

## 2017 Objectives and Resolutions

The American Beekeeping Federation, Inc.

### **STATEMENT OF CONTINUING OBJECTIVES FOR 2017 FOR THE AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION, INC.**

- I. The American Beekeeping Federation will work diligently through the self-policing program funded by the Honey Defense Fund to stop adulteration of honey and urges all its members to help in the fight against adulteration.
- II. The members of the American Beekeeping Federation shall foster the best possible relations with the general public and conduct their beekeeping operations to minimize the un-necessary exposure of the public to honey bees.
- III. The members of the American Beekeeping Federation shall maintain the highest standards in their honey production and handling facilities and shall use only approved compounds, as labeled, to avoid the introduction of contaminants into honey in the hive or during collection, processing and packaging.
- IV. The American Beekeeping Federation will cooperate with any other organizations when it is deemed that such cooperation will further the goals of the American Beekeeping Federation.
- V. The American Beekeeping Federation supports the adoption of policies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state agriculture departments, counties and weed control districts to encourage planting of legumes on set aside and marginal farmland, lands subject to erosion, and lands for wildlife habitat.
- VI. The American Beekeeping Federation will work to maintain and expand its honey promotion efforts through its support of the American Honey Queen Program and the National Honey Board.
- VII. The American Beekeeping Federation urges its membership to support legislative efforts by providing financial assistance, whenever possible, to the Legislative Fund and by keeping their Congressional representatives apprised of the legislative issues of the beekeeping industry.

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**Statement of Mission and Values  
for the American Beekeeping Federation**

**MISSION**

The American Beekeeping Federation will act on behalf of the beekeeping industry on issues affecting the interests and the economic viability of the various sectors of the industry.

**VALUES**

1. The resolutions supported and passed by the membership will serve as policy for the official actions of the ABF.

2. The ABF will maintain an organization that is normally proactive rather than reactive in handling industry issues.

3. The resolutions and decisions of the ABF will be based upon the best facts and information available.

4. The issues outcome will be directed toward maintaining an industry that is self-supporting with a minimum of government involvement.

5. The deliberations of an official body of the ABF will recognize and consider the impact of its decisions on the industry as a whole.

6. The ABF will serve as an information source to its members on those issues affecting the industry.

**- Adopted Jan. 18, 1997**

### **ABF Continuing Resolutions 2017**

The Continuing Objectives and Resolutions, as established at the Annual Business Meeting, guide the activities of the American Beekeeping Federation. Once adopted, a Resolution remains in effect until it is negated by a future Resolution or policy established at the Annual Meeting or is made obsolete by the passage of time or the occurrences of events, which supersede the Resolution. The following Resolutions, originally adopted in the year indicated, were approved as Continuing Resolutions at the Annual Business Meeting, January 13, 2017 in Galveston, Texas.

#### **CR1. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BEE LABS (Adopted 1999; Revised 2010)**

WHEREAS, there is a need for additional funding for USDA-ARS Honey Bee Labs; and,

WHEREAS, the American consumer is concerned with food safety; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation investigate ways of securing additional government funding for research for both honey bees and honey quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF encourage USDA-ARS to work diligently to fill all currently funded positions at the ARS honey bee labs.

#### **CR2. FREE TRANSPORT OF BEES AND EQUIPMENT (2000)**

WHEREAS, the normal flow of bees across state lines is vital to the well-being of the domestic honey bee industry and the broader agricultural industry; and,

WHEREAS, the obstruction of the movement of bees across state lines would create an undue economic burden on the beekeeping and agricultural industries; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Beekeeping Federation continue to urge all regulatory entities to preserve the rights of movement of honey bees and equipment with minimal restraint.

#### **CR3. ADULTERATED HONEY (2001)**

WHEREAS, there is honey, both domestic and imported, being sold in the United States which is adulterated; and,

WHEREAS, this adulterated product is affecting the price of honey in our marketplace in a negative way; and,

WHEREAS, detection methods need to be improved and made more economical to make enforcement possible; and,

WHEREAS, enforcement of adulteration regulations and laws is insufficient to protect the public; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation supports developing better low cost methods of detecting adulterated honey; improving enforcement of the law and helping to make laws with more punitive

damages for adulterated honey; regular government testing for adulteration of honey; and pursuing indictments of offenders of adulteration laws and regulations.

#### **CR4. HONEY BEE POLLINATION RESEARCH (2001)**

WHEREAS, honey bee crop pollination is critical for the continued success of U.S. food production; and,

WHEREAS, crop pollination is a major activity in the increasingly diverse honey bee industry; and,

WHEREAS, research is needed to help beekeepers provide effective pollination; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that USDA's Agricultural Research Service; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program; and Economic Research Service be requested to increase their emphasis on honey bee crop pollination research.

