

HONEY PRODUCER

A magazine for the
profit-motivated
beekeeper.



4th Quarter 2007

Inside This Issue:

- Legislative Update
- Project Apis *m.*
- Farm bill update



*National Beekeeping Conference
Sacramento, CA
January 8-12, 2008*



From The Desk Of The President by Mark Brady

By the time you receive this everyone will have most of their year-end work completed and will be looking forward to a new year with a whole new set of problems, new challenges and, I hope, filled with excitement about all the challenges this great business offers us.

When I take time to look back at 2007, I see myself, like most of you, spending more time in a truck than at my house, spending more time in a motel bed instead of my own bed, and spending more time with my employees than I do with my family. I don't know exactly how many of you are the same way but I know that there are a lot. I can see myself in a whole variety of situations throughout the year, such as lying on the ground under a truck on the side of the road when I break down, or wondering how in the world am I going to get all this done, in time, with the few people that I have, or how will I ever pay back all this money that some dummy loaned me?

But there are also those great times that we spend with friends: sometimes on the phone or maybe on the side of the road, at a convention or in the bee yard. Or that moment when you enter a bee yard and open that first colony of bees and it's full to the top with honey, or when Lyle finally sends you a pollination check that your banker has been waiting for for so long. We all face these challenges every year and we complain and moan about all the problems that we have but for some reason we all look forward to another year that we hope will be better than the last.

This year in my spare time, I, as well as all your executive board members, have had a special challenge dealing with the new Farm Bill. I have been to Washington, DC once, Richard Adee and Jack Meyer have been twice, and by the time you read this I will have been back to Washington again to meet with USDA. There will be a special report in this magazine from Mike Coursey, as well as John Waits and Ed Gerwin, who are our

advisors in Washington and have spent a great amount of time on the Farm Bill.

On a related subject we have spent a great amount of our time and your money working on the new US honey board. I am happy to say that we are closer than ever to reaching this goal. I would like to commend the leadership of Danny Weaver and the ABF board on working with us to reach this goal. As I write this letter we are hoping that within the next 6 months we will be looking at a vote on this board. We will have to wait on the powers-that-be in Washington to let us know. There will be much more discussion on this in Sacramento.

Speaking of Sacramento, I hope everyone has made their plans to be there because it probably will be the largest Beekeeping convention in US history. Steve Park, Kenny Haff, and Jerry Brown have been the workhorses on this project, among others who I'm forgetting to mention, but because of these guys and the ABF leadership you will enjoy the largest combination of vendors, displays, and great beekeeping information that we have ever had.

Honey prices have remained stable throughout the year with white prices in the dollar range and amber and light amber honey in the .80 to .85 cent area. We will continue to work hard to keep these prices up. Wax prices are in the \$2 range if you are selling. Pollination prices seem to be holding at a rate of about \$150.00 per colony and higher bonuses for larger colonies are being paid as well.

Colony condition in the US depends on whom you talk to. In my case, a month ago, I thought my losses were 10 to 15% for the year, which is great. But as I start shipping to California and looking at my bees again we are culling another 10%, so now we are looking at 25% which is still not too bad compared to some stories I hear. Keep in mind that when we start thinking about



California, our culling process changes. A lot of these colonies that we cull for California would winter in Texas just fine. Almond pollination is definitely a whole new ball game. I am not going into all the news about CCD as you will hear more than you want to at the convention.

To close, I would like to say thanks for the opportunity to serve as your president and most of all I want to thank my executive board who have shouldered most of the load this year, as well as Jack Meyer and others who have worked so hard. Also, I'd like to thank my wife and family for putting up with me throughout this year.

See You in Sacramento!

Mark Brady



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The Honey Producers Magazine is published quarterly (four times a year) in the months of Jan/Feb/March, April/May/June, July/August/September, October/November/December. The deadline for advertising and editorial copy for the magazine is the 15th of February, May, August and November. Articles and letters to the author are invited. Send neatly written or keystroked materials by mail, fax or email. All materials are subject to review and editing, and become the property of the AHPA. Photos are invited. They may be black and white or high contrast color prints. Mail to Mid-Tech Publishing, 501 1st St. South Hackensack, MN 56452-2589 or email to advertising@midtechpub.com

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REVIVAL OF THE UCD HARRY LAIDLAW JR. BEE HONEY BEE RESEARCH FACILITY

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE UCD BEE LAB TOUR ON JAN. 10TH.

The UC Davis bee biology research facility is one of the oldest in the nation, established in 1925. It has also been one of the largest and most comprehensive state-supported apicultural facilities in North America.

The Bee Lab, after a decline due to retirements and budget cuts during the 1990's, is being revitalized because as Neal Van Alfen, dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences states; "The honeybee industry plays a key role in the success of California agriculture, and it is imperative that UC Davis provide the research necessary to help solve some of the pressing problems related to bee health, breeding and pollination".

UCD is in the process of interviewing candidates for the honeybee scientist position. Currently on board are Dr. Eric Mussen, extension specialist and Susan Cobey, research associate and Dr. Robin Thorp, a very active professor emeritus.

