

Update from BCHPA July 13, 2021

- The first phase of the irradiation project was a bit more complex than expected but it eventually worked out. There was good participation from the entire Okanagan valley and parts of the Shuswap. We have used about half of the grant so far, so if there is demand, we will be able to do another shipment of up to 300 supers planned for later in the year. Reminder, irradiation eliminates pathogens such as bacteria, mold/fungi, microorganisms and insect pests. It is most commonly used to eliminate the need to destroy equipment contaminated with AFB, Chalkbrood and Nosema and/or equipment offered for sale.
- As my medical issues have improved, we are again processing the Nelson estate equipment. We are very close to our goal for the scholarship fund.
- Some news passed on from the Executive meetings:
  - The Tech Transfer position is in final stages of hiring a technician.
  - Farm Classification vs BC Assessment discussions are continuing. Meeting pending.
    - ? Should tax reduction be granted for staging of pollination hives parked temporarily on non farm land?
  - Canada Honey Council –
    - Working on foreign worker issues.
    - Importation of stock replacement from overseas greatly reduced.
    - About 9000 packages arrived, 70,000 ordered.
    - SK was prepared with 35,000 nucs
    - AB and MB now considering/planning more overwintering
    - 220,000 queens were imported, mostly from USA, some from Ukraine, Slovenia, & Malta.
    - Working with CFIA to accurately define “honey”, may follow same process as maple syrup definition. Why is there “Honey Spread” sold that does not contain any honey?
    - AB appears to be in a drought, not expecting reduced yields.
- Fall AGM planning is ongoing, likely will be similar to last year with zoom meeting, likely last week in October.
- Fall edition of BeesCene

Thanks,

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