Drs W. Sterritt and W. McElheran, Food Production and Inspection Branch, Agriculture Canada.

ADPAct Dr. Sterritt presented information on the Animal Diseases and Protection Act and how it might apply to the tracheal mite. APPENDIX D

Lunch 12:00-12:45pm. Council welcomed Dr. Robert Anderson.

Economics Dr. Anderson presented statistics and other information related to the economic situation in the honey industry. APPENDIX E

Coffee 3:05-3:35pm

Discussion A discussion of the information presented in the morning session took place.

Delegate Presentations Each delegate was given the opportunity to state his own point of view and/or the point of view of his organization.

Saskatchewan Meyer presented a written report. APPENDIX F

Suppliers Fast made the following points: 1. Restrictions on the entry of bees to Canada may draw retaliatory action on the entry of honey to the US. 2. If queens are not permitted from the US, how will Canadian requirements be met? 3. The certification program should be continued.

Alberta Woodburn stated the Alberta view: 1. Two years ago a motion rose from the floor of our convention stating unequivocally that we do not consider border closure as a solution to control of the tracheal mite. 2. We formed the Alberta mite committee and met a number of times to discuss the problem and evaluate the proposed action plan. 3. We propose that a scientist and a beekeeper be sent to Argentina late this fall to seek answers to such questions as a. effect of tracheal and varroa mites on wintered colonies, b. means of control, c. economic impact of mites and Africanized bees on beekeeping in general. We chose Argentina

because they have had all three pests for some time. They have a climate similar to ours and they are a major producer of honey of a similar quality to our own. 4. We support the idea of open borders with certification of imported packages and queens.

Manitoba Coop  
& BeeMaid

Baton stated the certification program should be continued. The BeeMaid organization is fearful of border closure because of its potential effect on movement of honey between Canada and the US. APPENDIX G

Ontario

Corrigan made the following points: 1. The OBA favors border closure, if not completely, then certainly in Eastern Canada. 2. Ontario believes it has the capacity to be self-sufficient in bees. 3. The OBA would like access to the information. 4. Pelee Island and the nearby federal and provincial facilities might provide a site for experiments on mites. 5. Pollination is a very significant part of beekeeping in Ontario. If the introduction of mites were to damage wintered hives, the effect on pollination could be substantial. Packages do not form satisfactory units for pollination.

Producers - Packers

Labonte favored the continuation of a certification program. He is worried about possible effects on honey exports.

Manitoba

Vanderput presented a written submission on behalf of the MBA. APPENDIX H

B.C.

Hansen stated the B.C. Honey Producers Assn favored the retention of a certification program. They would like more emphasis on the possibility of bee imports from countries other than the US. There is a possibility of cooperative research with B.C. universities.

B.C. Honey

LaForge made the following points: 1. The entire problem is surrounded by questions to which there seem to be no answers. Positive action is thus very difficult. 2. Nonetheless, OHC should develop a unified response. 3. The OHC should take a moderate approach.

Quebec

Rousseau made the following points: 1. Very few packages entered Quebec this year (no more than 3000). 2. A great deal of money has been spent on indoor wintering facilities. If the mite should prove

depending on the wintered bees, the investment in these wintering facilities might be lost. 3. Risk should be minimized - keep everything out if possible. 4. Quebec favors the closure of the whole border, or at least the eastern border. 5. External honey markets are not important. The market is local. 6. They would like to prevent the use of package bees and queens in Quebec. 7. Quebec understands the importance of packages to western beekeepers. 8. Quebec is absolutely not satisfied with the certification for tracheal mites.

Maritimes

Enollizer made the following points: 1. New Zealand packages imported this year are satisfactory. 2. There is a great need for pollination especially in blueberries. 3. The Maritimes can't be self-sufficient yet - about 1500 packages will be necessary in 1986, with diminished yearly requirements after that, as beekeepers become self-sufficient. 4. The Maritimes need a source of queens. 5. The mite *Mellitiphis alvearum* was imported with the NZ packages. 6. The Maritimes would like a review of Half-moon disease, purportedly found in NZ. 7. They are afraid their sea ports may provide entry to Africanized bees or Varroa.

Supper

6:20-8:00pm

Discussion

Following supper, the assembly discussed at length all aspects of the problem and possible solutions and compromises.

Certification

MOVED by Meyer, Vanderput that the CHC recommend a program of certification for 1986 similar to the one undertaken in 1985 but that it request Ag Canada to attempt to obtain a new agreement with USDA-APHIS so that certification could be provided on a more intensive level of sampling. CARRIED 10 in favor, one against (Congdon), one abstained (Rouseau)

Adjourned

At 10:30 the meeting adjourned until next day.

July 9

The assembly reconvened at 9:00pm.

