

# 2025 Honey Bee Health Treatment Guide (for Manitoba Beekeepers)

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## **IMPORTANT:**

1. A veterinarian prescription is required to obtain and use any AFB or EFB antibiotic treatment in honey bee colonies in Manitoba.
2. Antibiotics are **NOT** a cure for American Foulbrood (AFB) or European Foulbrood (EFB) since viable bacteria and/or spores may still be present in the hive after treatment.
3. **The label is the law.** All antibiotics and acaricides should **only** be administered to honey bee colonies according to the recommended rates and methods of application outlined on the product label. **Never** administer antibiotics or acaricides while honey supers are on the hives **unless explicitly stated** as safe to do so on the label.

## **AFB & EFB MANAGEMENT \*\*ANTIBIOTICS\*\***

Combs with visible signs of AFB or EFB should be removed from the hive and destroyed by fire. Furthermore, it is recommended that boxes associated with infected hives be decontaminated or burned with the infected frames. Following the removal of the diseased combs and in consultation with a veterinarian, antibiotic treatment may be needed to manage the spread of disease to non-infected hives.

In the hive, AFB that is resistant to antibiotic (rAFB) looks the same as AFB that is susceptible to the antibiotic. Fresh rAFB, “ropey brood” and old rAFB scale may appear on the same frame. Determination of resistance to antibiotics requires culturing of the bacteria in a laboratory; therefore, please submit any suspected AFB frames for testing to the provincial apiculture office in Winnipeg or to your veterinarian.

### **OXYTETRACYCLINE Application**

**Active ingredient: Oxytetracycline hydrochloride**

Examples of Brands Available: **Oxytet-62.5® (02526603); Oxysol-62.5® (DIN 00560189)**

The antibiotics Oxytet-62.5® and Oxysol-62.5® are currently registered in Canada and are specifically labeled for use with bees. The **product labels** are posted on Health Canada’s Drug Product Database website and can be found by doing a [\(DIN\) search](#) for [Oxytet-62.5® \(DIN 02526603\)](#) or [Oxysol-62.5® \(DIN 00560189\)](#). Please work with your veterinarian to assist you in accessing either product or call the provincial apiculture office.

The following feeding recommendations for oxytetracycline hydrochloride are based on formulations containing 62.5 mg of active ingredient per 1 g of product. **Refer to product labels or Veterinarian instructions on specific product use.**

**Dusting:** Add 4 g of powder to 35 g of powdered sugar or 400 g (1 pouch) to 3.5 kg (total of 3.9 kg). Apply the mixture on the outer parts or ends of the frames at the rate of 32 g per colony.

**Syrup:** Dissolve 4 g of powder in a small quantity of water with 3 kg of a one-part sugar, one-part water or 400 g (1 pouch) per 300 kg of the 1:1 syrup mixture. Bulk feed the syrup at the rate of 2.5 kg per colony using feeder pails or division board feeders or by filling the combs.

For both the above methods, 3 applications at 4- or 5-day intervals are required in the spring and/or fall **at least 4 weeks before the main honey flow to prevent contamination of marketable honey.**

**CAUTION:** Honey from bee colonies likely to be infected with foulbrood should not be used for preparation of medicated syrup supplements since it may be contaminated with spores of foul brood and may result in spreading the disease.

**STORAGE CONDITIONS:** Store between 15°C and 30°C. Keep from freezing. Protect from humidity.

### **TYLAN® SOLUBLE Application**

**Active ingredient: Tylosin tartrate (DIN 00103616)**

Tylan® Soluble is highly stable in hive food stores and **must only** be considered for use in consultation with a Veterinarian. Tylan Soluble has traditionally only been recommended for use in honey bee operations that have **TESTED POSITIVE** for American Foulbrood disease. Please note that the information below is based on the current recommendations found on the [Tylan® Soluble label \(DIN 00103616\)](#) (200 mg/20g confectionary sugar).

Colonies identified for treatment should receive 3 treatments administered as a dust in confectioners/powdered sugar. The 200 mg dose is applied (dusted) over the top bars of the brood chamber once weekly for 3 weeks. To avoid residues in honey, Tylan® Soluble should **NOT** be used in the spring (i.e. **Fall Treatment Only**).

Residue problems can also occur if the feed (honey or syrup) stored in the colony during fall treatments is **NOT** consumed by the bees before honey production begins. Honey from brood nest areas of colonies treated with Tylan® Soluble must **NOT** be harvested for human consumption.

Tylan® Soluble is a granulated powder, which is easily soluble in water. Tylan® Soluble is available in a jar size with 100g tylosin tartrate. If you have any questions about Tylan® Soluble or any other ELANCO products, please contact ELANCO at 1-800-773-7603 or talk to your veterinarian.

### **NOSEMA DISEASE MANAGEMENT \*\*ANTIBIOTICS\*\***

The following recommendations are for treating Nosema disease caused by *Nosema apis* or *Nosema ceranae*. Current research suggests that both species of Nosema respond to antibiotic treatment.

The current recommended threshold for treating for either species is 1 million spores per bee. Fumagilin-B® is the only product registered for use against Nosema in Canada.

## FUMAGILIN-B® APPLICATION

**Active ingredient: Fumagilin dicyclohexylamine (DIN 02231180)**

Fumagilin-B® is available in a variety of container sizes, each of which contains 21 mg of active ingredient per 1 gram of Fumagilin-B® powder.

**Colonies infected with Nosema (> 1 million spores/bee) should be treated with Fumagilin-B® in sugar syrup, according to time of year and colony size/type. The information below is based on the current recommendations found on the [Fumagilin-B® label \(DIN 02231180\)](#).**

## MIXING INSTRUCTIONS

Medicated syrup is best prepared at a concentration of 25 mg active ingredient (**1.19 grams Fumagilin-B® powder**) per Litre of syrup, usually as a 2:1 syrup (two parts sugar to one part of water). Fumagilin-B® may be dissolved in water or syrup at room temperature. For best results, heat the required amount of water to 35-50°C, then remove the heat source and add the Fumagilin-B® and the sugar in that order.

