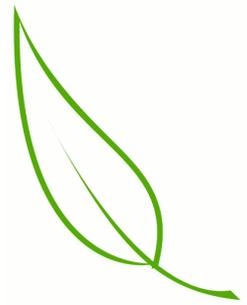




January Report

2019 Brad Alexander



SASPDC

- The Saskatoon conference was poorly attended. To guess I'd say that there were half of the amount of attendees this year as the last three.
- The conference was also not very well organized, with one of the presenters only speaking for half of the allotted time and another not showing up at all.
- Dr. Mori presented that we need to be rotating our chemicals for the weevil resistance not to spread. There were many murmurs regarding how the Alberta producers must have not been rotating chemicals; I know that this is not the issue so I ran the defense and explained to the audience that the organophosphates won't work when it's cold.
- Members voted to look into joining with Sask-Forage because of dwindling numbers and resources.

WASGA

- Many of the presenters were furloughed by the government shutdown and therefore the quality of the presentations was not as good as usual. However, this could be a pool of, as Weldon calls it, "lost presentations" that we can draw from for our spring meeting; as long as the government isn't shut down again.
- A student presented the results of a trial that Theresa did with cinnamon on parasites. The work showed a higher nesting rate with the cinnamon bees. I talked with Theresa about the work and she said that she has 'no intention of doing anything with spices while we are working on it'. The student had helped on this study and this was simply all that he had to draw from. Once our work is published, Theresa would like to use the information that we collected to attempt to control *Melittobia*, which we don't have yet.

Spice Publication

- Danica has been hashing out the manuscript over the last couple of weeks, and I have been harshly critical of her grammar; other than that it's turning out to be a good publication.
- The short story is that these spices control the parasites, have different modes of action, treat pathogens, and have nourishing benefits to the bees.
- This is going to be HUGE! And your incubators will never have smelled better.

Pollen Ball Survey

- I asked Danica if there were any specific questions that she would find useful in this survey. She came back with a whole lot of questions and excitement.
- Turning Technologies rents out the handheld clickers that we could use for a survey at the spring meeting. Otherwise I could create an online survey to email out to the producers; or we could do both, with the release of the online version directly following the spring meeting.
- While surveying about pollen balls, what, if anything else would you like to ask about?