



ASB Committee &lt;asbprovcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

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**Response from Health Canada's PMRA**

1 message

**PMRA Info / ARLA (HC/SC)** <pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca>

Tue, May 14, 2024 at 8:32 AM

To: "asbprovcommittee@gmail.com" &lt;asbprovcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Brenda Knight:

On behalf of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), we are responding to your correspondences dated April 23, 2024, regarding the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee's Resolutions 6-24a and 6-24b. We apologize for the delay in responding.

The PMRA has no comments to provide towards Resolution 6-24a, as it does not have a role in decisions regarding the importation of honeybees. However, with regards to Resolution 6-24b requesting that *"that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Miteicide controls, and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers."*, we would like to clarify that Health Canada's PMRA does not conduct research, as its mandate relates strictly to the regulation of pesticides.

Applications are received from the manufacturers of pesticides and are reviewed for acceptability under the [Pest Control Products Act \(PCPA\)](#), which is administered by PMRA. Our number one priority is to protect the health and safety of Canadians and the environment.

PMRA acknowledges the serious impact that varroa mites have had on the Canadian and Albertan apiculture industry since varroa mites were first detected in Canada in 1989 and arrived in Alberta in 1993. We are aware that the development of resistance by varroa mites to some registered active ingredients is of great concern to the Canadian apiculture industry and we recognize that healthy honeybees are critical to the sustainability of many agricultural crops grown in Canada.

Since varroa mites became established in Canada, a number of miticides have been registered for use against this pest in honeybee colonies. Miticides currently registered for this use include those formulated with the active ingredients amitraz (e.g., Apivar Strips), flumethrin (e.g., Bayvarol Beehive Pest Control Strips), fluvalinate-tau (e.g., Apistan Anti-Varroa Mite Strips and Apistan Varroa Control Strips), formic acid (e.g., Formic Acid 65%; Mite Away Quick Strips; Formic Acid 65% For Use With Mitegone Ready to Fill and Use Kits; and Formic Pro), hop beta acids (e.g., Hopguard 3), thymol (e.g., Thymovar), oxalic acid (e.g., Oxalic Acid Dihydrate), and a mixture of thymol, racemic camphor, eucalyptus oil, and L-menthol (e.g., Api Life Var). Please note that varroa mites are not expected to develop resistance to several of these registered active ingredients (including formic acid, oxalic acid, hob beta acids, thymol, and the mixture of thymol, racemic camphor, eucalyptus oil, and L-menthol) based on the mode of action of these products.

Health Canada's PMRA encourages registrants to submit applications for new varroa mite pesticides that might aid in control of this pest and resistance management. Efforts to identify new products and to conduct additional research into varroa mite control could involve grower groups, registrants of potential alternative products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and/or provincial representatives. Health Canada's PMRA will

continue to be available to provide information and guidance regarding the registration process, and information on currently registered pesticides.

We trust that this information is helpful.

Thank you,

## **Pest Management Information Service**

Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Health Canada

Government of Canada

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**From:** ASB Committee <[asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:56 PM  
**To:** PMRA Info / ARLA (HC/SC) <[pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Response Request - Alberta Agricultural Service Boards

**Dear Paul Brander,**

**The deadline to respond to the resolution has passed, but there is still time to get a response to the ASBs prior to their regional conferences so they have the best information for any further resolutions that may come your way. Please review the following letter and attached resolution and provide us with a response by May 15, 2024.**

There are two resolutions with similar titles requiring your response. One deals with the import of Bees from the US and on with the registration of control products for Varroa mites. Both issues are having considerable impact on Alberta's honey producers.

On Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 6:55 AM ASB Committee <[asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Peter Brander,

Please find attached the requests for response to the resolutions passed at the 2024 Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference.

Alberta's ASB Provincial Committee represents 69 ASBs each representing the agriculture interest of their rural municipality. The ASBs comprise both elected municipal officials and appointed farmers that have legislated regulatory and advisory duties. Every year the ASBs attend a provincial conference and vote on resolutions submitted by their members. Resolutions passed at the Provincial ASB Conference are then given to the ASB Provincial Committee to act on.

Included in the attached letter is Resolution 6-24b: IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS AND THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES asking for increased attention and action to get Verona Mite control products available in Canada. Recent changes to the registration of a commonly used product and the concerns with resistance make it imperative to review and approve alternative products. This concern is compounded by the continued boarder closure to bee packages from the US.

In order to meet our scheduled reporting commitments to our ASBs a response the Committee requests your response by April 15, 2024.

On behalf of the ASB Provincial Committee,

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Linda Hunt

Executive Assistant

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

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