



NOTES FROM THE OMAFRA/OBA SHB WORKING GROUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Attending for OBA:

- Tibor Szabo, President
- Tim Greer, Chair SHB working group
- Dennis Edell, Chair, issues management committee
- Mike Parker, commercial beekeeper, Niagara
- Tom Congdon, commercial beekeeper, Windsor/Essex,
- Les Eccles, Technology Transfer Program lead

Attending for OMAFRA:

- Kelly McAslan, Director (acting) Animal Health and Welfare Branch
- Greg Worley, Manager Veterinary Services
- Nick Van Lankveld, Manager Strategy and Issues
- Cathy Furness, Lead Veterinarian
- Paul Kozak, Provincial Apiarist.

1. REPORT FROM OMAFRA ON SHB FINDS

- 16 yards in Niagara
- Close proximity to US border
- 7 commercial yards
- In most cases, few beetles (one or two) reported per hive
- Surveillance in yards close to U.S. border will continue until end of September and as weather allows

2. SURVEILLANCE ANALYSIS

OMAFRA notified OBA that they were conducting 30 minute to one-hour interviews with beekeepers with finds to determine movement patterns of colonies. Beekeepers clarified 'mingling' concept.

3. CAPA REPORT – PAUL KOZAK

CAPA meeting indicated 'level' attitudes among eastern provinces were willing to work together on the SHB issue.

4. YARD REGISTRATION

OMAFRA expressed concern that some SHB yards were not registered. OBA explained how temporary commercial yards could be inadvertently unregistered. OBA supports yard registration and enforcement of the regs. OBA will help spread the word and mention importance of registration in next newsletter.

5. OBA REPORT

- SHB Working Group meeting regularly
- Communications with beekeepers ongoing:
 - Teleconference with local beekeepers association presidents – 8 attended including the Niagara Association. All Associations were invited.
 - Discussions with FQA (QC Beekeepers Associations) initiated. Face to face meeting planned in October.
 - Discussion with BC Honey Producers.
 - OBA e-newsletter and OBJ articles published.
 - Dedicated web page established ontariobee.com/SHB.

6. U.S. BORDER

Discussed keeping U.S. border closed to packages and hives. Agreed on importance of keeping border closed and that SHB incursion was no reason to open that discussion. Other pest and disease threats that the CFIA had identified were referenced (resistant AFB and varroa, Africanized honey bees).

7. CHC

OMAFRA agreed to direct all CHC inquiries to OBA's CHC rep Jim Coneybeare. OBA mentioned that Ontario's extensive inspection program made Ontario unique.

8. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PLAN

OBA recommended a program to educate and inform Ontario beekeepers on how to mitigate impact and slow the spread of SHB. OMAFRA agreed that knowledge transfer will be important and that OBA and OMAFRA could continue discussions on how this could be implemented.

9. FREEZE UNITS

OBA suggested beekeepers could use freeze units as a proven methodology to kill adults, larva and eggs on frames and boxes. Freezing frames would also be a good way for killing wax moths. Beekeepers, however, would need assistance to be able to build or purchase these units. OBA asked for OMAFRA support, as no individual beekeeper had been successful with their GF2 proposal. OMAFRA suggested OBA submit a GF2 proposal through the GF2 organizations and collaborations stream. OBA will scope out a proposal.

10. CONTROL AREAS/MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

OMAFRA communicated that once broader surveillance has been completed to inform a complete picture for Ontario, a broader risk assessment of Small Hive Beetle will be conducted that will inform any future regulatory or non-regulatory responses that OMAFRA would take in consultation with the OBA.

11. OBA AGM AND FALL MEETING

OMAFRA offered to make a presentation on SHB or broader Pollinator Health.

12. NEXT MEETING

OMAFRA/OBA agreed that this is a valuable collaboration and that meetings should be held monthly. Next meeting will be in early October. OMAFRA/OBA to suggest dates and times. Also Tim Greer will be away for the next two weeks. Tibor Szabo and Dennis Edell will be the OBA contact for OMAFRA in the interim.