#### **CR5. HONEY BEE ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT (2001)**

WHEREAS, wild, non-cultivated flowering plants are essential and aesthetically pleasing components of our planet's ecosystem; and,

WHEREAS, honey bees enhance the productivity and propagation of most flowering plants, thereby increasing the biomass and fruit and seed production of wild, non-cultivated flowering plants; and,

WHEREAS, greater plant productivity provides increased forage for wildlife, accelerates development of plant communities and plant cover for conservation programs, erosion control and natural succession following wildfires, logging, or other ecosystem disruptions; and,

WHEREAS, federal, state and private organizations which promote ecosystem preservation, enhancement and regeneration do not always consider the valuable ecosystem services provided by honey bees and the potential benefits of including honey bees in ecological preservation, enhancement or renewal programs; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation encourage additional research to define and quantify the nature and extent of honey bee contributions to natural ecological systems, publicize and communicate the results of such research when conducted; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF urge all appropriate federal and state agencies to include honey bees as integral components of our forests, greenbelts, parks, preserves, reclamation, conservation and other land management programs.

#### **CR6. NATIONAL HONEY BOARD (Adopted 2002; Revised 2004; Revised 2009; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, a national honey research and promotion board is essential to promote the use of honey, to conduct and to administrate vital honey research, to protect the industry from adverse publicity and to increase the total consumption of honey; and,

WHEREAS, a national honey research and promotion board promotes U.S. special varietal honeys with unique ongoing programs and research; and,

WHEREAS, the National Honey Board dedicates significant funds to honey bee research; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation support the National Honey Board; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ABF will continue to work toward improving national honey research and promotion to meet the needs of the domestic honey industry.

#### **CR7. HONEY CHEMISTRY AND PESTICIDE RESEARCH FACILITIES (2003)**

WHEREAS, honey bees have recently demonstrated significant potential to aid national defense and detect agents of harm while functioning as environmental sentinels; and,

WHEREAS, honey has been used as means of concealing contraband in international commerce to aid terrorist organizations, and the presence of dangerous compounds in the environment may be reflected by their presence, or in a corresponding increase of their concentrations, in honey and/or beeswax; and,

WHEREAS, many pesticides share common structural motifs, modes of physiological action, and neurological effects with compounds potentially used in chemical warfare; and,

WHEREAS, deeper understanding of honey chemistry, contaminant and adulterant detection methodologies, as well as the development of a library of honey samples and standards would aid exploiting the environmental sentinel function of honey bees, and deter use of honey as a means of concealing weapons and other agents of harm; and,

WHEREAS, further study of the effects of pesticides upon bee behavior would increase the potential utility of honey bees as environmental sentinels; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF support the establishment of facilities to conduct honey chemistry research, develop a comprehensive library of honey samples and test methods for detection of foreign compounds in honey, and to provide analysis and recommendations to minimize the accumulation of dangerous residues in honey; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF support the establishment of research facilities to investigate the effects of pesticides or other xenobiotics on honey bees, and recommends that EPA consider the effects of these substances upon bee behavior, as well as acute toxicity, when evaluating new pesticides for possible registration.

#### **CR8. REGISTERING NEW HIVE TREATMENTS (Adopted 2004; Revised 2011; Revised 2012; Revised 2013; Revised 2015)**

WHEREAS, the small hive beetle, *tumida*, the varroa mite, *Varroa destructor*, the honey bee tracheal mite, *Acarapis woodii*, and other known and unknown pests cause substantial damage to honey bee colonies and beekeepers in infested areas, and threaten the domestic beekeeping industry; and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of pesticide residues in wax and other hive matrices poses serious problems for bees and beekeepers; and,

WHEREAS, continuing use of the extremely limited repertoire of registered hive treatments is causing rapid development of pest populations with elevated tolerance of those compounds; and, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue its ongoing efforts to expedite regulatory approval, registration and the research of safe, efficacious products, especially semi chemically-based and environmentally-safe methods for the control of these pests.

#### **CR9. APPLIED RESEARCH BEEKEEPING BUSINESS POSITION (2005)**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Beekeeping Industry has experienced unprecedented challenges, namely honey bee pests, diseases, and honey imports over the last 20 years; and,

WHEREAS, this industry has spiraled downward in numbers of sound beekeeping operators and bee colony numbers during this time period, even as demand for pollination escalated; and,

WHEREAS, this industry greatly needs an applied research business position to support the industry at the national level, to assist the pollination, honey production, queen rearing, package production and equipment businesses; and,

WHEREAS, improved attention to business basics will ensure a successful bee industry in the future; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the ABF support the establishment of an Applied Research Beekeeping Business Position at a Land Grant University in the United States.

#### **CR10. HONEY LABELING REQUIREMENTS (2006; Revised 2012)**

WHEREAS, the ABF is concerned about the image of honey being portrayed by misleading labeling; and,

WHEREAS, the misuse of the word honey in describing the contents of a syrup blend of honey and other products must be stopped; and,

WHEREAS, the presence of these products is damaging the image of pure honey and could interfere with the use of pure honey and cause confusion with the consumer; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF pursue changes to existing law and require the percentage of pure honey to be prominently displayed on the front label of all liquid sweetener products which purport to contain honey, or which contain "honey" on the front panel of the product or use "honey" in the product name, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to pursue FDA cease and desist orders or other civil remedies to restrain the deceptive and misleading labeling of honey and honey products.

#### **CR11. HONEY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2006)**

WHEREAS, current honey labeling practices are confusing and sometimes deceptive, and,

WHEREAS, the current practices of honey labeling for identifying country of origin do not accurately reflect the true source of the honey in the package; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF work to establish mandatory and accurate country of origin labeling regulations.

