

AMERICAN HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS 2012

PREAMBLE

All past policies and resolutions are subject to annual review by the voting delegates of the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) at any official meeting. The Resolutions Committee has attempted to develop policy positions on the various issues that are important to the membership of AHPA. It is our intent to keep the resolutions concise and current, eliminating redundancy where possible.

AHPA Resolutions

1. The officers and members of the AHPA resolve to continue the campaign to:
 - A. Work to enhance the profitability of beekeeping.
 - B. Motivate beekeepers to establish a meaningful rapport with their Congressional delegates.
 - C. Promote the honey bee pollination story with members of congress.
 - D. Open a meaningful line of communication with the Administration.
 - E. Work with other organized groups whose goals are compatible with the goals of the AHPA.
 - F. Provide the necessary funds for the AHPA to implement the 2012 AHPA Program.
2. Be it resolved that the AHPA go on record encouraging all beekeepers, related industries, state associations, and state entities, who are recipients of Byrd Amendment funds, immediately send contributions of 25% of their Byrd payment to help pay for the continued cost of AHPA legal expenses.
3. Whereas the I.T.C. has ruled unanimously that cheap imports from China and Argentina are injuring the domestic honey industry and whereas significant dumping duties were imposed on imports from China and Argentina, therefore be it resolved that the AHPA go on record supporting aggressive collection of duties to protect the effectiveness of the I.T.C. ruling and monitor circumvention of duties by shipping honey through intermediate countries.
4. Whereas the anti-dumping suit has brought a considerable amount of money to the beekeeping industry, therefore be it resolved that the AHPA fund the review of shippers and new shipper request by having beekeepers contribute to the antidumping fund through the self assessment of at least one cent per pound or \$1.00 per hive.
5. Whereas imported honey is being blended with domestic honey at the bulk and retail level, and whereas this co-mingled honey is labeled as a product of several different countries thereby making the country of origin label meaningless to the consumer, therefore be it resolved the AHPA go on record asking Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit the blending of foreign honey, other than Canadian, with domestic honey.
6. Whereas imitation sweeteners, ultra-filtered honey, Baker's Blend, Packer's Blend, or other adulterated "honey" is being labeled and sold as honey, be it resolved that the AHPA go on record to encourage FDA to prohibit all products of this type from using the word "honey" anywhere in the label.
7. Whereas the US honey market is currently faced with a barrage of mislabeled, adulterated, counterfeit, and/or contaminated products, therefore be it resolved that the AHPA support federal and state legislation for a honey standard of identity.
8. Whereas genetically engineered honeybees could have devastating economic implications to the value and the marketability of honey and honeybee products, and enormous economic costs to the bee industry due to the intellectual property rights laws of genetically engineered organisms (beekeepers may not be able to openly breed their own bees because of royalties to a genetic monopoly), therefore be it resolved that the AHPA goes on record as strongly opposing the testing, development, and release of genetically engineered honeybees.
9. Be it resolved that the AHPA ask USDA and ARS to continue research regarding the risk or benefit to bees and beehive products from genetically altered crops.

10. Be it resolved that the AHPA ask USDA, ARS and APHIS to continue research and environmental impact studies regarding the risk of Roundup Ready crops to honeybees, honey and bee pasture.

11. Whereas AHPA does not recognize the accuracy of LD50 tests on all compounds brought to market or currently on the market, be it resolved AHPA request EPA to establish new protocols for Tier I, II, and III testing on new and reviewed products to determine all possible effects on honeybees.

12. Whereas past testing protocols were deemed critically flawed by EPA, therefore be it resolved AHPA request EPA and USDA to adopt standard protocols for field testing of honeybees for risk assessment as recommended by NHBAB to include:

- significant number of hives
- significant control and subject areas
- significant length of tests for Tier I, II, and III evaluations

13. Be it resolved that the AHPA support research to address bee loss, and be it further resolved that AHPA work with other industry organizations, researchers, and other honey bee dependent industries to procure funding for research and solutions.

14. Whereas southern US bee labs are critical to year round honeybee research, be it resolved that AHPA go on record requesting USDA-ARS to maintain the Weslaco Honey Bee Research Unit, and continue to support and fund all current research labs.