Cobey, who arrived in May 2007, will work closely with the industry to promote stock improvement. Courses on Queen Rearing and Instrumental Insemination & Bee Breeding will be offered every spring in Davis.

The Harry Laidlaw Honey Bee Research Endowment has been established to support research focused on honeybee genetics and pollination. Strong industry support is giving this direction. Industry support has also provided an immediate kick-start for the UCD Bee Lab. This momentum is growing and we are proud to invite you to tour the Bee Lab. during the January conference. The Thursday Tour will include campus highlights, a wine & beer tasting followed by a dinner buffet.



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Editor's Corner

By Mark Jensen

I was thinking about what to say in my narrative this issue when it struck me that I may not need to say anything at all. Does anybody actually read this? (Kindly respond to beeguy4jensen@yahoo.com.) Regardless of whether anyone does or not, I still feel the need to put in my two cents' worth; even though now I suppose it's more like 85 cents in today's dollars.

First of all I'd like to send out a great big THANK YOU to Brenda Bray at Mann Lake LTD for all the help, time, and effort she provides getting this magazine out to all you dues-paying members. Thanks Brenda. Also, thanks to Mann Lake LTD for publishing this esteemed magazine 4 times a year for the AHPA. Further, I'd like to say thanks to all the members of the executive committee for all the work and time they put in all year long to keep the AHPA in the thick of things in the bee industry. You have no idea the amount of time some of these guys put in (not to mention their wives and families) to help make the AHPA a positive influence in our industry. It can be a thankless and difficult job sometimes keeping a leg up on all that's going on but somehow we manage.

Second, I hope you all will be coming to the first annual AHPA/ABF convention on Sacramento, CA this January. Details can be found on the AHPA website: www.americanhoneyproducers.org. As always, an enormous cross-section of speakers and vendors will be on hand for this monumental event being held at the Double Tree Inn of Sacramento. Some of the speakers include: Jackie Park-Burris, Gene Brandi, Richard Adey, Jeff Pettis, Sue Cobey, Eric Mussen, Kate Aronstein, Dave Ellingson, Dan Cummings, and Colin Stewart to name a few. Also, there will be several panel discussions dealing with hot topics such as CCD from the beekeeper and researcher points of view, the pollination outlook, and the proposed honey promotion boards: the USA Honey Board and the Packer Importer Board.

You can also enjoy tours of the UC-Davis research facility and Mann Lake's Woodland, CA location. It looks to be a great time and you won't even have to fly back home to get in your truck to go to California because you'll already be there! That was a huge bit of cleverness by the joint convention planning committee. So get your GPS programmed for Sacramento this January 8-12, 2008.

Finally, I'd just like to say that I hope everyone had a successful season – even though I know that many in the Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions, among others – didn't. Still, isn't it nice to know that you can sell your honey (again for those who made crop) for around a dollar? And your wax for around \$2? And get at least \$125 (or you should!) for your pollination? That's not chump change any more. Sure, you say. I know, diesel is near \$4/gallon here in Montana as I write this and more elsewhere, and that many beekeepers are suffering big bee losses again this year. We're working on it. The part about the bees, anyway. Without the AHPA's work in Washington on the Farm Bill, Anti-dumping, circumvention, "baker's blend", CCD, Varroa mites, etc., imagine where those prices might be. That \$4 fuel would be a whole lot more painful to buy, I think. So please, support the AHPA, financially if you're able, or other wise if you're not.

Like most places, we live in next year country around here. Well, it's almost next year. So get your bees taken care of and ready to pollinate and make some honey. Here's to a great next year. Happy Holidays and we'll see you in Sacramento!

Mark Jensen





Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) – A Flash in the Pan, or Are We Seeing It Again?

Jerry Bromenshenk
Bee Alert Technology, Inc.
Missoula , MT

Last spring, CCD appeared in scattered queen and package producers across the nation. As we entered the summer, most of the beekeepers who experienced CCD in 2006 and early 2007 reported that their colonies, for the most part, were doing well. However, some reported that 10-20% of their colonies were slow to grow, just never got populous.

We also lost 10% of our research colonies, beginning with a spring collapse that continued in mid-summer and into the fall. In these cases, the colonies would begin to gain in size, then suddenly experience a collapse, and then slowly dwindle down to nothing. By August, we were getting reports from beekeepers of colonies that would not take feed, and then we began hearing reports of and began sampling collapsing colonies.

For the most part, the failing colonies were ones that seemed to never take off during the summer. Usually, they collapsed after the honey crop

was removed. Most symptoms were as seen in the fall and winter of 2006, except that a higher percentage of the colonies completely abandoned their hives. We often found empty boxes; even the queen was gone. And, as before, the collapse tended to be sudden, and few or no dead bees were seen.

As of end of November, we know of collapses in Florida, North Dakota, Southern California, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Minnesota. In addition, we understand that varroa mites seem to be a pronounced problem in some California colonies, whereas in 2006 and early 2007, mite levels were low in many of the California operations that we investigated.