#### **CR12. TRANSGENIC CROPS (2006)**

WHEREAS, transgenic crops, genetically modified organisms, and other biotechnologies are transforming production agriculture, with both obvious and potential benefits to beekeepers and apiculture, but also presenting unprecedented actual and potential hazards to pollinators and the environment; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF attempt to assess the relative potential risks and benefits of various transgenic cultivars and any associated GMO crop management practices, and when significant risk-of-harm scenarios are identified, communicate the ABF's concerns to the entities responsible for development, propagation, sale and/or marketing or promotion of potentially dangerous transgenic crops and management practices, as well as appropriate regulatory authorities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ABF cooperate with other groups and organizations in pursuit of the aims of reducing the actual and potential perils of genetically modified crops and their attendant management practices for pollinators and the resources upon which pollinators depend.

#### **CR13. CANADIAN TRADE (2006)**

WHEREAS, some Canadian officials have suggested informally that U.S. law should be changed to allow importation of Canadian honey bee colonies into the U.S., and

WHEREAS, exportation of US colonies to Canada should be permitted by Canadian law if any change to U.S. law is made,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ABF demand reciprocal benefits and equal treatment for U.S. honey bee exports to Canada if Canada petitions for a change in US law to permit Canadian imports to the US.

#### **CR14. USDA HONEY CHEMIST (2006)**

WHEREAS, adulteration of honey by sweeteners and other compounds has reached crisis levels, threatening the economic viability of the honey industry and domestic beekeeping and constitutes fraud on the consumer,

WHEREAS, current methods for detection of honey adulterants are unable to identify many potential compounds that may be used to adulterate honey

WHEREAS, contamination of honey with other compounds also threatens the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry; and,

WHEREAS, development, testing, validation and certification of new methods for detecting adulterants and contaminants are urgently needed and would promote honesty and fair dealing with consumers by enabling detection and elimination of counterfeit products from the stream of commerce; and,

WHEREAS, conducting the necessary research to enable development, testing, validation and certification of new methods requires state of the art laboratories, outstanding personnel and a library of validated honey samples; and,

WHEREAS, existing USDA research facilities, infrastructure and expertise would accelerate development of critically important technologies and methods, and provide a natural complement to the current work of USDA in answering the needs of the beekeeping industry; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF petition Congress to appropriate funds to provide laboratory facilities, equipment, personnel, and material and initiate a research program on the chemistry of honey, potential and actual honey adulterants, potential honey contaminants, and blends of honey and honey adulterants toward the end of developing, testing, validating and certifying new methods for the detection of adulterants and contaminants in honey.

#### **CR15. ESTABLISHING NOTIFICATION POLICY (2006)**

WHEREAS, the ABF has no policy regarding ABF officers testifying in civil lawsuits affecting the beekeeping industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, those ABF officers be encouraged to make the ABF Board of Directors aware of their participating in trials involving bees prior to their involvement.

#### **CR16. SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES (Adopted 2006; Revised 2010; Revised 2012)**

WHEREAS, the use of pesticide treated seed of nectar-producing crops is becoming more common; and,

WHEREAS, the nectar and pollen from these plants may be harmful to pollinating insects visiting those blossoms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF support efforts to assess the potential risks to insect pollinators; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ABF cooperate with other groups and organizations that have the aim of reducing the potential damage to pollinating insects from crops using systemic pesticides.

#### **CR17. EXPANDING LABOR FOREIGN LABOR OPPORTUNITIES (2007; Revised 2012)**

WHEREAS, many beekeepers cannot find an adequate supply of labor to fit their business needs from within the borders of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, current labor programs prevent foreign workers from obtaining a legal work status that would allow more than short-term status in a position; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF pursue avenues to affect changes to the H-2A program to allow migratory beekeepers the same opportunities as custom harvesters using the H-2A program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF support legislation that would allow foreign beekeepers easier access to long-term work permits, green cards, and visas, specific to the beekeeping industry.

#### **CR18. NATIONAL BEEKEEPING CONFERENCES (Adopted 2008; Revised 2011; Revised 2012; Revised 2014)**

WHEREAS, the joint national beekeeping conferences in Sacramento and Galveston enjoyed a large attendance; and,

WHEREAS, many industry vendors, scientists, inspectors, and beekeepers have attended and benefitted from a unified convention; and,

WHEREAS, a spirit of cooperation and mutuality has pervaded at previous joint conventions, especially as evidenced by ABF and AHPA working cooperatively; now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ABF continue to make efforts toward enabling unified national beekeeping conferences.

**CR19. BEE POLLEN FOR BEE FEED (2009)**

WHEREAS, U.S. beekeepers have utilized pollen for many years to stimulate their colonies; and,

WHEREAS, with low production of pollen in the U.S. it is customary to import pollen for bee feed; and,

WHEREAS, the advent of CCD has raised concerns about bee nutrition and there has been a substantial increase in the use of pollen for bee feed; and,

WHEREAS, USDA-APHIS has begun to enforce heretofore unenforced regulations banning the importation of bee feed pollen and may attempt to prosecute users of imported pollen; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF work with USDA-APHIS to ensure that the U.S. beekeeping industry is not put at risk by importation of pollen and other hive products.