To prepare this concentration of medicated syrup, use the following chart (good agitation is essential to assure uniform distribution of the medication):

WATER	+SUGAR	•SYRUP	+FUMAGILIN•B
165 L	330 kg	380 L	454 g
35 L	69 kg	80 L	96 g
8.7 L	17 kg	20 L	24 g
1.8 L	3.6 kg	4 L	5 g

## SPRING TREATMENT

**In the spring, when colonies are stressed due to inclement weather conditions, mite infestation, other disease factors, or intensive spring management, feed medicated syrup at the following rates:**

- For each 2 chamber colony (approx. 20,000 bees): 3-4 L treated syrup (approx. 1 gal)
- For each 1 chamber colony (approx. 12,000 bees): 2 L treated syrup (approx. ½ gal)
- For each 5 frame colony (approx. 8,000 bees): 1-2 L treated syrup (approx. ½ gal)
- For each package colony: 1-2 L treated syrup (approx. ½ gal)

## FALL TREATMENT

**After all honey supers have been removed, feed medicated syrup at the following rates:**

- For each 2 chamber colony (approx. 30,000 bees): 7-8 L treated syrup (approx. 2 gal)
- For each 1 chamber colony (approx. 18,000 bees): 4 L treated syrup (approx. 1 gal)
- For each 5 frame colony (approx. 12,000 bees): 3 L treated syrup (approx. ¾ gal)

Treatment with Fumagilin-B®, which may be necessary in the **LATE WINTER** (February-March), should follow the regime for **SPRING TREATMENT** (as described above). Prior to fall feeding of colonies, it may be advisable to have combs 2, 5, 7 and 9 empty in the second brood chamber for storage of the medicated syrup.

Heavily infested colonies that will no longer take in syrup may be sprayed repeatedly, directly on the bees, frame by frame with a 1:1 sugar syrup (one part sugar to one part water) containing 2 g of Fumagilin-B® powder per Litre of syrup.

**Research has shown that oxytetracycline & fumagillin may be administered safely at the same time, provided the dosages do not exceed the recommended rates.** For further information about antibiotic treatment and possible interactions, please contact your veterinarian.

**WARNINGS:** To avoid violative residues in honey, Fumagilin-B® should be fed early in the spring or fall and consumed by the bees before the main honey flow begins. **Complete treatments at least 4 weeks prior to main honey flow®.** Honey collected in supers before the end of the 4 week withdrawal period should not be harvested for human consumption. Honey from brood nest areas of colonies treated with Fumagilin-B® should not be harvested for human consumption. When handling the product, avoid inhalation, oral exposure and direct contact with skin or eyes. Keep out of reach of children.

**STORAGE:** Store below 25°C, protected from sunlight. Keep from freezing. Once mixed, **do not expose medicated syrup to sunlight.**

## **VARROA MITE MANAGEMENT**

### **Monitoring, Thresholds, & Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of Varroa Mites**

It is imperative that beekeepers monitor for Varroa mites (*Varroa destructor*) and rotate acaricides to decrease the risk of treatment-resistance and contamination of wax and honey by high-residual acaricides. The following acaricides: Apivar®, Apistan®, Bayvarol®, Api Life VAR, Formic Acid products, HopGuard®, Oxalic Acid, and Thymovar™ are available for varroa mite control and should be used according to instructions on their packaging. **To minimize the risk of developing treatment-resistant mites, beekeepers should avoid consecutive applications (i.e. spring & fall) of the same product or products with similar chemistries (e.g. Apivar® in spring followed by Apivar® in fall, or Apistan® in spring followed by Bayvarol® in fall).**

Honey bee colonies should be monitored for varroa on a regular basis (at minimum in the spring and fall, before and after treatments) to determine infestation levels relative to economic thresholds, and to ensure that mite controls have been effective. Alcohol washes are the most accurate monitoring method, however, sugar shakes or sticky boards can also be used.

In the spring build up period, varroa levels should be maintained below 1% (1 mite per 100 adult bees). In late summer/early fall (e.g. early September) when significant brood is present, treatment should occur if varroa levels are above 1%, and levels should be maintained below 3% throughout the late fall (e.g. October) as final brood emerges. The decrease in brood and movement of mites onto adult bees accounts for the higher threshold in the late fall period.

**Note: Colony health is dependent on more than just mites, and varroa thresholds assume other colony health metrics are in-check (e.g. low Nosema levels). Mite levels may also increase due to low efficacy of the control products, mites emerging from brood, improper application of treatment, or re-infestation from a neighboring apiary.**

**If you suspect that the low efficacy is due to treatment resistance, please contact the provincial apiarist to discuss testing for resistance.**

**Also note that the previously “normal” fall conditions are changing and fall brood production is now more commonly extending into late October/November. It is more imperative than ever to monitor varroa levels continuously throughout the fall as the late season brood emerges and consider applying an additional late fall treatment (e.g. oxalic acid) as necessary before winter.**

Placement of a screen (3 mm x 3 mm mesh, or “No. 8 mesh”) over the bottom-board, to separate fallen mites from bees and reduce mite re-entry into the colony, may help reduce varroa infestation. “Screen bottom-boards”, as they are often called, **do not significantly reduce varroa populations on their own**; however, in combination with acaricides or genetically resistant (ex: hygienic) bees, have been found to be of some benefit. **Cultural control methods, as well as genetically resistant bees, help control varroa year-round not just during spring and fall.** A screen bottom-board can also facilitate the detection of varroa in a hive (see below) although an alcohol wash of bees from the brood area is much more accurate. It is important to note that having a screen over the bottom-board that restricts honey bee access can result in a buildup of wax and pollen debris on the bottom-board. If the debris is not removed by the beekeeper on a regular basis, scavenger pests such as wax moth that feed on this debris may become more of a problem.

To discuss treatment and/or monitoring recommendations for varroa or other honey bee diseases, please contact the Provincial Apiculture Office; or visit the [KRTP webpage](http://www.manitobabee.org/krtp) (www.manitobabee.org/krtp) or [YouTube channel](#) (@KRTPManitoba) for more resources: including videos on [AFB Diagnosis](#), [Integrated Pest Management of Varroa](#), [Nosema disease](#), and more.

