



# Southern Plant Board

**President**, Gene Cross, North Carolina (919) 733-3933  
**Vice President**, Sancho Dickinson, Oklahoma (405) 522-5879  
**Secretary-Treasurer**, Harry Fulton, Mississippi (662) 325-7765

**Contact Address:** Plant Industry Division  
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
1060 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1060

## RESOLUTION No. 3

### HONEY BEE IMPORTS

Prior to 1984 and the introduction of the destructive Honey Bee Tracheal Mite (HBTM), the United States honey bee population, along with the crop pollination and honey production it supported, was protected under the Honey Bee Act of 1922 from global pests, predators, parasites and diseases. In June 2000, honey bee pests and exclusion fell under the Plant Protection Act.

In addition to domestic honey production and incidental pollination of forage crops sustaining wildlife, managed honey bees are vital for the production of over \$15 billion of agricultural crops. In the past, managed honey bees consistently met production demands and feral populations were significant and robust. Since the introduction of HBTM in 1984, Varroa Mites *Varroa destructor* (VM) in 1987, Small Hive Beetle (SHB) in 1998, and Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV), and *Nosema ceranae*, the managed population of honey bees is at its lowest in last 60 years. Additionally, the feral population of European Honey Bees, has been virtually eliminated from the United States. The commercial beekeeping industry has been devastated and is struggling to survive.

Without active intervention and implementation of effective quarantines of all life stages of honey bees, other destructive agents are subject to enter the United States. Potential new threats include the parasitic Cape Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera capensis*), external Asian Parasitic Mite (*Tropilealaps clareae*) (APM), and a variety of fungal, viral, and bacterial pathogens.

**RESOLVED** by the membership of the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on April 9, 2008 that we urge USDA, APHIS, PPQ use its current mandate and powers within the Plant Protection Act to safeguard the United States beekeeping industry and pollinator dependent agriculture by active sampling, inspection, and quarantine of all life stages of honey bees for pests, predators, parasites, and pathogens before allowing entry to forestall the potential negative consequences and impact to Honey Bee Health that would result from the importation of additional destructive agents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Southern Plant Board, that we request that USDA, APHIS develop a written report that includes a risk evaluation of this issue, resources needs, and a corresponding risk mitigation program to address this important issue. This report is to be provided to the President of the National Plant Board by December 31, 2008.

#### Member States

Alabama – Arkansas – Florida – Georgia – Kentucky – Louisiana – Mississippi  
North Carolina – Oklahoma – Puerto Rico – South Carolina – Tennessee – Texas – Virginia



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Motion to adopt: Sancho Dickinson, Chair, SPB Resolutions Committee  
Seconded by: Dennis Barcliff

## **Distribution:**

Cindy J. Smith, Administrator, USDA, APHIS  
Rebecca Bech, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
Vic Harabin, Eastern Regional Director, USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
Phil Garcia, Western Regional Director, USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
Gus Douglas, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA  
Richard Kirchhoff, Executive Vice President and CEO, NASDA  
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