**CR20. Colony Health Issues (2010; Revised 2014; Revised 2015)**

WHEREAS, large numbers of honey bee colonies have been lost due to Colony stressors; and,

WHEREAS, continued losses of the current magnitude threaten the viability of the beekeeping industry in the United States; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to work with other industry organizations, honey bee researchers, and honey bee-dependent industries to procure funding for research and solutions and to encourage the Congress to appropriate additional funds which have been authorized for honey bee research.

**CR21. DISASTER PROGRAMS FOR BEEKEEPERS (2010)**

WHEREAS, there are various disaster programs available for farmers, some of which are available to beekeepers; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF work with USDA-Farm Service Agency to ensure that all applicable disaster programs work for beekeepers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF make efforts to keep its members apprised of the availability of these programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF encourage its members to enroll annually in the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), since participation in NAP is often a requirement to benefit from these disaster programs.

**CR22. STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY (2010; Revised 2014)**

WHEREAS, deceptively labeled and misbranded products and adulteration of honey with other sweeteners or compounds are growing problems; and their increasing presence in the market is severely and adversely affecting honey prices, and threatens the image and reality of honey as a pure, natural and healthy sweetener; and,

WHEREAS, these misbranded and/or adulterated products may induce consumers to purchase the product under the false belief or impression that the product is only pure honey when they are in fact adulterated, and/or induce purchase of products with honey in the product name or front panel label under the false impression or belief that the product contains honey as its principal sweetener when the product contains no honey or less honey than other sweeteners; and,

WHEREAS, a U.S. Standard of Identity for Honey is urgently needed to protect honey consumers, honey packers, and honey producers from false, deceptive and misleading product labeling, and the lack of a standard of identity of honey impairs the ability of the honey industry to protect the image of honey and protect consumers from adulterated and/or deceptively labeled products, and creates an emergency; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to urge FDA to adopt a U.S. Standard of Identity for Honey as expeditiously as possible; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF use any and all means available to effect the adoption of a U.S. Standard of Identity for Honey; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF request the aid of industry groups, state and local governments, other farm and commodity lobby organizations, and FDA to achieve promulgation of a U.S. Standard of Identity for Honey as soon as possible.

### **CR23. ILLEGALLY TRANSSHIPPED HONEY (Adopted 2010; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, the ABF recognizes the quantity of honey produced in the U.S. is not sufficient to meet demand making importation of honey from other countries necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the importation of honey requires a label identifying country of origin; and,

WHEREAS, it is illegal to mislabel honey to hide country of origin and thus avoid payment of required tariffs; and,

WHEREAS, these illegal activities are threatening the financial stability of U.S. honey producers and packers and further that illegal shipments could threaten public safety by importation of tainted products; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF support efforts of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Justice and FBI, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration to enforce U.S. food and trade laws and encourages them to work across agency boundaries with law enforcement colleagues at the local, state, and federal levels to bring an end to illegal honey transshipment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF work with other industry organizations to educate lawmakers on the extent of this problem and the negative effect it is

having on the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry as well as on the foods safety for U.S. consumers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF support the efforts of True Source Certified, which are designed to trace honey throughout the supply chain from hive to table.

#### **CR24. SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HONEY BEE ADVISORY BOARD**

WHEREAS, 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; and,

WHEREAS, this ad hoc committee subsequently became The National Honey Bee Advisory Board (NHBAB) and has provided valuable expertise on pesticide issues to both the ABF and AHPA; and,

WHEREAS, the NHBAB has adopted as its mission: “To Promote the Sustainability of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators through Balanced Pesticide Policy, Evidence-Based Decision Making, and Proactive Beekeeper Education”; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation continue to support the NHBAB as it addresses its stated objectives and provides valuable expertise to the ABF and AHPA for the betterment of the beekeeping industry.

#### **CR25. METHODS FOR HONEY BEE PESTS AND PATHOGEN IDENTIFICATION (2010; Revised 2014)**

WHEREAS, the range of Africanized honey bee has expanded to include additional southern states in recent years; and,

WHEREAS, the potential for identification of new honey bee pathogens, parasites and undesirable races of honey bees requires that quick and reliable identification methods be developed for use in both laboratory and field evaluations; and,

WHEREAS, new knowledge for pathogen identification, including such tools as the Bee Path Chip, offer guidance for the development of effective detection methods; and,

WHEREAS, the Apiary Inspectors of America has requested that the USDA-ARS set up a quick and immediate identification system for honey bee pests and pathogens, especially *Tropilaelaps clareae*, *Nosema ceranae*, *Apis mellifera scutellata* (AHB) and *Apis mellifera capensis*, and other parasites and diseases not yet found in the United States; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF request that the USDA-ARS proceed with the development of methods for the identification of emerging honey bee

pathogen and pest species, and that USDA-ARS review and revise current methodologies to meet the need for quick and effective tools to meet both field and laboratory emergency management identification needs.

#### **CR26. NATIONAL HONEY BEE PEST SURVEY (2011)**

WHEREAS, the importation and introduction of honey bees from other countries is occurring and new petitions for importation are being reviewed by USDA-APHIS; and

WHEREAS, tremendous losses of honey bee colonies continue to occur due to “colony collapse disorder” or other unresolved causes; and

WHEREAS, viral diseases have been introduced into the U.S. and are vectored by introduced parasites; and

WHEREAS, these events prove undoubtedly that the U.S. beekeeping industry is vulnerable to other exotic pests and pathogens and that USDA should take stricter measures to prevent the introduction of exotic pests; and

WHEREAS, 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.; and

WHEREAS, such a survey should utilize current infrastructure among cooperating state agencies to collect and prep samples for USDA analysis; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF urgently request Congress to adequately fund and USDA-APHIS to implement and maintain such a survey for this much needed baseline, not only for *Tropilaelaps clareae*, but for virus complexes and varroa species and their variants, as well as other as yet unknown organisms capable of adversely affecting honey bee health.