### **In-Field Detection & Sampling of Varroa**

Sampling for varroa from 5 hives in a bee yard of 30 hives should give a good idea of varroa infestation in that yard but sampling more hives will strengthen results.

#### **Varroa-wash:**

Scoop 200-300 bees from brood area frames into a container with ethanol or winter windshield washing fluid and shake the container in for several minutes to dislodge the mites from the bees. Separate the bees and fluid with the mites using a sieve or screened lid. Sampling from the brood area is important! It helps to ensure accuracy, consistency and to reduce variability. To calculate approximate percent infestation level, count the number of dislodged mites, divide by the number of bees in the cup, and multiply by 100.

#### **Natural drop:**

Using a screen bottom-board, place a sticky board (sticky side up) into the space between the screen and floor of the bottom-board. Commercial sticky boards are available or they can be made using a sticky spreadable substance, such as a thin layer of Tanglefoot on white cardboard (e.g. file folder), plastic or similar media. As a general guideline, natural varroa mite drop of 1 varroa mite per 24-hr suggests an infestation level of at least 1%. Whereas, natural mite drop of 30-40 mites per 24-hr period suggests an infestation level of approximately 5%. **Note: natural varroa mite drop is affected by a number of factors including weather and genetics, so monitoring over 2 or 3 days can help to minimize these influences. Average daily mite drop can be calculated by dividing the number of mites by the number of days the sticky boards have been in the hive.**

# VARROA MITE TREATMENTS (\*\*ACARICIDES\*\*)

## SYNTHETIC CHEMICALS

### APIVAR® Application

#### **Active ingredient: 3.3% Amitraz (Reg# 29092)**

Please note that the information below is based on the current recommendations found on the [Apivar® label \(Reg# 29092\)](#), which can also be found by searching the PMRA online label database at: <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search “apivar”).

**Precautions: There is growing concern that the efficacy of amitraz has been declining over the last few years. Therefore, is strongly recommended that varroa levels be monitored after treatment to ensure adequate control. Beekeepers should practice proper IPM and not use Apivar® more than once per year.**

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN!** Keep strips in original, unopened packaging, away from foodstuffs. Avoid inhalation of product vapour when opening the sealed packet of strips. Avoid contact with skin and eyes and wear chemical resistant gloves when handling the strips. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after use, as product may be harmful if absorbed through the skin or inhaled. Very toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms!

**Use 2 Apivar® strips per brood chamber (i.e. 1 strip per 5 Frames of Bees).**

Number of Frames of Bees:	≤5	6-10	11-15	≥16
Number of Strips to Use:	1	2	3	4

**Refer to product labels for instructions on specific product use. DO NOT USE APIVAR® STRIPS WHEN HONEY SUPERS ARE PRESENT.** Install Apivar strips in hives immediately after opening package. Separate the double strip and hang each strip between two comb frames inside the brood area or the bee cluster, with a minimum distance of 2 frames between strips. Suspend Apivar strips in the brood chamber in such a way that the bees can walk on both sides of the strips (**e.g. using a nail or toothpick to hang the strips**). Leave strips inside the hive for 42 days, and then remove. In case of movement inside the beehive far from the strips, it is very important to reposition the strips into the bee cluster, and leave the strips in place for 14 more days before removal. **In Manitoba, both spring or fall treatments with Apivar® will very likely involve periods of inclement weather, so beekeepers should plan to have the Apivar® strips in their colonies for the full 56 day treatment.** Strips must be removed after a maximum of 56 days. **DO NOT** re-use the strips. Do not handle more than 200 strips (100 pairs) per person per day and always wear chemical resistant gloves (e.g. nitrile) when handling the strips (including used strips).

**Timing:** Hang Apivar® strips in the hives in spring or the fall if varroa mite infestations have reached treatment threshold. All Apivar® strips should be removed 2 weeks before the honey flow starts. **DO NOT USE APIVAR® STRIPS WHEN HONEY SUPERS ARE PRESENT.** If mite infestation are above thresholds in fall, remove surplus honey supers before using Apivar®. **Wait 14 days after removing strips before placing honey supers on hive(s).**

**Storage:** Store at ambient room temperature, out of direct sunlight, and away from other pesticides that may contaminate the strips. To prevent contamination, store this product away from food or feed.

**Disposal:** Dispose of packaging and used strips in accordance with provincial requirements. For information on disposal of unused, unwanted product, contact the manufacturer or the provincial regulatory agency. Contact the manufacturer and the provincial regulatory agency in case of a spill, and for clean up of spills. Shelf life: when stored appropriately, this product should show no significant degradation for two years from date of manufacture.

### **APISTAN® (Apistan® anti-Varroa mite strips) Application**

#### **Active ingredient: 10.25% Fluvalinate (fluvalinate-tau) (Reg# 33771)**

Please note that the information below is based on the current recommendations found on the [Apistan® label \(Reg# 33771\)](#), which can also be found by searching the PMRA online label database at: <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search “apistan”)

At this time, varroa resistance to Apistan® is widespread in the province; so control using this product may produce variable results, therefore monitoring efficacy is critical.

**Precautions:** KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN! Wear chemical resistant gloves when handling strips. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after removing gloves. Harmful if swallowed. Do not expose honey intended for human consumption directly to APISTAN STRIPS. Do not re-use strips. After treatment, do not use beeswax for human consumption. Fluvalinate-tau is toxic to fish. Do not contaminate aquatic systems with fluvalinate-tau by storage or disposal of Apistan Anti-Varroa Mite Strips in the apiary/beeyard. Just before application; remove the required number of strips from the pouch. Unused strips should remain in the original package. Refer to product labels for instructions on specific product use.

**Timing:** Spring or fall treatment of varroa mite: Use 1 strip for each 5 combs of bees in each brood chamber (Langstroth deep frames or equivalent in other sizes). Hang the strips in separate spaces between the combs as near to the center of the bee/brood cluster as possible. If two brood chambers are used for the brood nest, hang the strips in both the top and bottom brood chambers. For best chemical distribution, use the strips when daytime temperature-highs are at least 10°C. Hives may be treated in the spring before the honey flow and/or in the fall after the honey flow. Do not treat when honey supers are on the hives. Place the strips in the hives for up to 42 days (6 weeks). According to the label, honey supers may be placed on colonies after the strips have been removed.

