

Resolution No. 1 Thank You to Conference Hosts

author, Resolution Committee

The Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) appreciate the efforts of the many individuals and organizations that worked to put together the year 2000 conference in Gainesville, Florida. Especially noteworthy for their efforts are AIA members Laurence Cutts (FL) and his staff and Don Hopkins (NC). The members of the AIA also wish to extend appreciation to those individuals and companies who so generously sponsored breaks for our meeting.

Be it resolved that the secretary of the Apiary Inspectors of America be hereby directed to write a letter of appreciation to each, thanking them for their hospitality and the efforts made to ensure a successful meeting.

Audience, as resolved

Resolution No. 2 Thank You to Y-TeX Corporation

author, Resolution Committee

The Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) greatly appreciate the efforts of Y-TeX Corporation for meeting the needs of the beekeeping industry through the addition of small hive beetle to the Guardstar insecticide product label. The willingness of Y-TeX Corporation to react to the needs of beekeepers shows a strong interest in the protection of agriculture in North America.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America direct the secretary to write a letter to Y-TeX Corporation thanking them for their contribution to the beekeeping industry.

Audience, Y-TeX Corporation

Resolution No. 3 Thank You to Bayer Corporation

Author, Resolutions Committee

The Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA), as well as other organizations representing the beekeeping industry, have in the past two years recognized the efforts of Bayer Corporation to provide the insecticide coumaphos to the beekeeping industry for the control of honey bee pests. Bayer Corporation has worked closely with beekeepers, researchers from state and federal agencies, and regulatory agencies to ensure that a viable control for the small hive beetle and varroa mite is available to this industry.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America thanks the Bayer Corporation for its efforts to protect the beekeeping industry in America. The Apiary Inspectors of America hereby encourages Bayer Corporation to continue efforts to protect beekeeping and thereby serve the agricultural needs of the United States.

Audience, Bayer Corporation

Resolution No. 4 Thank You to James Bach author, Resolutions Committee

On January 5, 2000, the state of Washington discontinued their honey bee inspection program. At that time, State Apiarist James Bach's position was discontinued. James Bach has served Washington agriculture as inspector, pathologist, and state apiarist. He has served the Apiary Inspectors of America as president, director, committee member and committee chairman, most recently serving as director for the western region and chairing AIA's pesticide advisory committee. Jim's tireless efforts on the behalf of the beekeeping industry whether addressing pesticide labeling needs or ensuring that colonies used for pollination met Washington's requirements, were a constant witness to the apiary industry about how much one person could accomplish. Jim will be sorely missed.

The Apiary Inspectors of America hereby direct the Secretary of AIA to write a letter to Mr. James Bach thanking him for his tireless efforts and dedication to the beekeeping industry of the United States and AIA. Further the AIA offers encouragement and best wishes to James Bach as he moves forward in his personal career of service towards others.

Audience, James Bach

**Resolution No. 5 Congratulations to CAPA for a Successful
Apimondia World Beekeeping Congress**
author, Resolutions Committee

In September of 1999, the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) sponsored the Apimondia conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. Several members of AIA had the opportunity to attend and enjoy this conference. Based on the reports of AIA members and colleagues that attended Apimondia, the conference was extremely successful.

Be it resolved that the AIA secretary shall prepare and send a letter of congratulations and appreciation for the efforts of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists for the planning and execution of the Apimondia conference held in Vancouver during 1999.

Audience, Mr. Paul van Westendorp, Secretary of CAPA

Resolution No. 6 Welcome to the Kentucky State Apiarist
author, Resolutions Committee

The Apiary Inspectors of America recognize the need for effective inspection programs for the protection of America's apiary resources. During the summer of 1999, the State of Kentucky initiated an apiary inspection program when Mr. Phillip Craft was installed as the new State Apiarist for that state.

The Apiary Inspector's of America hereby directs the Secretary of this organization to prepare and send a letter to Billy Ray Smith, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, welcoming Kentucky's inspection program and inviting Kentucky to take an active role in Apiary Inspectors of America activities. Furthermore, the letter shall express willingness on the part of all AIA member states to partner with Kentucky for the mutual benefit of beekeepers nationwide.

