



Proud Producers of Bee Maid Honey.

Alberta Honey Producers Co-Operative Limited
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April 28, 2010

Press Release

Bee Maid Supports Bee Research in Canada

Bee Maid Honey Limited is proud to announce that they will be contributing financial assistance to the following research projects this coming year:

Integrated Management on Nosema & Detection of Antibiotic Residues

Dr. Stephen Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Beaverlodge Research Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta

Nosema ceranae is an emergent world-wide pathogen, and it, in combination with Nosema apis, have been linked to wide-scale losses of colonies in Europe and North America. We propose to examine effective therapeutic management for these parasites and to generate a modern antibiotic residue dataset for fumagillin, the only registered antimicrosporidial compound for bees. Our objectives are to: 1) Develop optimal application methods and dosages for fumagillin against N. ceranae; 2) Document residues associated with different methods of fumagillin application; 3) Screen alternative therapies for Nosema spp.; and 4) Examine the seasonal phenology of N. ceranae in Canada.

These data will benefit the Canadian beekeeping industry by providing optimal treatment options to control both microsporidian species causing nosema disease without contaminating honey with unwanted residues. It will also provide for the development of modern analytical techniques for the detection of fumagillin and its degradation products, which currently do not exist. Furthermore, this research may lead to identifying other effective therapies so as to lessen dependency on fumagillin treatments. Overall, this project is required to improve the quality of Canadian honey bee health, safeguard against further large-scale colony losses and to ensure Canada has a sustainable supply of pollinators.

and



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Effects of a miticide on honeybee memory

Principal Investigator: Dave Shutler, Professor, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Honeybees are of great ecological and economic importance, but have been suffering declines worldwide. High mortality rates are often attributed to the parasitic mite, Varroa destructor. Varroa may have other indirect negative effects on honeybee longevity and productivity. For example, chemical treatments used to control Varroa may interfere with honeybees' ability to properly integrate stimuli that elicit important behaviours like foraging and mating. Research is currently underway at Acadia University, spearheaded by MSc candidate Elisabeth Frost and in collaboration with Assistant Professor Kirk Hillier, to assess effects of a common miticide on honeybee mortality, learning, and memory. Ultimately, this research will lead to standardized methods to evaluate suitability of mite treatment programs and potential sublethal effects of chemicals on honeybees. Because bees worldwide are exposed to mites and miticide stressors, results of this research will be applicable globally.

Bee Maid considers project proposals in the area of apiculture or pollination research. Preference is given to the area of honey, and the production of pure quality honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry. Bee Maid Honey Limited is the marketing organization owned by the Alberta Honey Producers Co-operative Limited and the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Limited. Both member-owned Cooperatives have led the beekeeping industry in their support for beekeeping research.

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