**Disposal:** Do not re-use strips or empty packages. Make the empty package unsuitable for future use. Dispose of the package and used strips in accordance with provincial requirements. Open burning of Apistan Anti-Varroa Mite Strips is prohibited. For information on disposal of unused, unwanted product, contact the manufacturer or the provincial regulatory agency.



## **BAYVAROL® (Bayvarol® Beehive Pest Control Strip) Application**

**Active ingredient: Flumethrin sum of the trans-Z isomers .....3.6 mg per strip (Reg# 32503)**

Please note that the information below is based on the current recommendations found on the [Bayvarol® label \(Reg# 32503\)](#), which can also be found by searching the PMRA online label database at: <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search “Bayvarol”)

**Since both Bayvarol® (flumethrin) and Apistan® (fluvalinate-tau) are Group 3A insecticides, it is therefore probable that cross-resistance to flumethrin is present in Canada, and could limit the performance and utility of Bayvarol®. However, the potential for reversion of resistance suggests that despite the probability of cross-resistance, Bayvarol® may be successfully used in areas with Group 3A-resistant varroa mite populations when used in rotation with non-Group 3A insecticides.**

**Precautions:** KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN! Wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants, chemical-resistant gloves (e.g., nitrile gloves), socks and shoes when handling the strips. Leather beekeeping gloves must not be worn when handling this product. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water after removing gloves. Do not expose honey intended for human consumption directly to Bayvarol Strips. After treatment, do not use beeswax for human consumption. Flumethrin is toxic to fish. Do not contaminate aquatic systems by storage or disposal of Bayvarol strips.

Just before application, remove the required number of strips from the pouch. Unused strips should remain in the original package.

**Timing:** Nucleus colonies, packages and newly collected swarms receive two strips. Wintered singles or double receive a maximum of four strips per brood chamber. Strips are suspended between frames in the central brood rearing area in such a way that the bees will contact the strips on both sides. When using the tabs on the strips have them bent outward in the same direction at the marked fold lines and hook them over the top edge of the frame. For large colonies occupying more than one brood chamber, strips can be joined together end-to-end, which enables their insertion into and removal from the bee spaces without having to separate the brood chambers. For best chemical distribution, use the strips when daytime temperature-highs are at least 10°C. Place the strips in the hives for up to 42 days (6 weeks). Best efficacy is to be expected when Bayvarol Strips are used in late summer after the honey harvest. To ensure effective treatment, varroa mites should be monitored for resistance prior to applying Bayvarol strips. **Do not use strips while honey supers are present on the hives!**

**Disposal:** Do not reuse the strips or empty packaging. Dispose of packaging (foil wrap) and the used strips in accordance with provincial requirements. For information on disposal of unused, unwanted product, contact the manufacturer or the provincial regulatory agency. Contact the manufacturer and the provincial regulatory agency in case of a spill, and for clean up of spills.

## **NATURAL COMPOUNDS** **(ORGANIC ACIDS, HOP BETA ACIDS, & ESSENTIAL OILS)**

### **Api Life VAR (Impregnated Tablet) Application**

**Active ingredients: Thymol, Eucalyptus oil, Racemic camphor, l-menthol, (Reg# 33821)**

Please note that the information below is based on the current recommendations found on the [Api Life VAR label \(Reg# 33821\)](#), which can also be found by searching the PMRA online label database at: <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search “Api Life VAR”)

**Precautions:** KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN! Combustible! Do not use or store near heat or open flames. Do not store above 30° C. To prevent contamination, store this product away from food or feed. Store in a dry area, inaccessible to children. Store in original container only. Keep container closed when not in use.

Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, chemical-resistant gloves, socks and shoes during application and clean-up. In addition, wear protective eyewear (goggles or face shield) during application and clean-up. Wash hands before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco, or using the toilet. Users should remove clothing/personal protective equipment (PPE) immediately if pesticide gets inside. Then wash thoroughly and put on clean clothing. Users should remove PPE after the completion of operations that include handling this product. As soon as possible, wash thoroughly and change into clean clothing

**Timing:** Spring or fall treatment of varroa mite: Api Life VAR is formulated as a tablet impregnated with essential oils. These essential oils evaporate from the tablet and the resulting vapours spread throughout the hive. One bag contains 2 tablets. One treatment consists of 3 applications of 1 tablet per hive. Tablets are sealed in multilayer bags (polyester-aluminium-paper-polythene), closed by heat sealing. When used as directed Api Life VAR provides suppression of varroa mite in colonies of honey bees.

To treat a hive, remove 1 tablet from the bag and break the tablet into 4 pieces. Open the hive and place the 4 pieces on top of the top bars near the corners of the brood box, and away from the brood in the middle of the hive. After 7 to 10 days, remove the pieces and replace with a second fresh tablet broken into 4 pieces as above. Repeat the procedure again with a third tablet, 7 to 10 days later. Leave the last tablet in the hive for 12 days, then remove the tablet pieces from the hive.

Applications of Api Life VAR may be made in any season (spring/summer/fall/winter) in which all applicable restrictions, precautions and directions for use must be followed. Do not use when honey supers are in place to prevent excessive residues in marketable honey or wax. Use when daytime highs are between 18° and 35°C. The use of Api Life VAR at average daily temperatures below 18° C may result in reduced control of varroa mites. The use of Api Life VAR at higher than recommended temperatures over (35°C) may increase the potential for brood or bee mortality. Closely adhering to the label directions will minimize adverse effects. Do not use Api Life VAR at temperatures above 35° C Remove Api Life VAR tablets from hive at least 1 month (30 days) prior to harvesting honey (i.e. Pre-harvest interval (PHI)).

Use of Api Life VAR is most effective when less sealed brood is present. Application of Api Life VAR may cause some reduction in the amount of sealed brood during the application period. At higher concentrations, thymol residues may impart off-flavours to honey. The potential for off-flavours can be further reduced by increasing the PHI and/or by delaying the replacement of surplus honey supers after the treatment is completed. The benefits of varroa mite control will usually greatly exceed the effects of limited mortality. However, since not every possible combination of colony and environmental conditions has been replicated in experimental trials, beekeepers should follow all directions and monitor colonies for unusual conditions or signs of colony stress. For best results, the colony should be as compact as possible during treatment.