Certification

MOVED by Meyer, Vanderput that we suggest to Ag Canada

Requirements	<p>that the following be the minimum requirements used for the importation of package bees and queens into Canada:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Only states that have conducted a state-wide survey for <i>Acarapis woodi</i> of at least 10% of apiaries (at the level of the National Survey) and that this survey be conducted between August 1, 1985 and the 1986 shipping season.</li> <li>2. If a survey reveals a mite infestation in the state then bees will only be accepted from that state if the state has an acceptable action plan of containment and control. Bees can be shipped only from outside the control area.</li> <li>3. Further to the state-wide survey, each shipper who produces bees and/or queens for shipment to Canada must be sampled according to the following procedure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 100% of the shipper's apiaries are to be sampled.</li> <li>b. one sample is to be taken for every 50 colonies in an apiary.</li> <li>c. each sample must contain a minimum of 500 bees collected from at least 10 colonies (all colonies if the apiary contains less than 10 colonies).</li> <li>d. 100 bees from each sample will be analyzed. CARRIED</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Naming in ADPAct	<p>WHEREAS the Canadian beekeeping industry, through the CHC, should reach agreement with Ag Canada to have <i>Acarapis woodi</i> named in the Animal Disease and Protection Act, therefore be it RESOLVED that we support the naming of <i>Acarapis woodi</i> as a reportable disease in the Animal Disease and Protection Act. DEFEATED</p>
Eastern border Closure	<p>MOVED by Rousseau, Congdon that the importation of package bees and queens from the US be restricted to Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. CARRIED</p>
Sask research	<p>MOVED by Meyer, Hansen that the CHC approve the establishment of a research project on <i>A. woodi</i> involving the use of imported infected bees in an isolated area in northern Saskatchewan. CARRIED (Woodburn opposed).</p>
Sask research committee	<p>MOVED by Hansen, Congdon that Meyer and Rousseau form a committee to represent the CHC in dealing with the Saskatchewan research proposal. CARRIED</p>
300 Club	<p>MOVED by Fast, LaForge that the "300 Club" motion be brought back to the table. CARRIED</p>
"Perks"	<p>The mover and seconder added the following clarification to the motion:</p>



1. Recognition with appropriate symbol (i.e. pin, tie, buckle, etc.).
  2. Listing in Annual Minutes and Proceedings, posted at annual meeting, and recognized in any way deemed appropriate.
  3. (a) For those provinces with fifteen (15) or more members, those members shall have the right to elect one delegate from among their members, and
    - (b) If the aggregate number of 300 Club members from provinces which do not qualify under (a) is fifteen or more, those members shall have the right to elect one delegate from among their members.
  4. The CHC will pay air fare only (economy excursion rates) for delegates elected by 300 Club members.
  5. Cut-off date for 300 Club memberships for purposes of electing a delegate shall be September 15 of each year. Balloting by mail for this position shall be completed and results submitted to the 300 Club membership by October 15.
- The motion will be adopted was CARRIED.

The assembly noted the possible need for a minor by-law change to facilitate 300 Club membership. The by-law committee suggests adding "300 Club delegates" to the list under the definition of a "delegate".

Flat fee

MOVED by LaForge, Fast that the "flat fee" motion be brought back to the table. CARRIED

After more discussion, the "flat fee" motion was DEFEATED

Membership analysis

MOVED by LaForge, Vanderput that the Membership Committee bring to the annual meeting an analysis of the membership providing details of the loss of members over the past two years, by province and amount of fee paid by members. CARRIED

300 club clarification

MOVED by Fast, LaForge that anybody paying a 300 Club membership be required to pay only the \$15 minimum membership fee in order to be a member in good standing. CARRIED

Secretary-treasurer

Anwar and Marshall presented the following report:

1. Linda Gane should be asked to act as interim secretary until the next annual meeting, for a number of reasons: a. She has agreed to the proposed arrangement, b. She has worked with Bob Douglas which should provide for an easier transition, c. She knows the industry well, d. She has had considerable recent experience with the affairs of Council through attendance at annual meetings and as chairperson of two of Council's committees, e. She is well-known and

## Table of Appendices

Appendix A	Financial statement 1965 List of donors 1965
Appendix B	Letter of June 13 from president of NAF
Appendix C	Mite biology - Dr. Trotter
Appendix D	Animal Disease and Prevention Act - Dr. Stewart
Appendix E	Estimates - Dr. Anderson Letter of June 13 Statistics
Appendix F	Saskatchewan report
Appendix G	BerNold report
Appendix H	Maritcha report

- respected in the industry)
2. Details of Gane's employment would be worked out later among Gane, Marshall and Awwam.
  3. Executive will submit a job description and an estimate of time requirements to the Canadian Horticultural Council and any other pertinent organization or person for a quotation for total secretarial services.
  4. The Executive will obtain more information on the advantages of Canadian Horticultural Council membership.
  5. The above information and recommendations by the Executive will be presented at the next annual meeting.

MOVED by Woodburn, Meyer that the report of Awwam and Marshall be adopted. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
A suggestion was made to advertize the position of secretary-treasurer.

#### New business

#### Varroa

MOVED by Meyer, Congdon that we use some time to start on an action plan on varroa, and if it is not completed that a committee be set up to complete such a plan. After discussion and a request from the Chair, the motion was WITHDRAWN

#### Varroa named

WHEREAS government officials can use some time to compose an action plan in conjunction with the industry, it is MOVED by Meyer, Congdon that the CHC reaffirm its desire to name *Varroa jacobsoni* in the Animal Disease and Protection Act, to enable them to proceed with forming these action plans. CARRIED

#### Varroa committee

MOVED by LaForge, Marshall that a committee consisting of Hanson, Congdon and Bacon be struck to coordinate CHC action and policy on *V. jacobsoni* and further, that each delegate be instructed to provide the committee with the position of their assn. CARRIED

2:35

MOVED by Fast, Woodburn that the meeting adjourn. CARRIED

APPENDIX A

Canadian Honey Council  
 Promotion Program  
March 31, 1985

Working capital balance, June 30, 1984		\$ 653.56
Adjustment of CAMDF Grant for 1983/84		(295.00)
Net revenue		<u>23 448.88</u>
Working capital balance, March 31, 1985		<u>\$23 807.44</u>
Working capital balance represented by:		
Bank		\$10 865.44
Term deposits		18 000.00
Accounts receiv - Government of Canada		<u>20 000.00</u>
		48 865.44
Less: Accounts payable:		
Public & Industrial Relations Ltd.	\$23 370.50	
Keystone Agricultural Producers	1 500.00	
Audit fee	<u>187.50</u>	<u>25 058.00</u>
Working capital balance, March 31, 1985		<u>\$23 807.44</u>

Canadian Honey Council  
Promotion Program  
Revenue and Expenses  
July 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985

