

## Resolution 1

### USDA-ARS Capacity to Diagnose Honeybees as Africanized Honeybees in a Timely Manner

The steady progression of the Africanized honeybee (AHB), *Apis mellifera scutellata* has been documented in a number of southern states. In the last 15 years the AHB has become established in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Nevada, and most recently in Florida, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. This situation has caused increased concern in these states and those not yet known to be infested with this threat. In response, an increased number of suspect samples are expected to be sent to USDA-ARS for timely identification in 2006 and beyond.

Since the adoption of the current identification protocol other methodologies have been utilized for determining the Africanization of honey bee populations. These methods may question the reliability of this protocol.

Due to the importance of honey bee pollination to the agricultural industry, the potential impact of AHB on public safety, pets, and livestock, and the need to minimize the spread of AHB, it is imperative that state regulatory officials act as rapidly as possible when suspect swarms or colonies are detected. In order to do that it is critical to receive accurate and timely diagnostic reports.

**Be it resolved**, The Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA), at its annual meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, hereby urges USDA-ARS to reevaluate the current methodologies and decide the best method for determining Africanization of honeybee populations.

**Be it further resolved**, that USDA-ARS needs to provide a definitive determination on Africanization on honey bee samples within a reasonable time frame, preferably within 14 days or less.

**Audience:**

Secretary Mike Johanns, USDA

Kenneth Rauscher, President, National Plant Board

The Honorable Gus Douglass, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA

Dr. Kevin J. Hackett, USDA ARS Program Leader

Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau

Steve Park, President, American Honey Producers Association

David Ellingson, President, American Beekeeping Federation

Walker Gray Haun, President, Southern Plant Board

Michael E. Brown, President Central Plant Board

Carl P. Schulze, President, Eastern Plant Board

Michael Cooper, President, Western Plant Board

Marion Ellis, President, American Association of Professional Apiculturists