

Information for AB Beekeepers

Currently the Pest Management Regulatory Agency is conducting two programs with Beekeepers in Alberta. Either Andrea Sawatzky or Julie Sisson may be contacting beekeepers to spend time discussing current issues facing growers. A short questionnaire is required to be completed by the inspectors to record the beekeepers responses. These visits will take approximately 30-60 minutes depending on the amount of questions or time taken to discuss each question. Both of these programs are being delivered in all provinces in Canada. We look forward to meeting with Alberta Beekeepers this fall, winter and spring. Thank you in advance for your time.

Please feel free to contact Andrea Sawatzky in Calgary at (403) 292-4411, Andrea.Sawatzky@hc.sc.gc.ca or Julie Sisson, (403) 382-4794. Julie.Sisson@hc-sc.gc.ca to request a program inspection or to answer any questions you may have on these programs.

The Beekeepers Out Reach Program is one the programs we are delivering in the province of Alberta. The three objectives of the program are as follows: to provide the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) with an understanding of current treatment practices among beekeepersCboth commercial and hobby apiculturistsCwith respect to the label requirements and timing of use of pest control products, to provide beekeepers with information on the importance of complying with the label directions on pest control products and to identify any region-specific compliance issues and recommendations.

We will be interviewing beekeepers using a brief questionnaire to gather pertinent information on bee overwintering survival, pest treatment practices and pesticide container disposal. Regional Pesticide Officers/Inspectors will be using telephone directories, the internet, advertising to try locate beekeepers and will try whenever possible, ie phone number availability to pre-arrange mutually acceptable appointment times.

The Use of Apivar (amitraz) to Control Varroa Mites in Beehives Program is the other program being delivered in Alberta in 2009-2010. The objectives of this program are as follows: to monitor compliance with Apivar (amitraz) emergency registration label directions, specifically focusing on the removal of Apivar strips after 42 days or 56 days if repositioning has occurred and waiting 14 days after removing strips before placing honey supers on the hive and to collect information regarding Apivar use and report on any product management or stewardship program that was implemented by the provinces.

Regional Pesticide Officers will contact beehive supply vendors to obtain 2009 Apivar sale quantities and contact information of beekeepers who purchased Apivar in 2009. If the vendor is not recording Apivar sales for 2009, Regional Pesticide Officers may use 2008 Apivar sale declarations obtained during the 2008 Apivar Program. Inspectors will randomly select beekeepers from 2009 Apivar sales information for autumn and spring inspections.