



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

Mr. Joe Collins  
President, National Plant Board  
Department of Entomology  
S-225 Ag. Science Center North  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

JAN - 4 2016

Dear Mr. Collins:

Subject: National honey bee survey

We thank you for your letter of November 15, 2015 summarizing the National Plant Board's continued support for the National Honey Bee Pests and Disease Survey. This survey has provided many years of valuable data characterizing the overall health, pest and disease status, and pesticide exposure in hives of U.S. honey bees. This data has helped PPQ and its stakeholders make informed regulatory decisions aimed at improving the long-term health and stability of honey bee populations.

Because the continued strength and future of US Agriculture is intimately linked to maintaining robust populations of our major pollinators, honey bees, we have been pleased to provide funding for projects that directly support honeybee health through Farm Bill Section 10007 and appropriated funding since 2009. In fiscal year 2015, thirty-eight states and territories received funding to collect samples for the National Honey Bee Pests and Disease Survey. Eleven of the states participating in the survey last year also collected pollen samples to be analyzed for pesticide residues. To ensure nationally consistent analysis of these samples, we collaborated with the University of Maryland diagnostic laboratory and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to centralize these analyses. Results of the pests and disease survey as well as the pesticide analysis from the 2013–2014 survey are available at:

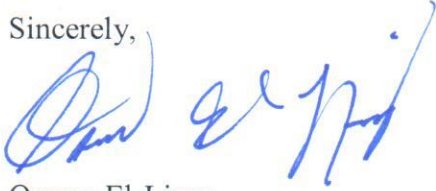
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/honey\\_bees/downloads/2013-2014-National-Survey-Report.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/honey_bees/downloads/2013-2014-National-Survey-Report.pdf)

Our commitment to safeguarding bee health and supporting efforts like the ones mentioned here remains strong. We are reviewing and recommending projects for funding through Section 10007 in 2016. We will continue to look for opportunities to strengthen efforts to protect bee health by increasing needed research, expanding

survey and sampling activities, and better leveraging current infrastructure among cooperating agencies.

As always, we value the National Plant Board's support of the Farm Bill program and continued involvement on goal review teams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Osama El-Lissy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "O" and a long, sweeping tail.

Osama El-Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

pm/kaz