

September 21, 2021
2021 Fall Issue



the **Queen City BUZZZZZZ**

Regina and District Bee Club (RDBC)

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End of 2021 Season

As the weather gets cooler, and the nights get longer, sadly the summer is over and the fall is coming in. The bees know it too, we notice around our hives that drones are being left outside and brood production is slowing. Honey supers and the last honey pulls should be finished, and thoughts move to preparing the bees for the long winter ahead.

This season was a strange one, with a flash frost occurring late into spring. Bees may have struggled early this year when things seemed to be warmed up and a sudden drop in temperature lasted for several days. After that, everything seemed to explode, as if it were playing catch up. It was a reportedly bad year for swarms.

It was also very dry this summer, despite seeming promising at the beginning,

and many crops across the province did poorly or died during the summer drought.

Unfortunately, this resulted in poor honey production reported across the province. With the late moisture, in some places there may have been a late honey crop. It is expected that as a result of honey shortages, honey prices should rise coming into 2022.

We've also received report from Geoff Wilson, the Saskatchewan Apiculturist, that Varroa Mite levels are high this year. Check more on this in his report on Page 2.

Hopefully everyone's bees made it through this tumultuous year, and I wish you all the best over this winter. Hopefully next year is a little less strange.

 *Sam*

Upcoming and Ongoing Beekeeping Courses

BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE BEEKEEPING COURSES

When: TBA (Possibly as late as this spring)

Where: TBA by University of Regina Center of Continuing Education

Instruction: Typically running in the Spring, the beginner courses are about the bee basics that every beginner should know before getting bees. The Intermediate beekeeping courses are intended for those who have already taken the beginner beekeeping course and have previously kept bees.

Cost: All information regarding this can be found through the University of Regina through the Center for Continuing Education. No information has been posted at this time, so check back regularly for updates!

Check the Regina Bee Club's website or Facebook Page, or wait for our 2022 Spring Newsletter for further courses this spring, including the beekeeping and queen rearing courses through the Sask Beekeepers Association!

There may also be candle making courses and mead courses, dependent on Covid restrictions.

Did You Know?



All beekeepers are required by law to Register with the Provincial Apiculturalist. Only hives with removable comb are permitted to be kept.



You must have a permit to sell bees and equipment, if you are buying bees and equipment ask to see the permit.



During the Saskatchewan winter there is typically an average of 25 – 30 percent winter loss that can be expected.

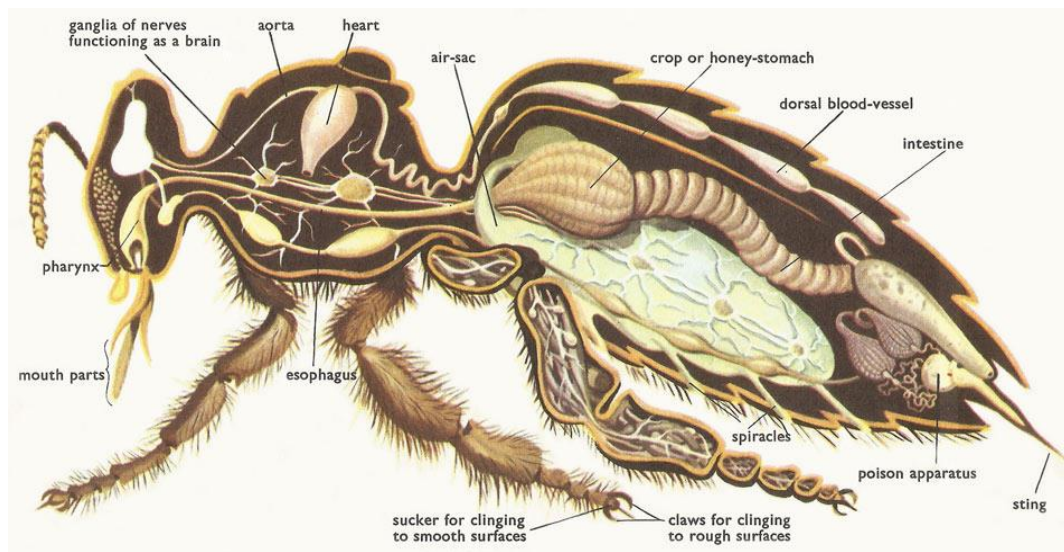


After feeding and wrapping the bees, many beekeepers will bury their hives in the snow. This provides additional insulation and can help protect the bees from fluctuations in temperature, including premature brood production due to unexpected warm periods.



