

AIA 2008

Resolution No. 1 Regulation of honey bee supplemental feeds

Submitted by Madhat Nasar
author, Resolutions Committee

Supplemental feeding of honey bee colonies is essential in many commercial beekeeping operations. Pollen and other ingredients of supplemental feeds, in many cases, are imported and/or produced in the United States and moved in interstate commerce. As such, when fed to honey bee colonies, feed components are stored in the hive and could be contaminants in honey. Such would include certain medications and chemicals intended as feed preservatives or for honey bee disease and parasite prevention and control.

Honey bees, under USDA Statistical Policy and Internal Revenue Codes are classed as livestock. Therefore feed for honey bees should be regulated under laws and regulations dealing with animal feed.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America at its annual meeting on January 9, 2008, request the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Association of American Feed, Fertilizer and Pesticide Control Officials regulate commercial honey bee feed diets to insure no additives would harm honey bees or adulterate honey.

Audience: FDA
USDA/APHIS
Dept. of Homeland Security/Border Protection
AAFFPA

Copy to: NPB
NASDA
American Beekeeping Federation
American Honey Producers Association

AIA 2008
Resolution No. 2 National Survey
Author Resolutions Committee

Importation of honey bees from other countries is occurring in unprecedented numbers and other petitions are being reviewed by USDA/APHIS. Tremendous losses of honey bee colonies in the fall/winter of 2006/2007 occurred due to “colony collapse disorder” or other unresolved causes. Viral diseases have been introduced into the U.S. and are vectored by introduced parasites. These events prove undoubtedly that the U.S. beekeeping industry is vulnerable to other exotic pests and the USDA should take stricter measures to prevent the introduction of exotic pests. But first, a baseline of honey bee diseases, parasites and other pests of honey bees must be established to adhere to international policy and trade agreements in order to restrict movement of honey bees into the U.S.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors at its annual meeting on January 9, 2008, urgently request USDA, both APHIS and ARS, to fund and implement such a survey as soon as possible at levels necessary to conduct surveys, not only for *Tropilaelaps clareae*, but for virus complexes, varroa species and their variants as well as other unknown organisms capable of adversely affecting honey bee health. Such survey should utilize current infrastructure among cooperating state agencies to collect and prep samples for USDA analysis. Therefore, assuming state cooperation in supplying in-kind services utilizing current personnel, AIA requests that adequate funding be budgeted and approved for this much needed baseline survey beginning in 2008.

Audience: USDA/APHIS/PPQ
 U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

Copy to: National Plant Board
 Regional Plant Boards
 National Beekeeping Organizations

AIA 2008
Resolution No. 3 Identity and Visibility of AIA
Author Resolutions Committee

The Apiary Inspectors of America plays a major role in the vitality of the U.S. honey bee industry, acting in many cases in a regulatory compliance and educational capacity. AIA currently has thirty-eight (38) active member states charged with protecting and maintaining the health of U.S. honey bee colonies. AIA needs more visibility and identity for such roles and support of the beekeeping industry for regulatory programs is critical.

Be it resolved that AIA at its annual meeting on January 9, 2008, seek support from national, regional and state beekeeping organizations, grower organizations in achieving funding and reaching recognizable goals in protecting honey bee health in the United States.

Audience: American Honey Producers Association
American Beekeeping Federation
Eastern Apicultural Society
Heartland Apicultural Society
Western Apicultural Society
state associations
Grower Associations

AIA 2008
Resolution No. 4 Need for Updated Methods for Honey
Bee Pests and Pathogen Identification

Presented by Kathleen Prough
Author Resolutions Committee

With the identification of new pathogens and Africanized honey bees being found in new southern states, there is a need for a quick identification of these pests and pathogens in the field and laboratory, especially *Tropilaelaps clareae*, *Nosema ceranae*, *Apis mellifera scutellata* (AHB) and *Apis mellifera capensis*. Also, research is needed to develop methodology to identify other mite species as well as other species of pests not yet found in the United States.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America at its annual meeting on January 9, 2008 hereby requests USDA/ARS to set up a quick and immediate identification for honey bee pests and pathogens. With new technology, such as the honey bee pathogen chip (SNP Chip), methods of identification of pests and pathogens must be updated to meet current challenges needed for faster identification in the field and laboratory and to meet emergency management needs.

Audience: Secretary of Agriculture
Director USDA, ARS

AIA 2008
Resolution No. 5 Africanized Honey Bee Identification
Presented by Kathleen Prough
Author Resolutions Committee

Current USDA standards for identification of Africanized honey bees defines “africanization” as occurring when a 90% probability is reached using USDA-ID testing. However, phenotypic characteristics, especially aggressiveness, may be manifested at lower probability levels. Regulators need an official USDA-ID protocol of test to declare a sample as Africanized at a 50% level of hybridization in order to address public safety issues and on which regulatory programs and action plans can be based.

Therefore, the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) at its annual meeting on January 9, 2008 requests the USDA/ARS to redefine “africanization” as occurring when a 50% hybridization is reached. Also, AIA requests a study of new methods for faster identification in the field and laboratory. Genome studies, volatile chemical markers, ELISA testing and other methods as technological advances are made should be considered. With new technology, such as the honey bee pathogen chip (SNP Chip) now easily attainable and with public safety needs better determined , methods of AHB identification must be updated to meet these challenges and produce results in the field or laboratory within 24 hours to meet emergency management needs.

Audience: Secretary of Agriculture
Director USDA/ARS