



RIRDC Honeybee R&D News is the official newsletter of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Honeybee Program

• RIRDC • PO Box 4776, Kingston ACT 2604 • P 02 6271 4100 • F: 02 6271 4199 • E: rirdc@rirdc.gov.au • W: www.rirdc.gov.au •



Des Cannon, Chairman

Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to the second issue of the 'RIRDC Honeybee R&D News.' The primary focus points of this issue are:

- The RIRDC Honeybee Research Field Day to be held at the University of Western Sydney on Wednesday 8 July 2009
- Small Hive Beetle. SHB has continued to expand its negative impact on the Industry
- The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program (to be conducted 28 June to 3 July 2009).

At the RIRDC Honeybee Advisory Committee Meeting on 5 March, the Committee resolved to fund a number of new Research Projects. These include:

1. Development of an in-hive fungal biocontrol of SHB
2. Development of a yeast attractant trap for SHB
3. Development of a rapid method for measuring the anti-microbial activity of honey
4. Assessment (Stage II) of the pre-biotic components of Australian honey
5. Commercialisation of the SHB

harbourage trap developed by Garry Levot (NSW DPI).

These projects are in addition to the ongoing support for Pollination Australia, the alliance between the Apiary Industry and Horticulture Industries. Aims of this Alliance include minimising the impact of a possible Varroa incursion upon the beekeeping industry's capacity to provide adequate levels of pollination for Australia's horticultural industries, and ensuring that those industries dependent upon honeybees for pollination are protected as far as possible in the event of such an incursion.

For further information about the RIRDC Honeybee Research and Development Program, feel free to browse the RIRDC website (www.rirdc.gov.au) or contact the Program Co-ordinator, Lea Edwards, on 02 6271 4132, or email lea.edwards@rirdc.gov.au

The RIRDC Honeybee Research Field Day

WHEN	Wednesday 8 July 2009
WHERE	University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus. Enter through College Drive, off Bourke St, Richmond.
ADMISSION	FREE
TIME	9.30am – 4.40pm
TRAVEL	The UWS Hawkesbury Campus is located very close to East Richmond Train Station. A FREE bus will run from Rydges Rosehill (venue for the NSWAA Conference), leaving at 8.15am and returning to Rydges after the Field Day. Seats on the bus may be reserved by returning the registration form to Lea Edwards by e-mail (lea.edwards@rirdc.gov.au) or fax (02 6271 4199). Priority will be given to overseas and interstate delegates, and after 5.00pm Thursday 2 July, available places will be allocated to NSW delegates who have placed their names on the waiting list.

Those who are staying at or close to Rydges Rosehill can, if they wish, catch a train from Rosehill Station (opposite Rydges) to East Richmond Station (with changes at Clyde and Granville). An 800m walk to catch the train at Clyde at 8:35am will get you to East Richmond at about 9:45am.

LUNCH To reserve a free sandwich lunch, you must complete and return the registration form (see page 4). If you prefer, you may purchase a cafeteria lunch and morning tea onsite.

LUCKY DOOR PRIZES have been organised for the day.

The Program for the day has been organised by the Research Committee to reflect issues of current concern to beekeepers.

Current R&D Committee

Des Cannon (Chair)	02 6236 3294
Denis Anderson	02 6246 4148
Trevor Monson	03 5024 8674
Bruce White	02 9634 6792

Research Manager

David Dall 02 6271 4128

Program Coordinator

Lea Edwards 02 6271 4132

In consultation with industry, RIRDC's Board reappointed Des Cannon as Chair for another term (to 30 June 2011).

The Committee is due for reappointment in June 2009. Current members are eligible for reappointment, and other interested persons may also apply (see article on Page 3).

Small Hive Beetle



Small Hive Beetle has continued to grow in significance and is now having a major impact on the survival of hives and production of honey along the coastal fringe. It has also started to have an effect inland.

Beekeepers need every method possible at their disposal to reduce the levels of infestation in their hives.

