



Building Bee Health

It has experienced exponential growth in recent years, now employing some 300 people. And while the Bee Health philosophy remains family-run, it is also making huge investments in the future of its brands.

It was recently named by the London Stock Exchange Group as one of 2018's 1,000 Companies to Inspire Britain, and with a growing team of pharmacologists, chemists and research scientists among the team, this is a business that is forging ahead.

The roots of Bee Health were quite different; starting life as a small family-run honey farm, the business specialised in bee-derived ingredients to the vitamin and supplement sector in the UK.



Still family run, with Managing Director and Founder, Steve Ryan, and his son, Lewis, heading up the team, Bee Health has plenty to be excited about for the future.

Lewis, who is Bee Health's Commercial Director, commented: "The company produces over 100 million capsules and tablets a week at our state of the art facility in Bridlington. Our dedicated team of pharmacologists, chemists and research scientists work with the finest ingredients sourced from around the world to provide customers with the most advanced formulas nutritional science has to offer."

It produces its own range of VMS supplements, both under the Bee Health Propolis brand and the FSC label, both of which remain popular in independent health food stores.

"FSC is a proud Patron of NAHS, underlining the company's support for the independent health food sector, and the brands will be exhibiting at



the forthcoming NHT Summit in Manchester," Lewis added.

The power of propolis

Established in 1992, Bee Health is one of the UK's leading vitamin, mineral and supplement manufacturers and propolis is at the heart of the company's history – indeed, it inspired its name – and is how the business was founded when Steve discovered its incredible potential. Today, the Bee Health Propolis range includes capsules, tablets, liquids, lozenges and cream and is the world's leading propolis brand, sold in over 40 countries.

“Bee Health was the first ever company to be awarded the Propolis Kitemark, assuring consumers the company’s products meet the high Government standards for origin, purity and active ingredients,” Lewis pointed out, adding: “Bee Health guarantees the bioflavonoids present are naturally occurring flavonoids, with no synthetic substances added.”

But why was propolis considered such a valuable ingredient when Steve came across it?

“Propolis is a natural resinous substance collected by honeybees from buds and trees, containing tree resin, essential oils, waxes and bioflavonoids.

Bees coat the entire inside surface of their hives with propolis, polishing it to create one of the most sterile environments known to nature. The sticky filler substance plays a vital role in both protecting the colony from invasion from outside as well as the spread of infection within,” Lewis explained.

“Raw propolis is composed of 50-70 per cent resins and balsams, 30-50 per cent wax, five-10 per cent pollen and 10 per cent essential oils. Propolis has a wide variety of additional elements, including organic and amino acids, vitamins, minerals and most importantly bioflavonoids.

Brand building

Another of the leading brands within the Bee Health portfolio is FSC (Food Supplement Company). Today, it is a trusted brand of quality vitamins, minerals, supplements and superfoods, which has been supporting and promoting healthy lifestyles for over 50 years.

All FSC products are based on widely recognised scientific evidence for their health qualities, with minimum additives, and within the range, there are more than 100 different products, 78 vegetarian and 67 vegan products.



Lewis commented: “The FSC range has seen a recent increase in interest from retailers attracted by the large range of vegan and vegetarian products, glass bottles, no full bottle plastic security seal and the reassurance that comes from all the products being made in the UK.

“In the last 12 months, we have significantly invested in the sales and marketing team to ensure all our independent health food stockists are fully supported and kept informed of the latest formulations and products available.”

These efforts have seen huge gains in the brand, with FSC seeing an increase in UK sales over the last 12 months, driven by an overall UK trend of increased consumer awareness about preventative healthcare.

In addition to its own brands, Bee Health has made huge gains in its private label service, which enables companies of any size to develop and deliver an extensive range of vitamin, supplement and superfood products, such as tablets, hard shell capsules, soft gel capsules, liquids, gels, creams, and powders –

with quality control and great service standards central to all activities.

High standards

Due to such huge growth, Bee Health has made much investment in its facilities in recent years, including in a softgel production plant, as well as new tablet presses, and encapsulations machines.

And it also boasts a range of standards, operating to GMP standards through its BRC Grade A certification. Furthermore, its fully integrated quality management system maintains audit and control of raw materials from source to finished goods.

Bee Health is Halal registered and a member of the Soil Association, which means it operates to the highest organic product standards across the board.

In terms of the production, robust quality control processes are essential for the development and approval of healthcare products before they’re released to market and the company says it is 100 per cent committed to this vital area of operation.

“Our quality control department tests and verifies all raw materials used for manufacture and packaging, ensuring that all vitamin and supplement products formulated, manufactured and produced at Bee Health, meet all relevant standards,” Lewis explained. “Our in-house Quality Assurance department strive to ensure that all manufactured and packed products comply with both our own brand and customer stipulations. Our quality processes ensure the highest levels of hygiene, health and safety, customer service and regulatory service.” **hfb**