#### **CR27. HONEY BEE IMPORT BAN (2011; Revised 2013)**

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation appreciates the action taken by USDA-APHIS to close the U.S. border to further introduction of honey bee queens and packages from Australia after surveys conducted by USDA-APHIS and the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) members show that the *Apis cerana* honey bee and the Slow Paralysis Virus which have been reported in Australia do not occur in the United States; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, ABF would like to express concern that USDA-APHIS is giving consideration to allowing honey bee importation from Argentina, Brazil, and/or Chile; and,

WHEREAS, the market for imported honey bees is relatively small while the risk of introducing new bee pathogens could have widespread consequences at a time when U.S. bee losses of 32-35% are attributed to viruses and other pathogens; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF request USDA-APHIS continue to protect American agriculture by keeping our borders closed to honey bee introductions until such time as science can identify the impact of viruses and other pathogens to beekeeping; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ABF request USDA-APHIS to enter into trade discussions with North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) members

encouraging NAPPO to unilaterally protect North American beekeeping from the risk of pathogen introduction into North America, specifically for NAPPO members to agree to uniform standards on acceptance of queen bees and packages into NAPPO member states.

**CR28. SUPPORT FOR POLLINATOR STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (Revised 2014)**

WHEREAS, pollinators such as honey bees are absolutely essential for production of food and fiber; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance) 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; and

WHEREAS, the NHBAB has established the Pollinator Stewardship Council for securing donations for the support of pollinator defense actions; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Beekeeping Federation supports the Pollinator Stewardship Council in seeking the advice of independent legal counsel in regards to pollinator protection.

**CR 29. TIERED TESTING TOXICITY STUDIES FOR HONEY BEES (2013; Revised 2014)**

WHEREAS, insecticides, fungicides and herbicides applied to crops and range land continue to adversely affect the health and viability of honey bees and other pollinators; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has "conditionally" approved insecticides such as Clothianidin for use for many years without a valid core bee toxicity study, which is required for providing a permanent registration permit for such insecticides; and,

WHEREAS, the traditional LD50 evaluation for registration does not reflect sub-lethal effects, such as honey bee brood damage or death, decreased queen and/or drone viability, diminished learning ability and other problems have all been linked to certain insecticides, fungicides and herbicides; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of current insecticides in use have been "conditionally" approved; and,

WHEREAS, the Pellston Conference recently conducted in January 2011 provided new recommendations for long-term toxicity studies requiring "tiered testing" of such insecticides, and,

WHEREAS, it is the EPA mandate to require proper studies prior to registering products for use and is mandated to "do no harm" to the environment; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation urge the EPA to adopt the methodology as recommended by the Pellston Conference

for testing insecticides in order to reduce the number of conditional registrations for new products or insecticides being used in the United States.

**CR 30. ABF ELECTIONS (2013; Revised 2014)**

WHEREAS, the attendance of the North American Beekeeping Conference is currently required to vote for American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) officers and vote on ABF Resolutions; and,

WHEREAS, a majority of members do not attend the conference and therefore are ineligible to vote; and,

WHEREAS, the technology is available to conduct elections securely by mail and electronically; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership directs the ABF Board of Directors to explore proposals for changing the ABF Bylaws to allow all members the opportunity to vote for the organization's officers and on the Resolutions of the organization, as well as changes to the ABF Bylaws.

**CR31. EXPANDING HABITAT AND FORAGE FOR HONEY BEES (2013; Revised 2014)**

WHEREAS, critical habitat loss has been recognized as a major factor affecting honey bee health; and,

WHEREAS, lands set aside or enrolled in conservation programs have been decreasing significantly; and

WHEREAS, the conservation programs, administered by USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource and Conservation Service play an important role in the management of honey bee colony locations in many states by providing set-aside acreages of land intended for the benefit of the land, wildlife, the environment, pollinators, and the farm community; and

WHEREAS, under the Farm Bill, conservation programs were expanded to benefit managed honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, management practices on conservation lands have changed, allowing stewards to use seed mixes and management practices that do not necessarily provide abundant benefits to honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, conservation programs continue to be implemented though cooperation and feedback from stakeholders but still have certain deficiencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Farm Bill authorizes new enrollment of acres in conservation programs allowing continued opportunities for beekeepers to potentially locate apiaries on conservation program lands; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF conduct efforts to ensure that provisions exist for the placement of apiaries in all current and proposed conservation programs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ABF encourage the planting and cultivation of legume rich seed formulations for conservation acres using management practices that promote and protect pollinator habitat initiatives on the maximum amount of acres available.

**CR32. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (2013; Revised 2014)**

WHEREAS, the U.S. beekeeping industry is at a critical juncture in its ability to serve production agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, there seems to be a lack of understanding of the value of honey bees from one segment of agriculture to another segment of agriculture; now,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that best management practices be developed for production agriculture that will help conserve honey bees so that our national food supply remains strong.

