

2021 NBBA AGM

President's Report

1. Apiary Act – Several meetings were held with the department of agriculture in 2020, including an in-depth meeting with the new Minister of agriculture (Hon. Margaret Johnson) with the promise from the department of agriculture to have the Apiary act finished in 2021. The document is currently being reviewed by their legal process that ensures the intent and contents of the document are meeting the regulations of the province.
2. Atlantic Beekeepers Association: An annual meeting was held with the leaders of the four Atlantic provinces beekeeping associations. This group is tasked with the mandate to ensure that the representation on the CHC is fair and just for all provinces in the Atlantic and for their needs and upcoming issues.
3. Ontario hive inspection: The province is in discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) on the requirements of hive inspection protocols for importation of hives from other provinces. The New Brunswick province has noted they are not intending to make any changes on the regulations from last year. A follow up from the provincial agreement will be reviewed by the board of the NBBA prior to the importation of any honeybees from other provinces.
4. Mentorship program: A new mentorship program with the NBBA has officially kicked off. New beekeepers are being introduced with more seasoned beekeepers in their approximate region to be able to meet with them and learn by either means of hands-on experience with the mentor as well as other means of communication (telephone, facetime, email, etc.).
5. Expansion Program: Will once again be in place for people looking to expand in 2021. Minor changes will be on the 2021 application form. The changes are currently being reviewed by the province and will be posted on their web site in the coming months. The focus on the program remains to help increase local hives that will be used for pollination of blueberry, cranberry, and other agriculture producers.
6. Virtual Field day: The NBBA will introduce virtual field days for 2021. Due to the mandatory Covid restrictions, a virtual approach to field days will allow for continued education with other beekeepers all while ensuring the social distancing requirements are met.
7. NBVMA: It has been confirmed that the requirements for site inspection from an approved vet must be scheduled every 2 years. There was a slight confusion since the site inspection protocol was initially put into place regarding the time frame per site review but that has now been clarified.

There has also been a change in the available vets for this service and the NBBA has been kept informed by Dr. Nicole Wannamaker of the DAAF. The province is providing the NBBA with a list of provincial and private vets that are approved to do such site visits. The NBBA encourages all beekeepers to continue their relationship with their vet as to ensure there is no delay in getting the required medication for their bees when needed. The most up to date list of vets are currently on the NBBA website.

8. ATTTA: There has been some changes to the Tech transfer team, Dr. Andrew Byers has stepped in as the replacement for Dr. Robyn McCallum. Monica Winkel has also joined the ATTTA team on January 18,2021. She will be working on projects such as field work, research studies, and knowledge transfer.

ATTTA is working closely with Dalhousie University on new virtual educational program that will replace the “modern beekeepers” course. It is now called “Fundamentals of Beekeeping”. More information can be found on their website [www.perrennia .ca](http://www.perrennia.ca)”