

From the Board's Desk

Dan Tegart, Director at Large

By the time you read this I hope all of your warehouses are full of honey stacked to the rafters, and all your bees are in great shape going into the fall. Unfortunately for us up here in the Peace region it was another short and very spotty crop. At times it felt like we were going 100 mph and then at others it was like Mother Nature was slamming hard on the brakes. It is amazing after a year like this how "Average" sounds so good.

Getting ready for next year is now our main focus. Lessons learned from past years will have us promptly out there monitoring/treating/and re-monitoring. We are all fortunate this year to be able to take part in the Bee Health program. This extra set of eyes on your bees can never hurt. You can contact Sam Muirhead at 780-415-2309 for details and registration.

As many of you already know we have once again been granted use of Apivar by Pest Management Regulatory Agency. I would like to thank Medhat and all involved in getting this available to us. Supply is at the Co-Op and we now have the necessary time window to monitor/apply/and re-monitor. As all previous miticides there will come a day when this will not work. So please remember to re-monitor after all your treatments whether it is for mites or Nosema.

For those of you who wish to further add to your peace of mind this winter, AFSC has the Overwintering insurance program up and running. Deadline is or was (depending on when you read this) Sept 1st this year. I would like to thank all that have worked on this and I look forward to seeing this program succeed and help all beekeepers.

Finally if all of our best efforts to successfully over winter our colonies fail and AFSC have protected us financially, the question of importation will once again be a buzz. In the July issue your importation committee sent out a form, asking if you still support the resolutions to seek package bees from the continental USA. To date 39 beekeepers representing just over 82,600 colonies have responded favorably. If anyone has missed this opportunity to voice his or her support for importation, you may contact Gertie at the Alberta Beekeepers office and she will send you a form to sign and return.

I hope everyone has a smooth and successful fall season and that all your bees go into winter strong and safe.