

# 2011 Objectives and Resolutions

## The American Beekeeping Federation, Inc.

### **STATEMENT OF CONTINUING OBJECTIVES FOR 2011 FOR THE AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION, INC.**

- I. The American Beekeeping Federation will work diligently through the self-policing program funded by the Honey Defense Fund to stop adulteration of honey and urges all its members to help in the fight against adulteration.
- II. The members of the American Beekeeping Federation shall foster the best possible relations with the general public and conduct their beekeeping operations to minimize the un-necessary exposure of the public to honey bees.
- III. The members of the American Beekeeping Federation shall maintain the highest standards in their honey production and handling facilities and shall use only approved compounds, as labeled, to avoid the introduction of contaminants into honey in the hive or during collection, processing and packaging.
- IV. The American Beekeeping Federation will cooperate with any other organizations when it is deemed that such cooperation will further the goals of the American Beekeeping Federation.
- V. The American Beekeeping Federation supports the adoption of policies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state agriculture departments, counties and weed control districts to encourage planting of legumes on set aside and marginal farmland, lands subject to erosion, and lands for wildlife habitat.
- VI. The American Beekeeping Federation will work to maintain and expand its honey promotion efforts through its support of the American Honey Queen Program and the National Honey Board.
- VII. The American Beekeeping Federation urges its membership to support legislative efforts by providing financial assistance, whenever possible, to the Legislative Fund and by keeping their Congressional representatives apprised of the legislative issues of the beekeeping industry.

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## **Statement of Mission and Values for American Beekeeping Federation**

### **MISSION**

The American Beekeeping Federation will act on behalf of the beekeeping industry on issues affecting the interests and the economic viability of the various sectors of the industry.

### **VALUES**

1. The resolutions supported and passed by the membership will serve as policy for the official actions of the ABF.
2. The ABF will maintain an organization that is normally proactive rather than reactive in handling industry issues.
3. The resolutions and decisions of the ABF will be based upon the best facts and information available.
4. The issues outcome will be directed toward maintaining an industry that is self-supporting with a minimum of government involvement.
5. The deliberations of an official body of the ABF will recognize and consider the impact of its decisions on the industry as a whole.
6. The ABF will serve as an information source to its members on those issues affecting the industry.

**- Adopted Jan. 18, 1997**

## **ABF Continuing Resolutions 2011**

The Continuing Objectives and Resolutions, as established at the Annual Business Meeting, guide the activities of the American Beekeeping Federation. Once adopted, a Resolution remains in effect until it is negated by a future Resolution or policy established at the Annual Meeting or is made obsolete by the passage of time or the occurrences of events, which supersede the Resolution. The following Resolutions, originally adopted in the year indicated, were approved as Continuing Resolutions at the Annual Business Meeting, Jan. 8, 2011, in Galveston, Texas.

### **CR1. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BEE LABS (Adopted 1999; Revised 2010)**

WHEREAS, there is a need for additional funding for USDA-ARS Honey Bee Labs; and,

WHEREAS, the American consumer is concerned with food safety; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation investigate ways of securing additional government funding for research for both honey bees and honey quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF encourage USDA-ARS to work diligently to fill all currently funded positions at the ARS honey bee labs.

### **CR2. FREE TRANSPORT OF BEES AND EQUIPMENT (2000)**

WHEREAS, the normal flow of bees across state lines is vital to the well-being of the domestic honey bee industry and the broader agricultural industry; and,

WHEREAS, the obstruction of the movement of bees across state lines would create an undue economic burden on the beekeeping and agricultural industries; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation continue to urge all regulatory entities to preserve the rights of movement of honey bees and equipment with minimal restraint.

### **CR3. NEED FOR MORE HIVE TREATMENTS (1999)**

WHEREAS, the beekeeping industry has only a small number of compounds and methods for the control of parasites and diseases; and,

WHEREAS, resistance to treatments is exacerbated by the limited methods and compounds currently available; and,

WHEREAS, competitive marketing of these compounds is necessary to maximize efficiencies and reduce costs to the beekeeping industry; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation urge all interested parties to work toward these goals; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF encourage USDA-ARS and other governmental and private agencies to seek additional compounds and methods of control.