Revenue

Alberta Beekeepers	\$ 9 430.49
Alberta Government	5 000.00
BC Beekeepers	1 113.00
Manitoba Beekeepers	8 370.00
Ontario Beekeepers	10 340.05
Saskatchewan Beekeepers	10 500.00
Packing Industry	6 000.00
Suppliers	<u>3 000.00</u>
	53 753.54
Government of Canada - CAMDF	20 000.00
Interest	1 448.62
Miscellaneous	<u>569.56</u>
	<u>\$75 771.72</u>

Expenses

Publis & Industrial Relations Ltd.	\$49 751.70
Miscellaneous (cook books & honey facts)	348.25
Telephone	525.39
Secretarial & accounting	1 500.00
Audit fee	187.50
Bank charges	<u>10.00</u>
	<u>\$52 322.84</u>
Net Revenue	<u><u>\$23 448.88</u></u>

Canadian Honey Council  
Promotion Program  
Revenue and Expenses  
July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985

Revenue

Alberta Beekeepers	\$15 335.27
Alberta Government	5 000.00
BC Beekeepers	1 113.00
Manitoba Beekeepers	8 370.00
Ontario Beekeepers	10 340.05
Saskatchewan Beekeepers	10 500.00
Packing Industry	6 500.00
Suppliers	3 000.00
	<hr/>
	60 158.32
Government of Canada - CAMDF	20 000.00
Interest income	1 658.21
Miscellaneous revenue	569.56
	<hr/>
	\$82 386.09

Expenses

Public & Industrial Relations Ltd.*	\$59 242.42
Committee Expense - Travel	175.34
Miscellaneous (Cook books & honey facts)	1 563.85
Telephone	1 913.67
Secretarial and accounting	2 000.00
Audit	250.00
Bank charges	145.10
	<hr/>
	\$65 290.38
	<hr/>
Net Revenue	\$17 095.71
	<hr/> <hr/>

\*PIR Ltd. account for June 1985 not received to date.

Canadian Honey Council  
Promotion Program  
Financial Position  
June 30, 1985

Working capital balance, June 30, 1985		\$ 653.56
Adjustment of CAMDF Grant for 1983/84		(295.00)
Net revenue		<u>17 095.71</u>
Working capital balance, June 30, 1985		<u><u>\$17 454.27</u></u>
Working capital balance represented by:		
Current Assets:		
Bank		\$ 3 009.73
Term Deposits		18 000.00
Accounts receiv. - Government of Canada		<u>2 000.00</u>
		23 009.73
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable:		
Keystone Agric. Producers	\$2 000.00	
Telephone account	885.86	
Audit fee	<u>250.00</u>	3 135.86
Deferred revenue		<u>2 419.60</u>
		<u>\$ 5 555.46</u>
Working capital balance, June 30, 1985		<u><u>\$17 454.27</u></u>

Note: Monies collected and held by Honey Information Centre, Vancouver, amount to \$530.00.

Canadian Honey Council  
Balance Sheet  
June 30, 1985

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Bank	\$1 928.42	
Term deposits	<u>3 500.00</u>	\$5 428.42
Office equipment less depreciation		<u>281.01</u>
		<u>\$5 709.43</u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities		
Keystone Agricultural Producers		\$5 843.19
Deffered 1986 membership fee		375.00
Reserve for King Bee Membership		1 970.00

DEFICIT

Balance, June 30, 1985		( <u>2 478.76</u> )
		<u>\$5 709.43</u>



Canadian Honey Council  
Statement of Revenue and Expenses and Surplus  
For Eleven Months Ended June 30, 1985

<u>Revenue:</u>	1984/85 <u>Budget</u>	1984/85 <u>Actual</u>
Memberships - Delegates	\$ 4 400.00	\$ 4 000.00
- Beekeepers	18 245.00	12 679.00
- Registered Packing Plants	1 200.00	1 200.00
- Suppliers	600.00	600.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24 445.00	18 479.00
Annual meeting	1 500.00	3 678.00
F.W. Jones-International Meeting	1 000.00	1 000.00
Interest	200.00	599.34
Miscellaneous	50.00	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$27 195.00	\$23 756.34
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Administration	\$10 000.00	\$ 8 500.00
Apimondia membership	600.00	-
Audit fee	175.00	-
Awards and donations	185.00	186.21
President's honourarium	600.00	200.00
Printing, office supplies & postage	3 000.00	2 271.27
Telephone	1 800.00	2 692.69
Newsletter and postage	1 500.00	1 842.50
Translation	500.00	-
Travel - Executive	4 500.00	7 683.69
- Secretary	1 500.00	418.31
Annual meeting	1 500.00	3 600.85
Insurance	125.00	125.00
Corporation filing fee	30.00	30.00
Legal fees	-	135.00
Contingency fund	1 000.00	-
Miscellaneous	100.00	47.70
Depreciation	80.00	70.25
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$27 195.00	\$27 803.47
 Net Expenses		 ( \$ 4 047.13 )
 Surplus at beginning of year		 <u>1 568.37</u>
 Deficit, June 30, 1985		 <u>( \$ 2 478.76 )</u>

Canadian Honey Council  
King Bee Club

Mervyn Abrahamson	\$ 300.00
Tegart Apiaries	140.00
Gunter Apiaries	300.00
Gane Apiaries	315.00
Bill Marshall, Marshall Apiaries	315.00
Ron Althouse	300.00
Smith Honey Farms	<u>300.00</u>
	<u>\$1 970.00</u>

APPENDIX B

# KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

437 ASSINIBOINE AVENUE. WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3C 0Y5 (204) 943-2509

June 13, 1985

Dr. Jerry Awram, President  
Canadian Honey Council  
Box 637  
Hines Creek, Alberta  
TOH 2A0

Dear Dr. Awram:

As you will recall, on February 15, 1985, Earl Geddes and myself, representing the Keystone Agricultural Producers, met with you and other representatives of the Canadian Honey Council to discuss the question of whether or not there would be a continuation of the arrangement under which the Manitoba Farm Bureau, and later the Keystone Agricultural Producers provided office services to the Canadian Honey Council. I felt I should take a moment to give you the thinking of the K.A.P. Executive in this regard.

