



Southern Plant Board

President: Mike Evans, Georgia (404) 651-9486
Vice President: Larry Nichols, Virginia (804) 786-3515
Secretary-Treasurer: Kenneth Calcote, Mississippi (662) 325-8488

Contact Address:
Georgia Dept. of Agriculture
Plant Protection Section
1109 Experiment Street, Redding Building, Room 213
Griffin, GA 30223

2015 Annual Meeting
Richmond, Virginia
April 26-29, 2015

Resolution No. 4

Continuance of the National Honey Bee Survey

Southern Plant Board (SPB) recognizes and appreciates that since 2009 USDA-APHIS-PPQ has organized and funded the National Honey Bee Survey.

WHEREAS USDA-APHIS is under increased pressure to allow the importation of honey bees from other countries. Tremendous losses of honey bee colonies in recent years occurred due to “colony collapse disorder” or other unresolved causes. Viral diseases have been introduced into the U.S. and are vectored by introduced parasites. These events prove undoubtedly that the U.S. beekeeping industry is vulnerable to other pests and pathogens and the USDA should continue measures to prevent the introduction of these maladies. Thus a continuing survey effort is vital for ensuring the rapid discovery of any novel pest, parasite, or diseases into the already stressed honey bee population and to adhere to international policy and trade agreements in order to restrict movement of honey bees into the USA.

RESOLVED that the SPB at its annual meeting on April 29, 2015 recognizes the importance of a nationwide monitoring program for early detection of honeybee pests and requests that USDA, both APHIS and ARS, provide a permanent funding source to maintain surveys of honey bee colonies not only for *Tropilaelaps* species, but for virus complexes, *Varroa* species and their variants as well as other organisms capable of adversely affecting honey bee health. Such surveys should continue to utilize current infrastructure among cooperating state agencies to collect and prepare samples for USDA analysis.

Distribution:

Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Rebecca Bech, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Geir Friisoe, National Plant Board President
Regional Plant Board Presidents
Bee Informed Partnership
Apiary Inspectors of America