### **CR4. ADULTERATED HONEY (2001)**

WHEREAS, there is honey, both domestic and imported, being sold in the United States which is adulterated; and,

WHEREAS, this adulterated product is affecting the price of honey in our marketplace in a negative way; and,

WHEREAS, detection methods need to be improved and made more economical to make enforcement possible; and,

WHEREAS, enforcement of adulteration regulations and laws is insufficient to protect the public; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation supports developing better low cost methods of detecting adulterated honey; improving enforcement of the law and helping to make laws with more punitive damages for adulterated honey; regular government testing for adulteration of honey; and pursuing indictments of offenders of adulteration laws and regulations.

#### **CR5. HONEY BEE POLLINATION RESEARCH (2001)**

WHEREAS, honey bee crop pollination is critical for the continued success of U.S. food production; and,

WHEREAS, crop pollination is a major activity in the increasingly diverse honey bee industry; and,

WHEREAS, research is needed to help beekeepers provide effective pollination; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that USDA's Agricultural Research Service; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program; and Economic Research Service be requested to increase their emphasis on honey bee crop pollination research.

#### **CR6. HONEY BEE ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT (2001)**

WHEREAS, wild, non-cultivated flowering plants are essential and aesthetically pleasing components of our planet's ecosystem; and,

WHEREAS, honey bees enhance the productivity and propagation of most flowering plants, thereby increasing the biomass and fruit and seed production of wild, non-cultivated flowering plants; and,

WHEREAS, greater plant productivity provides increased forage for wildlife, accelerates development of plant communities and plant cover for conservation programs, erosion control and natural succession following wildfires, logging, or other ecosystem disruptions; and,

WHEREAS, federal, state and private organizations which promote ecosystem preservation, enhancement and regeneration do not always consider the valuable ecosystem services provided by honey bees and the potential benefits of including honey bees in ecological preservation, enhancement or renewal programs; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation encourage additional research to define and quantify the nature and extent of honey bee contributions to natural ecological systems, publicize and communicate the results of such research when conducted; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF urge all appropriate federal and state agencies to include honey bees as integral components of our forests, greenbelts, parks, preserves, reclamation, conservation and other land management programs.

#### **CR7. NATIONAL HONEY BOARD (Adopted 2002; Revised 2004; Revised 2009; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, a national honey research and promotion board is essential to promote the use of honey, to conduct and to administrate vital honey research, to protect the industry from adverse publicity and to increase the total consumption of honey; and,

WHEREAS, a national honey research and promotion board promotes U.S. special varietal honeys with unique ongoing programs and research; and,

WHEREAS, the National Honey Board dedicates significant funds to honey bee research; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation support the National Honey Board; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF will continue to work toward improving national honey research and promotion to meet the needs of the domestic honey industry.

#### **CR8. HONEY CHEMISTRY AND PESTICIDE RESEARCH FACILITIES (2003)**

WHEREAS, honey bees have recently demonstrated significant potential to aid national defense and detect agents of harm while functioning as environmental sentinels; and,

WHEREAS, honey has been used as means of concealing contraband in international commerce to aid terrorist organizations, and the presence of dangerous compounds in the environment may be reflected by their presence, or in a corresponding increase of their concentrations, in honey and/or beeswax; and,

WHEREAS, many pesticides share common structural motifs, modes of physiological action, and neurological effects with compounds potentially used in chemical warfare; and,

WHEREAS, deeper understanding of honey chemistry, contaminant and adulterant detection methodologies, as well as the development of a library of honey samples and standards would aid exploiting the environmental sentinel function of honey bees, and deter use of honey as a means of concealing weapons and other agents of harm; and,

WHEREAS, further study of the effects of pesticides upon bee behavior would increase the potential utility of honey bees as environmental sentinels; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF support the establishment of facilities to conduct honey chemistry research, develop a comprehensive library of honey samples and test methods for detection of foreign compounds in honey, and to provide analysis and recommendations to minimize the accumulation of dangerous residues in honey; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF support the establishment of research facilities to investigate the effects of pesticides or other xenobiotics on honey bees, and recommends that EPA consider the effects of these substances upon bee behavior, as well as acute toxicity, when evaluating new pesticides for possible registration.