We are finding that the issues and activities which the K.A.P. has undertaken have kept our current staff very busy. In this light, I think I should be very candid and indicate that the K.A.P. Executive is not anxious to continue the arrangement under which office services have been provided to the Honey Council to date. The K.A.P. would not be at all disturbed if the CHC were to seek an alternative arrangement as of the beginning of its fiscal year, August 1, 1985.

Should the CHC feel strongly that the current arrangement be perpetuated, I think it only fair to indicate that some adjustments would have to be made. If our General Manager were to continue to act as fully as Secretary Treasurer to the Honey Council, we believe the cost should be adjusted to \$18,000. per annum. Alternatively, it might be possible to establish an arrangement under which a staff member or an outside person retained for this purpose could be designated to do the majority of the work of the Council with only very limited input from Mr. Douglas. We feel such an arrangement would require a minimum commitment of \$1,000. per month with assurance of a supporting budget of at least an equal amount to meet related expenses. It is our feeling that the above conditions would be required to assure a 'reasonable' level of office services.

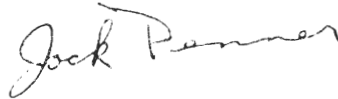
In saying this, I quite realize that some discussion of what

Dr. Jerry Awram  
Page 2  
June 13, 1985

the term 'reasonable' implies might be required. Certainly at this point, we believe it does not imply all of what might be done, as our staff members have suggested that the Council could easily and usefully utilize a budget of \$50,000. or more per year in endeavours on behalf of its members. It would, of course, have to be understood the levels of work vary depending on what problems or crisis may occur, and that a measure of give and take between the two organizations would be necessary. We have attached a listing of what we would see as being 'reasonable' for your consideration.

Should any clarifications be necessary, I would hope you would not hesitate to raise any questions which come to mind. Should a draft revised memorandum of understanding be required, that request could be accommodated. We will look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Penner".

Jack Penner  
President

JP/ak

DRAFT

The Honeybee Tracheal Mite

*Acarapis woodi* (Rennie)

Possible Importance in Canada

Agriculture Canada  
Research Branch  
Ottawa  
July 4, 1985

## Introduction

The honeybee tracheal mite, Acarapis woodi, is the only one of the group of Tarsonemid mites which is of some economic importance as a true parasite of insects (Lindquist, 1985). This species infests the thoracic tracheal of adult honey bees, and, in heavy infestation can involve head sinuses. The mites transfer from one bee to another at the mature adult stage and gain entrance into the bee's thorax through the first pair of thoracic spiracles. Eggs are laid in the tracheae of the bee, and both sexes undergo development, through larval and nymphal stages, to adults in this location. (Delfinado-Baker, 1984). The presence of developing mites, and the resultant debris, cause variable degrees of discoloration of the thracheae from light brown to nearly black. In contrast infested tracheae have a clear, colorless or pale amber appearance. Careful microscopic examination of the tracheae will usually demonstrate the presence of mites.

The mites injure the bees in two ways. First by piercing the walls of the tracheae to feed on thaemolymph, and second by obstructing the tracheae as their numbers and debris increase, causing impaired respiration. The economic impact of these injuries is not at all clear, and evaluation in terms of an economic injury level is required to determine if this pest is of significant importance to the honey industry in Canada.

This paper reviews the scientific literature and attempts to assess the potential importance of A. woodi, should it be found on honeybees in Canada, and also to propose possible courses of action for coordinated research.

## Distribution

A. woodi has been reported from most European countries, including U.S.R.R. It occurs in India, Pakistan, China, and other areas in Asia, and in most African countries. In south America, it has been reported in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. In 1982, the mite extended its range into Mexico, and during 1984 was found to be present in a number of states in the U.S.A. At this time, it is not reported from Japan, Scandinavia, Australia or New Zealand, and a limited survey conducted in Canada during 1984 failed to detect it.

## Economic Importance

The most important question for the beekeeper, is "What is the impact of Acarine mites upon my industry?" This is not a straightforward question, since the answer varies with the type of operation being considered. In this discussion, we have tried to summarize what is known about the importance of A.woodi infestation to the two main groups of beekeeping operations that occur in Canada.

### A Impact on Summer Hives

Historically, "Isle of Wight Disease" was considered to reduce the life expectancy of infested bees, and sap the vigour, particularly of foragers. More recently, it has been shown by Bailey (1963) that these effects have been grossly exaggerated, and that at least some of the symptoms attributed to Acarine disease in the earlier literature were due to bee paralysis virus infection.

In summer hives, Rennie et al, 1921 found that heavily infested bees forage for pollen and nectar in an apparently normal way. Similarly, Bailey (1958) showed that infested bees were proportionately equal among foragers and hive bees from the same colonies. Further studies by Bailey (1963) showed that, while A. woodi mites are undoubtedly pathogenic, most of the symptoms shown by infested colonies are attributable to other factors, including climate, nutrition, stress and other diseases.

In summary A. woodi appears to have only a very minor effect on summer hives that are not coincidentally debilitated by some other factor or condition.