Some beekeepers, having heard about the importance of good nutrition, as soon as they pulled the honey crop, immediately fed their bees with sucrose syrup, a brand name pollen patty, and medicated with fumigillin. Unfortunately, in at least one case, several hundred 'slow' growing colonies went into a trail spin after all of this good care. The beekeeper ended up combining 9-12 colonies to make up a colony strong enough for almond pollination. I've ten of these colonies that I've nicknamed the "leper" colonies; ten boxes of the worst of the worst. Hopefully, they'll give us some insights – their owner and I don't hold much hope for their long-term survival, and he's got another 50 of them.

Pesticides continue to be a contributing factor. About 5% of the approximately 700 beekeepers who responded to our surveys suspected poisoning, and studies by other investigators found a diversity of chemical residues – which is just what has been seen in every other broad-spectrum pesticide survey done in the U.S

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Legislative & USDA Report

John Waits & Ed Gerwin, AHPA Legal Council

The AHPA has continued to be very active in Washington, D.C. – both with Congress and the USDA -- on a range of important issues for U.S. honey producers.

The process of developing the 2007 Farm Bill has provided the AHPA with multiple opportunities to address the many challenges facing U.S. honey producers. As we reported previously, the version of the Farm Bill approved by the U.S. House contained a number of significant new provisions for honey producers, including authorizations for substantial new funding for research on CCD and on other long-term threats to bees. Additionally, the House Agriculture Committee went on record in support of increasing the marketing loan rate for honey from 60 to 65 cents.

As action on the 2007 Farm Bill has moved to the U.S. Senate, the AHPA has continued to build on this progress in the House. The version of the Farm Bill unanimously reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee in late October would make further improvements to provisions approved by the House –

- The Senate bill would authorize \$100 million over five years for honeybee-related research, an increase of \$14 million from the House bill. In response to concerns raised by the AHPA, the Senate research language was revised to make clear that this research funding would be available not only for CCD, but for other long-term challenges to honeybees that require additional research.
- In response to longstanding requests from the AHPA, the Committee-passed bill would increase the marketing loan rate for honey from 60 to 72 cents.

The Farm Bill language reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee would also add new provisions and programs that are not in the House-passed bill –

- The Senate bill would require new country-of-origin labeling requirements for packaged honey. This language, which was developed by the AHPA, would require that packaged honey marked with the USDA "Grade A" mark (or other USDA marks) must also state the country of origin of the honey in equivalent type size and in close proximity to the USDA mark. This new feature would help prevent the use of USDA marks to falsely suggest that imported honey is from the USA.
- The Senate bill would require a fair transition from the current National Honey Board to new marketing boards for packers/importers and U.S. producers by requiring that the referendums and transitions for the new boards take place at the same time. This language was intended to address the AHPA's longstanding concern that U.S. honey producers and USA honey not be disadvantaged by any process that might give an unfair priority to packers and importers, at the expense of U.S. producer interests, in the transition to successor honey boards. Efforts are ongoing to reach agreement on compromise bill language that might address concerns of different industry segments with the current Senate language.
- Provisions added by the Senate Finance Committee to the Agriculture Committee bill would also allocate up to \$35 million per year for disaster relief for losses incurred by producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish as a result of adverse weather and environmental conditions.

The AHPA also understands that the Senate Committee is prepared to accept an amendment, originally proposed by the AHPA, that would make research on pollination of specialty crops eligible for funding under a program which would



provide \$16 million annually in mandatory funding for specialty crop research for the next five years. A similar provision was included in the House-passed bill in response to concerns expressed by the AHPA.

As this report goes to press, action by the full Senate on the Farm Bill has been stalled by debates over amendments on issues not directly related to the Farm Bill. The AHPA has joined other farm interests in urging the Senate to resolve this impasse, so that the full Senate can pass the Farm Bill, resolve differences with the House and send the legislation to the President as soon as possible this year.

In the meantime, the AHPA is continuing its efforts to assure that the final version of any Farm Bill will reflect the best elements of the House and Senate bills. In particular, the AHPA's leadership will be working with key members and staff in both the House and Senate to convince them to support provisions that are the most helpful to U.S. honey producers, including the improved and new provisions in the Senate committee bill.

The AHPA is also working with both Congress and the USDA to assure that U.S. honey producers can have their own marketing board to promote USA honey. In recent weeks, the AHPA has successfully addressed concerns about the National Honey Board language in the Senate version of the Farm Bill, and has developed new language to deal with issues raised by USDA staff, the American Beekeeping Federation and the Sioux Honey Association. Certain packers and importers continue to oppose the Senate Honey Board language, and the AHPA is continuing to try to resolve differences with them. In any event, the AHPA will continue efforts before both Congress and the USDA to make sure the U.S. Government treats U.S. producers fairly as they seek their own marketing board for USA honey.

Finally, the AHPA has been continuing efforts to make sure that the U.S. Government takes all necessary steps to address and eradicate CCD.

In mid-September, the AHPA urged the USDA to ban imports of honeybee packages and queens from Australia. This request was based on the recent scientific study in the journal *Science*, which suggested a strong link between imports from Australia and the incidence of CCD. Despite this evidence, the USDA has refused to ban these imports. The AHPA will continue to follow these and other developments related to CCD and work with supporters in Congress to urge the Federal Government to do all it can to eliminate CCD.



