

Technology Advancement Looks Promising

Continued from page 12
which shows some promise when mixed with Ignite in a spring application. For fall application, Kerb is still recommended. Dr. White noted if even one blade of green is visible the plant is still alive and will need further treatment.

Monica Winkel, of the Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture (ATTA) says they have been busy with training



Dr. Scott White gave growers new information for herbicide use on troublesome weeds such as sheep sorrel and fescue.



Dr. Travis Esau and his research team at Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture are looking at using precision agriculture to lower input costs.

and extension work for new beekeepers, while also looking at a needs assessment for existing beekeepers. A four course "Fundamentals of Beekeeping", was offered by Dalhousie University Extended Learning recently. ATTA continues to promote the collaboration between the Beekeeping Industry and the Wild Blueberry Industry to create stable colonies and a hive strength standard for wild blueberry pollination in our area. Check out "What's the Buzz with ATTA" blog for relevant information and YouTube videos for bee keeping demonstrations.

Andrew Byers, Senior Apiiculturist and Program leader with ATTA, gave an update on research into hive standards for maximum pollination and enhanced efficiency. The current recommendation is 8 frames per hive with about 2400 bees/frame.

With larger wild blueberry fields and increased pounds per acre, research into mechanized systems and precision agriculture has been an important focus for Dr. Travis Esau.

Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

Dr. Esau developed a Field Management Tool, which can be downloaded from the WB-PANS website, which is customized for two year cropping and can be a very useful tool for looking at getting the most profit out of each field.

One high tech area of research has been carried out by Patrick Hennessy, using convolutional neural neural networks (CNN), which is simplified as identifying ob-



Hugh Lyu, is the new Wild Blueberry Specialist at Perennia.



Monica Winkel of Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture has been busy keeping beekeepers well informed with online courses, podcasts and videos.



Josh Kelly, FCC presented useful information to growers on managing cash flow and debt.

jects in images. This technology requires training the CNN to identify objects, in this case weeds such as sheep sorrel or hair fescue by cameras mounted on a sprayer, which could then be transferred to a sprayer control system. The end result would be herbicide application reduced to individual weeds and could mean huge cost savings. Dr. Esau presented some early research on using 3D cameras for harvest head automation and autosteer. Exciting to see where this research takes the industry!

The new Wild Blueberry Specialist, Hugh Lyu, Perennia has been busy getting information out to the industry during

Covid times. He has developed a Podcast, Season 1 has seven topics, as well as a Wild Blueberry Blog. Huge has been doing some farm visits and enjoys finding out firsthand what farmers are wanting to know. He is looking forward to the

weather station project and sees great potential for producers to be able to make better decisions for crop management. Hugh can be contacted by phone at 902-890-0472 or via Email: hlyu@perennia.ca



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