#### B. Impact on Overwintered Hives

The life cycle of A. woodi, as outlined by Bailey (1963) implies the necessity for close contact between hosts. Mated females leave the trachea and transfer to another bee at the first opportunity. Most bees probably become infested before they are nine days old, after which the mites are apparently unable to enter. There are various hypotheses but seemingly no definitive evidence, on why this is so. Sachs (1952) indicated that the spiracular hairs become stiffened and impenetrable by that time. Lee (1963), however, conducted experiments indicating that the presence or absence of spiracular hairs had no effect. Whatever the absolute mechanism of infestation, however, the intimate contact necessary for build-up of the infestation reaches its maximum within overwintered hives. Further, Bailey (1981) showed that infestation increases most rapidly when relatively few young bees are present, because there is then a higher proportion



the foraging activity of old bees becomes suppressed, since this increases the chance of contact between infested and susceptible hosts. Both of these conditions are provided during the overwintering of colonies, and when infested bees are present in the hives, it can be hypothesized that the incidence of infestation could rise.

The consequences of infestation in overwintered bees, as reported by Bailey (1981) suggest that when colonies are severely infested, most of the adult bees will die slightly earlier than usual. However, Bailey's studies were conducted in climatic conditions much less severe than in Canada, so it is impossible for us to make predictions from them. More applicable is Bailey's hypothesis that in regions with prolonged winters infested bees may not survive long enough to transmit mites to the new generation of bees in spring.

## Summary

1. Bailey (1963) made a strong case showing that the pathogenicity of A. woodi infestation in individuals and colonies of bees is grossly exaggerated, and the evidence of mite damage is largely circumstantial.
2. Bailey (1981) suggested that when colonies are severely infested most adult bees will die slightly earlier than usual.
3. At present, no scientific studies have been conducted under severe winter conditions that could be used to predict the economic import of A. woodi upon overwintering colonies in Canada.

## Need for Coordinated Research

1. There is a need to carry out a thorough survey across Canada to determine whether or not Acarapis woodi is present and if so what is the level of infestation, in order to assess our position and formulate strategies.
2. There is a need to determine the economic importance of A. woodi in hives overwintered under Canadian climatic conditions.
3. There is a need for coordinated research in Canada with commitments from beekeepers, co-ops, provincial and federal authorities in order to establish whether or not A. woodi is of economic importance to the Canadian Honey Industry.

## REFERENCES

- Bailey, L., 1958. The epidemiology of the infestation of the honeybee Apis mellifera, by the mite, Acarapis woodi (Rennie), and the Apis mellifera L., mortality of infected bees. Parasitol. 48: 493-506
- Bailey, L., Infectious Diseases of the Honeybee London, U.K., Land Books, Ltd., 1963
- Bailey, L., 1964. The "Isle of Wight Disease": the origin and significance of the myth. Bee World 45: 32-37.
- Bailey, L., Honey Bee Pathology, Academic Press, London, 1981.
- Delfinado-Baker, M., 1984. Acarapis woodi in the United States. Am. Bee J. 124: 805-806
- Lee, D.C., 1963. The susceptibility of honey bees of different ages to infestation by Acarapis woodi (Rennie), J. Insect Path. 5: 11-15.
- Lindquist, E.E., 1985. The world genera of Tarsonemidae (Acari: Heterostigmata): A morphological, phulogenetic and systematic revision, with a reclassification of family-group taxa in the Heterostigmata. Submitted as a Memoir to the Entomological Society of Canada.
- Rennie, J., White, P.B. & Howey, S.J., 1921. Isle of Wight Disease in Hive Bees, Trans. roy. Soc. Edinb. 52: 737-779

Sachs, H., 1952. Neber das Verholtan und die Orientierung der Iracheenmilbe Acarapis woodi (Rennie, 1921) auf Bienen. Z. Bienenforsch. 1: 148-170.

TABLE 1  
 CANADIAN HONEY EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A.  
 EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL CANADIAN EXPORTS  
 FOR A FIFTEEN YEAR PERIOD, 1970 - 1984

---

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CANADIAN EXPORTS</u>	<u>EXPORTS TO U.S.A.</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
1984	41,604,042	34,409,033	82.71
1983	20,991,543	15,150,445	72.17
1982	21,499,172	14,323,497	66.62
1981	18,122,797	10,834,115	59.78
1980	23,952,028	16,525,211	68.99
1979	18,039,516	9,131,033	50.62
1978	14,728,537	8,398,204	57.02
1977	19,770,405	14,221,202	71.93
1976	10,455,549	5,310,711	50.79
1975	10,367,757	7,101,800	68.50
1974	7,252,921	3,645,645	50.26
1973	16,089,097	2,894,000	17.99
1972	10,843,802	5,089,285	46.93
1971	24,209,604	6,463,174	26.70
1970	9,009,046	1,617,387	17.95

## APPENDIX E



Agriculture  
Canada

Marketing and Economics Branch      Direction générale de la commercialisation et de l'économie

### MARKET ANALYSIS AND TRADE POLICY DIRECTORATE

#### Commodity Markets Analysis Division

OTTAWA, Ontario  
K1A 0C5

June 13, 1985

Mr. Jerry Awram  
President  
Canadian Honey Council  
Box 443  
Hines Creek, Alberta  
T0H 2A0

Dear Mr. Awram:

I have your letter of June 3, 1985 in which you raise a number of questions relating to the establishment of a policy for 1986 on the importation of honeybees from the U.S. I will try to answer your questions in the order they appeared in your letter.

1. In terms of packaged bee imports from the United States, statistical records indicate that for the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 the volumes were 344,768, 322,699 and 317,890 packages respectively. This short period of review suggests a slight decline in the trend. Estimates of the total number of hives in Canada and the percent of these represented by imported package bees from the United States suggests that approximately 30 percent of the production can be accredited to the imported bees. One estimate of the value would be 30 percent of the annual production value. In 1982, this would have been approximately \$15 million. This estimate may overstate the value as most packaged bee imports occur in the west where

more likely at the producer level, and most likely to be at a lower average price than in other honey producing regions of Canada. As for the value of pollination, a study by Simon Fraser University in British Columbia has reportedly indicated an estimated total Canadian pollination value of 1.17 billion dollars of which 30 percent might, as indicated above, be attributed to imported bees. Again, this would only be a rough estimate at best and will be affected by the error involved.

