

Resolution #1 National Survey of Honeybee Diseases and Pests
Author: Resolutions Committee

Expanding world trade increases the risk of introducing new pests and diseases of honeybees. Past introduction of such pests, such as Varroa mites and Small Hive beetle, underline the seriousness of such threats.

Presently, numbers of managed colonies across the country are decreasing rapidly. This is happening while demand for pollination units in many states (i.e. almond pollination in California, East Coast blueberries, and mid-west cucurbits) is increasing at an unprecedented rate. This demand will increase cross-continent traffic of bees. Coupled with importation of bees the risk and rate of spread of newly introduced bee pests will increase dramatically.

In the past, United States borders restricted bee and queen imports, and thus USDA-APHIS obligation to coordinate national surveys was not critical. United States' commitments under WTO and NAFTA treaties change this situation as they allow signatory nations to export bees and queens into the US when they demonstrate their disease and pest situation is no different than those that exist within the United States. In order to meet requirements set out by international trade agreements, nations wishing to export bees or queens to the United States must have in place a national annual disease survey. Similarly, if US bee and queen producers hope to export to other nations a national annual survey must be in place in the United States. In short, trade treaties that have opened US borders to foreign bee supplies were passed without provision for a national disease survey, thus placing the US at a disadvantage when compared to nations who have invested in these national surveys.

It is incumbent upon USDA-APHIS to fulfill its obligation under the Honey Bee Act and Plant Protection Act. This obligation requires USDA-APHIS to centralize and collect data on the current status and risks of honey bee diseases and pests, including honey bee viruses, so that informed decisions may be made regarding interstate travel regulations and importation of bees and queens. The apiary industry and the pollination dependent producers are placed in serious risk by USDA-APHIS inaction.

Therefore, the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) resolves that USDA-APHIS establish a nationwide honey bee disease and pest survey to meet the requirements necessitated by rules recently enacted to meet treaty obligations. Without this survey the apiary industry is not accorded the same protection and opportunity as the apiary industries of other signatory nations. This jeopardizes the US food supply.

It is further resolved that the USDA-APHIS establishes a committee to explore how best to utilize existing state apiary inspection programs to conduct the necessary nationwide survey. From a regulatory perspective, the infrastructure already exists within most states to implement such a national survey. Cooperative Ag Pests survey (CAPS) offers a model to get this program underway. The AIA stands willing to take an active role in this regard.

Audience: USDA, NASDA

Resolution #2:
Petitioning Support for National Bee Disease and Pest Survey
Author: Resolutions Committee

In light of the serious threat to the apicultural industry posed by importing exotic honey bee diseases and pests, the AIA encourages state and national beekeeping organizations, as well as other producer groups reliant on honey bees for pollination to vocalize their support for a nationwide bee disease and pest survey conducted under the auspices of USDA-APHIS. Further, the AIA requests that stakeholder group memberships contact their representatives in Congress to appropriate the funding necessary to conduct this national survey.

Audience: stakeholder groups

Resolution #3:
Alternative Medications For Treatment Of American Foulbrood Disease
Author: Resolutions Committee

The only currently labeled product for the treatment of American foulbrood disease (AFB, *Paenibacillus larvae*) is oxytetracycline (Terramycin®). Tolerance to oxytetracycline by the AFB bacterium has been documented in the United States creating a need for alternative products for the management of AFB. The use of alternative methods and products for AFB control would impede the further development of resistant strains of AFB.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America urge the USDA-ARS to develop and facilitate alternative methods and treatments for AFB.

Audience: USDA, ARS

Resolution 4
EPA Registration of Chemicals for the Beekeeping Industry
Author: Resolutions Committee

In light of documented resistance of the Varroa mite to fluvalinate and/or coumaphos in many states, the beekeeping industry is in desperate need for alternative control for Varroa mites.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America appreciates the expeditious manner in which the EPA has addressed the beekeeping industry's need for Section 18 approval of Checkmite+® and ApiLife Var®. The AIA also looks forward to the continued timely review of alternative compounds currently under consideration for Section 3 approval. In order to reduce risks of resistance development and residue accumulation we encourage the EPA and State pesticide officials to allow Section 18 approval of multiple alternative products.

Audience: EPA, State Pesticide Officials