Honey that has crystallized in the frame cannot be extracted, but can be saved to feed to splits or colonies in the spring.

Internal Anatomy of the Honey Bee



Testing for Varroa Mite and Treating

Hello SK Beekeepers,

I am writing a quick note to inform you of a general concern arising from early fall inspections and discussion with beekeepers regarding Varroa mites.

In many cases, mites are higher than previous years and above treatment thresholds.

This in part may result from:

- Primarily: the growth pattern of bee colonies this spring: the bees generally started with big populations and then grew very quickly, often outgrowing the treatment applied. This means that although colonies were treated sufficiently at the beginning of the spring treatment period, at the end of the treatment there were not enough strips for effective treatment.
- Secondly: The long hot summer was good for bee growth, when growth of bees is optimal, growth of mites is also optimal, resulting in more mites
- Finally: Apivar possibly not working as effectively as previous seasons – we as an industry have been using this product continually since 2008. Generally, this product is still working very well, but perhaps not in the

same manner as previously expected

What you should do:

- Check your bees for mites.
- If mites are over thresholds, please treat with a Varroa control product.
- Treat according to label – make sure that the proper amount of product is used for the entire treatment period and under the optimal conditions. Proper use of Varroa mite treatments at the correct dosage and timing is becoming increasingly important to keep this pest under control.

I hope that everyone has a good wrap-up to the 2021 season and finds healthy, strong hives next spring.

Thanks,

Geoff Wilson
Government of Saskatchewan

Feeding and Syrup Making



- Remember to give your bees feed before it gets too cold for them to take it!
- Candy boards and fondant are typically not ideal in Saskatchewan's climate, the best bet is through feeding 2:1 sugar syrup in the fall. You can purchase syrup directly from a bee equipment provider, or you can make it yourself.
- If making homemade syrup, be sure to boil water and **remove from heat before** adding sugar. Sugar caramelizes when heated on a burner, and any amount of caramelization can be poisonous for bees. Ensure sugar fully dissolves or crystallization will occur.
- Open feeding is now legal in Saskatchewan, however, it can increase aggression in bees, can spread disease like mites and AFB, and is not recommended for urban settings.
- Other feeding methods, such as feed pails, can be handy for being able to tell how much syrup a colony is taking, ensuring smaller colonies are not competing for syrup, prevent spread of disease, and can be helpful in determining if a colony is queenright after mite testing.
- Bees should ideally be fed around 5 gallons of syrup to ensure they have enough to last through winter.

A Young Beekeeper Story

When schools were closed in March of 2020 due to Covid and kids began online schooling, Carson (age 14) and Hannah Hilderman (age 12) from Duval Sk. took online learning in their own hands and began researching honey bees. It didn't take them long to realize that honey bees are very amazing little creatures. For every bit of material they read, the more and more intrigued they were with bees. Not only did these 2 young entrepreneurs research but they also made up a slideshow, did up a small business plan, came up with a business name and designed a logo. After many back and forth discussions the business name of PRAIRIE BEEZZZZ was chosen.

All their research became a reality in the spring of 2020 when they set up 2 honey bee hives. Over the past 2 years the brother and sister duo have maintained the hives and extracted over 400 lbs of pure honey, of course this came with a few learning curves and some unwanted bee stings.

When Hannah was asked "what was your favorite part of the project"? she replied with, "My favorite part is always the final product and how fresh and delicious it tastes and smells!" she also added "My favorite thing about bees is how hard they work! They are so interesting and I learn something new every time I go out to the hive!"

