

Apiary Inspectors of America 2000 and Continued, 2020

## **Honey Bee Imports**

Author: *Revised by 2020 AIA Resolutions Committee*

The Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) appreciates the action taken by USDA-APHIS to protect the United States border from further introduction of honey bee pests and pathogens.

The apiary inspectors are concerned about possible importation of undesirable races of honey bees, new pathogen, pest, and parasite introduction. In recent years imported honey bees were used to supplement domestic honey bees for almond pollination in California. However, the market is relatively small while the risk of introducing a new bee pathogen when most of the United States' bees are in California could have widespread consequences. More than half of the nation's bees are brought to California for almond pollination. A disease or parasite that came in undetected could rapidly spread throughout the continental United States when these colonies are returned to their home states or moved to pollinate other crops.

AIA has been continuously working to mitigate the movement of Africanized bees in the United States due to concerns for public safety. AIA is deeply concerned with the possible importation of undesirable races of honey bees from other countries into areas currently free of Africanized bees. It is our understanding that once bees move into the United States they can move freely between the states. The states are saddled with an increased number of stinging incidences due to Africanized bees. Direct importation of these bees will increase this burden on the states.

At this time, when United States bee losses of 25-35% are attributed to viruses and other pathogens it would be irresponsible to introduce a new problem.

At the annual meeting of the AIA on January 10, 2020, the AIA does resolve that:

- 1) USDA-APHIS-PPQ protects American agriculture by keeping United States borders closed to honey bee introductions.
- 2) USDA-APHIS-PPQ discuss with North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) members, encouraging NAPPO agreement to protect North American beekeeping from the risk of pest, parasite or pathogen introduction into North America. The AIA believes that there is a strong need for NAPPO members to agree to uniform standards on the acceptance of queen bees and packages into NAPPO member states. We strongly encourage APHIS to petition NAPPO partners to allow each State Apiary Inspection Program to review data from a specific country before allowing that country to import bees into the United States.
- 3) USDA-APHIS-PPQ require that countries requesting importation into the United States produce survey data of equivalent rigor to that being conducted by the APHIS and AIA.

Audience:     USDA-APHIS PPQ  
                  NASDA

Copies to:     Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists  
                  American Association of Professional Apiculturists  
                  Executive Director, NAPPO, Biological Control Committee  
                  National Plant Board

2020 RESOLUTIONS

Apiary Inspectors of America, 2020

Apiary Inspectors of America 2000 and Continued, 2020

## **Continuance of the National Honey Bee Survey**

Author: *Revised by 2020 AIA Resolutions Committee*

Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) recognizes and appreciates that since 2009 USDA-APHIS- PPQ has organized and funded the National Honey Bee Survey.

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 United States and are vectored by introduced parasites. These events prove undoubtedly that the United States 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 United States.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America at its annual meeting on January 10, 2020 recognizes the importance of a nationwide monitoring program 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 survey should continue to utilize current infrastructure among cooperating state agencies to collect and prepare samples for USDA analysis.

Audience:     USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
                  U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

Copy to:       National Plant Board  
                  Regional Plant Boards  
                  National Beekeeping Organizations  
                  Bee Informed Partnership  
                  NASDA

2020 RESOLUTIONS

Apiary Inspectors of America, 2020

Apiary Inspectors of America 2009 and Continued, 2020

## **Evaluation and registration of pesticides affecting honey bee colonies**

Author: *Revised by 2020 AIA Resolutions Committee*

Pesticide residues at chronic and/or sub-lethal levels appear likely to be contributing to colony losses. Concerns identified by the research, regulatory and public communities point to the unknown effects of pesticides, including systemic insecticide, fungicide and herbicide products, on honey bees. Research has identified that risk to honey bees from pesticide activity is both synergistic and cumulative when bees are exposed to multiple pesticides.

The Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA), exists for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of honey bee colonies in the United States.

Be it resolved that the AIA, at its annual meeting on January 10, 2020 hereby expresses appreciation to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its efforts on this issue.

Be it further resolved that the AIA requests the EPA continue to develop the protocols used to assess the risk of pesticide chemistries on honey bees, with particular interest in the potential sub-lethal and synergistic activities of pesticide chemistries under field conditions, and take such action as needed to understand the activity of pesticides on all life stages of honey bees and to ensure adequate protection of honey bees and other beneficial pollinators in the United States.

Be it further resolved that AIA would like to work cooperatively with the EPA and USDA in an effort to exchange knowledge regarding honey bee health concerns, and in the development of pesticide registration protocols affecting honey bee health.

Audience:     USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
                  EPA  
                  U.S. Secretary of Agriculture  
                  Executive Director, North American Plant Protection Organization, Biological Control  
                  Committee

Copy to:       National Plant Board  
                  Regional Plant Boards  
                  National Beekeeping Organizations  
                  Bee Informed Partnership  
                  Pest Management Regulatory Agency/Health Canada  
                  National Honey Bee Advisory Board  
                  AAPCO  
                  NASDA

2020 RESOLUTIONS

Apiary Inspectors of America, 2020

Apiary Inspectors of America 2020

## **Invasive Vespid Survey Efforts**

Author: 2020 AIA Resolutions Committee

Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) recognizes and appreciates USDA-APHIS-PPQ for their efforts in survey and detection of invasive species.

Tremendous losses of honey bee colonies in recent years have occurred due to variety of causes. Many of the beekeeping industries most pressing problems are a result of introduced viruses, pests and pathogens into the United States. The United States beekeeping industry is vulnerable to other pests, pathogens and diseases and the USDA should continue measures to detect and prevent the introduction and spread of organisms into the United States.

During the Fall of 2020, USDA-APHIS-PPQ positively identified a specimen of Mandarin hornet, *Vespa mandarinia* Smith (Family: Vespidae), in Blaine, Whatcom Co., Washington state. *Vespa mandarinia* conducts group raids on colonies of European honey bees, resulting in the complete destruction of the colony. This wasp and other exotic vespids can enter the United States as colonies, or as individuals in soil and wood products so multiple methods of survey are needed. A continued survey effort is vital for ensuring the rapid discovery of *Vespa mandarinia* and other vespids.

Be it resolved that the AIA at its annual meeting on January 10, 2020 recognizes the importance of the wasp monitoring program and requests that USDA, both APHIS and ARS,

1. Develop suitability models for *V. mandarinia* and other potentially invasive vespids;
2. Expand current monitoring programs funded by the USDA to include multiple survey techniques for detecting both colonies and individual vespids, and;
3. Provide a permanent funding source to maintain surveys for exotic vespids.

Such survey should utilize current infrastructure among cooperating state agencies and be based on suitability models.

Audience:     USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
                  U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

Copy to:       National Plant Board  
                  Regional Plant Boards  
                  NASDA