

2021/22 NBBA AGM

President's Report

1. **Apiary Act** – The new act has been re-written and approved by all provincial authorities. Now the NBBA has had 2 consultations with the provincial department to determine regulations that are within the act. This portion has not been finalized, it is in the provincial agricultural hands to pass it by all other stakeholders and legal departments. We have provided our feedback/concern/Wishlist for the regulations. Final version is project to be finalized in 2022.

2. **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 been asked by the Ontario province to loosen up the standards for importation requirements. The NBBA has been in collaboration with the provincial agriculture department to ensure that no reductions of rules, or time frames will be accepted with the agreed requirements for the inspections protocol. Chris Maund, the provincial Apiarist is responsible to manage the documentation from all incoming colonies that are entering from outside provinces. As of right now, all protocols are the same as last year however, it is projected to see more hives being imported into NB this year due to the increased demand for pollination.

3. **Mentorship program**: This year will be the 2nd year for the mentorship program where new beekeepers will be introduced with a more seasoned beekeeper to provide a means of networking for the new beekeeper to ask questions, bounce ideas across, and potentially, come over to see the mentor's bee yard and work with them on some colonies. This year, to better manage the workload of the mentors, we will only be aligning one new mentor up with a new mentee. Also, to be eligible for this program, the mentee must have their own colonies of bees and related equipment so they can apply their learning to their own apiary. They need to have a current membership with the NBBA in order to be a candidate of the mentorship program.

If you or someone you know is interested in either becoming a mentor or mentee, please reach out to Brian Pond or check out the website to find the application form for this program.

4. **Expansion Program**: we are hopeful that the expansion program will be available again for 2022, the NBBA has requested that the province increase the funding for this program, allowing individual that meet the criteria for the program to potentially receive more funds per year. The goal for the additional funds are to help local beekeepers grow their apiary as to help with the needs/demands of pollination.

5. **Field Day(s)**: The NBBA is looking forward to seeing more field days with face to face interaction this year. As the Covid restrictions are being lifted, it looks like we will be able to set up field days, similar to those we would have had prior to Covid! As the restrictions are just newly being lifted, we still do not have any solid dates set for field days, however, we do expect that several will be had through out the year as we are all excited to get back out there and re-connect like we did in the past!

6. **Website**: We are constantly looking for ways to better connect with our members. We have focused more on the website as a center hub for information, I encourage all members checkout the NBBA.CA

web site on a regular basis. Upcoming field days, Provincial registration information, expansion program information and more can easily be found on the site.

7. **ATTTA:** Annie Bennett is the new apiculturist for ATTTA. They are now in the final year of their budget cycle; they are looking to get the funding for future the next funding cycle.

ATTTA is doing the fundamentals of Beekeeping this year. This is a great program to help new beekeepers get the fundamentals they need to be an effective Apiarist, know and understand what pest bees are challenged with, as well as how to detect and treat, along with how to set up a hive and work it, I encourage anyone who is looking to further their knowledge in beekeeping to consider this taking this course. Seats are still available for this year, visit the ATTTA website for more information.

8. **Nucleus buy and sell advertisement:** This is on the WWW.nbba.ca site. There are guidelines as for what the beekeepers should be doing and the expected strength of a Nuc... for both buyers and sellers. To be on the NBBA website to advertise your nus for sale, the seller must have a current membership with the NBBA.

9. **New to pollination?** There is a great opportunity for new beekeepers to sent hives for pollination this year. If you are looking to get involved in providing your hives (of any amount) for local pollination, please feel free to contact the board and we can help steer them in the right direction.

10. **The board:** The board of the NBBA has been meeting virtually on a monthly basis throughout the year to continue the work for our local beekeepers as well as to ensure the best interest is kept in mind for our provincial needs of bees. I would like to thank all board members who has so generously volunteered their time to not only attend the meetings, but to also, to the extended time they committed to certain project that they have been assigned. Without our board members, things like our AGM, Apiary act, regulations, preferred vendors, field days, and more would be very difficult to achieve.

The board is ever changing, and we encourage all members that if you are interested in joining the board, to please connect with any of the current board members and we can provide more information on how to become a board member, what kind of commitments is would require as well as answer any other questions you may have. The NBBA is an essential key to not only having local honey for market in our province, but also key in providing local pollination for local fruits and vegetables throughout the province. I challenge you to not be afraid to get involved with the beekeeping community, we need talents of all kinds to make this group operate.