Carson says, "What I find most interesting about bees is how much honey they can make in such a short amount of time." he added that "my favorite part is opening the hives and seeing the progress the bees make throughout the summer."

They are looking forward to expanding their colony of bees next year....



President's Report

As another bee season draws to a close, I find myself reflecting. For this season was full of irregularities, different from every year being different in every aspect, this year however was completely different. An early start seemed to be very optimistic of a good bee season until an unexpected storm and a week of cool weather in May set the bees back a bit. Queen rearing seemed to have presented some ending challenges this year, but we had some great mating flights and the queens. After the May storm, we ended up having a hot bee season which was great for the bees and anyone going to the lake, but not so great for the crops. Honey production for most people was either average.



The fall so far has been very nice. Most of the reports I'm hearing are that the bees are taking more feed than usual.

In finding most of my colonies to be in good weight already with only one jar of feed on them so far. I plan to continue feeding them as long as it is warm out. As always I'm hoping for a winter with mild temperatures and lots of snow, we certainly need the snow to replenish the soil moisture after this summer. I hope everyone has a good fall and a relaxing winter.

 Andrew

Honey Bees

I S R A T C E N N B W U I W C H Y
 S S Z G S U E H K E J D S A O O Y
 S O R N V L W N X K L L I D L N E
 C G G I V L Z F O N P L B L O E N
 H F B M I M R G O R V D O M N Y O
 G U A R D B E E S R D M L P Y C H
 L A T A K J F V B B A W X G T O S
 M P D W U S I E N K E G T M X M Y
 S I Z S Z B E E B O D V E N F B E
 C A D I O S E C E M M P I R N X L
 O R T U W U B C E F L H C H S J L
 U Y J A Q M Y U K U I Y J P E O E
 T G X D Q S E W E V V F F P Y E K
 B K Z Z K T N V E D C N O D O V B
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 E V Y R B C H U E E B R E K R O W
 S C J X I K J G R L U P F G Y O A

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|----------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| apiary | beehive | beekeeper | beeswax |
| colony | drone | foragers | guard bees |
| hive | honeybee | honeycomb | kelleys honey |
| nectar | pollen | queen | scout bees |
| swarming | worker bee | | |



Photo Contest

Photo contest! Get your beekeeping photos ready!

The club is holding a photo contest this coming quarter. We are looking for photos of "beeyards in the fall". Watch for details on the Regina & District FaceBook page. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter and the winning photos will be posted on the clubs webpage and in the newsletter.

If your not on facebook you can send your photos to ilovebeesregina@gmail.com. Cut off date for sending photos is December 1, 2021.

Fall Recipe's made with Honey



Herbed Turkey Breast

Herbed Turkey Breast

- ½ Cup Honey
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 ½ tsp sage
- 1 tsp thyme
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¾ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 1 boneless, skinless turkey breast

Preheat broiler. Position oven rack 6 inches from heat source.

Combine honey, orange juice, butter, sage, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper

Place turkey breast on rack set in broiler pan. Brush with some of the honey mixture. Broil, brushing frequently with remaining mixture. Turn turkey once, cook until no longer pink inside or temp reads 165F, about 40 minutes.

Allow to rest 5 minutes before slicing.

Honey Egnog

- ¾ cup milk
- 1 Tbsp egg, beaten
- 1 Tbsp + 1tsp Honey
- pinch cinnamon
- pinch ground nutmeg
- pinch salt
- ¼ tsp vanilla
- 1 ½ oz rum
- 2 Tbsp Whipped Cream

In a small saucepan, combine milk, egg, honey, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt; mix well. Bring to a gentle boil over medium heat, stirring constantly for about 5 minutes.

Remove from heat; stir in vanilla and rum (or rum flavoring).

Chill at least 1 hour.

Served with whipped topping, sprinkle cinnamon to garnish.