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CCD

Continued from page 6

and in Europe since the 1960s. Given modern agricultural practices, bees can't avoid being exposed to pesticides, industrial pollutants, and other harmful chemicals. How much a problem any or all of these exposures are is an important question. Years ago, EPA had a pesticide laboratory that any beekeeper could send samples to for evaluation. Perhaps it is time for the agency to re-open that lab?

A flurry of press and a paper in the prestigious journal, *Science*, pointed to the Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV) as a bio-marker of CCD, and as such, a potential diagnostic tool. That same paper suggested that IAPV may have entered the U.S. via imported bees from Australia. However, a more recent paper by Judy Chen and Jay Evans (December ABJ) reports that IAPV has been present in the U.S. for several years prior to the recent importation of bees from Australia. This is more consistent with our own results (Bee Alert, BVS, and the U.S. Army ECBC Integrated Virus Screening) in that we only found IAPV in about 10% of the colonies sampled, and we did not find any indication that it was more common in Australian bees.

One of the big advances this summer was setting up a collaboration with Dr. Robert Cramer, a new fungal pathologist at Montana State University. Now that we all know that *Nosema* is a fungus, not a protozoan, and that we have a 'new' *Nosema* on the block, *N. ceranae*, I am pleased to be able to report that we have gotten Robb involved in *Nosema* research. As of a couple of weeks ago, his laboratory can now screen for *Nosema* and distinguish between *N. apis* and *N. ceranae*.

What's particularly interesting is that we sent him samples from Arizona, Idaho, Washington, and California bees. All of these operations reported collapses this fall, and all tested positive for *N. ceranae*. Unfortunately, at least one of these operations treated with fumigillin, as we did with

our research colonies. Apparently, the treatment didn't have the expected result. We've got Robb working on this issue.

We don't know whether *N. ceranae* is a cause, a consequence, or unrelated to CCD. We do know that it was widespread (100%) of the colonies described in the *Science* paper. Certainly, some of the Spanish investigators think that *N. ceranae* is more virulent than *N. apis*, and a major contributor to their bee loss. Randy Oliver provides a good summary in the December issue of ABJ.

My guess, and a guess it is. I still think CCD is cyclic, perhaps triggered by weather or other stress factors. Whether the underlying problem is a specific factor such as a virus or *N. ceranae*, pesticides, nutrition, or a combination of factors is unknown. However, it seems to be contagious, at least based on the operations we've seen and its spread through them.

Hopefully, the cases that we've seen this fall will turn out to be isolated. On the other hand, the number of cases, severity, and distribution across the U.S. is similar to where we were at in December of last year. I advise keeping an eye out for colonies that go off feed, and watch the slow growers. If you sustain collapses, please contact us. The only way we're going to get a fix on this is to get lots of samples and look at different scenarios.

My cell number is 406-544-9007. It often gets overloaded with calls, so be sure to try more than once. I'll get back to you. And good luck, we don't need a repeat of last year.

"Instead of dirt and poison we have rather chosen to fill our hives with honey and wax, thus furnishing mankind with the two noblest of things, which are sweetness and light."

- The Battle of the Books by Jonathan Swift



Project Apis m. Awarded Grant to Assess Health of Managed Bee hives

A new group dedicated to funding practical research on managed honeybee colonies has received a two-year grant to develop field level testing on the health of honeybee hives.

Project Apis m., a non-profit honey bee research foundation established in Dec. 2006, announced it will use the \$100,000 from the Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture to establish a protocol for testing the health of individual hives in advance of the important pollination season for almonds and other crops.

Project Apis m., or PAM, brings together beekeepers and orchardists to find field-level solutions to immediate beekeeping challenges.

Many crops in California rely on honeybees for pollination. Almonds growers alone rent an estimated 1.5 million managed honeybee colonies each spring to pollinate some 615,000 acres of almonds. That number will increase dramatically in the near future with the addition of another 145,000 acres of non-bearing trees.

PAM Executive Director Chris Heintz said the new project will help beekeepers and growers objectively evaluate bee health in the summer or fall and begin making management changes to address problems with the hive in advance of spring pollination.

"The peak of the almond pollination season in February is a difficult time to assess hive health for a couple reasons," Heintz said. "Bees are just coming out of their over-wintering period and, if there are health problems, it's too late to catch up. Many experts believe that the previous fall is the better time to assess bee health.

"We plan to use this grant to figure out when that critical time period would be and what the protocol should be for examining bee health at that time."

Heintz expects the research project to develop field and laboratory assessments that look at a sample of bees for disease and virus levels, pest levels and nutritional health indicators such as protein and lipid levels.

"Once those tests are done, users of those bees should have some assurance that they are getting healthy hives," she said.

Made up of members of the beekeeping and almond industry, PAM provides a mechanism for beekeepers nationwide to fund and direct short-term research activities with a focus on improving and maintaining economic honey bee health and economic viability of beekeepers.

In addition to the hive health project, the group in its first year is funding projects to re-establish a bee research lab at UC Davis, compare bees from U.S. colonies to packaged bees from Australia, and examine high fructose corn syrup as a nutritional supplement in bee diets.

Dan Cummings, president of PAM and chair of the Almond Board's Bee Task Force, said CDFA's decision to award a grant to such a young organization is a testament to the importance of the group's mission and the reputation of its board of directors.