In the latter part of your question you ask whether the contribution by imported bees would be lost if importations were discontinued. I am assuming that you are referring to imports of bees from the United States. If packaged bees were not available from the United States it may be possible to buy them from other countries such as New Zealand. Apparently some bees were imported from New Zealand in 1985. More bees might be overwintered or produced in Canada. Obviously the cost of so doing would be a factor. Historically, the cost of purchasing packaged bees from the U.S. has been much less than the cost of overwintering or producing bees domestically. As for pollination, fewer bees might cause some decline in the production of a number of crops in the most heavily affected areas. Again more detail would be required to determine the impact.

As for the value of honey not produced as a result of fewer bees, the situation is not clear. Currently the supply of honey in Canada and most major honey producing nations is well above requirements. This has depressed prices in all countries including Canada. There is no indication that this situation will change until the level of honey production in the world is reduced or consumption increased. Thus if Canadian honey production must decline and if prices remain low, the value of the honey not produced as a result of fewer imported bees would be much less than estimated in the year 1982 when Canadian producer prices were at a recent high.

2. Parts of your second question are particularly difficult to answer as a clear cut response is not possible. If American bees were excluded for supportable phytosanitary reasons the U.S. reaction would likely be one of trying to meet the phytosanitary requirements. In terms of retaliating, this is not permissible under the GATT agreement when legitimate phytosanitary concerns are the reasons for trade regulations.

Your question as to whether the removal of honey support prices in the U.S. would affect their attitude to Canadian honey (the U.S. accounts for over 60 percent of Canada's exports) is very appropriate. If support prices in the United States are removed it is expected that U.S. prices will approach world price levels. The result could be that Canadian honey will not be price competitive in the U.S. market. There will also be pressure from U.S. honey producers to keep out all honey from other countries if prices are severely depressed. As far as non-tariff restrictions are concerned, the imposition of such barriers if not based on legitimate health or sanitary concerns would contravene the GATT. You might be aware however, that when commodity prices are very low and imports are providing excessive competition every effort is made by the importing country to ensure that product entering the country meets all of the requirements. Inspections and considerations for minor variations in regulations may result in additional problems for exporting countries.

3. If Canada was unable to sell honey to the United States and no other market was available, which is the current situation, then prices would decline significantly. Prices are already well below recent highs and if world and Canadian production remains at the current level it will likely decline even further. This decline could result from a removal of the U.S. honey support price or a loss of any major export market. Clearly the Canadian honey industry is facing a difficult supply and price situation. An increase in domestic consumption will help with the inventory issue but prices appear to be headed for a period of decline. It would appear that producers will have to bring production down and hope that their counterparts in other countries do the same. An aggressive marketing program both domestically and internationally will also be necessary. Despite lower world prices Canadian honey should, with good promotion, continue to receive a quality related price premium.

In response to your invitation to attend your meeting, I suggest that you review my responses to your questions as outlined above. I believe they will provide your delegates with the necessary economic background for your discussion. If you have additional questions or



wish clarification do not hesitate to contact me. Rather than attend your session, I will be available at the department and you can contact me there during your session.

In closing, I trust that you have received the information you require.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Anderson  
Acting Assistant Director

RWA/ks

## APPENDIX F

DHO meeting at Mont Ste Marie.

Carl Hoyer, S.C.P., Beekeepers' Union Representative.

The SBA has been concerned about the development of the mites *Acarapis woodi* and *Vairoua jacobsoni* for some time now. We have had a standing committee to look at problems and possible solutions to situations involving the mites and african bees since March 1984 which is several months before the find of *acarapis woodi* in Texas. At our SBA annual meetings the topic of mites has been present at least since the discovery of *Acarapis woodi* in Mexico in 1980. Our provincial Apiarist has been checking samples of bees for the past three years for *Acarapis woodi*.

Saskatchewan has traditionally been dependent on imported packages and queens. At present a significant portion of our colonies (about 35%) are made up from packages. The SBA would like to give those beekeepers who have not made the adjustment to wintering as much time and protection as possible without subjecting the remainder of our industry to undue risk. With this in mind we are supporting a position of allowing importation with certification. We also want a level of inspection for certification that results in minimal risk of importing *acarapis woodi*.

For the level of sampling for certification our association agreed that a level of sampling could be one that was first agreed to at the meeting of Canadian and U.S. representatives in Guadelajara, Mexico. At that time, it was agreed that each bee shipper would have a sample taken from each apiary (an apiary consisting of 50 colonies or less) and that at least 100 bees would be analyzed from each of these samples.

We felt that the increased level of sampling would be necessary because of the chance of the mite being moved to new states through the movement of bees. We have heard of several unauthorized moves of infected bees. We are also concerned that there may be others that we have not heard about.

If there is a problem with the cost of this level of sampling we propose that a surcharge on each package of bees be considered.

We would also like some research done to answer some of the questions we have on *Acarapis woodi*. To date we are relying on opinions from people with widely divergent views on the matter. We have no information on what affect this mite will have in our climates under our methods of beekeeping. We are very concerned about how our wintered colonies might be affected during our long prairie winters. We are very concerned about how the longevity and foraging ability of our field bees may be affected. With this in mind the SBA proposes that if the industry in Canada approved, a secure beekeeping research project could be established at La Ronge, Saskatchewan which is approximately 75 miles away from any beekeeping and is separated from the agricultural area in Sask. by forest on the precambrian shield. Package bees from infested colonies and package bees from non infested colonies could be established in July in La Ronge, managed for the remainder of the summer, and prepared for winter. Samples could be taken on a regular basis to determine the mite population and the colonies could be monitored for winter mortality.