Honey Egnog



A Honey of a Chili

A Honey of a Chili

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- ¾ cup chopped green pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp oregano
- ½ tsp crushed red pepper
- 1 can 15 oz diced tomatoes undrained
- 1 can 28 oz bean medley
- 1 can tomato sauce
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar

In a large saucepan or dutch oven, heat oil over medium heat until hot. Brown beef stirring quickly to break meat up. Once brown, add onion, green pepper and garlic for 3-5 minutes until vegetables are tender and begin to brown. Stir in chili powder, cumin, salt, oregano and crushed red pepper. Stir in diced tomatoes, kidney beans, tomato sauce, honey and vinegar.

Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Serve with a bit of cheddar cheese for garnish and a crust of garlic bread.

Roasted Root Veggies with Honey Glaze

- 1 Tbsp Honey
- 1 Tbsp Butter
- 1 Tbsp Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 lb small red potatoes quartered
- 1 lb carrots cut into ¾ inch pieces
- ½ lb beets, quartered
- ½ cup sweet onion, sliced
- ½ cup shallot, sliced
- 1 tsp thyme
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground pepper

Preheat oven to 450 F

Line a large rimmed sheet pan with parchment paper, set aside. In a small bowl, whisk honey, butter, and oil together. Set aside.

In a large bowl, toss potatoes, carrots, beets, onion and shallot with honey mixture. Add thyme, oregano, salt and pepper and mix to combine.

Arrange vegetables on a prepared sheet pan and roast for 35-40 minutes, stirring once, until tender and lightly browned.

Chocolate Walnut Fudge

- ½ cup honey
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- ¼ tsp salt
- 12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 4 oz bittersweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped

Line an 8x8 inch pan with foil; butter and set aside.

In a medium saucepan, combine honey, sweetened condensed milk, and salt; mix well. Bring mixture just to a boil, stirring frequently. Lower heat to a simmer. Add chocolate chips and bittersweet chocolate, stirring constantly, until chocolate melts completely and mixture is smooth. Stir in walnuts.

Pour immediately into pan and smooth top. Let cool, then refrigerate until cold.

Cut into 25 pieces.



Board



Roasted Root Veggies with Honey Glaze



Chocolate and Walnut Fudge

Club BeeMaid Order

In an effort to minimize the shipping costs members have to pay on orders from BeeMaid the RDBC board has made arrangements for bulk orders to be shipped to Regina from May to September. If you want to participate in a bulk order this is the process:

- RDBC member contacts BeeMaid in Tisdale and submits order with the request to be included in the monthly RDBC bulk order; the member will pay for the order at this time.
- Tisdale bundles all of Regina and District Bee Club orders onto one or more pallets and arranges shipping to Regina.
- **On the third Friday of the month between 5-6:00 p.m. Bee Club members go to Manitoulin Transport located at 385 Henderson Drive in Regina to collect orders.**
- The Program Co-ordinator accepts the shipment and allocates final shipping charges based on actual weight of each order to each person ordering that month. *For example, someone ordering an extractor and supers may pay \$50 and someone receiving an envelop of candle wick may pay 20 cents.*
- Bee Club members pay the Program Co-ordinator the allocated shipping costs by cheque or cash then receive their supply order and a copy of their Beemaid invoice.

It is your responsibility to pick your stuff up. If a Bee Club Member cannot pick up their order on the scheduled date, it is their responsibility to delay their order until the following month or ask a friend to pick up the order on their behalf, or have their order shipped separately. Any items that need to be picked up later will be charged a \$50.00 convenience fee.

Any items not collected by September 30th of the bee season will become property of the Regina and District Bee Club and will be raffled off at the next Annual General Meeting.

Check the RDBC website for more details.

Club Extractor Program

The RDBC has two extractors four frame extractors and refractometer available for rental. Members can save money by renting the club's equipment instead of purchasing their own extractor.