In addition to the commercial traps—*AJ's Beetle Eaters* and *Beetltra*—home-made oil traps and permethrin soil drenches are also available.

There is also a Diatomaceous Earth Trap which has not received a lot of publicity. This trap was developed by John Rhodes before he retired from NSW DPI, full details are available from the NSW DPI website. Go to <www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees/pests-diseases#Small-hive-beetle-in-honey-bees> and look for <permits.apvma.gov.au/PER10277.PDF>. A shortened version of the text is shown below (courtesy of Capilano Honey).

At the same time the RIRDC Honeybee Committee is seeking to commercialise the small hive beetle harbourage developed by Garry Levot (NSW DPI). An approach has been made to the APVMA for an emergency use permit, and the research committee has every hope that this trap will be commercially available to the Industry later this calendar year.

This is in addition to a number of continuing and new projects aimed at increasing the effectiveness of our controls against this pest.

Diatomaceous Earth Trap for Small Hive Beetles

The trap was a small tackle box or screw box purchased from a hardware store. It was placed under the migratory cover and, as can be seen, it contains hundreds of dead SHB's. The lid of the trap has been drilled by the



beekeeper to allow entry by the SHB's. The beekeepers who are using this trap are still experiencing hives lost to SHB's but believe the traps are assisting in keeping SHB populations down. The use of DE is legal. Use of DE is permitted by the APVMA (Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority), Permit No. PER10277 in force from 7 February 2008 to 1 February 2010. Permit Holder: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.

The registered product to be used is PERMAGUARD D-10 INSECTICIDE, containing 1000g/kg Diatomaceous Earth as its only active constituent. One control device is to be used per hive per year. The control device should be placed in the hive at the commencement of beetle activity and kept there until the end of SHB activity. Where sufficient ventilation is not available,

operators should avoid breathing dusts by wearing an approved particulate filter respirator. Chemical goggles or safety glasses with sideshield protection should also be used when handling the control device.

The trap may be legally used in ALL States. If you wish to use the trap, you should read the full conditions of the permit on the NSW DPI website (link given above).

The holes in the drilled lid of the container are 5/32" size. These are big enough for SHB's to enter but too small for bees. Each compartment of the trap has one teaspoonful of DE in it. All the lumps you can see in the photos are dead beetles covered in DE. The DE may have suffocated some beetles but the reason for using this product is that the DE scratches the cuticle of the SHB so it dehydrates and dies.

DO NOT expose DE to honeybees!! It will work the same way on them! The DE used should be suitable for use in the food industry, not, for example, pool filter DE.



Trap removed from a queenless colony after 3 weeks.



Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Course 2009

New' and click on Rural Leadership Program.

Applicants for the RIRDC sponsorship should apply **directly to the College**. The College will notify the Honeybee R&D Committee of the applicant(s), and the Committee will assess the applicant(s) and make a decision on whether or not it will sponsor one of the applicants. There is no maximum age, but there is a minimum age of 21. **Applications would normally close on 28 May 2009, but the College has agreed to consider a beekeeping application up until 10 June 2009.**

The RIRDC-sponsored applicant is expected to supply a short written report on their experience to the Honeybee Committee after completing the course. In 2008, RIRDC sponsored Joanne

Stavrakis from Victoria (Elizabeth Saxvik was sponsored by NSWAA), and the following is an extract from Joanne's report:

"I personally enjoyed the course and would encourage any beekeeper who wishes to be an industry leader to apply to attend the course. I found it both challenging and productive, and feel I have come away with some very positive outcomes for my personal development. I know I have obtained skills that will enable me to be a better Executive Councillor.

As an industry representative, it came to my attention while attending this course that the beekeeping industry has at present a very positive public image."

Remember, applications must reach the College by 10 June 2009.

The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program Course run by Marcus Oldham College (near Geelong, Victoria) is to be run this year from 28 June 2009 to 3 July 2009. Each year the RIRDC Honeybee Committee sponsors one person to do this course. This is in addition to the one person sponsored by the NSW Apiarists' Association.