#### **CR9. REGISTERING NEW ACARACIDES (Adopted 2004; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, the accumulation of acaricide residues in wax and other hive matrices poses serious problems for bees and beekeepers; and,

WHEREAS, continuing use of the extremely limited repertoire of registered acaricides is causing rapid development of mite populations with elevated tolerance of those compounds; and,

WHEREAS, there is the need for a robust arsenal of weapons to combat Varroa destructor and other honey bee parasites; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue its ongoing efforts to expedite regulatory approval and registration of safe, efficacious products containing organic acids, and especially oxalic acid.

#### **CR10. APPLIED RESEARCH BEEKEEPING BUSINESS POSITION (2005)**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Beekeeping Industry has experienced unprecedented challenges, namely honey bee pests, diseases, and honey imports over the last 20 years; and,

WHEREAS, this industry has spiraled downward in numbers of sound beekeeping operators and bee colony numbers during this time period, even as demand for pollination escalated; and,

WHEREAS, this industry greatly needs an applied research business position to support the industry at the national level, to assist the pollination, honey production, queen rearing, package production and equipment businesses; and,

WHEREAS, improved attention to business basics will ensure a successful bee industry in the future, now THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the ABF support the establishment of an Applied Research Beekeeping Business Position at a Land Grant University in the United States.

#### **CR11. HONEY LABELING REQUIREMENTS (2006)**

WHEREAS, the ABF was a participant at the roundtable meetings sponsored by the National Honey Board in San Antonio, TX in December, 2004; and,

WHEREAS, the ABF is concerned about the image of honey being portrayed by misleading labeling; and,

WHEREAS, the roundtable participants agreed that a course of action requiring the misuse of the word honey in describing the contents of a syrup blend of honey must be stopped; and,

WHEREAS, the roundtable participants agreed that the amount of honey present in such a product should be prominently displayed on the front panel of the label as a percentage of pure honey; and,

WHEREAS, the presence of these products is damaging the image of pure honey and could interfere with the use of pure honey and cause confusion with the consumer; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF pursue changes to existing law and require the percentage of pure honey to be prominently displayed on the front label of all liquid sweetener products which purport to contain honey, or which contain "honey" on the front panel of the product or use "honey" in the product name.

#### **CR12. HONEY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2006)**

WHEREAS, current honey labeling practices are confusing and sometimes deceptive, and WHEREAS, the current practices of honey labeling for identifying country of origin do not accurately reflect the true source of the honey in the package

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF work to establish mandatory and accurate country of origin labeling regulations.

#### **CR13. TRANSGENIC CROPS (2006)**

WHEREAS, transgenic crops, genetically modified organisms, and other biotechnologies are transforming production agriculture, with both obvious and potential benefits to beekeepers and apiculture, but also presenting unprecedented actual and potential hazards to pollinators and the environment; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF attempt to assess the relative potential risks and benefits of various transgenic cultivars and any associated GMO crop management practices, and when significant risk-of-harm scenarios are identified, communicate the ABF's concerns to the entities responsible for development, propagation, sale and/or marketing or promotion of potentially dangerous transgenic crops and management practices, as well as appropriate regulatory authorities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF cooperate with other groups and organizations in pursuit of the aims of reducing the actual and potential perils of

genetically modified crops and their attendant management practices for pollinators and the resources upon which pollinators depend.

#### **CR14. CANADIAN TRADE (2006)**

WHEREAS, some Canadian officials have suggested informally that U.S. law should be changed to allow importation of Canadian honey bee colonies into the U.S., and

WHEREAS, exportation of US colonies to Canada should be permitted by Canadian law if any change to U.S. law is made,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF demand reciprocal benefits and equal treatment for U.S. honey bee exports to Canada if Canada petitions for a change in US law to permit Canadian imports to the US.