In order to make the extractor rental easier for everyone, online booking is used. You may find the link on the club website under Members, Club Programs and Services.

www.reginabeeclub.ca

Reservations that are cancelled within 48 hours are charged a \$50.00 cancellation fee.

Please coordinate with either Wybo or Chris for the extractor.

Extractor #1 (yellow)

Wybo Ottenbreit-Born
112 Angus Cres, Regina
306-543-0002

Extractor #2 (burgundy)

Chris Oleson
3034 Zaran Cres
306-527-8241

Mentorship Program

Calling all experienced beekeepers who would like to help new and aspiring beekeepers!

The bee club's mentorship program is aimed at matching new beekeepers with experienced beekeepers.

Since this year is a bit unusual with covid, there is a lack of educational workshops and programs that usually go on throughout the year. This means mentoring is more important than ever.

Anyone interested in becoming a mentor should have successfully overwintered bees for a few years, understand American Foul Brood and Varroa Mite, and pest protection and detection techniques;

AND, be confident and comfortable doing hive inspections, detecting and correcting queen and hive issues, providing supplementary feedings and managing seasonal procedures such as reversing hives, preventing robbing and preparing hives for winter.

Please check the RDBC website for further details and the forms required or contact Andrew to enroll in the program.

Both parties will be conscientious about biosecurity and disease transmission, by wearing clean clothes and shoes, and not using equipment, such as hive tools and smokers, with each other's bees.

Geoff's Corner

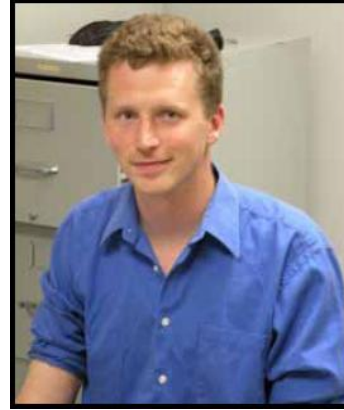
Have questions and need information about beekeeping in Saskatchewan?

Do you want to become a registered Beekeeper in our Province?

Contact Saskatchewan's Provincial Apiarist:

Geoff Wilson (306.953.2304)

Email: geoff.wilson@gov.sk.ca



About Our Club...

The Regina and District Bee Club has been active in the City of Regina for over fifty years as a cooperative for ordering honey bees and as a network for education and information on beekeeping.

It is a priority to inform members about current issues in the beekeeping industry to ensure that a proactive role is taken with all industry issues such as bee diseases, mites and pesticides.

The Regina and District Bee Club in partnership with the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission participates in the Agri-Ed Show Case at Canadian Western Agribition. The focus is to educate children from Grades 4-6 about

agriculture and food. Club members volunteer their time to speak about the bees and beekeeping to well in excess of 10,000 visitors each year.

The Regina and District Bee Club in partnership with the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission profile the bee keeping industry as a whole in the Trade Show area in order to:

- Promote and sell products of the hive;
- Inform visitors about the industry and its role in the Saskatchewan economy; and
- Develop a relationship with other Saskatchewan agriculture producers.

Membership Benefits:

- A cooperative for ordering bees;
- At the annual meeting, guest speakers are invited to give presentations on current issues;
- Communication of industry issues to enable members to have a voice in provincial decision making;
- Many programs including bulk shipping, extractor rental, mentorship program and others; and
- Information and support system for fellow beekeepers.



Reminders



Canadian Western Agribition 2021 will be November 22 – 27. If you want to sell honey at the event its advisable to look at getting a CFIA number or start going through the Sask Health approval process with the Health Region.



The RDRC is no longer providing Apivar treatment strips, however they still can be purchased at Tisdale Bee Outfitters or at Hamilton Apiaries.



Remember to check out the clubs website periodically as we post new and exciting things, www.reginabeeclub.ca.

See something you like?

Have questions?

Do you have ideas or feedback?

Let us know!!!

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(306) 526-9277

E-MAIL:
ilovebees@reginabeeclub.ca

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.reginabeeclub.ca