"We got started in December and have hit the ground running," Cummings said. "CDFA has shown a lot of confidence in PAM and its board of competent and respectable individuals to award a grant to such a young organization. This grant will move us forward in our mission of providing research projects that have a realistic and practical usefulness for the beekeeping business."

For more information on Project Apis m. log on to www.projectapism.org.



UPDATE: TRADE ORDERS ON HONEY IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND ARGENTINA

The following is a summary of developments so far in 2007 under the antidumping ("AD") trade order on honey imports from China. (I will summarize next month developments under the AD and countervailing duty ("CVD") trade orders on honey imports from Argentina.)

I. Domestic Honey Producers Win First "Sunset" Review

The World Trade Organization ("WTO") requires that each member country – which includes the United States – must terminate any active AD or CVD trade order within five years of its issuance unless the member country determines in a new investigation that the trade order must be maintained in order to prevent the re-injury of the relevant domestic industry. In July of this year, the U.S. Commerce Department ("Commerce") and the International Trade Commission ("ITC") completed their first five-year "sunset" review of the honey trade orders. Those agencies found that information submitted by the AHPA and Sioux Honey Association definitively showed that if the honey trade orders were terminated, (1) the Chinese and Argentina honey exporters would continue or resume dumping unfairly subsidized honey into the U.S. market; and (2) these imports would likely re-injure the domestic honey producers. Accordingly, both agencies agreed to continue the honey trade orders for an additional five years – at least through August 2012. This was a crucial and important victory for the AHPA and the domestic honey industry generally.

II. CHINA: Renewed Abuse by Exporters of "Low" Cash Duty Deposit Rates

As is explained below, all Chinese honey exporters are currently operating under very high dumping rates under the China honey AD order. Nevertheless, there is still a significant amount of honey entering this country from China. In order to understand how this is happening, I must

present the following brief explanation of how the U.S. dumping law is supposed to work.

Under the AD law, a U.S. importer of a product that is subject to an AD trade order must, at the time of importation, post with U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") an amount of cash that is equal to the exporter's current dumping rate times the "customs value" of the imported product. An exporter's current dumping rate – which is also referred to as its cash duty-deposit rate ("cash DDR") – is the rate Commerce most recently calculated for the exporter in a completed AD investigation, annual administrative review ("AR") or "new shipper" administrative review ("NSR"). That rate is generally expressed as a percentage. For example, a dumping rate of 50% means that the exporter sold imports into the U.S. market during the relevant one-year period at prices that were 50% below the "fair" or non-dumped price. An import's "customs value" typically is the amount the importer paid for the product, minus movement expenses from the country-of-origin.

Thus, an importer that enters \$100 worth of honey from a Chinese exporter that has a cash DDR of 50% is required to post with CBP \$50 at the time of importation. That \$50 will be held in escrow by CBP until Commerce determines during the course of an AR that covers the period during which the importation was made the amount by which the import was actually dumped. The \$50 serves as the government's security in case the importer fails (for whatever reason) to pay the actual amount of dumping duties Commerce ultimately determines are owed on the import.

The petition requesting the imposition of AD and CVD duties on honey imports from China and Argentina was filed in September 2000. In the seven years since then, Commerce has investigated 27 Chinese exporters under four completed ARs and 10 completed NSRs of the China



honey AD order. Many of these exporters have been subject to two or more reviews. All but eight of those exporters are currently operating under the penalty "China-wide" cash DDR, which originally was 183.80%, but was increased this summer to 212.39%. None of these exporters are now legally shipping honey to this country. The other eight exporters are operating under individual cash DDRs that range from a low of 28.75% to a high of 169.11%. In other words, every Chinese honey exporter is currently operating under a cash DDR of at least 28.75%. (I have attached a chart that shows the cash DDRs found by Commerce in all of its completed ARs and NSRs.)

For the first eight months of 2007, there were 25.06 million pounds of U.S. honey imports from China. This is well under half of the 58.30 mil/lbs for the year-earlier period (Jan.-Aug. 2006). Through March 2007, there were 13.36 mil/lbs from China – virtually all of which were from the Chinese exporter Chengdu Waiyuan Bee Products ("Chengdu"). Until the end of March, Chengdu had the lowest cash DDR of any Chinese exporter: 22.03%, which Chengdu received in November 2004 at the end of the 3rd NSR. In April 2005, Chengdu began shipping between one to six million pounds of honey into the U.S. each month, at an estimated customs value of about \$.27/lb – which is about half the \$.58/lb customs value for the two Chinese exporters with the second and third largest amounts of shipments to the U.S. market in 2006.

In other words, Chengdu's U.S. importer was grossly understating the true customs value of its honey from Chengdu to minimize the amount of cash AD duty deposits the importer had to post with CBP – in this case, only six cents a pound. Thus, the total amount Chengdu's U.S. importer invested into each pound of honey from Chengdu was low enough to generate significant profits when the importer resold Chengdu's honey to U.S. packers. Chengdu's plan clearly was to continue shipping these huge amounts of honey to the U.S. market until Commerce increased its

cash DDR to an amount that would make it commercially impossible for Chengdu to continue shipping. Commerce did this at the end of March 2007, by – for the first time ever, and at our request – issuing an "expedited" final results for Chengdu for the 4th AR of the China honey AD order, in which Commerce increased Chengdu's cash DDR to 212.39%. This immediately stopped Chengdu's honey shipments.