Combine weak colonies before treatment. Apply Api Life VAR during the coolest time of the day either in the early morning or evening. Close up screened bottom boards and make hives as tight as possible by reducing entrances and any other openings that exist. Do not apply the treatment when bees are robbing.

**Disposal:** Do not re-use tablet pieces or empty packages. Make the empty package unsuitable for future use. Dispose of the package and used tablets pieces in accordance with provincial requirements. For information on disposal of unused, unwanted product, contact the manufacturer or the provincial regulatory agency

## FORMIC ACID PRODUCTS

### FORMIC ACID (65%) Application (Vita Bee Health Canada Ltd.)

Refer to the Vita Bee Health Canada Ltd. [Formic Acid 65% label \(Reg# 30108\)](#) for instructions on specific product use or search the PMRA online label database at <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search “formic”)

**Precautions:** KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN! DO NOT get in eyes, on skin or on clothing. Avoid inhaling vapour. Work outdoors, stay upwind, and wear cotton coveralls, chemical resistant gloves and chemical safety goggles when handling, applying, cleaning up and removing pads. Formic acid vapours may result in colony damage, especially at high temperatures.

Formic Acid 65% is used for treatment against varroa mites and tracheal mites in honey bee colonies as part of an IPM program to manage both varroa and tracheal mite populations.

**Application Precautions:** For all Formic Acid 65% applications, all holes in the hive should be sealed except the bottom hive entrance, which should be fully open for the entire duration of treatments, even for applications in the late fall. It is important to remove entrance reducers to prevent excessive buildup of formic acid vapours on the colonies. All bee colonies in the apiary should be treated at the same time to prevent cross-infestation of colonies. Efficacy of formic acid is affected by ambient weather conditions (ex: low temperatures, high humidity). It is important to follow the directions specific to the season of use. Formic acid is corrosive to metal. Metallic materials inside the hive or in direct contact with formic acid may corrode. Do not place formic acid treatments on metallic hive covers!

Do not use Formic Acid 65% during honey flow. To minimize residues and contamination of marketable honey, carefully follow all label instructions. Pre-Harvest Interval: waiting at least 2 weeks from the end of the treatment to put on honey supers will help prevent contamination of marketable honey and any off-flavour taste in honey.

**For Control of Tracheal and Varroa Mites:** To control varroa and tracheal mites, Formic Acid 65% is to be applied onto an absorbent material (ex: an absorbent paper pad) placed on the bottom board or the hive top bars, at rates of 30 to 40 ml per two-story colony or 15 to 20 ml per one-story colony. Use when outside temperatures are between 10°C and 30°C, and leave hive entrances fully open. The treatment is to be repeated up to six times at 1 to 10-day intervals. Repetition of treatment at least 4 times is recommended if used as a stand-alone treatment, but fewer can be used if part of an IPM program.

**Slow Release Method:** This application method uses 250 ml of Formic Acid 65% per hive. Formic acid slow-release pads are made by placing a piece of absorbent material (ex: fiberboard, felt) in a perforated re-sealable plastic vegetable storage bag (3.8 L size). The piece of absorbent material must be of sufficient size to absorb 250 ml of Formic Acid 65%. Allow sufficient time for the 250 ml of Formic Acid 65% to soak into the absorbent material. The perforated bag containing the Formic Acid 65% soaked absorbent material **must** be sealed in an un-perforated plastic bag for storage and/or transport. At the site while wearing acid-resistant gloves, remove the outer plastic bag, but not the perforated bag before placement on the top bars of the hive. A spacer rim may be required on the top of the brood chamber to allow sufficient space to accommodate the pad. Leave the slow-release application in place for 21-30 days. To reduce the chance of hive injury, this application method should only be used when the varroa mite economic threshold has been exceeded; and temperatures are not above 30°C. Treated colonies may have temporary suppression of population growth, from which the hive will recover following treatment.

### **Application Directions Specific to Season of Use:**

**Spring and Early Fall Treatments:** Use Formic Acid 65% for single or double brood-chamber honey bee colonies (bees covering 6 – 20 frames) in standard Langstroth equipment. Outside, daytime, temperature-highs should be between 10 - 26°C at the time of application. Temperatures above 30°C during the application period may cause excessive damage to the colonies. When using the slow release method, it is highly recommended to remove the pads from the hives if temperatures above 30°C occur (ex: when daily temperatures exceed 28°C for several days) within the first 7 days of treatment, the period during which most of the formic acid is released. Resume treatment by replacing the treatment on the hives after the end of the period of high ambient temperatures. Failure to remove formic acid from colonies during a heat wave may cause excessive brood mortality and absconding. Up to 14 days of brood mortality may occur in the initial stage of treatment, with single brood chamber colonies being more susceptible to damage than double brood-chamber colonies. Overall colony health should not be affected, and brood rearing should recover by the end of the treatment period. Treatment of colonies with fewer frames of bees than recommended may result in excessive brood mortality and even in colony mortality.

**Late Fall, Early Winter Treatments (post-feeding, brood rearing minimal with less than half a frame of brood):** Formic Acid 65% can be used to treat single brood-chamber colonies with bees covering 5 – 10 frames in standard Langstroth equipment. Treatment of smaller hives than recommended (less than 5 frames of bees) may result in excessive colony damage, leading to overwintering mortality. Due to slower diffusion of formic acid, Formic Acid 65% is not effective on larger than single-story hives in cooler temperatures. Outside, daytime, temperature-highs should be above 4°C at the time of application. When using the slow release method, for temperature highs below 15°C, cut a single slit across the center of the perforated plastic vegetable storage bag, when applying the slow-release treatment to the hive. This slit, which should face upward after the pad is applied to the hive, allows the release of formic acid from the pads in the cooler, shorter daylight conditions. Do not cut a slit if temperature highs are above 15°C.

**Disposal:** For information on disposal of unused, unwanted product, contact the manufacturer or the provincial regulatory agency. Contact the manufacturer and the provincial regulatory agency in case of a spill, and for clean up of spills.

