

## **AMERICAN HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS 2014**

### **PREAMBLE**

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

### **AHPA Resolutions**

1. The officers and members of the AHPA resolve to continue the campaign to:
  - A. Work to enhance the profitability of beekeeping.
  - B. Motivate beekeepers to establish a meaningful rapport with their Congressional delegates.
  - C. Promote the honey bee pollination story with members of congress.
  - D. Open a meaningful line of communication with the Administration.
  - E. Work with other organized groups whose goals are compatible with the goals of the AHPA.
  - F. Provide the necessary funds for the AHPA to implement the 2014 AHPA Program.
  
2. Be it resolved that the AHPA go on record encouraging all beekeepers, related industries, state associations, and state entities, who are recipients of Byrd Amendment funds, immediately send a 25% contribution of their Byrd payment to AHPA, in addition to the 25% required by Kelley, Drye, and Warren, to help pay for the continued cost of AHPA legal expenses and operating expenses.
  
3. Whereas the I.T.C. has ruled unanimously that cheap imports from China are injuring the domestic honey industry and whereas significant dumping duties were imposed on imports from China, therefore be it resolved that the AHPA go on record supporting aggressive collection of duties to protect the effectiveness of the I.T.C. ruling and monitor circumvention of duties by shipping honey through intermediate countries.
  
4. Whereas the anti-dumping suit has brought a considerable amount of money to the beekeeping industry, therefore be it resolved that the AHPA fund the review of shippers and new shipper request by having beekeepers contribute to the antidumping fund through the self assessment of at least one cent per pound or \$1.00 per hive.
  
5. Whereas imported honey is being blended with domestic honey at the bulk and retail level, and whereas this co-mingled honey is labeled as a product of several different countries thereby making the country of origin label meaningless to the consumer, therefore be it resolved the AHPA go on record asking Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit the blending of foreign honey, other than Canadian, with domestic honey.
  
6. Whereas imitation sweeteners, ultra-filtered honey, Baker's Blend, Packer's Blend, or other adulterated "honey" is being labeled and sold as honey, be it resolved that the AHPA go on record to encourage FDA and other government agencies to prohibit all products of this type from using the word "honey" anywhere in the label.
  
7. Whereas the US honey market is currently faced with a barrage of mislabeled, adulterated, counterfeit, and/or contaminated products, therefore be it resolved that the AHPA support national standard of identity.
  
8. Whereas genetically engineered honeybees could have devastating economic implications to the value and the marketability of honey and honeybee products, and enormous economic costs to the bee industry due to the intellectual property rights laws of genetically engineered organisms (beekeepers may not be able to openly breed their own bees because of royalties to a genetic monopoly), therefore be it resolved that the AHPA goes on record as strongly opposing the testing, development, and release of genetically engineered honeybees.
  
9. Be it resolved that the AHPA ask USDA/Carl Hayden Research Facility to research the nutritional value of genetically modified crops to the honey bee.

10. Whereas AHPA recognizes that the LD 50 test do not accurately access the risk of all compounds brought to market or currently on the market, be it resolved the AHPA request EPA to enact the new protocols developed at the Pelston conference for Tier I, II, and III testing on new and reviewed products to determine all possible effects on honeybees.

11. Whereas AHPA does not recognize the accuracy of LD50 tests on all compounds brought to market or currently on the market, be it resolved AHPA request EPA to implement new protocols developed at the Pelston Process for new protocols.

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

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

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

14. Whereas US bee labs are critical to honeybee research, be it resolved that AHPA go on record requesting USDA-ARS to:

- update the facility at the Baton Rouge Honey Bee Research Unit
- continue the mission/purpose of the recently closed Weslaco Bee Lab
- continue to support and fund all current honey bee research labs
- ask ARS to fast track a feasibility study of a honey bee pollination lab in California

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

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

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

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

18. Whereas Aluminum Phosphide is labeled for use on honey comb, be it resolved that the AHPA request ARS to sponsor an IR-4 to work with pesticide registrants to amend the pesticide label where by all honey in comb may become a listed stored commodity.

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

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

21. Whereas bee forage is critical to bee health and there has been large conversion from CRP to row crops, and Federal and State land offers potential place for bees to forage safely, be it resolved the AHPA request Federal and State land management agencies to implement bee access policy and studies to support these policies.

22. Whereas honeybees are suffering unknown detrimental effects from unknown sources, be it resolved the AHPA goes on record requesting a national database be implemented to track the usage of pesticides nationwide.

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

24. Whereas the bee industry is at a critical juncture in it's ability to serve production agriculture and there seems to be a lack of understanding of the value of bees from one segment of agriculture to another segment of agriculture. Be it resolved that the American Honey Producers go on record asking the department of agriculture to fund a national proactive Extension Position to present the value of bees to production agriculture and also BMP to production agriculture that will help conserve the bees so that our national food supply remains strong.

25. Be it resolved that the AHPA express deepest sympathy to the families of the following who have lost their loved ones in the year 2013:

Blake Overbey and Doris Meyer

26. Whereas transportation of hives is an integral part of the bee industry therefore be it resolved AHPA ask DOT to give exemption for the hours of service when hauling bees as granted to other livestock industries

27. The AHPA extends a sincere thank you to all those who have contributed to the success of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual AHPA Convention at the San Antonio Omni Hotel at the Colonnade:

- \* All of the informative speakers.
- \* Randy, Roberta, and Rochelle Verhoek, Connie Adee, Michelle Spuhler, Darla Adee, Carrie Jensen, Mark Jensen, Lee Knight, Darren and Cassie Cox.
- \* The Vendors & Dealers for their handsome display of wares, much needed coffee breaks, and advertising in the convention program.
- \* All donors for the Welcome Reception.
- \* Tejas Rodeo Company
- \* All auction donors.
- \* All the friendly and helpful staff of the San Antonio Omni Hotel at the Colonnade for their cooperation and support before and during the convention.
- \* All individuals not listed who contributed to the success of the convention.