Honey imports from China fell to virtually nothing for April and May 2007. However, Chinese imports began increasing again in June, to 2.36 mil/lbs, and continued to increase in July (4.13 mil/lbs) and August (5.10 mil/lbs).

What we have discovered is that virtually all of the 11.60 mil/lbs in Chinese honey imports that entered between June-August 2007 were shipped by two Chinese exporters, each of which has an ongoing cash DDR that is more than twice as great as Chengdu's former rate of 22.03%: Anhui Native Produce ("Anhui Native") (45.46%), and Inner Mongolia Youth Trade Development Co. ("IMY") (51.71%). The customs value of these shipments appears to be about \$.26/lb, which means that the cash duty deposit that is being posted on imports from Anhui Native and IMY is about \$.12/lb and \$.13/lb, respectively.

These two exporters are obviously continuing in Chengdu's pattern. We are now devising a plan, similar to the one we developed for Chengdu, by which either or both Commerce or CBP could effectively increase Anhui Native's and IMY's cash DDR. Indeed, IMY is a mandatory respondent in the ongoing 5th AR. Like Chengdu in the 4th AR, IMY has informed Commerce that it will no longer cooperate in the review. This presents us with the opportunity to request that Commerce issue an "expedited" final results for the 5th AR, in which IMY's cash DDR would be raised from its current 51.71% to 212.39%. Coming up with a similar "fix" for Anhui Native will be more difficult, but we are working on it.

Continued on page 13



Trade Orders Continued from page 12

II. Continued Imports of Diluted Chinese Honey Blends

The China honey AD order covers "pure honey" imports from China, and imports of sweeteners which consist of at least 50% Chinese honey by weight. This means that Chinese sweetener blends that contain less than 50% honey by weight are not covered by the China honey AD order. At the time of the original AD investigations in 200-01, this did not appear to present the Chinese with a potential "loophole," for there seemed to be no commercial sales in the U.S. market of any blend of honey with another sweetener, and there appears to have been no imports of such diluted honey blends from China or any other country prior to 2003.

Nevertheless, U.S. imports of Chinese sweetener blends that are less than 50% honey by weight increased to just under a million pounds in 2004, fell to about 665,000 pounds in 2005, but then spiked to 6.41 million pounds in 2006. For the first eight months of 2007, these honey blend imports totaled about 9.32 million pounds, putting them on track to be about just under 14 million pounds for all of 2007.

If these diluted honey blends truly consisted of less than 50% honey by weight, they are legitimately not subject to the China honey AD order, and there is no practical way at this point for Commerce to amend the "scope" language of the order to include such blends.

It has been suggested that these imports actually may be 100% honey, but are being falsely presented to CBP by the responsible U.S. importers as being a diluted honey blend to avoid the dumping duties. If this is the case, such deception would constitute customs fraud on the part of the importer, and would be punishable by severe penalties if discovered by CBP. However, it allegedly is very difficult for even experts to (1)

tell the difference between pure honey and rice syrup (which apparently is the type of non-honey sweetener that would be used in China in such a blend; and (2) determine the relative amounts of honey and non-honey sweetener that are in such blends. This means that it may be very difficult for CBP to determine the true composition of these honey blends.

It has also been suggested that these "blends" may actually contain less than 50% honey by weight, but that they are being packaged by dishonest U.S. packers and resold as pure honey to honey users and resellers. If this is the case, there would be no customs fraud involved in the importation of these blends, because the imports would be correctly marked as being a blend. The dishonest packers, however, might be subject to certain federal and state fines and penalties related to the distribution of adulterated honey.

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For the three year period of 2004-2006, the Chinese exporter Wuhu Qinshi Tangye Co. Ltd. ("WQT") was responsible for two-thirds or more of all Chinese diluted honey-blend imports, virtually all of which were imported by a well-known global honey shipper. In connection with the ongoing 5th AR, we alleged to Commerce that the 4 million pounds of diluted Chinese honey blend imports WQT shipped to the U.S. market during the 5th period of review ("POR") were actually pure honey, which WQT and its U.S. importer had misrepresented to CBP in order to avoid the China honey AD order. In May and June 2007, WQT actually responded to inquiries from Commerce, and claimed that all of its shipments during the 5th POR were of non-covered diluted honey blends. Nevertheless, WQT appears to have ceased shipping this product to the U.S. as of June 2007.

Diluted honey blend exports from China are now dominated by a Shanghai exporter, Haoliluck Co., Ltd. ("Haoliluck"), which first shipped what it calls "honey syrup" into the U.S. market in November 2006, and which has shipped 4.95 mil/lbs here so far in 2007. (Indeed, Haoliluck and WQT together account for 97% of all 2007 diluted honey blend imports from China.) As we did with WQT in December 2006 for the 5th AR, we intend next month to ask Commerce to include Haoliluck in the 6th AR, based on that exporter's massive shipments during the 6th POR of "honey syrup" into the U.S. market.

IV. Potential Fraudulent Entry of Chinese Honey as Having Originated in Mongolia and Eastern Russia

Our continuing success in achieving relatively

high AD duty rates against Chinese exporters in ARs and NSRs has caused some unscrupulous Chinese exporters (and their U.S. importers) to attempt to circumvent the China honey AD order by fraudulently representing to CBP that honey imports from China actually originated in third countries such as Mongolia and Russia.

For example, through 2003, there were no U.S. imports of honey from Russia that were shipped across the Pacific Ocean from the east of that country. Since then, U.S. imports of Russian honey have increased as follows:

- 2004: 2.58 mil/lbs
- 2005: 3.16 mil/lbs
- 2006: 11.13 mil/lbs
- Jan.-Aug. '07: 5.62 mil/lbs
- Projected '07: 8.43 mil/lbs

Through the summer of 2005, there were no U.S. imports of honey from Mongolia – a relatively remote country that sits on top of China's province of Inner Mongolia, in Central Asia. Imports first appeared from that country in October '05, and totaled 1.29 mil/lbs in 2005. Imports from Mongolia grew to 2.15 million in 2006, and were at 1.42 million through August '07 (with a projected total amount of imports in 2007 of 2.13 million).

Honey shipments to the U.S. from Russia and Mongolia share some important characteristics. Both countries are relatively remote, and are in Asia, just to the north of China. Shipments from both countries must first be shipped by land through north-central and north-east China, which are prime Chinese honey production areas.

Continued on page 15

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Trade Orders Continued from page 14

The Russian and Mongolian honey eventually arrives at the north-central coast of China, where they are shipped by "feeder" ships to ocean-going freighters in Bussan, South Korea. Much of China's honey exports are also shipped out of China from China's north-central coast. There is very little information on the internet about the production of honey in Mongolia and Russia. There is one exporter in each of Russia and Mongolia that ships honey to the United States. Finally, the U.S. importer for honey imports from both Mongolia and Russia is the same importer mentioned above with regard to U.S. imports of Chinese diluted honey blends.

We asked Commerce to include the Mongolia honey exporter in the 5th AR of the China honey AD order, and we have argued in this review that this exporter's 5th POR shipments were actually of Chinese, vs. Mongolian, honey. The exporter has denied our claim, and has repeated its claim that the honey actually did originate in Mongolia, and thus is not subject to the China honey AD order.

We plan to include both the Mongolian and the Russian exporters in our request next month to Commerce regarding the upcoming 6th AR.

I have learned recently from my contacts in CBP that the CBP scientists have made significant advances in their ability to "fingerprint" honeys from various countries, such as China and Vietnam. Further, they have been able to use this technology to uncover major shipments of Chinese honey that had been fraudulently represented to CBP as having originated in Vietnam. CBP, however, cannot "fingerprint" a country's indigenous honeys without obtaining a significant amount of samples from that country, and the CBP labs have not been directed to "fingerprint" the honeys of Mongolia and Russia. I suggest that AHPA and SHA consider authorizing my firm to take the steps needed to get CBP's headquarters in Washington to direct its labs to obtain the honey samples they need to create a comprehensive "profile" of the indigenous honeys from all of the countries that dishonest U.S. importers could claim produced honey that actually was made in China.

**U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S
ANTIDUMPING DUTY ORDER ON
HONEY IMPORTS FROM CHINA
(A-570-863)**

**History of All Exporters' Dumping Margins
All margins reported as *ad valorem* percentages**

		Original Inv. (1/00-6/00)	NSR* (final)	1st AR ** (2/01-11/02) (final)	2d AR (12/02-11/03) (final)	3d AR (12/03-11/04) (final)	4th AR (12/04-11/05) (final)	Current Rate
1	Anhui Honghui Foodstuff (Group Co., Ltd.		25.72%		Rescinded	212.39%	221.02%	221.02%
2	Anhui Native Produce Import and Export Corporation	45.46%		Rescinded	Rescinded	Rescinded	Rescinded	45.46%
	Apiarist Co.						Rescinded	212.39%
3	Cheng Du Wai Yuan Bee Products Co., Ltd.		22.03%		Rescinded	Rescinded	212.39% expedited final results	212.39%
4	Dongtai Peak Honey Industry Co., Ltd.		28.75%					28.75%
5	Eurasia Bee's Products Co., Ltd.		50.35%		Rescinded	212.39%	Rescinded	212.39%
6	Foodworld International Club, Ltd.		Rescinded: PRC-wide rate maintained		Rescinded	Rescinded	Rescinded	212.39%
7	Hangzhou Golden Harvest Health Industry Co., Ltd		Rescinded: PRC-wide rate maintained					212.39%
8	Henan Native Produce Import and Export Corporation	45.46%		183.8%		Rescinded	Rescinded	183.80%
9	High Hope International Group Jiangsu Foodstuffs Import and Export Corporation	45.46%		183.8%		Rescinded	Rescinded	183.80%
10	Inner Mongolia Altin Bee- Keeping Co., Ltd.		130.11%					130.11%