15. Whereas the beekeeping industry wants and **Needs** research from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), therefore be it resolved that the AHPA suggest to the ARS a prioritized list of research areas that are most beneficial and necessary but not limited to the following:

- A. Varroa Mite Research
- B. Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)
- C. Fungicides
- D. Sub-lethal effects of pesticides
- E. Nosema apis and ceranae
- F. Small hive beetle research
- G. Bee Genetics
- H. Honeybee Viruses
- I. Practical wax moth control
- J. Chalk brood
- K. Biological controls for honeybee pests.

16. Be it resolved that the AHPA encourage the USDA to continue to appoint members of the AHPA to Apiculture Research and Review Committees of ARS for research projects on honey bees.

17. Whereas there is concern that live imported bees may carry known and unknown beehive pests and diseases, be it resolved AHPA go on record requesting continued suspension of all live honeybees, including queens and packages into the U.S. until further research proves they are disease and parasite free and contain no deleterious genetic material.

18. Whereas honeybees are critical to the food supply of the US, be it resolved that AHPA request EPA immediately approve the registration of Amitraz for varroa mite control.

19. Whereas Aluminum Phosphide is labeled for use on honey comb, be it resolved that the AHPA request ARS to sponsor an IR-4 to work with chemical companies producing this product to make an amendment to their labels to include honey in comb for control of small hive beetle.

20. Where as the unfettered use of pesticides is causing significant loss of insect pollinators, including honeybees, be it resolved that the AHPA request the Environmental Hazards portion of Pesticide Labels be actively and fully enforced.

21. Whereas varroa and tracheal mite resistance to many registered miticide products is threatening pollination of almonds and many other agricultural crops as well as causing catastrophic beehive losses, be it resolved that the AHPA request EPA to exempt from registration natural substances which do have ability to control mites, including organic acids and oils, and leave the method of choice of application up to the beekeeper. Additionally, AHPA ask appropriate USDA bee research labs and professional apiculturists to provide EPA with documentation and reasons for exemption.

22. Be it resolved that the AHPA support the actions of the California State Beekeepers Association to maintain their lawful right to keep bees throughout the Citrus Belt of Central California.

23. Whereas there has been closure of public road access to federal lands and whereas the value of plants pollinated by bees on federal lands is immeasurable in the food chain for wildlife and also for enhancing the biodiversity of federal lands, therefore be it resolved that the AHPA go on record supporting the reopening of roads accessing federal lands to allow placement and management of bees.

24. Whereas a Federal Crop Insurance program will benefit all beekeepers, therefore be it resolved that the AHPA shall continue working to develop a Federal Crop Insurance program that will provide compensation for production and revenue losses.

25. Whereas pesticides have negative effects on pollinators and enforcement by government risk management agencies have been lacking, the AHPA supports the formation of the National Pesticide Defense Fund be formed to protect pollinators which will be used at the discretion of AHPA or NHBAB.

26. Whereas pollinators such as honey bees are absolutely essential for production of food and fiber, and Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and their primacy partners have failed to live up to their charge of "Prevention of Unreasonable Risk to Man and the Environment," as this pertains to risk management and the application of pesticides affecting honey bees, and Whereas managed honey bee colonies are sustaining unreasonable damage from pesticide product usage, threatening the viability of the entire industry in the United States. Therefore be it resolved that the American Honey Producers Association endorses the National Honey Bee Advisory Board to pursue independent legal counsel in regards to pollinator protection.

27. Be it resolved that the AHPA request the US Department of Labor to reinstate beekeepers classification as farmers instead of farm labor contractors in the H2A program.

28. Be it resolved that AHPA go on record encouraging all beekeepers and packers to become a True Source Certified participant.

29. Be it resolved that the AHPA express deepest sympathy to the families of the following who have lost their loved ones in the year 2011:

Melvin Meyer, Tom Ed Burlison, Alva Stuard, Cleonelle Benard, and O.T. Stroope

30. The AHPA extends a sincere thank you to all those who have contributed to the success of the 43rd Annual AHPA Convention at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix, AZ:

- * All of the informative speakers.
- * Mark and Carrie Jensen, Jerry, Debbie and Nathan Brown, Britinna and Levi Packett, Randy, Roberta, and Rochelle Verhoek.
- * The Vendors & Dealers for their handsome display of wares, much needed coffee breaks, and advertising in the convention program.
- * All donors for the Welcome Reception.
- * The Pinnacle Peak BBQ.
- * All auction donors.
- * All the friendly and helpful staff of the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix, AZ, for their cooperation and support before and during the convention.
- * All individuals not listed who contributed to the success of the convention.