

2022 BCHPA AGM Executive Meeting

Canadian Honey Council Representative Report

Stan Reist

Due to this years abbreviated business day as we are emerging from Covid restrictions, we have been asked to submit our reports so they can be published and read before the meeting thus saving time at the actual meeting.

I will be available before and after the meeting to answer questions that might not be completely covered during the meeting, for anyone wishing more information.

To start in 2020 we had 766,612 registered colonies, the lowest numbers since 2015, (why?)

In 2021 the numbers swelled to 810,496, the highest number ever and in B.C. that number is 62,121

In 2021 /22 Over wintering losses amounted to 45.5 % nationally and in B.C. that number was 32.1%

In 2021 we had 13,105 beekeepers nationally and in B.C. that number was 4,300 or 32.8%

In 2021 the gross production of honey amounted to 89.7 million pounds. In B.C. it amounted to 4.8% of the total.

In 2021 the value of the honey produced was 278 million dollars [Highest ever]. In B.C. that number was 14.2 million or 5.2% of the total.

The primary issue that has to be pointed out is in 2020 we entered the Covid period, we didn't get the replacement packages for winter losses. The C.H.C. entered a new phase of operation when we became a travel agency to transport foreign workers from their home land to Canada and also return them to their home country. The world economy was in diminished mode and one reason for the loss of packages was the lack of flights from N.Z. and Australia. The other factor was the upgrade in aircraft that were used on the routes did not translate into better conditions for flying bees. We lost a lot of packages because the aircraft was not being able to keep the cooling requirements needed to fly packages. Hence, Air Canada stopped flying packages. Air Canada has not been easy to deal with and this has led to problems.

I am happy to hear that there are several test being conducted out of Edmonton with some air lines on flying packages from down under to Canada. Hopefully, we can return some stability in the industry. We the CHC are awaiting some results from C.F.I.A. regarding imports from some European countries. They are doing risk assessments now for packages and Queens from Italy and Ukraine. Implications on stock importation and ability to export queens to the USA.

While the industry has had major challenges over the last couple of years, we have been able to carry on, challenging to say the least but never the less we are. There is a new organization now The Canadian Beekeepers Federation. In my opinion this is an old core group of individuals whose main objective is to open the border to U.S. packages. One of their statements is that the CHC is not

representing the Canadian industry. I find this statement very concerning. In my time, I have seen the CHC evolve into a very effective and forward moving association serving the Canadian beekeeper. We are extremely fortunate to have Rod at the helm and if something needs doing he's made it happen. There isn't enough space to list our accomplishments but they are many.

Our industry needs to export Honey in order to survive and few years ago the prices for honey were in the tank. Now we have a great turnaround, from \$1.05 -1.30 a lb. to \$3.00 – 3.60 a lb. However, not all is without challenges. Hot, dry, short seasons, losses of hives and droughts have all combined to limit the production of Honey but here are the stats:

Total to Dec 2021 7,340,734 Kgs.

Exports to Japan 4,001,931 Kgs Approx value \$2.84 lbs. or \$22,730,968.

Exports to USA 2,991,562 Kgs Approx value \$ 2.67 Lbs. or about \$7,987,470.54

Exports to Japan (as of July 2022) 2,924,885 Kgs Approx value #3.13 Lbs. \$18,309,780.

Of note the Import from N.Z. 261,243 Kgs Approx value \$21.13 Lbs. \$11,040,129.

This is just a glimpse of what is moving with the dollar value involved.

Challenges for our industry going forward: Imitation is the greatest form of flattery but not in our industry. Emergence of products on the grocery store shelves that confuse customers and threatens the confidence that Canadians have in real honey. "Vegan honey" and "honey spreads" in stores has meant that real honey is in competition with products that contain little or no honey. Development of a "synthetic honey" in Israel.

Additional concerns arises with the descriptive term "raw" as it appears on labels. Labelling information updated on the CFIA website.

ADULTERATION AND TESTING:

Feeling the sting: the impact of honey fraud on beekeepers – Canadian Food Inspection Agency {Canada.ca}

2019 – 2020 CFIA testing results targeted sampling.

Of the 127 samples collected, 16 were domestic, 111 were imported.

110 samples were satisfactory by both SIRA and MNR methods: 86.6% 110/127.

17 samples were unsatisfactory by one or both methods: 13.3% [17/127]

Of these 17 unsatisfactory results, 16 were imported and 1 was domestic,

Marketplace monitoring.

Of the 148 samples 103 were domestic, 45 were imported.

145 samples were satisfactory by both SIRA and MNR methods: 98% [145/148]

3 samples were unsatisfactory by one or both methods: 2 % [3/148]

Of these 3 unsatisfactory results, all were identified as imported.

Hive Health Issues and actions.

Working with CAPA on the registration of Oxalic-glycerin application.

Transferred the registration of Fumagilan-B to Vita Bee Health and in the process of doing the same with formic 65 and Oxytet 25.

Supporting research on new varrocidicides.

FOOD SAFETY:

Examined and provided information to set an appropriate MRL's for glyphosate for honey in Japan. A new concern with residue levels of Quincloric

Continue for push for additional testing of honey by the CFIA

Supporting Dr. Leonard Fosters work on mass spectrometry for honey testing

Working on getting industry buy-in on standardized testing of domestic honey as well as developing a Canadian definition of honey

Contributor to the Apimondia statement on Honey Fraud.

LABOUR:

Involved in all discussions involving Temporary Foreign Workers and Covid-19 issues i.e. Housing, quarantines, vaccination, passports and vaccine acceptance.

Current consultation's on TWFP housing and new regulatory Amendments to the immigration and Refugee protection regulations [IRPR] effective September 26th.

EDUCATION / TRAINING

Developing a series of training videos with the Canadian Agriculture Human Resources Council for employees on such topics as biosecurity, seasonal management, worker health and safety and moving bees for pollination

This will provide provincial associations the possibility of an additional revenue source.

It has been a pleasure working with both the BCHPA executive and the CHC executive and I am grateful for the opportunities it has presented in understanding the complexities of our industry. At the BCHPA we have finally achieved the goal of many of our members wanted the most and that is to return to having a Tech Transfer Team again. We were the first province to have one and in the late 90's it was taken away. Now we are probably the last province to get it up and running again, thanks in a large part to our Agriculture Minister Lana Popham. Now the most important challenge is funding to keep it running.

Probably the most Educational moment in CHC was to attend Apimondia in Turkey and view firsthand the world of beekeeping and how it is accomplished across the globe. Having attended Apimondia, to

hosting Apomondia is another leap. If I thought hosting a provincial conference was a lot of work, then hosting Apimondia in Montreal was a huge event that tested some limits.

For those that are not aware, Cheryl and I, no longer live in the ever expanding part of Nanaimo of what used to be Pleasant Valley, fastly becoming unpleasant Valley. We now live in the unpopulated area known as Coombs B.C. or Goats on the Roof territory. So we traded 1.6 acres for 22.7 and even angered the ALR cops. You are supposed to hold your hand up and ask permission to do things. Never the less it's a work in progress and it has made our farm a lot easier to work and manage the bees. Looking forward to solving more challenges.

I am seeking one last term as your Director for the CHC. There are some challenges to be worked upon and some of the major ones are, the hives needed for pollination, getting our beekeepers to be more self-sufficient, in raising stock for replacement and sale if not needed. A few of the provinces have already started down this path, however, there is a lot more work to be done so I am soliciting your support for one more term.

In closing, Rod Scarlet, is the one responsible for the statistics in this report and putting together the power point. Thank you, Rod.

Stan Reist

BCHPA/CHC.