## **FORMIC ACID 65% FOR USE WITH MITEGONE READY TO FILL AND USE KITS:**

Please visit the [MiteGone™ label \(Reg# 31315\)](#) or visit the MiteGone™ manufacture's website: <http://www.mitegone.com/>

### **FORMIC PRO™ Application**

**Active ingredient: 42.25% Formic Acid**

Refer to [FORMIC PRO™ label \(Reg# 33321\)](#) for instructions on specific product use or search the PMRA online label database at <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search "formic pro").

**Precautions:** KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN! Corrosive to eyes and skin by direct contact or by exposure to vapours. Harmful or fatal if swallowed. Potential skin sensitizer. Do not get in eyes, on skin or on clothing. Do not breathe vapours. May cause respiratory irritation. Fatal if inhaled. Handle product in a well-ventilated area. Wear chemically resistant gloves, a long-sleeved shirt and long pants or coveralls, and boots. Work outdoors, and always stand upwind of the use location. If a strong vinegar odour is encountered, area should be evacuated until vapours have dissipated. While using, do not eat, drink, or smoke. Wash skin thoroughly with soap and water after handling. Store and wash contaminated clothing separately from household laundry. Do not contaminate water supply, ponds, lakes or streams with this product. Vapours may disturb colony activities and may result in queen rejection or a slight increase in observed bee mortality, especially at temperatures above 33°C early in the treatment. Avoid contact with surfaces or objects made of metal

**Timing:** It is highly recommended to monitor phoretic mite levels monthly during periods of brood rearing and treat when local thresholds are reached. Treat during the population-increase phase to protect the bees going into the honey flow. Treat during the colony decrease phase to protect the bees that will make up the winter cluster. In warmer climates, additional treatments may be necessary due to longer brood rearing time. Missed treatments can lead to excessive varroa loads and may require more than one treatment. Pre-Harvest Interval: Zero Days

**Hive Configuration:** FORMIC PRO™ is designed for use with standard Langstroth equipment or equivalent (e.g. Dadant), single or double brood chamber hives. The colony should be a minimum of 10,000 bees, covering approximately six 23 cm deep frames. An entrance must be provided that is the full width of the hive, typically the bottom board entrance, minimum height 1.3 cm. The bottom entrance must be fully open for the entire duration of treatment. Any restriction on the entrance into the brood chamber (e.g. reducer or mouse guard) must be removed to prevent excessive damage to the colonies. Screen bottom boards should be closed off during treatment to prevent formic acid vapour loss. Screen bottom boards should not be considered a source of fresh air as bees do not move sufficient air up through the screen

**Application:** There are two options for applying the product:

Option One: Two strips for 14 days

Option Two: 1st strip for 10 days; remove and replace with 2nd strip for an additional 10 days.

*(Note from Provincial Apiculture Office: if you are not experienced with Formic Acid, Option Two may be a better option until you are more comfortable with this product):*

Select preferred treatment option after reading the Options section below. Outside daytime highs should be between 10 – 29.5°C on day of application. Hot temperatures ( $\geq 33^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the first 3 days) may lead to excessive bee, brood and queen loss. Prior to treatment, colonies should have good food reserves so they do not need feed during treatment. Do not disturb brood chamber frames during the application process. For hives with single or double brood chambers, place treatment on the top bars of the frames of the lower brood chamber. No additional spacer should be used. Once the hive is prepared, carefully remove the strips from the sachet and separate the two strips. **DO NOT REMOVE THE ECO-PAPER WRAP - IT ACTS AS A WICK.**

#### **Option One: 14-day treatment.**

Lay two strips, staggering them so they lay flat and across the full width of the lower brood chamber, in the heart of the brood rearing zone, with approximately 5 cm between strips and 10 cm between the ends of the brood chamber and the outer edges of the strips. Add a honey super with frames at time of application if necessary to provide adequate space for strong colonies to expand, or if a honey flow is expected. It is acceptable to have queen excluders in place. Allow a minimum of one month between applications. Do not mix with other miticides.

#### **Option Two: 20-day treatment:**

On Day 0, lay one strip across the frames in the center of the lower brood chamber, in the heart of the brood rearing zone. Add a honey super with frames at time of application if necessary to provide adequate space for strong colonies to expand, or if a honey flow is expected. It is acceptable to have queen excluders in place.

On Day 10, remove and replace with a second single strip. The application of the second strip may be delayed if weather conditions at Day 10 do not allow for treatment. The second strip must be applied as soon as weather conditions permit to complete treatment.

**Post Application:** Do not disturb the colony during the treatment period (exception: removing and replacing strip at Day 10 as outlined in Option 2). Colonies are expected to expand the cluster as part of controlling vapour concentration during the first 3 days after product application. Bearding behavior may be observed. Natural honey bee emergence and mortality rate is approximately 1,500 bees per day. A one-day equivalent of natural mortality (i.e. 1,200 to 1,500 bees or up to 2.5 cups) may be observed at the hive entrance during the treatment. Treatment may trigger supersedure of fragile queens, regardless of age. Risk of supersedure in the fall may be mitigated by timing fall treatments so that colonies may be requeened if necessary following treatment. Check to ensure colonies are queenright one full month after application. Spent strips do not need to be removed at the end of the treatment period. When removed, dispose of by composting when allowed by local regulations. Always follow applicable disposal regulations.

### **MITE AWAY QUICK STRIPS™ (MAQS) Application**

#### ***Active ingredient: 46.7% Formic Acid***

Refer to [MAQS label \(Reg# 30324\)](#) for instructions on specific product use or search the PMRA online label database at <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search “Mite Away”).

## HOPGUARD®3 Application

### **Active ingredient: Hop Beta Acids (4 g per strip) (Reg# 33571)**

Refer to [HopGuard®3 label \(Reg# 33571\)](#) for instructions on product use or search the PMRA online label database at: <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search “hopguard”).

**Precautions:** KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN! CORROSIVE to the eyes, wear protective eyewear (goggles or face shield) during mixing, loading, application, clean up and repair. Wash hands before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco or using the toilet. Remove and wash contaminated clothing before reuse. Remove clothing immediately if pesticide soaks through. Remove personal protective equipment immediately after handling this product. Wash the outside of gloves before removing. As soon as possible, wash thoroughly and change into clean clothing.

