



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
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RESOLUTION No. 4

NATIONAL HONEYBEE PEST SURVEY & QUICK METHODS FOR PEST IDENTIFICATION

Importation of honey bees from other countries is occurring in unprecedented numbers and other petitions are being reviewed by USDA/APHIS. Tremendous losses of honey bee colonies in the fall/winter of 2006/2007 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 exotic pests and the USDA should take stricter measures to prevent the introduction of exotic pests. But first, a baseline of honey bee diseases, parasites and other pests of honey bees must be established to adhere to international policy and trade agreements in order to restrict movement of honey bees into the U.S.

With the identification of new pathogens and Africanized honey bees being found in the southern states, there is a need for a quick identification of these pests and pathogens in the field and laboratory, especially *Tropilaelaps clareae*, *Nosema ceranae*, *Apis mellifera scutellata* (AHB) and *Apis mellifera capensis*. Also, research is needed to develop methodology to identify other mite species as well as other species of pests not yet found in the United States.

Resolved, that the Southern Plant Board, at its annual meeting on April 9, 2008 hereby requests USDA/ARS to set up a quick and immediate identification for honey bee pests and pathogens. With new technology, such as the honey bee pathogen chip (SNP Chip), methods of identification of pests and pathogens must be updated to meet current challenges needed for faster identification in the field and laboratory and to meet emergency management needs.

Be it further resolved that the Southern Plant Board urgently requests USDA, both APHIS and ARS, to fund and implement such a survey as soon as possible at levels necessary to conduct surveys, not only for *Tropilaelaps clareae*, but for virus complexes, varroa species and their variants as well as other unknown organisms capable of adversely affecting honey bee health. Such survey should utilize current infrastructure among cooperating state agencies to collect and prep samples for USDA analysis. Therefore, assuming state cooperation in supplying in-kind services utilizing current personnel, Southern Plant Board requests that adequate funding be budgeted and approved for this much needed baseline survey beginning in 2008.

Motion to adopt: Harry Fulton, Mississippi
Seconded by: Gray Haun, Tennessee

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
Greg Ibach, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA
Richard Kirchoff, Executive Vice President and CEO, NASDA
Bob Ehart, NASDA
Richie Farmer, President, SASDA
Gray Haun, President, National Plant Board
Regional Plant Board Presidents
USDA, ARS

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