#### **CR15. USDA HONEY CHEMIST (2006)**

WHEREAS, adulteration of honey by sweeteners and other compounds has reached crisis levels, threatening the economic viability of the honey industry and domestic beekeeping and constitutes fraud on the consumer,

WHEREAS, current methods for detection of honey adulterants are unable to identify many potential compounds that may be used to adulterate honey

WHEREAS, contamination of honey with other compounds also threatens the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry; and,

WHEREAS, development, testing, validation and certification of new methods for detecting adulterants and contaminants are urgently needed and would promote honesty and fair dealing with consumers by enabling detection and elimination of counterfeit products from the stream of commerce; and,

WHEREAS, conducting the necessary research to enable development, testing, validation and certification of new methods requires state of the art laboratories, outstanding personnel and a library of validated honey samples; and,

WHEREAS, existing USDA research facilities, infrastructure and expertise would accelerate development of critically important technologies and methods, and provide a natural complement to the current work of USDA in answering the needs of the beekeeping industry; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF petition Congress to appropriate funds to provide laboratory facilities, equipment, personnel, and material and initiate a research program on the chemistry of honey, potential and actual honey adulterants, potential honey contaminants, and blends of honey and honey adulterants toward the end of developing, testing, validating and certifying new methods for the detection of adulterants and contaminants in honey.

#### **CR16. ENFORCEMENT OF LABELING LAWS ON HONEY PRODUCTS (2006)**

WHEREAS, a body of law, including federal and state statutes, regulations and common law imposes rules regarding labeling of products which have common and usual names; and,

WHEREAS, federal and state statutes, regulations, and common law imposes rules which prohibit deceptive, misleading and confusing product labeling, especially labeling which is dishonest and/or promotes unfair dealing and consumer fraud; and,

WHEREAS, notification of producers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers that they produce, manufacture, distribute or sell products that violate current law might dissuade future violations and lead to voluntary compliance with current law; and,

WHEREAS, notice of violation of current law, accompanied by written demand that further infraction of regulations, statutes and common law cease, and demand that the

producer, manufacturer, distributor or retailer desist from future violations of law might dissuade additional violations of law and would be a necessary prelude to submission of any complaint to adjudication in any event; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to pursue FDA cease and desist orders or other civil remedies to restrain the deceptive and misleading labeling of honey and honey products.

**CR17. ESTABLISHING NOTIFICATION POLICY (2006)**

WHEREAS, the ABF has no policy regarding ABF officers testifying in civil lawsuits affecting the beekeeping industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF officers be encouraged to make the ABF Board of Directors aware of their participating in trials involving bees prior to their involvement.

**CR18. SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES (Adopted 2006; Revised 2010)**

WHEREAS, the use of pesticide treated seed of nectar-producing crops is becoming more common; and,

WHEREAS, the nectar and pollen from these plants may be harmful to pollinating insects visiting those blossoms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to assess the potential risks to insect pollinators; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF cooperate with other groups and organizations that have the aim of reducing the potential damage to pollinating insects from crops using systemic pesticides.

**CR19. EXPANDING LABOR FOREIGN LABOR OPPORTUNITIES (2007)**

WHEREAS, many beekeepers cannot find an adequate supply of labor to fit their business needs from within the borders of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, current labor programs (H-2A) prevent foreign workers from obtaining a legal work status that would allow more than short-term status in a position; and,

WHEREAS, current law also does not allow H-2A beekeeper workers to move from state to state as many beekeeping operations do; and,

WHEREAS, the H-2A program allows custom harvesters to travel from state to state; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF pursue legislative avenues to affect changes to the H-2A program to allow migratory beekeepers the same opportunities as custom harvesters using the H-2A program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF support legislation that would allow foreign beekeepers easier access to long-term work permits, green cards, and visas, specific to the beekeeping industry.

**CR20. NATIONAL BEEKEEPING RESEARCH COORDINATOR (Adopted 2008; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, the beekeeping industry needs to access outside funds for needed research; and,

WHEREAS, the ABF has no one presently to seek out and obtain such funds; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF Board of Directors consider the retention of a development officer to garner funds for future research projects.

**CR21. NAP DISASTER BENEFITS (2008)**

WHEREAS, USDA has established NAP, a crop disaster program for non-insured crops such as honey; and,

WHEREAS, when beekeepers apply for NAP benefits for honey crop losses there is some confusion among USDA-FAS personnel on payment type whether honey is a harvested or unharvested crop; and,

WHEREAS, the benefit difference between harvested and unharvested crop is substantial; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF be in contact with USDA-FSA to resolve the confusion by having honey losses under NAP covered both as unharvested and harvested.