**Directions:** Strips must be applied as per the table below for the number of standard frames covered with bees in each brood chamber. DO NOT apply more than 2 strips per brood chamber.

Number of Frames of Bees:	≤5	6-10	11-15	≥16
Number of Strips to Use:	1	2	3	4

Strips are only placed in the brood chamber (not in the honey super). Folded strips must be opened and hung over one of the center brood combs near the middle of the comb with one-half of the strip on each side of the comb. If using a second strip, apply the strips in the brood chamber in the center of the cluster, with a minimum distance of 2 combs between the strips. Suspend the strips in the brood chamber in a way that the bees can walk on both sides of the strips. Do not lay the strips on top of the combs. Leave strips in the colony for a 10-15 day interval. Two applications, applied at 10-15 day intervals, may be required to provide control of varroa mite. Treat up to twice a year as monitoring indicates is necessary: one or two applications when hive population is increasing in spring and one or two applications when hive population is decreasing in late summer and fall. Remove strips from hives after 15 days.

Do not use HopGuard®3 more than 4 times per year. This limit includes all applications to a bee colony (usually during spring, late summer, and fall). Application of strips should be based on levels of varroa mite observed in the colony. Users must not harvest honey and wax from the brood chambers, only from the honey supers. For optimal results, apply HopGuard®3 when little to no brood is present in the hive. Presence of too much brood will reduce efficacy. HopGuard®3 may cause injury to brood directly adjacent to strips. Wear chemical resistant gloves (e.g. nitrile) when handling the strips. **DO NOT re-use the strips.**

**Warning: HopGuard®3 has potential to cause brood injury. Do not use excess HopGuard® material left in the HopGuard®3 pouch on bees. Adding HopGuard®3 liquid directly on bees might cause excessive damage to bees, brood and queens.**

**Disposal:** Dispose of packaging and used strips in accordance with provincial requirements. For information on disposal of unused, unwanted product, contact the manufacturer or the provincial regulatory agency.

## OXALIC ACID Applications

### **Active ingredient: Oxalic Acid Dihydrate (Reg# 29575)**

Refer to [Oxalic acid label \(Reg# 29575\)](#) for instructions on specific product use or search the PMRA online label database at <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search "oxalic")

**Precautions:** KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN! Fatal or Poisonous if swallowed. AVOID inhaling/breathing dust or fumes. CORROSIVE to the eyes and skin. DO NOT use in enclosed overwintering areas.

\*\* WEAR goggles, chemical-resistant gloves, protective clothing, and boots when handling oxalic acid dihydrate. WEAR a full-face respirator or a half-face respirator and protective goggles, fitted with organic acid filter, chemically resistant gloves, long-sleeved shirt, pants, shoes, and socks whenever applying oxalic acid dihydrate with a vaporizer. \*\*

Note: NIOSH-approved air-purifying respirator (full or half-face) that comes equipped with a cartridge filter with a rating of P100 will provide protection against both organic vapours (in this case oxalic acid vapour) and particulates. For example, 3M Organic Vapour/Acid Gas Cartridge/Filter 60923 can be attached to its Half and Full Facepieces 6000, 7000 and FF-400 Series equipped with bayonet filter holders. A filter cartridge of a lower rating than P100 attached to a facepiece respirator will not provide sufficient respiratory protection to applicators from vaporized oxalic acid. Most safety equipment, supply stores in Manitoba carry P100 rating filters and associated respirators. The application of Oxalic Acid Dihydrate should be limited to **outdoor use only**. DO NOT use in enclosed overwintering areas.

**NOTICE TO USER:** This pest control product is to be used only in accordance with the directions on the label. It is an offence under the Pest Control Products Act to use this product in a way that is inconsistent with the directions on the label. The user assumes the risk to persons or property that arises from any such use of this product.

### **DIRECTIONS FOR USE:**

CAUTION: Oxalic Acid Dihydrate might damage bee brood. Oxalic Acid Dihydrate will not control Varroa mites in capped brood. Best results, use only in fall or spring when little or no brood is present. Do not use when honey supers are in place, to prevent contamination of marketable honey. Apply only when monitoring indicates treatment is required.

There are two oxalic acid application methods for varroa control: Syrup Solution and Vaporizer (see below).

#### **1. SYRUP SOLUTION METHOD:**

Preparation:

- Prepare 50% sugar syrup (1:1 sugar:water (by weight or volume)).
- Add 35 g of oxalic acid dihydrate crystals to each 1L of sugar syrup.
- Stir the solution very well. The crystals dissolve best if the sugar solution is warm. All of the crystals must be dissolved.
- Make the solution within days of treating the colonies and keep refrigerated until use.

**NOTE: 1L oxalic acid solution will treat 20 colonies (1000mL ÷ 50mL/colony = 20 colonies)**



The syrup solution method should only be administered to a honey bee population once per season (i.e. once in the spring and/or once in the fall). **Do not store leftover oxalic acid treatment solution for more than a couple days! The oxalic acid changes in composition and becomes toxic to the bees.** The crystalline powder should be stored at room temperature in an airtight container. This will prevent absorption of moisture, which causes the powder to solidify. Oxalic acid is odourless in all forms, so inhalation exposure to can be difficult to detect.

### **Application:**

Smoke bees down from the top bars. With a syringe or an applicator, trickle 5 ml of this solution directly onto the bees in each occupied bee space in each brood box. Penetration of the solution into the clustering bees is best done when the cluster is not too tight, which is typically when outside temperatures are between 12°C - 14°C. The maximum dose is 50 ml per colony whether bees are in nucs, single, or multiple brood chambers. Under certain unfavorable conditions (ex: weak colonies, unfavorable overwintering conditions), this application method may cause some bee mortality or overwintering bee loss.

