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## RELEASE DATE

November 15, 2023

## Nectar Supplement for Honey Bees

US and Canada Collaborate on Bee Health:  
Improving Digestion, Nutrition, Immunity, and Winter Survival.

### Milwaukee, WI, USA

Microbiologists Dr. Vera and Slava Strogolov, owners of the Milwaukee-based microbial company Strong Microbials Inc. teamed up with a honey bee nutrition researcher from Canada, Andrew Munn, CEO of Apis Biologix, to create a nectar substitute for honey bees. This new nutrient-rich probiotic fondant supports honey bee development and winter survival.

### International Collaboration for Honey Bees

Strong Microbials is invested in bee health and maintains an extensive research apiary. In 2022, beekeepers learned about a new nutrition supplement for bees nicknamed “Canadian Rocket Fuel” for its excellent effect. Strong Microbials’ team reached out to begin a unique international collaboration.

### A Necessary Solution

Although bees fly off to find flowers, feeding on nectar and pollen, beekeepers still have to feed bees quite frequently. Flowers are not always plentiful and do not bloom all summer. The periods between blooms are called dearth periods. Even when flowers are in full bloom, rainy or cold weather can stop bees from harvesting nectar and pollen.

Supplemental feeding has become increasingly crucial for beekeepers who face new challenges from pesticide exposure, hive transportation, and seasonal impacts of climate change. Beekeepers have various feed options such as pollen patties, soy or yeast-based protein supplements, and sugar or corn syrup. Surprisingly, honey from external sources may compromise the health of the colony, as pathogens can be transmitted in honey stores, causing disease. Even floral pollen collected by bees is irradiated before feeding to kill possible pathogenic bacteria that can be transmitted and cause disease. As a result, most bee feed options are sterile and devoid of beneficial bacteria that bees usually receive from flowers. Research suggests that the loss of beneficial or probiotic bacteria compromises honey bees’ digestion and development.

### Nectar on Demand

Strong Microbials launched its first-ever honey bee probiotic in 2014 in response to this pressing need. In 2023, Strong Microbials developed a novel nutrient-rich probiotic fondant, SuperFuel™, which can be fed during transportation and provides an ideal winter feed. SuperFuel is a solid product, which does not leak or spill as liquid feed does. It is formulated to fight pathogens and supply excellent nutrition for the colony. SuperFuel is packed with probiotics, amino acids, minerals, and vitamins, reflecting the composition of flower nectar.

### Doing Business with Nature

SuperFuel’s composition reflects that of floral nectar, providing honey bees with essential amino acids, polyphenols, bioflavonoids as well as *Bacillus* bacteria. These probiotic *Bacilli* were carefully selected for their proven benefits to honey bees and their resilience against heat and liquid exposure, making them ideal additions to sugar feed. Research shows that *Bacilli* inhibit honey bee pathogens, improve colony productivity and brood pattern.

### About Strong Microbials:

Your partner in sustainable agricultural solutions for optimizing yields and resource conservation. SuperDFM–HoneyBee® was the first probiotic solution for honey bees in the Americas. SuperDFM naturally supports robust and resilient honey bee colonies.

