

# Alberta Beekeepers Commission

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011





# History and Current State

- The Alberta Beekeepers Association (ABA) was formed in 1933
- Membership to the ABA was voluntary
- Represented beekeepers in Alberta for 73 years
- In 2006 the Alberta Beekeepers Association (ABA) became the Alberta Beekeepers Commission (ABC)
- Membership in the ABC is mandatory for all beekeepers with more than 100 colonies within Alberta
- The ABC is a refundable commission under the “Marketing of Agricultural Products Act and Regulations”
- The ABC board consists of 9 members elected by the general membership at the ABC Annual General Meeting



# Role

- The ABC represents more than 700 beekeepers and 265,000 honeybee colonies in Alberta
- Out of the 700 beekeepers in Alberta, only 114 are considered commercial operators (beekeepers with 300 or more colonies)
- 75,000 of these colonies are used for Seed Canola pollination in Southern Alberta
- The ABC's main priorities are Hive Health, Research, Labour Issues, Food Safety, Member Concerns and Public Relations
- The ABC has two elected representatives to the Canadian Honey Council (CHC)
- The ABC is a leader in the Canadian Bee Industry as 40% of all honeybee colonies in Canada are located within Alberta. Alberta also accounts for 40% of total honey production in Canada

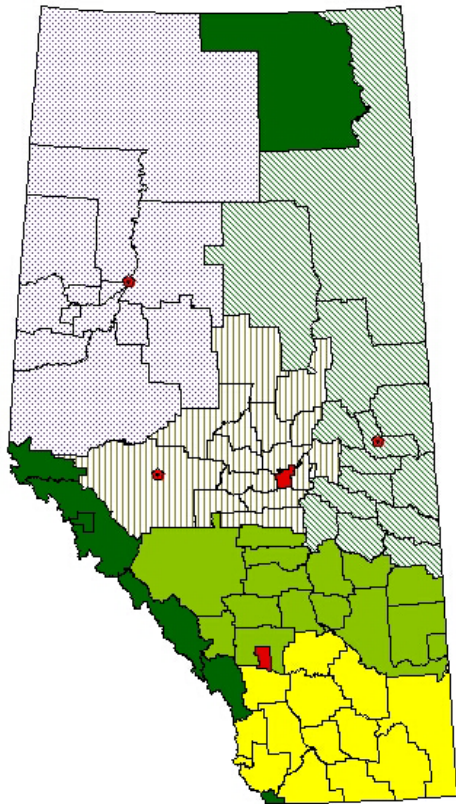






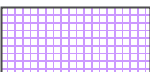
# Board of Directors 2010/2011

- President – Terry Greidanus, Cayley, AB
- Vice President/CHC Director – Lee Townsend, Stony Plain, AB
- CHC Director – Jerry Poelman, Fort MacLeod, AB
- Peace Region – Rodrigo Mendez, Spirit River, AB
- North East Central – Dean Malkewich, Tofield, AB
- South Region – Neil Specht, Eatonville, SK
- North West Region – Todd Eastman, AB
- Director at Large – Adam Ovinge, Granum, AB
- Hobby – Tony Rafaat, St. Alberta, AB
- General Manager – Gertie Adair, Edmonton, AB



# Alberta Beekeepers Commission



Region	# Beekeepers 2009	# Colonies 2009
	94	66,879
	147	19,595
	96	26,667
	244	74,148
	102	63,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>250,795</b>



# Current Activities

- The Hive Health program which is a joint venture between the ABC, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD), Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) and Seed Canola Companies (Bayer Crop Sciences, Pioneer, Monsanto, and Hy-Tech Hybrid)
- Research funding for “Integrated management of Nosema & Detection of Antibiotic Residues” (Dr. Steve Pernal, Beaverlodge) and for “Developing a Pest Management Monitoring System With Effective Control Options For Varroa Mites and Nosema Disease in Honey Bees” (Dr. Medhat Nasr, Edmonton), among others
- Labour Issues
- Food Safety
- Continuing work with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) on the Business Management Suite
- Honeybee and queen bee imports from outside Canada
- Relations with the Hokkaido Beekeepers Association in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.



# Winter in Alberta





# Spring Management





# Honey Production





# Seed Canola Pollination





# Government Relations





# Thank You



**Alberta** Agriculture and  
Rural Development

---