



THE CENTRAL PLANT BOARD

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CENTRAL PLANT BOARD 2007 ANNUAL MEETING Columbus, Ohio RESOLUTION NO. 8

“Africanized Honey Bee”

The African honey bee (AHB) has been detected extensively in south Florida, southern Arkansas and Louisiana and recently in the New Orleans area and as well as other parts of the United States. Stinging incidents involving humans, pets and livestock are increasing and public concern is at high levels. Legal issues, both civil and regulatory, are dictating that a legal definition of “Africanization” be established on which sound legal decisions can be made.

Currently, USDA standards for identification of AHB define “Africanization” as occurring when a 90% probability is reached using USDA-ID testing. However, phenotypic characteristics, especially aggressiveness, may be manifested at lower probability levels. Regulators especially need an official USDA-ID protocol of testing to declare a sample as Africanized at a 50% level of hybridization in order to address public safety concerns and on which regulatory programs and action plans can be based.

Resolved, by the Central Plant Board at its 83rd annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio on February 7, 2007, request USDA-ARS define “Africanization” to meet the needs of the regulatory and legal communities. Such request includes the study of new methods as needed for faster identification in the field and laboratory. Genome studies, volatile chemical markers, ELISA testing and other methods as technological advances are made should be considered. Methods now being used were developed some 20 years ago. With new technology, such as single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP chip), easily attainable and with public safety needs now better determined, methods of AHB identification must be updated to meet these challenges and produce results in the field or laboratory within 24 hours to meet emergency management needs.

Distribution :

To: Honorable Michael Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA, APHIS
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Ken Rauscher, President, National Plant Board
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