

## PPDC – Pesticide Program Dialog Committee Update

The American Beekeeping Federation, in conjunction with The American Honey Producers Association, formed an ad hoc committee in January of 2009 to address issues related to pesticides and their impact on honey bee colony health.

This ad hoc committee subsequently organized itself as The National Honey Bee Advisory Board (NHBAB) and has for the past three years represented the concerns of the honey bee industry in dialogue with EPA, USDA, and chemical companies. The NHBAB has made important progress at EPA and USDA and has established significant strategic alliances to further our mutual concerns.

In August of 2010 I accepted a position representing our bee industry on the Pesticide Program Dialog Committee (PPDC). The PPDC has thirty eight members representing various groups and industry leaders relating to pesticide issues providing policy input for the United States. In April of this year the PPDC decided to form a Pollinator Work Group (PWG) to improve pollinator risk management. Stakeholders of the PPDC were asked to submit nominees to take part on the PWG. A total of 44 members have been accepted to participate on the work group. Representatives of our bee industry are Bret Adee, Dave Hackenburg, Zac Browning, Rick Smith and myself.

In October our group traveled to Washington DC to participate in the pollinator work group. Four categories of risk management have been selected and our representatives are working in the these groups. Bret Adee will chair the first work group with Zac Browning on management strategies. Dave Hackenburg is working in the second group concerning communications. Rick Smith is working in group three, data and data bases, and I am working in group four improving enforcement.

This is an ongoing historic effort that will ensure future profitable farming for our industry and the agriculture community as a whole.

Darren Cox