### **2. Vaporizer Method:**

Apply only to outdoor colonies with a restricted lower hive entrance. Seal all upper hive entrances and cracks with tape to avoid escape of Oxalic Acid vapor. When possible, treat while hives are wrapped (e.g. winter wrap) to ensure they are properly sealed. Smoke bees up from the bottom board. Follow the vaporizer manufacturer's directions for use of their specific vaporizer (e.g. For a single brood chamber hive, place 1.0 g of Oxalic Acid Dihydrate powder into vaporizer. For a double brood chamber hive, Place 2.0 g Oxalic Acid Dihydrate powder into vaporizer. Insert the vaporizer apparatus through the bottom entrance. Apply heat until all Oxalic Acid has sublimated. Smaller hives (e.g. nucs) will require less oxalic acid powder to be used).

**Disposal:** Do not contaminate irrigation/ drinking water supplies or aquatic habitats by disposal of unused product. Dispose of any unused oxalic acid dihydrate-sugar-water solution immediately after application in accordance with provincial requirements. Dispose of the container in accordance with provincial requirements. For information on disposal of unused, unwanted product, contact the manufacturer or the provincial regulatory agency.

### **THYMOVAR® Application**

#### ***Active ingredient: Thymol (15 g per wafer) (Reg# 29747)***

Refer to [Thymovar® label \(Reg# 29747\)](#) for instructions on specific product use or search the PMRA online label database at <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (search "thymovar).

**Precautions:** KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN! Wear protective goggles or a face shield and chemically resistant gloves, long-sleeve shirt, pants, shoes, and socks whenever handling Thymovar and when performing clean-up and maintenance activities. CORROSIVE to the eyes and skin, potential skin sensitizer! Harmful or fatal if swallowed! Avoid inhaling the vapour, because failure to do so may cause severe respiratory irritation. Handle Thymovar® in a well-ventilated area.

**Refer to product labels for instructions on specific product use.** Prior to Thymovar® treatment, remove all honey supers and close or replace open or screened hive floors with solid floors, and reduce the hive entrance to normal size. It is recommended that if bees are fed, that

part of the feeding be carried out before treatment with Thymovar®, if varroa infestation levels and temperatures allow.

For control of varroa mite in honey bee hives, apply 2 consecutive applications of Thymovar®. Thymovar® is applied at a rate of ½ wafer for nucleus hives, 1 wafer for single brood chamber hives, or 2 wafers for double brood chamber hives. Thymovar® wafers are left in the hive for a 3-4 week treatment period. Immediately following the first application, remove the used wafer(s) and apply a second application of Thymovar®. The second application of wafer(s) are also left in the hive for 3-4 weeks. All wafers should be used immediately after opening the sealed sachet. Remove all wafer(s) from the hive after each application period.

For 1-wafer applications in single brood chamber hives, cut the wafer in half. For 2-wafer applications in double brood chamber hives, use uncut wafers. The cut or uncut wafer(s) are placed on top of the combs of the top brood chamber on either side of the edge of the brood, close to but not directly over open or sealed brood. Wafers are preferably placed a minimum of 4 cm from brood. Close the hive, leaving a space (about 5 mm) between the wafers and the hive covers, to improve the evaporation of thymol. Do not place plastic cover foils directly on the wafers.

**Timing:** Thymovar® must only be used when honey supers are not present on the hive. Applications may be made in the spring, before honey flow or in the late summer to early autumn, after all surplus honey has been removed. Apply when maximum daily temperatures are above 12°C and below 30°C. Temperatures below 12°C will reduce the effectiveness of the treatment, while temperatures above 30° will cause increased stress and mortality of adult bees and brood.

**Post-Treatment:** Immediately following the end of the Thymovar application, place a screened sticky board on the floor of the hives and monitor mite drop for a 2 week period. Retreat colonies where the average mite drop is greater than 1 mite per day with a non-thymol based control product, such as oxalic acid, when the hives are broodless.

#### **Application Notes:**

- Thymovar® does not control varroa mites in capped cells; therefore, the lethal thymol vapour concentration must be maintained in the hive for several weeks.
- DO NOT use more Thymovar wafers than recommended. To minimize residues, carefully follow all label instructions. At higher concentrations, thymol residue may impart off-flavour to honey.
- Bees may remove food from directly under the Thymovar® wafer(s).
- The application of Thymovar during feeding may reduce acceptance of the feed. Do not place Thymovar® wafer(s) near a sugar feeder as this may reduce feeding. Efficacy of Thymovar® may be reduced if applied during the feeding period, due to increased ventilation by the bees.
- To reduce risk of robbery, all colonies in an apiary should be treated with Thymovar® at the same time.
- Following treatment, monitor mite levels and apply a non-thymol based control if needed.
- DO NOT apply to any body of water.

**Disposal:** Dispose of used product in household garbage. Unused or partially used should be disposed at provincially or municipally designated hazardous waste disposal sites.

## **\*\* VOLUNTARY PESTICIDE INCIDENT REPORTING\*\***

Beekeepers can report pesticide incidents that result in observable symptoms or effect on honey bees. Incidents may include in-hive as well as field crop incidents. *Note: You **do not** have to be certain that a pesticide caused the effect in order to report it.* For general information on how to file a pesticide incident report, feel free to contact the Provincial Apiarist.

Please note that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is ultimately responsible for investigating and regulating pesticides. The Pesticide Incident Reporting Form, which is used to report pesticide impact to bees can be found on the following website: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/part/protect-proteger/incident/index-eng.php> or contact the Pest Management Information Service Centre: 1-800-267-6315.

## **\*\* LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES \*\***

*Broad-Spectrum Honey Bee Disease Diagnostic Services (AFB/EFB/Nosema/Varroa/Viruses):*

**Veterinary Diagnostic Services (VDS)**  
545 University Crescent  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 5S6  
Phone: 204-945-8220

Click the [link](#) below for the VDS webpage:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/animal-health-and-welfare/vds/submission-forms.html>

**National Bee Diagnostic Centre (NBDC)**  
P.O. Box 1118, 1 Research Road  
Beaverlodge, Alberta T0H 0C0  
Phone: 780-357-7737 [NBDC@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:NBDC@gprc.ab.ca)

<https://www.nwpolytech.ca/nbdc/>

Both the Veterinary Diagnostic Services lab in Winnipeg and the National Bee Diagnostic Centre in Alberta are able to receive and process samples at any time. For information on how to collect and submit samples, please visit the above websites or contact the Provincial Apiculture Office:

**Derek Micholson**  
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***Have a Great Beekeeping Year!***