Terramycin-resistant American foulbrood. They are also worried that the small hive beetle could make its first appearance in Canada this season.

ARGENTINA

The Argentine Government reacted with surprise regarding the U.S. International Trade Commission’s May 4th decision to place antidumping duties on Argentine honey exported to the United States. The Argentine Foreign Affairs Minister (Dr. Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini) was visiting the U.S. at the beginning of May and complained vigorously to the Department of Commerce. Dr. Giavarini was very concerned about the contradiction between the United States’ apparent intentions to promote the Free Trade Area of America and this protectionist measure that goes against free agricultural trade.

Beckkeepers organized a demonstration on May 22 that was held in Mayo Square in front of the Argentine President’s office. Honey producers complained that government authorities did not provide enough support to fight the U.S. antidumping suit. Hundreds of beekeepers in their bee suits puffed their smokers and waved banners outside Government House, protesting the new U.S. tariff on Argentine honey imports. The beekeeper demonstrators, who set up hives with live bees on a downtown boulevard, charged that the Argentine honey industry was being unfairly hurt by a tariff in excess of 50 percent. Currently, Argentine consumers only use about 5 percent of the large Argentine honey crop, so the country’s honey industry ends up exporting as much as $100 million annually.

During the period January / February 2001, Argentina exported 22,741 metric tons of honey (50 million pounds) worth $21.43 million, equivalent to 94 cents per kilogram (42.75 cents per pound). Compared to the first two months of the year 2000, total exports grew 31% in volume and 1.6% in price. Two countries (USA and Germany) account for 79% of total exports.

Exports to the U.S. during this period represented 12,519 metric tons (27.6 million pounds), that is 55% of total exports. Compared to the first bimester of 2000, the volume of exports to the U.S. increased by 49%, but only 1.6% in price.

Germany continues to be the second largest destination for Argentine honey exports (5,500 metric tons or 12 million pounds). Exports to this European country also increased during 2001 by 9% in volume compared to year 2000, after decreasing from 4,027 metric tons (8.9 million pounds).

AUSTRALIA

Beekeepers who have gone to the Queensland Channel Country are reported to be gathering a light flow of Yapunyah honey, but due to the shortage of rain in the area, pollen is scarce. Coastal titree produced a small crop of honey this year and helped the colonies to breed for winter. Colonies generally are in variable strength and little honey is expected before November. Useful rain has fallen along the southeastern corner of Queensland and this will help the gray ironbark flow prospects. Little honey is being held in the hands of producers in Queensland, and packers are drawing supplies from southern states.

Much of Western Australia’s previous winter and spring were dry, except for those beekeepers with spring sites near the coast. Bee nutrition was also poor. Colonies in poor condition were helped by the better-than-normal powder bark flow. This was important because the marri flow was quite poor in much of the state. After this came the wandoo flow, which has yielded quite well for beekeepers who had their colonies in good condition. Unfortunately, the autumn was very dry and this resulted in little foraging for colonies that normally collect good stores during this season. Despite some difficult conditions in Western Australia, however, beekeepers have done surprisingly well at salvaging a respectable honey crop. The state desperately needs rain before next spring.

CHINA

During January and February 2001, China exported 13,900 metric tons of honey (30.6 million pounds) worth $12.1 million, equivalent to 87 cents per kilogram (39.5 per pound). Compared to the same period of year 2000, exports were 14% higher in volume and 14.5% higher in price. Four countries (Japan, USA, Germany and United Kingdom) take over 86% of the total exports.

Chinese exports to the USA increased by 74% during the first bimester of 2001, accounting for 5,348 metric tons (11.8 million pounds) against 3,067 metric tons (6.76 million pounds) during the period Jan./Feb. 2000. Exports to the USA represent 38.5% of total Chinese exports, versus 25% last year.

Japan, formerly the first destination of Chinese exports, ranks second now, purchasing 29% of total exports. However, exports to Japan diminished 12% with respect to year 2000, after decreasing from 4,565 metric tons (10 million pounds) to 4,027 metric tons (8.9 million pounds).

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