Audience, Commissioner Billy Ray Smith
cc: Phil Craft
Tom Webster

Resolution No. 7 Strengthen Rather than Abolish State Apiary Inspection Programs

author, Research/Regulatory Committee

The Western Plant Board, at their meeting April 28, 1999, passed Resolution No. 7 - "Bee Management in the United States" calling into question the necessity of maintaining state apiary inspection programs, and suggesting privatizing of any necessary apiary inspection services.

Honey bees provide \$14 billion worth of pollination service to U.S. agriculture.

The beekeeping industry in the U.S. has experienced a great number of serious disease and pest problems in recent years, including tracheal and varroa mites, the small hive beetle, oxytetracycline-resistant American foulbrood disease, miticide-resistant varroa mites and Africanized honey bees.

State apiary inspectors have been responsible for the detection and documentation of these bee health problems. In addition, they have played a key role in research of control methods and subsequent registration of control products. Without the part state apiary inspectors played in dealing with these problems bee pollination and the resulting food production would have suffered greatly.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America encourage all states to maintain and strengthen current apiary inspection programs and that states without such a program, reestablish an apiary inspection program at a time when the U.S. beekeeping industry is facing so many new bee health problems.

Audience: Western Plant Board, National Plant Board, NASDA
cc: Regional Plant Boards

Resolution No. 8 The Importation of Bees

author, Resolutions Committee

Protecting America's honey bee resources continues to be the number one responsibility of the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA). The United States Department of Agriculture has been asked by the country of New Zealand to allow the importation of honey bees and honey bee germ plasm into the United States.

Some beekeepers have concerns about the importation of bees from New Zealand and other countries.

The Apiary Inspectors of America supports risk assessment efforts recently completed by USDA Animal and Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in response to a request from New Zealand. Furthermore, the AIA requests that USDA APHIS considers the following points in response to the request from New Zealand and any subsequent requests from other countries wanting to ship honey bees and honey bee germ plasm into the United States.

Each Country requesting to ship honey bees and or honey bee germ plasm into the United States must be evaluated on the basis of the ability of the country to protect its own industry from honey bee pests and diseases. An active pest exclusion program that protects national borders from honey bee and honey bee pest introductions is essential to meeting these requirements.

Countries requesting to ship honey bees and or honey bee germ plasm into the United States must have an active honey bee inspection program which addresses the control of honey bee diseases (American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, sacbrood, etc.) and honey bee pests (*Varroa jacobsoni*, *Tropilaelaps clarea*, *Aethina tumida*, etc.).

Since the government of New Zealand has not allowed the importation of bees since 1956, it is recommended that any permit to ship honey bees and or honey bee germ plasm would require that New Zealand maintain their strict importation requirements.

Countries wishing to ship honey bees and or honey bee germ plasm into the United States should be required to have a geographical ability to protect their own beekeeping industry from the unwanted introduction of honey bee diseases and pests.

Audience, Dr. Wayne Wehling, USDA-APHIS

Resolution No. 9 EPA Honey Bee Labeling Issues

author, Resolutions Committee

In 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented a recommendation for honey bee protection language to be placed on packages of pesticide products known to be toxic to honey bees. The proposal of the EPA Special Labeling Issues Panel (SLIP) committee was to provide one statement to be used on all pesticide product labels where toxicity to bees was a concern. This one statement was developed to replace the six statements currently used on pesticide product labels.

In 1999, the American Association of Pest Control Officials (AAPCO) devoted four hours of their annual meeting to the above subject. At that meeting, the language presented by the EPA was discussed by interested parties including pest control officials, representatives of major beekeeping organizations (American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers), a representative of the Apiary Inspectors of America, and commercial pesticide applicators. During the meeting it was apparent that the beekeeping industry could not support the proposed language for honey bee protection because it failed to improve on honey bee protection language that currently is found on pesticide packaging. Furthermore, the proposed language failed to provide additional directions for pesticide users that would allow them to effectively protect pollinators.