**CR22. NATIONAL BEEKEEPING CONFERENCES (Adopted 2008; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, the joint national beekeeping conferences in Sacramento and Galveston enjoyed a large attendance; and,

WHEREAS, many industry vendors, scientists, inspectors, and beekeepers have attended and benefitted from a unified convention; and,

WHEREAS, a spirit of cooperation and mutuality has pervaded this convention, especially as evidenced by ABF and AHPA working cooperatively; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to make efforts toward enabling national beekeeping conferences.

**CR23. BEE POLLEN FOR BEE FEED (2009)**

WHEREAS, U.S. beekeepers have utilized pollen for many years to stimulate their colonies; and,

WHEREAS, with low production of pollen in the U.S. it is customary to import pollen for bee feed; and,

WHEREAS, the advent of CCD has raised concerns about bee nutrition and there has been a substantial increase in the use of pollen for bee feed; and,

WHEREAS, USDA-APHIS has begun to enforce heretofore unenforced regulations banning the importation of bee feed pollen and may attempt to prosecute users of imported pollen; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF work with USDA-APHIS to ensure that the U.S. beekeeping industry is not put at risk by importation of pollen and other hive products.

**CR24. COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER (CCD) (2010)**

WHEREAS, large numbers of honey bee colonies have been lost due to Colony Collapse Disorder; and,

WHEREAS, continued losses of the current magnitude threaten the viability of the beekeeping industry in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, efforts to diagnose and control this disorder have not yet resulted in any clear causes or recommended treatment to overcome the disease; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to work with other industry organizations, honey bee researchers, and honey bee-dependent industries to procure funding for research and solutions and to encourage the Congress to appropriate additional funds which have been authorized for honey bee research.

**CR25. BEEKEEPER CROP INSURANCE (Adopted 2010; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, USDA-Risk Management Agency has completed two pilot crop insurance programs for honey in several states; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF request USDA-RMA make this insurance program available to beekeepers in all states; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF encourage USDA-RMA to develop and implement a more complete crop insurance program for all segments of the beekeeping industry.

**CR26. DISASTER PROGRAMS FOR BEEKEEPERS (2010)**

WHEREAS, there are various disaster programs available for farmers, some of which are available to beekeepers; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF work with USDA-Farm Service Agency to ensure that all applicable disaster programs work for beekeepers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF make efforts to keep its members apprised of the availability of these programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF encourage its members to enroll annually in the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), since participation in NAP is often a requirement to benefit from these disaster programs.

**CR27. HONEY BEE IMPORTS (2010)**

WHEREAS, there is concern that imported honey bees may contain known and unknown honey bees pests and diseases; and,

WHEREAS, ABF has requested that USDA-APHIS immediately suspend all live honey bee imports into the United States, including both queens and honey bees, until further research can demonstrate that these imports hold no harm for U.S. honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, ABF has joined in a coalition of beekeeping organizations seeking to end these honey bee imports and has contributed funds toward the coalition's legal expenses; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Committee is authorized to continue supporting the coalition in its efforts to end these honey bee imports.

**CR28. STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY (2010)**

WHEREAS, deceptively labeled and misbranded products and adulteration of honey with other sweeteners or compounds are growing problems; and their increasing presence in the market is severely and adversely affecting honey prices, and threatens the image and reality of honey as a pure, natural and healthy sweetener; and,

WHEREAS, these misbranded and/or adulterated products may induce consumers to purchase the product under the false belief or impression that the product is only pure honey when they are in fact adulterated, and/or induce purchase of products with honey in the product name or front panel label under the false impression or belief that the product contains honey as its principal sweetener when the product contains no honey or less honey than other sweeteners; and,

WHEREAS, a U.S. Standard of Identity for Honey is urgently needed to protect honey consumers, honey packers, and honey producers from false, deceptive and misleading product labeling, and the lack of a standard of identity of honey impairs the ability of the honey industry to protect the image of honey and protect consumers from adulterated and/or deceptively labeled products, and creates an emergency; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF support state efforts to adopt the honey standard based on the Revised Codex Standard as submitted to the FDA and endorsed by the major industry groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to urge FDA to adopt the Revised Codex Standard as the U.S. Standard of Identity for Honey as expeditiously as possible; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF use any and all means available to effect the adoption of the Revised Codex Standard as the U.S. Standard of Identity for Honey; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF request the aid of industry groups, state and local governments, other farm and commodity lobby organizations, and FDA to achieve promulgation of a U.S. Standard of Identity for Honey as soon as possible.