Further information and a nomination form can be found on the college website www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au – 'What's



RIRDC Honeybee Research and Development Advisory Committee Nominations

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) is calling for applications from interested people to apply for positions on the Honeybee Research and Development Advisory Committee.

The Committee consists of persons with a range of skills and experience in the research, production, processing and marketing sectors of industry, together with a representative of the Corporation.

The Committee provides recommendations on the allocation of research and development contributions (comprising industry levies and Commonwealth matching funds) to the RIRDC Board.

The Advisory Committee is expected to consult with industry bodies and participants to evaluate the requirements for research and development, to prepare a Research and Development Strategic Plan for the industry which is reviewed annually, and to monitor and evaluate the impact of research and development projects.

Applicants should note that RIRDC Honeybee Research and Development Advisory Committee guidelines generally preclude members of the executive of a national industry association from being a member of a RIRDC Advisory Committee. A joint industry/RIRDC selection process has been established to choose the Committee members.

If you require further information about these positions or the Honeybee Program, please visit the RIRDC Honey Program web site <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/programs/established-rural-industries/honey-bee/honey-bee_home.cfm>

or phone the Honeybee Program Coordinator on 02 6271 4132.

Written applications, outlining your skills and relevant experience, should be forwarded by Sunday 31 May 2009 to:

RIRDC Honeybee Program
Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation
PO Box 4776
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Draft Program

RIRDC Researcher's Honeybee Field Day

Venue: HAC Theatre, Section G - Hawkesbury Campus,
University of Western Sydney



- 9.30am Tea and coffee on arrival
- 9.50am Welcome and introduction (David Dall, RIRDC)
- 10.00am Colony Collapse Disorder (Denis Anderson - CSIRO)
- 10.30am Demonstration – stingless bees, native bees and honeybees – UWS Apiary (note: this is about a 5 minute walk from the theatre)
- 11.30am Incidence and prevalence of *Nosema ceranae* in Australia (Michael Hornitzky - NSW DPI)
- 12.00pm The value-added potential of pre-biotic components of Australian honeys (Patricia Conway - UNSW)
- 12.30pm Evaluation of anti-Varroa boards for increase in honey production (Robert Spooner-Hart - University of Western Sydney)
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 1.30pm 'Honeybee Blues': world premiere with an introduction by the Director, Mr Stefan Moore (Mitra Films Pty Ltd, Bondi, Australia)
- 2.30pm Small Hive Beetle (Garry Levot & Nicholas Annand of NSW DPI, and Diana Leemon of Qld DPI)
- 3.30pm Implications for Australia of Varroa in PNG (Denis Anderson - CSIRO)
- 4.00pm DVD - Africanised Bees (Denis Anderson - CSIRO)
- 4.10pm Questions to Committee and researchers on present and future research issues (Des Cannon - Chair RIRDC Honeybee R&D Advisory Committee)
- 4.40pm Close

Would you like to attend?

Registration

Please complete the following in neat hand writing if you would like to attend:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Ph: _____

Lunch

Would you like a free sandwich lunch? (pre-packaged sandwiches, and cold drink. No choice unless due to special dietary requirements – see below for this)

Yes / No

Any special dietary requirements?

Yes / No

If yes, please specify: _____

Transport (please note that university parking charges may apply if you drive and park on campus).

Do you require transport to/from Rydges Rosehill/UWS or the East Richmond train station/UWS? If so, please circle pick up point. (Details of transport are noted on page 1 of this newsletter.)

Rydges / East Richmond

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM BY FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2009 TO LEA EDWARDS AT RIRDC
Fax: 02 6271 4199 • e-mail: lea.edwards@rirdc.gov.au •

OR post to: RIRDC, PO Box 4776 KINGSTON ACT 2604.

Enquiries to Lea Edwards, Ph: 02 6271 4132.