The Apiary Inspectors of America recommends that pesticide labeling language pertaining to the protection of honey bees and other pollinators be based on the field toxicity of the particular pesticide product relative to pollinating insects. Such language is needed to provide appropriate protection to honey bee and other pollinators and to provide suitable directions to the users of pesticide products.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America recommend that the EPA SLIP Committee for Honey bee Labeling Issues reevaluate the recommendations for honey bee labeling presented at the AAPCO conference in Omaha, Nebraska in 1999 and return a recommendation based on the relative field toxicity of pesticide products to honey bees and other pollinating insects.

Audience, Jim Roeloff, EPA

Resolution No. 10 Alternative Treatments for AFB

author, Resolutions Committee

In 1996, the USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS) identified American foulbrood disease (AFB, *Paenibacillus larvae*) that had become resistant to control by the antibiotic oxytetracycline (Terramycin). Each year since 1996, the number of honey bee colonies infected with resistant strains of AFB disease continues to grow and spread across the United States. The need for an alternative to oxytetracycline for AFB control has grown steadily since 1996.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America continue to urge the USDA ARS to pursue and facilitate the approval of alternative treatments for AFB.

Audience, USDA ARS National Program Staff

Resolution No. 11 Beekeeping Economics

author, Harry Fulton, Mississippi

The economics of beekeeping presently is horrifying – the Mississippi Beekeepers Association has a very good working relationship with Senator Thad Cochran's office (Chair, US Senate Agriculture Committee). Interest now exists among the bee industry to somehow let the US government know just how bad things are economically.

Harry Fulton has suggested that a national survey be done to determine how many commercial beekeepers (more than 50 colonies) have gone out of business during the last few years and that results be categorized by year.

Harry Fulton contends that AIA is the organization that can best conduct such a survey. Such would be of great benefit to the industry, showing the US government just where the industry is headed. This should be done as soon as possible (within the next few weeks).

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America conduct a survey to determine the number of commercial beekeepers that have gone out of business in the last 10 years and the number of new commercial beekeepers who started up in the same time period. This survey should be completed before our next annual meeting.

Audience, AIA Members

Resolution No. 11 Regulation of Bee Shipments from Small Hive Beetle Infested States

author, Research/Regulatory Committee

The regulations governing the shipment of bees from small hive beetle (SHB) infested states differs greatly from state to state, presenting a nearly impossible task for state regulatory officials to comply with every state's regulations. SHB-infested states have requested a simplified set of standards governing the shipment of bees. This information is needed very soon because the bee shipping season is imminent and bee shippers need as much time as possible to plan and get prepared for spring work.

Discussion among apiary inspectors recently has resulted in a list of the following four categories of regulations governing the movement of bees from SHB-infested states:

1. No bees allowed from designated states that are infested with the beetle.
2. Bees will be accepted from states with small hive beetles, if they have been inspected within the last 60 days and found apparently free from small hive beetles. (Inspected may mean that a percentage of randomly selected colonies are examined.) This is certification based on inspection with no beetles found during inspection. Results of inspection would be noted on certificate.
3. All hives and apiary sites treated before bees are shipped from infested states. This is certification based on treatment. Colonies may or may not be actually inspected for the presence of SHB.
4. No restrictions on bees shipped from beetle-infested states.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America urge each state to choose one of the above four options and communicate their decision to SHB-infested states immediately.

Audience, State Apiary Officials

Resolution No. 12 OTC-Resistant American Foulbrood Disease

author, Research/Regulatory Committee

Oxytetracycline (OTC) resistant American foulbrood disease is becoming a serious threat to the health of the honey bee population in the U.S. Dr. H. Shimanuki of the USDA Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland has requested more samples of American foulbrood-infected comb and samples of honey from the brood nest of infected colonies to further research efforts on the problem.

Be it resolved that all Apiary Inspectors of America members increase efforts to submit American foulbrood diseased comb samples from infected colonies to the Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland for determination of resistance to OTC.

Audience, AIA members