

# News Release



## **BASF and NOD Apiary Products partner to provide a sustainable solution for beekeepers**

### **State-level pesticide registration complete in all 50 states**

MISSISSAUGA, ON, November 8, 2011 – NOD Apiary Products obtained state-level pesticide registration for Mite Away Quick Strips™ (MAQS) in all 50 states, as of May 31, 2011. Since their launch in Hawaii in 2008, MAQS have revolutionized the beekeeping industry, providing a pest control solution that is both effective and sustainable. The backbone of this easy-to-use strip is a film made of BASF's biodegradable plastic Ecoflex®, which is filled with formic acid in a saccharide (plant sugar) formulation. With the final phase of registration now complete across the United States, MAQS have the potential of increasing protection to more than 2.5 million honey bee colonies.

MAQS protect hives from *Varroa destructor*, a parasitic mite that threatens bee populations and reduces honey production. The strip is designed to penetrate the brood cap, stopping the mite where it reproduces. It is the first mite treatment to successfully target this area of mite infestation in the hive, destroying the male mite, as well as immature female mites infesting the bee brood.

By combining the Ecoflex product with NOD Apiary's mite-control technologies, the companies have not only created a convenient and effective solution, but also demonstrated their commitment to sustainability: By utilizing formic acid in a saccharide (plant sugar) formulation, these strips reproduce a defense mechanism observed in nature. Formic acid is found in the venom of bees and the bite of many insects, and as a result, is biodegradable, leaving no lasting residue.

“BASF has brought the technology and expertise from our Agricultural and Specialty Polymer divisions together to help create a sustainable solution for bee farmers,”

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said Keith Edwards, Manager, Biodegradable Polymers, for BASF in North America. “MAQS are addressing a challenge that directly impacts the economic losses beekeepers have been experiencing. This product will help reverse the annual loss cycle for beekeepers, facilitating the sustainability of both the bee farming community and our environment.”

Now that NOD has completed U.S. registration, they are working on completing the registration process in Canada. The application for full federal pesticide registration in Canada has been submitted to Health Canada and is currently undergoing the regulatory process. In Europe, NOD and BASF have been actively working together with registration authorities in Europe to extend this product to other beekeeping communities by 2012.

### **BASF – The Chemical Company**

BASF Canada, located in Mississauga, Ontario is a subsidiary of BASF SE, and an affiliate of BASF Corporation. BASF Corporation, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey, is the North American affiliate of BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany. BASF has approximately 16,400 employees in North America, and had sales of \$17.7 billion U.S. in 2010. For more information about BASF’s North American operations, visit [www.basf.us](http://www.basf.us). To find out more about BASF’s activities in Canada visit [www.basf.ca](http://www.basf.ca).

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products, and agricultural products to oil and gas. As a reliable partner, BASF creates chemistry to help its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful. With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges, such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF posted sales of more than €63.9 billion in 2010 and had approximately 109,000 employees as of the end of the year. Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com) or in the Social Media Newsroom at [newsroom.basf.com](http://newsroom.basf.com).

### **NOD Apiary Products Ltd.**

NOD Apiary Products Ltd. (NOD) is a Canadian company formed in 1997 by beekeepers. Honeybee health is NOD’s focus. The founders of NOD saw formic acid as the active ingredient most likely to be able to be developed into a practical, sustainable miticide for the beekeeping industry. Properly formulated, it could control the varroa and tracheal mites, protect the image of honey as a wholesome food and leave no residues in the hive components. The aim was to develop a product that could be used anytime in the active beekeeping season, including when the honey crop is being gathered. NOD has worked diligently to develop formic acid delivery systems in beehives. Mite Away Quick Strip™ (MAQS) is the result.