The results of this winter test should be able to give us some clear indications as to how seriously this pest will affect the wintering ability of our colonies. Assuming the colonies do manage to survive the first winter then they could be left during the summer in isolation to

to let the Union, and perhaps under our control, to have different systems to build up and population growth the colony, control and survive and outgrow a mite infestation.

The case of the Roman is ideally, and even if that of a parasite and extra-provial colony would be taken to have any effect on the colonies that are needed in the same time, there is a need to know in the colonies that the colonies would be affected in an area where the beekeeping industry would be the northern province, and could be an indicator of how the problem might reach across the border to Canada.

The SBA president, Mr. J. E. Brown, said that the SBA should also take the opportunity of this extraordinary meeting to initiate research in the northern provinces of the United States, which has colonies infected with acarapis woodi to monitor the impact of this mite on honey bee colonies in temperate zones during winter on colony survival. The committee feels strongly that this work should be initiated this summer since the opportunity exists to perform this research this coming winter and this information is vital to any attempted resolution of the problem.

The study in Mexico by E. Guzman-Revoa and M. Lozoya-Rubio indicates that infected apiaries are showing reduced honey yields exceeding 20%. I would suggest that if the yields were reduced one quarter of this amount it is still a significant amount. If our gross yield were only reduced by 5% this would bring about much more than a 5% reduction in the all important net income figure.

If we had a secure source of package bees we probably would not be so concerned about how the wintering ability of the colonies might be affected. We see the movement of the African bee toward the source of our early spring packages. We have seen the spread of Varroa to many parts of the world. We have a lot of dollars invested in beekeeping and this is all next to worthless if we have no bees for our hives. When we are considering acarapis woodi we can not at the same time ignore the threat of Varroa jacobsoni and the African bee.

I would like you to be aware that this is our position for acarapis woodi and the same position is not taken on varroa. I would also like to point out that regarding Varroa jacobsoni the SBA would like to see a plan in place on what action will be taken when varroa is found in North America. We all view Varroa very seriously and without the uncertainty that lingers around Acarapis woodi. The CHC has been very slow to take a position and start a plan of action on any mites, and now we are still trying to decide what to do about Acarapis woodi five years after it has been found in North America. When it comes to Varroa we must not be so unprepared. The SBA would like to see some time taken at this meeting to start into motion a plan of action on Varroa.

In summation there are three things that the SBA would like to see come out of this meeting. A continuation of the certification program with an increased level of sampling, initiation of research into the effects of Acarapis woodi on our bees, and an action plan for Varroa.

APPENDIX G

**BeeMaid** HONEY LIMITED

625 ROSEBERRY STREET WINNIPEG, MAN. R3H 0T4

TELEPHONE (204) 774-5566-7

TELEX 07-55220

CABLE — MAN HONEY

June 28, 1985

TO: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL

Gentlemen:

RE: Potential Impact on Canadian Beekeeping and Bee Maid Honey if Honey Exports to the United States are Curtailed

It has been rumoured that should Canada decide to close the border to the importation of bees and queens from the U.S.A. as a result of the honey bee tracheal mite being found in that country, the U.S. beekeeping industry would request their government to take retaliatory action and close the border to the importation of Canadian honey. Notwithstanding the implications of international trade regulations preventing such from happening, you must appreciate that various restrictive trade actions are possible. In recent weeks, we have seen a very real situation with the curtailment of pork exports into the United States as a result of 5 individual states taking separate action against Canada. We certainly do not want something like this to happen in the honey industry. Canada needs to export honey to the United States.

The honey and beekeeping industry in Canada and the United States have had a good relationship in the past. Canada has been importing bees and queens and beekeeping supplies from the U.S.A. for a 100 years or more and it has only been in the last decade that Canada has not been entirely dependent on the U.S. as a sole source of supply for bees and queens. Similarly, Canada has been exporting honey to the United States for many years although it has only been since 1970 that there has been a significant volume (Appendix - Table 1). Within the past 5 years, as a result of increased honey exports, the balance of trade in the honey and beekeeping industry has shifted from the U.S. to Canada.

In 1984, honey exports to the U.S.A. reached a record high of 34,409,033 pounds and had an estimated value of approximately \$17,000,000.00. In the first 4 months of 1985, Canadian honey exports to the U.S.A. are 11,901,888 pounds, suggesting honey exports this year may surpass the record of last year.

Bee Maid Honey is very concerned about action the Canadian honey industry might take to prevent importation of the honey bee tracheal mite that would threaten to curtail honey exports to the U.S.A., let alone stop them. We recognize and appreciate the present concern of our own member producers and all of the beekeepers in Canada over the possible importation of the honey bee tracheal mite as well as the future importation of the varroa mite and the Africanized bee. On the other hand, the very survival of the Canadian beekeeping industry is dependent upon its ability to export honey (41,604,042 pounds in 1984) and especially to the U.S.A. which has accounted for an average of 65% of Canada's exports in the past 10 years (82.71% in 1984).

Bee Maid Honey has exported honey to the U.S.A. on a continuous basis since 1970 and it has invested a great deal of money developing a market for Canadian honey. Most importantly, Bee Maid has developed markets for processed and consumer packaged honey, ensuring future long term markets for the Canadian honey industry. In addition, the sales of processed and consumer packaged honey which have been generated, versus raw honey sales, have value added which assists materially the Canadian economy on a local, regional and national basis.