### **CR33. EPA DIRECTIONS FOR USE LABEL (2014)**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recently approved new pesticide label language pertaining to pollinator protection for neonicotinoid and other pesticides, and

WHEREAS, some of this new language in the “Directions for Use” portion of the label is ill advised and not a practical means of protecting pollinators from pesticides,

Therefor be it resolved that the ABF urge EPA to amend the newly approved label language “Directions for Use” in order to more fully protect pollinators from pesticides, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF assist EPA in the effort to improve pollinator protection language on pesticide labels, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF enlist the aid of other organizations and legislators to improve pollinator protection labels on pesticides, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Committee be authorized to negotiate with the EPA to construct labeling guidelines that will better protect all pollinators, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation advise U.S. EPA of the need for clear, enforceable pesticide label language if pollinators are truly to be protected.

### **CR34. Bees on Public Lands (2015)**

WHEREAS, the Presidential Memorandum signed in June 2014 called for an all hands on deck effort by Federal and State Agencies to help stop the decline pollinator populations, and

WHEREAS, increased access to Federal and State lands for managed honey bees in order to access clean, uncontaminated forage would be extremely beneficial to the health of the nation’s honey bee population, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other Federal and State agencies can all be

instrumental in helping with this effort by providing managed honey bees greater access to their lands, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ABF work with Federal and State Agencies in an effort to increase access for honey bees on Federal and State lands.

### **CR35. Almond Board BMP Appreciation (2015) (Revised 2016)**

WHEREAS, many beekeepers have reported significant losses of bees and brood in their colonies while pollinating almonds in recent years, and

WHEREAS, there is substantial evidence linking tank mixes of certain pesticides applied on blooming almonds as the cause of these losses, and

WHEREAS, most of the pesticide products involved in these incidents do not have any bee hazard warning on their labels and EPA does not intend to modify the labels on these products in the near future, and

WHEREAS, the Almond Board of California, with beekeeper input, has developed a series of Best Management Practices for honey bees in almonds in order to educate growers, pest control advisers and pesticide applicators about reducing pesticide impacts on bees while pollinating almonds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ABF express its appreciation to the Almond Board of California for developing and publicizing these Best Management Practices, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the ABF assist the Almond Board in publicizing these BMP's to the ABF membership and ABF members are urged to promote these BMP's to their Almond growers.

### **CR36. Pesticide Summit (2015)**

WHEREAS, the health of the nation's honey bees has been negatively impacted by various factors in recent years, including pesticides, varroa mites and inadequate quality forage, and

WHEREAS, the USDA held both a Varroa Summit as well as a Honey Bee Forage and Nutrition Summit in 2014 in order to develop new strategies which could lessen the impact of those stressors and improve colony health, and

WHEREAS, pesticide issues continue to be a major factor negatively impacting colony health, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ABF request USDA/EPA to convene a Honey Bee/Pesticide Summit in order to identify and address the various pesticide issues which are negatively impacting honey bee colony health, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the ABF be allowed to contribute to the development the agenda and identify the major problem areas that needs to be addressed at this summit.

### **CR37. Honey Bee and Monarch Habitat Program (2015)**

WHEREAS, critical honey bee foraging habitat is lacking in many areas, and  
WHEREAS, efforts to rebuild and develop new foraging habitat are needed to promote healthy honey bees and honey production, now  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF supports the newly formed effort known as the HONEY BEE AND MONARCH HABITAT PROGRAM- administered by Pheasants Forever and Project Apis M.

### **CR38. BENEFICIAL INSECT RESEARCH (2015)**

WHEREAS, honey bees are a reflection of the health of agricultural systems and the environment, and honey bees are experiencing unprecedented loss, and  
WHEREAS, beneficial insects provide a significant amount of natural pest control,  
Now,  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF request USDA-ARS, NIFA and other public agencies funding research on beneficial predators of crop pests to develop economic models demonstrating their utility to cropping systems, and aid in the implementation of programs which utilize these beneficial organisms

### **CR39. POLLINATOR PROTECTION PLANS (2016)**

WHEREAS, Managed Pollinator Protection Plans are being developed by many states across the nation; and,  
WHEREAS, these plans include bee registries in order to keep track of apiary locations so that beekeepers can be notified of impending pesticide applications; and,  
WHEREAS, moving bee hives away from all pesticide applications is an impossibility and not a sustainable means of reducing bee hazards from pesticides on a broad scale; and,  
WHEREAS, non-apis pollinators should be protected by these plans as well as honey bees; and,  
WHEREAS, all such plans must be designed to specifically comply with FIFRA's primary goal of preventing unreasonable harm to man and the environment; now,  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation work to ensure that state pollinator protection plans truly protect all pollinators and that no MP3's contain elements that are less restrictive than Federal pesticide law; and,  
FURTHER, that the ABF continue to stress the fact that clear, enforceable pesticide label language is the best way to protect honey bees and all pollinators from the risks of pesticide exposure.

