



# EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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**2006**

## **Resolution No. 3**

### **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 is expected to be sent to the USDA-ARS for timely identification in 2006 and beyond.

Due to the importance of honeybee 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.

**Resolved**, By the Eastern Plant Board at its 81<sup>st</sup> annual meeting in Rehoboth Beach, DE on April 6, 2006, to urge that the USDA-ARS reevaluate the current methodologies and decide the best method for determining Africanization of honeybee populations.

**Be it further resolved**, that the USDA-ARS be requested to provide a definitive determination on Africanization of honeybee samples within a reasonable timeframe, preferably within 14 days or less.

#### **Distribution:**

Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture  
Dr. Hackett, National program leader, USDA-ARS  
Dr. Jeffery Pettis, USDA Bee Research Laboratory  
Regional Plant Board Presidents  
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