Can you imagine the state of the Canadian honey market if we had not been able to export 34,000,000 pounds of honey to the United States this past year? As Roman Pankiw, President of the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Limited stated recently at a meeting of honey producers in Brandon, Manitoba:

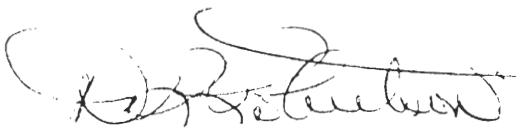
"The economic impact on Canadian beekeeping in the event that this trading arrangement between the U.S. and Canada is disrupted, would be devastating to the industry. Trading arrangements under the best of times, are fragile. All efforts within reason to preserve these arrangements should be made."

Gentlemen, we wish you every success in your deliberations at this meeting, but urge that you keep in mind the possible effect any curtailment in the exports of honey to the United States would have on our Canadian industry.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of Bee Maid Honey Limited.

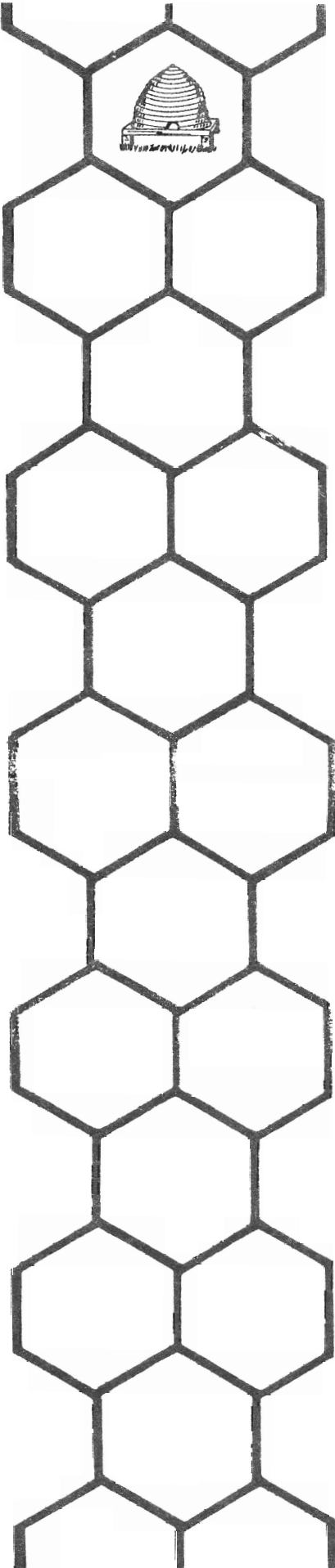
Yours very truly,

BEE MAID HONEY LIMITED



D. R. ROBERTSON  
President

DRR/js



APPENDIX H

# MANITOBA BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION

SUBMISSION

TO THE

CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL

INTERIM MEETING

JULY 7, 8, 9, 1985

As is the case with most provincial beekeeper associations in Canada, the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association has given considerable attention to the honey bee tracheal mite concern during the last year. This problem has been discussed by beekeepers on numerous occasions including meetings of regional associations, the MBA Board of Directors, the general MBA membership, and at the MBA annual meeting in February, 1985.

In anticipation of the interim meeting of the CHC called for July 7 - 9, 1985, the MBA held a meeting on June 12, 1985 of its directors and the respective chairmen of the Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers Ltd. and the Manitoba Honey Producers Marketing Board. At this meeting the general concern regarding the honey bee tracheal mite was discussed and the potential economic implications of various responses to the problem were considered at length. Following is a summation of the recommendations that have been developed by the MBA.

The MBA believes that there are three basic issues which are central to the broad concern associated with the honey bee tracheal mite discovery in the United States:

1. The development of Canadian importation regulations that will offer reasonable protection to Canadian honey bee stocks from pests and diseases found in foreign countries.

The position of the MBA regarding this concern is that the regulations affecting the importation of honey bees for the 1986 shipping season should be at least as rigorous as those regulations that were in effect for the 1985 shipping season.

It is the belief of the MBA that every effort should be made to strengthen and improve the requirements for mite free certification for 1986. This could include improvements such as increasing the number of bees dissected per sample and increasing the number of samples required per apiary. Manitoba is not satisfied with the level of sampling that was required for certification during the 1985 package shipping season and as a result the Manitoba Department of Agriculture initiated its own sampling procedure which will include the analysis of more than 1000 samples of 100 bees each,

taken from imported package bees. The MBA believes that an adequate level of sampling for certification should be the responsibility of the authorities in the country of origin of the bees.

2. The development of a uniform and mutually agreed upon Canadian response to any discovery of the honey bee tracheal mite in Canada.

The MBA continues to support the recommendation that the honey bee tracheal mite (Acarapis woodi) be named as a reportable disease in the Federal Animal Disease and Protection Act.

The Canadian beekeeping industry, through the Canadian Honey Council, should reach agreement with Agriculture Canada on an effective and appropriate course of action to be taken in response to any honey bee tracheal mite discovery in Canada.

Also, a uniform sampling procedure should be established on a national basis to ensure that all regions of the country are included in ongoing surveys of both wintered and package colonies. The responsibility for conducting surveys of honey bee colonies seems to have been left up to each individual province; this approach will most likely result in a lack of uniformity and consistency of sampling across Canada.

3. The initiation of research to determine the potential economic importance of the honey bee tracheal mite under Canadian conditions.

The MBA urgently recommends that Agriculture Canada immediately support research to determine the significance of acarine disease under Canadian conditions to such crucial activities as wintering, honey production, and pollination. This should be done through substantial financial and/or manpower commitments.

In conclusion, the MBA believes that although the potential economic importance of acarine disease to Canadian beekeepers is unknown, the presence of the disease in the United States should nevertheless be taken seriously and every reasonable effort should be made to protect domestic bee stocks from this disease without threatening the financial stability of the overall industry

Respectfully submitted,

N. Vanderput  
Vice President and CHC Delegate  
Manitoba Beekeepers' Association