

# **2017- A Comprehensive Integrated Beekeeping Systems Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Workshop**

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Everyone likes to keep healthy bees. The 2017 integrated beekeeping systems workshop covers beekeeping management practices. While the emphasis is on what Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is and how to use it for managing pests and disease in your beekeeping operations, there are many emerging issues facing the industry in 2017. These issues include a change of policy on antimicrobial use and resistance. This new policy will change beekeeping practices that are reliant on the prophylactic use of antibiotics to control American Foul Brood and European Foul Brood. Beekeepers are also facing suspected emerging resistance to currently used miticides, and failure of nosema treatments.

This year's workshop is a comprehensive and dynamic resource that brings together nearly all the IPM we would ever need and other management practices to help keep healthy bees. The workshop will include a special session to discuss the use of antibiotics in beekeeping and the new policy restricting the use of antibiotics, except with prescriptions. Speakers from the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. Simon Otto (University of Alberta), Dr. Chunu Mainali (Alberta Agriculture), and Mr. Jason Macdonald (Alberta Health) will provide information and discuss future plans on implementing the new policy in beekeeping to ensure the availability of antibiotics if needed.

A key guiding principle of IPM is to monitor pests and use a combination of management techniques and the judicious use of chemical pesticides in the event of an infestation. IPM is a group effort that requires dedication from a diverse group of stakeholders, including beekeepers, farmers, pesticides companies, and pest management experts. This year's IPM will include other approaches for Varroa management including the use of genetics. Dr. Greg Hun (University of Purdue) will share his experience with us on breeding bees for biting the mites. Dr. Ramesh Sagili, (Oregon State University) will share information about the perfect storm that led to bee kill in the USA. He will also provide information on the Australian sap beetle and its impacts on stored combs. Alberta Apiculture staff will provide options on Bayvarol use and integration into current Varroa control practices. Testing for Amitraz resistance using Apivar strips will be demonstrated to ensure that beekeepers become familiar with the test when it is needed.

IPM is a part of an overall risk management strategy. In addition, our workshop will include a special talk about bee nutrition by Dr. Ramesh Sagili, (Oregon State University), Mr. Scott Meers will once again speak at our IPM. He will discuss crop pest protection plans to keep healthy plants and healthy bees. Dr. Hunt will discuss bees' immunity to diseases and genomic regulation. Also, there is a special presentation by a commercial beekeeper (To be announced) about breeding and raising honey bee queens in the Prairie and much more.

Tracking hives and bee activities is a new technology that is becoming quite handy. Experts and software developers from Hive Tracks and Arnia are invited to share with us their expertise and

services. Hive Tracks is a web application, which simply means you can access the “Hive Tracks” software through a web address using any internet enabled device including smartphones, tablets, laptops, and desktops. Hive Tracks are actively developing versions for commercial beekeepers as well as bee researchers. Arnia is unique software company that is combining hive acoustics monitoring with other parameters such as brood temperature, humidity, hive weight and apiary weather conditions. The hive data can be accessed remotely from any internet device in any web browser. This is an opportunity to have software developers interact with our industry to provide better services that will bring beekeeping business to cyberspace.

This year workshop is sponsored partly by Growing Forward 2 (a federal-provincial- territorial initiative).

For more information about registration and agenda please check the Alberta Beekeepers website <https://www.albertabeekeepers.org/>