

January 23, 2009

Dear supporters of the honey standard,

Many of you have been on my contact list since Sacramento when the concept of a state-by-state adoption of Revised Codex was nothing more than an idea. At times I was able to update you on the progress here in Florida, but so many deadlines came and went, that it seemed pointless to keep announcing that Florida was soon to adopt the standard; the wheels of government grind slowly, so I waited patiently although that is not one of better virtues.

Finally, on November 19, 2008, our Commissioner of Agriculture, Charles Bronson, signed the rule, clearing the way for its obligatory four-week publication in *Florida Administrative Weekly*. Unfortunately, the *Weekly* suspends publication during the holidays, so by the end of January or first of February, the standard will be adopted, making Florida the first state in the nation with a standard of identity for honey.

New names now appear on my contact list, friends I met at the American Honey Producers Association convention and the National Honey Packers and Dealers Association meeting in Fresno and the American Beekeeping Federation convention in Reno. I am pleased to announce that both the AHPA and ABF endorsed resolutions calling for a state-by-state adoption of the Revised Codex Standard of Identity for Honey (with the U.S. deviations.)

To date, GA,NC,KY,TN,VA,WV,MD,NY,OH,KS,OK,SD,ND,TX,CA,UT,WI,PA, and Oregon have indicated they want to see adoption of Revised Codex in their state, so momentum is high. Already, GA, TX, WI, MD, and California have committees at work on getting their standard by the end of the year, and other states will begin as soon as Florida makes the announcement. I have pledged my support to these beekeepers and will help them and others any way that I can to see Revised Codex adopted in their state. I have attached the original proposal that was submitted to our department of agriculture for consideration in November 2007, and I encourage you to prepare a written proposal to present to your Department. It is very important that you have a well laid out plan and approach them in a spirit of cooperation; ultimately, it will be their decision to adopt the standard, so it very important to keep the discussions moving in a positive direction; adults can disagree, yet still work together for a common cause...If you need assistance drafting your proposal, I will be happy to assist...

Also attached is the final text of the honey standard which will be adopted in Florida. The standard is congruous with Revised Codex, and I encourage other states to adopt the Revised Codex (U.S. version is attached) as written for their standard to maintain uniformity and bolster enforceability. I have attached the U.S. version of the Revised Codex which should be used when seeking adoption.

Now that Florida has the standard, and other states are working toward the same goal, I intend to keep you updated on the progress in those states. Sharing that knowledge will

create a valuable resource network, so please keep me informed. One of the most memorable gifts I have received working on the standard is all the wonderful people I have met who now call me their friend; it made all my hard work worth it...

Some of you I have recently added to my list may not want to have your name included. I do respect your privacy, so please let me know if you would like it removed...

Thanks again for the work you doing, and I look forward to hearing of your progress.

Sincerely,
Nancy Gentry
farmbees@gmail.com
386-684-3433