**CR40. INTEGRITY IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (2016)**

WHEREAS, scientific research is essential to help discover solutions to the many problems facing the beekeeping industry, and

WHEREAS, some scientists have been reprimanded in recent years for publishing the results of their research, and

WHEREAS, scientists should be free to conduct research and publish their results without fear of retribution, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Beekeeping Federation fully support the rights of scientists to freely conduct essential research and publish the results of their peer reviewed studies without fear of retribution.

**CR41. SUPPORT H-2A REFORM (2016)**

WHEREAS, American Beekeepers are vital to American Agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, beekeepers struggle with significant labor shortages and are unable to find a sufficient number of US citizen employees to work with bees; and,

WHEREAS, in recent years many beekeepers have participated in the US Department of Labor's H-2A program in order to contract with foreign workers who can help make up for the shortage of American workers; and,

WHEREAS, H-2A program rules are needlessly complex and participation costs are high; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation support Congressional or administrative action to improve and streamline the H-2A program so as to make it more user friendly and cost effective.

**CR42. FEASIBILITY OF ABF/AHPA REUNIFICATION (2016)**

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation and the American Honey Producers Association both represent the beekeeping industry and the American Beekeeper; and,

WHEREAS, the two organizations have much in common and have demonstrated a willingness to work together serving the diverse interests of all those in the industry; and,

WHEREAS, the ABF and AHPA have held joint conferences in the past and are planning a joint conference in 2017; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the ABF will engage on a regular basis with AHPA to formulate a realistic strategy for determining the feasibility of forming a single national beekeeping organization.

**CR43. ANTIBIOTIC POLICY (2017 Edited; 2016)**

WHEREAS, the Veterinary Feed Directive which requires beekeepers to obtain a veterinarian prescription for the purchase, use, and application of antibiotic products

such as lincomycin, tylosin, oxytetracycline or any other antibiotic medication that is labeled or developed for the treatment of honey bees; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation request that the US Food and Drug Administration assist beekeepers in implementing the Veterinary Feed Directive; and,

FURTHER, that the ABF member that use approved antibiotics do so responsibly according to the label.

#### **CR44. TREATED ARTICLE EXEMPTION (2016)**

WHEREAS, the use of pesticide treated seeds (treated articles) has grown in recent years throughout the USA; and,

WHEREAS, EPA does not consider the planting of such treated articles to be a pesticide application and exempts them from pesticide regulation; and,

WHEREAS, planting of these treated articles has caused significant harm to honey bees, other pollinators and non-target species, and,

WHEREAS, the ABF, as the largest national organization representing all segments of the beekeeping industry, is concerned with the impact these treated articles have in regard to the health of bees throughout the nation; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF supports creating a record through further dialog and interaction with all interested parties, including EPA, involving the treated article exemption, and

FURTHER, that ABF shall formulate a recommendation for any necessary actions in regard to the EPA's treated article exemption.

## **2017 RESOLUTIONS of the American Beekeeping Federation**

The following Resolutions were adopted at the American Beekeeping Federation's Annual Business Meeting, Jan. 13, 2017, in Galveston, Texas.

### **1. SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE AT CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation is grateful for the cooperation of the American Honey Producers and the Canadian Honey Council for their support in making the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow (NABC) a success; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Director be instructed to express our appreciation to The American Honey Producers Association, Canadian Honey Council, and all who contributed their time, efforts and resources to make this 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow a notable event for our beekeeping industry.

### **2. CONVENTION SPEAKERS, EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS**

WHEREAS, the exceptional speakers at the 2017 NABC have significantly contributed to the success of this event and to the knowledge and understanding across our industry through those in attendance; and,

WHEREAS, the advertisers in the conference guidebook have underwritten the publication of a valuable convention and publicity resource; and,

WHEREAS, the sponsors of the refreshment breaks have enhanced the conference experience and assisted in the sociability of the conference; and,

WHEREAS, the trade show exhibitors have generated interest in the conference by the display of their inventories and have provided educational opportunities by showing their latest product developments and have generously donated merchandise to various fundraising activities; and,

WHEREAS, the American Honey Show entrants and sponsors have made it possible for some of the best of America's honey, beeswax, hive products and related retail packaged items to be placed on exhibit; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Director be instructed to write letters of appreciation to the speakers, guidebook advertisers, break sponsors, trade show exhibitors, and Honey Show sponsors and entrants for their participation and support for these special programs of the 2017 NABC.

### **3. THANKS TO CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS**

WHEREAS, the success of the 2017 NABC is largely credited to the help of volunteers; and,

WHEREAS, the seamless operation of our conference activities is the result of the dedicated work by the 2017 Conference Committee; now,  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF express our sincere appreciation to

2017 North American Beekeeping Conference Committee and all those who participated in preparation and planning for the 2017 Conference; and,

#### **4. AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the American Honey Queen Program makes an important contribution to the promotion of honey; and,

WHEREAS, this promotion to the consuming public is a vital component of a successful beekeeping industry; and,

WHEREAS, the benefits and results of this program depend largely upon the dedication and efforts of the committee members; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we acknowledge the work of the Honey Queen Committee, Chairperson Anna Kettlewell, 2016 American Honey Queen Kim Kester, and 2016 American Honey Princess Tabitha Mansker for their positive representation of our industry during the past twelve months.

#### **5. ABF SPONSORS**

WHEREAS, any trade organization is desirous of having generous sponsors from its area of influence so that it can accomplish more for its members and related industry; and,

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation is blessed with many generous sponsors; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF express its appreciation to all its sponsoring organizations for their continued support at the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference and throughout the year.

