

2021 Semi Annual Update for Fraser Fort George (Prince George).

Here are some bullets to bring you up to date on what's been happening in Central BC:

- Spring is here, maybe? Yesterday (March 14th) it was +9, then overnight temps. plunged to -14. This is very hard on colonies trying to turn over from winter bees to summer bees!
- Winter colony mortality appears very high, and early spring is when colonies are more likely to die.
- The Polar Vortex that affected most of BC hit hard in our area in early February.
- Beekeepers reported high Mite levels in the fall, and a lack of efficacy with available mite treatments.
- Perhaps a combination of early onset of winter, February Deepfreeze and lack of effective mite control is the cause of our high mortality?
- Demand for honeybees is very high; nuc producers are sold out, or can't provide what was promised.
- There is a heavy reliance on packages from NZ. Let's hope they get here.
- The PG Beekeepers (a branch of the BCHPA) now meets via Zoom.

Beekeepers in our area, needed to adapt to significant changes in their environment due to weather, mite challenges, and social isolation in 2020. The bees will let us know how we did!

Barry