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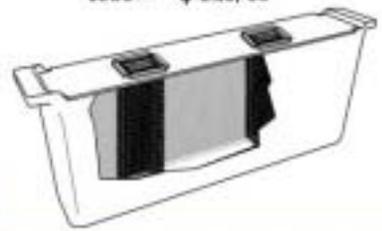
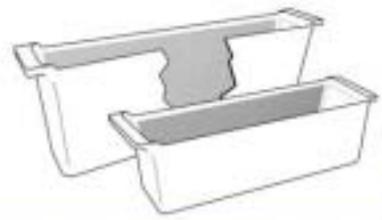
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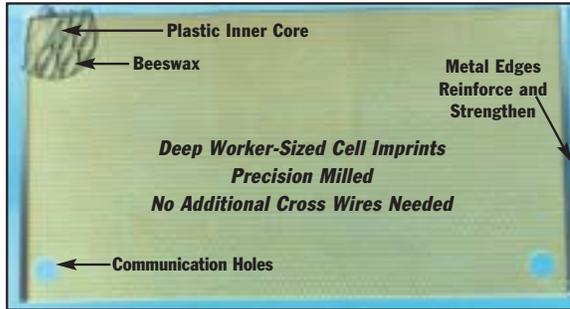
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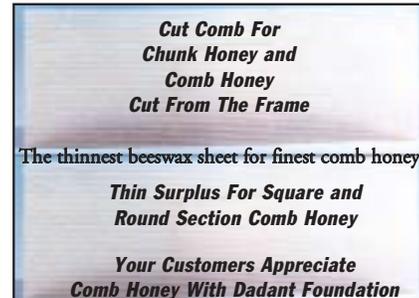
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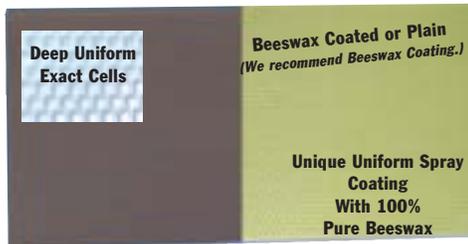
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Continued from page 15

		Original Inv. (1/00-6/00)	NSR* (final)	1st AR ** (2/01-11/02) (final)	2d AR (12/02-11/03) (final)	3d AR (12/03-11/04) (final)	4th AR (12/04-11/05) (final)	Current Rate
11	Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Native Produce and Animal By-Products Import and Export Corporation	57.13%			183.8%		Rescinded	183.80%
12	Inner Mongolia Youth Trade Development Co., Ltd.		51.71%				Rescinded	51.71%
13	Jiangsu Kanghong Natural Healthfoods Co., Ltd.		46.92%			210.53%	221.02%	221.02%
14	Jinfu Trading Co., Ltd.		Rescinded: PRC-wide rate maintained		72.02%	168.88%	Rescinded	168.88%
15	Kunshan Foreign Trading Company	49.6%		183.8%			Rescinded	183.80%
16	Kunshan Xin'an Trade Co. Ltd.		Rescinded: PRC-wide rate maintained				221.02%	221.02%
17	Qingdao Aolan Trade Co., Ltd.		Rescinded: PRC-wide rate maintained					212.39%
18	Qinhuangdao Municipal Dafeng Industrial Co., Ltd.		Rescinded: PRC-wide rate maintained (P)					212.39%
19	Shanghai Eswell Enterprise Company Ltd.	45.46%			38.6%	168.30%	Rescinded	168.30%
20	Shanghai Shinomieli International Trade Corporation				183.8%		Rescinded	183.80%
21	Shanghai Taiside Trading Co., Ltd.		39.63%				Rescinded	39.63%
22	Shanghai Xiuwei International Trading Co., Ltd.		183.8%		183.8%		Rescinded	183.80%
23	Sichuan-Dujiangyan Dubao Bee Industrial Co., Ltd.		21.61% (1st sale) 183.80% (2d sale)		183.8%	212.39%	Rescinded	212.39%
24	Tianjin Eulia Honey Co., Ltd.		Rescinded: PRC-wide rate maintained					212.39%
25	Wuhan Bee Healthy Co., Ltd.		32.63%		101.51%		Rescinded	101.51%
26	Wuhan Shino-Food Trade Co., Ltd.		Rescinded: PRC-wide rate maintained				221.02%	221.02%
	Wuhu Qinshi Tangye						Rescinded	221.02%

		Original Inv. (1/00-6/00)	NSR* (final)	1st AR ** (2/01-11/02) (final)	2d AR (12/02-11/03) (final)	3d AR (12/03-11/04) (final)	4th AR (12/04-11/05) (final)	Current Rate
27	Zhejiang Native Produce and Animal By-Products Import and Export Corporation	25.88%		67.7%	45.54%	169.11%	Rescinded	169.11%
	Zhejiang Willing Foreign Trading Co., Ltd.						Rescinded	221.02%
28	PRC-wide Entity	183.8%				212.39%		212.39%

* "NSR": New Shipper Administrative Review
 ** "AR": Regular Administrative Review

11/28/2007

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Include your name, a short bio (including why you're a honey producer) and contact information. Thanks! Inevitably, we receive duplicate recipes and will not be able to use all that we receive, as much as we would like to.

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