#### **6. HONEY INTEGRITY TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, a Honey Integrity Task Force has been formed to address issues related to the quality and authenticity of honey in the US market, and

WHEREAS, representatives of the American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association, Sioux Honey Association, True Source Honey, National Honey Packers and Dealers, and Western States Packers and Dealers comprise this task force, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Beekeeping Federation continue its involvement with this effort in order to help ensure the quality and integrity of honey in the US market.

#### **7. FDA LABELING**

WHEREAS, the US Food and Drug Administration has developed new rules for labeling of foods containing sugars, including honey, which require the term “added sugars” be listed on the label, even though the sugars in honey are naturally occurring, and

WHEREAS, consumer surveys clearly indicate that the use of the term “added sugars” on honey labels conveys a message that the honey has been adulterated with additional sugars, and

WHEREAS, use of this term will cause confusion and is likely to have a negative impact on the image of honey, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation continue to work with other honey industry organizations in an effort to urge that FDA exempt honey from these new “added sugar” label requirements.

#### **8. MRL FOR TYOSIN**

WHEREAS, tylosin has been used as an approved antibiotic for American Foulbrood control in bee hives for many years, and

WHEREAS, residues of tylosin have recently been detected in some honey samples, and

WHEREAS, the honey industry is concerned that there is currently no tolerance for tylosin in honey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the American Beekeeping Federation work with other honey industry organizations to petition the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in order to establish a maximum residue limit (MRL) for tylosin in honey.

#### **9. DOT HOURS OF SERVICE**

WHEREAS, safe and efficient transport of bee hives throughout the USA is essential to American agriculture, and

WHEREAS, the current hours of service limitations make it extremely difficult to transport bees legally during the time of year with longer daylight hours, now

WHEREAS, the ABF fully supports maintaining the highest truck safety standards on our highways.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation petition the U.S. Department of Transportation in order to seek a limited exemption from the strict hours of service limitations for those transporting bee hives during months of the year with longer daylight hours.

#### **10. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING**

WHEREAS, current honey labeling practices are confusing and sometimes deceptive, and,

WHEREAS, the current practices of honey labeling for identifying country of origin do not accurately reflect the true source of the honey in the package; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF work to establish mandatory and accurate country of origin labeling regulations that require the country of origin be stated on the front of the label in the same size font as the Net Weight.

#### **11. EXPANDING AND ENHANCING HABITAT AND FORAGE FOR HONEY BEES**

WHEREAS, critical habitat loss has been recognized as a major factor affecting honey bee health; and

WHEREAS, lands set aside or enrolled in conservation programs have been decreasing significantly; and

WHEREAS, efforts to rebuild and develop new foraging habitat are needed to promote healthy honey bees and honey production; and

WHEREAS, the ABF and the AHPA have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the USDA-NRCS and FSA which allows for increased involvement in developing and managing USDA programs that impact pollinators on the landscape; and

WHEREAS, the conservation programs administered by USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource and Conservation Service play an important role in the management of honey bee colony locations in many states by providing set-aside acreages of land intended for the benefit of the land, wildlife, the environment, pollinators, and the farm community; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF conduct efforts to ensure that provisions exist for the placement of apiaries in the new Farm Bill, and all current and proposed conservation programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to support other efforts to promote, protect and establish additional habitat and forage for honey bees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF encourage the planting and cultivation of legume rich seed formulations for conservation acres using management practices that promote and protect pollinator habitat initiatives on the maximum amount of acres available.

**(Zac Browning proposed that the ABF read through the amendment carefully and then make a decide where to sign on to this.)**

## **12. HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION**

WHEREAS, the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) has been developing and delivering valuable products/projects that have been positively impacting honey bee health, and

WHEREAS, ABF has participated in HBHC since its inception, and

WHEREAS, the dynamic interaction and collaborations with the broad spectrum of stakeholders in HBHC has resulted in the potential for many additional positive outcomes, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the ABF continue its strong support for and participation in the Honey Bee Health Coalition.

## **13. FARM BILL**

WHEREAS, the 2014 Farm Bill Expires on September 30, 2018 and

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation supports efforts to begin debating the Farm Bill in 2017, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF work with Congress to construct a Farm Bill that is in the best interest of all beekeepers, particularly in the areas of conservation, research, trade and marketing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF work in coordination with allied beekeeping industry groups to support a 2018 Farm Bill which represents the best interests of the American beekeeping industry.

## **14. HONEY BEE SPECIES**

WHEREAS, genetics is an important tool in sustaining as well as improving the honeybee in America, and

WHEREAS, collection of genetic material will help maintain as well as improve those stocks,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF encourage the USDA to continue funding collection of genetic materials.

**15. ABF SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE BEE AND BUTTERFLY HABITAT FUND**

WHEREAS, important habitat and forage for honeybees has decrease significantly in many areas critical for honeybees, and

WHEREAS, the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund is funding and delivering private conservation programs to provide essential habitat for honeybees, and

WHEREAS, Bee and Butterfly projects provide beekeepers with an opportunity to work with landowners to specifically improve forage where it can benefit their bees;  
now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF encourage it's membership to support and contribute to the the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund.