

**Title of Special Initiative:** Special Meeting of the BC Honey Producers Association

**Report Title:** Final Report

**Report covering period:** July 1, 2007 to November 30, 2007

**Organization:** Peace River Beekeepers South

**Address:** P.O. Box 2090, Dawson Creek, V1G 4K8

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**Objectives:**

- > To host a special meeting of the provincial association.
- > To provide exposure to beekeepers from other parts of the province to the beekeeping environment and practices in the Peace, which are very different than in other areas of the province.
- > To provide a forum for discussing the latest production tips, bee disease control information and marketing information.
- > To provide an opportunity to listen to and question leading research professionals in our industry.

**Accomplishments:**

- > Meeting was well attended by beekeepers from throughout BC and Alberta as well. BC attendance topped those often recorded at meetings in areas of the province with many more government registered beekeepers. More than 70 individuals participated.
- > Provided both an opportunity to attend a field day at Beaverlodge Research Station, where much of the Canadian beekeeping research is performed, and a tour of Van Han Apiaries.
- > Provided an opportunity for beekeepers to listen to and question speakers whose expertise included:
  - First hand research in the Northeastern United States with Colony Collapse Disorder
  - New research targeted at finding innovative means of dealing with infectious bee diseases and resistance to mite infestations.
  - Breeding of queens for disease and mite resistance.
  - Bee nutrition and its effect on colony health.
  - Government regulations.
  - Marketing value-added products, including using the bees themselves in the movie industry.

**Tasks in progress:** Not applicable for a short term initiative.

**Extension and Communication:**

- > Compiled articles and advertisements for 3 issues of BeesCene, a provincially distributed news magazine.
- > Contributed updated information to the BC Honey Producers website throughout the project.
- > Radio spots over a three week period were broadcast by both "Call of the Land" and "Prairie Farm Report"
- > Compiled a package of information for all participants.
- > Notification to local newspapers about the event led to excellent coverage: articles published in 2 newspapers.
- > PRAD support acknowledged in BeesCene news articles, at the meeting in poster form and in a power-point presentation, and in final thank-you advertisement to all supporters in 2 local newspapers.

**Finances:**

Income and expense report attached.

**Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:**

The George Dawson Inn increased rates after the project was approved, expenses were higher than anticipated. We also determined that bus service to Beaverlodge for the open house would not be necessary, and chose to provide transportation in personal vehicles instead. Budgeted items "Tour bus & media equipment" used for "Extension, communication, & reporting".

**Summary comments, conclusions:**

The PRAD funds were very beneficial, allowing us to bring in speakers from the United States and eastern Canada, as well as accessing research expertise from British Columbia and Alberta.. Speaker agenda attached.

Report date: November 27, 2007

[www.bcbeekeepers.com](http://www.bcbeekeepers.com)

British Columbia Honey Producers Association  
Annual Meeting: Event and Speakers Agenda  
Dawson Creek, BC  
October 25, 26 and 27, 2007

**Thursday Oct 25**

**1:00 Tour of Beaverlodge Apiculture Research Facility** (1 hr drive + 1 hr time zone from Dawson Creek)

1:00-3:00 (noon 'til 2 pm Dawson Cr. time) Introduction to instrumental queen insemination,  
Tour of bee pathology lab,  
Tour of honey extraction plant, and  
Demonstration of Peace region wintering: 4 packs, indoor and queens in mini-nucs.

6:45 PM shuttle available from Geo Dawson Inn 6:45

7:00 PM **Meet and Greet** (with drinks and snacks) + view a wonderful Peace Region audiovisual presentation  
Dawson Creek Art Gallery – 816 Alaska Avenue..

**Friday Oct 26 All further events at George Dawson Inn - 11705 8<sup>th</sup> St. Dawson Creek**

8:30 AM **Registration** with refreshments

**Morning: BCHPA business meeting, reports and elections (see business agenda)**

Refreshments available: break if time permits

**Lunch buffet**

**Friday afternoon education session: Bee breeding, resistance selection:**

- 1:15 **How bees respond to infection / the search for resistance to AFB and Varroa**  
Dr. Leonard Foster, Assistant Professor, UBC Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Vancouver BC
- 2:00 **Bee diseases and parasites: implications for bee breeders**  
Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Acting State Apiarist, Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture  
Pennsylvania
- 3:00 **Refreshment Break**
- 3:25 **Door prize**
- 3:30 **BC queen breeders project report**  
Liz Huxter, Kettle Valley Queens  
Grand Forks, BC
- 4:15 **Discussion panel** with above speakers: Breeding / resistance selection
- 5:00 **Vacate room** for banquet set-up
- 6:30 **Banquet and entertainment-** George Dawson Inn

**Saturday, October 27th 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Education Session**

7:00 am BC Bee Breeders Assoc breakfast meeting: George Dawson Inn dining room

**Morning: Bee nutrition and its effect on colony health**

**8:30 AM Pollen quality influences on colony health and bees' foraging decisions**  
Dr. Steve Pernal, Researcher, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada  
Beaverlodge AB

**9:15 Nutritional quality for healthier bees**  
Abdi Saffari, Guelph ON

**10:00 Refreshment Break**

**10:45 Various diets for bees and their impact on colony build up**  
Dr Medhat Nasr, Provincial Apiculturist, Alberta Agriculture  
Edmonton AB

**11:30 Panel discussion on bee nutrition: all above speakers**

**12:00 Lunch buffet**

**Afternoon: colony health concerns, and other interesting topics!**

**1:00 Colony collapse disorder: what we know and where we are going**  
Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Acting State Apiarist, Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture  
Pennsylvania

**1:45 Nosema disease – something old and something new**  
Adony Melathopoulos, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada  
Beaverlodge AB

**2:30 Panel discussion on bee nutrition / colony health: all above speakers**

**3:00 Refreshment Break**

**3:30 Bees in the movie industry!**  
John Gibeau, The Honey Bee Center  
Richmond BC

**4:00 Marketing value-added honey products**  
Tom Swanky

**4:30 Panel discussion on marketing and honey industry / Closing comments**

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