### **CR29. ILLEGALLY TRANSSHIPPED HONEY (Adopted 2010; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, the ABF recognizes the quantity of honey produced in the U.S. is not sufficient to meet demand making importation of honey from other countries necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the importation of honey requires a label identifying country of origin; and,

WHEREAS, it is illegal to mislabel honey to hide country of origin and thus avoid payment of required tariffs; and,

WHEREAS, these illegal activities are threatening the financial stability of U.S. honey producers and packers and further that illegal shipments could threaten public safety by importation of tainted products; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF support efforts of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Justice and FBI, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration to enforce U.S. food and trade laws and encourages them to work across agency boundaries with law enforcement colleagues at the local, state, and federal levels to bring an end to illegal honey transshipment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF work with other industry organizations to educate lawmakers on the extent of this problem and the negative effect it is having on the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry as well as on the foods safety for U.S. consumers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF support the efforts of True Source Certified, which are designed to trace honey throughout the supply chain from hive to table.

### **CR30. NATIONAL HONEY BEE ADVISORY BOARD (Adopted 2010; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation, in conjunction with The American Honey Producers Association, formed an ad hoc committee in January of 2009 to address issues related to pesticides and their impact on honey bee colony health; and,

WHEREAS, this ad hoc committee subsequently organized itself as The National Honey Bee Advisory Board (NHBAB) and has for the past two years represented the concerns of the honey bee industry in dialogue with EPA, USDA, and chemical companies; and,

WHEREAS, NHBAB has made important progress at EPA and USDA and has established significant strategic alliances ; and,

WHEREAS, NHBAB has completed strategic planning resulting in a mission statement "To Promote the Sustainability of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators through

Balanced Pesticide Policy, Evidence-Based Decision Making, and Proactive Beekeeper Education”; and,

WHEREAS, NHBAB is fulfilling a vital function to the betterment of the beekeeping industry; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF continue to support NHBAB as it addresses its stated objectives.

### **CR31. METHODS FOR HONEY BEE PESTS AND PATHOGEN IDENTIFICATION (2010)**

WHEREAS, the range of Africanized honey bee has expanded to include additional southern states in recent years; and,

WHEREAS, the potential for identification of new honey bee pathogens, parasites and undesirable races of honey bees requires that quick and reliable identification methods be developed for use in both laboratory and field evaluations; and,

WHEREAS, new knowledge for pathogen identification, including such tools as the Bee Path Chip, offer guidance for the development of effective detection methods; and,

WHEREAS, the Apiary Inspectors of America has requested that the USDA-ARS set up a quick and immediate identification system for honey bee pests and pathogens, especially *Tropilaelaps clareae*, *Nosema ceranae*, *Apis mellifera scutellata* (AHB) and *Apis mellifera capensis*, and other parasites and diseases not yet found in the United States; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF request that the USDA-ARS proceed with the development of methods for the identification of emerging honey bee pathogen and pest species, and that USDA-ARS review and revise current methodologies to meet the need for quick and effective tools to meet both field and laboratory emergency management identification needs.

### **CR32. IDENTIFICATION OF HONEY BEE IMPORTS (2010)**

WHEREAS, the United States in compliance with the Federal Bee Act permits the importation of honey bees under permit from Canada, Australia and New Zealand; and,

WHEREAS, the USDA-APHIS-PPQ is required to monitor the importation of honey bees in order to ensure compliance with the Federal Bee Act, and to protect honey bee colonies from unwanted honey bee pests and pathogens; and,

WHEREAS, the USDA-APHIS-PPQ is unable to effectively monitor honey bee importation because such shipments are not uniquely identified on import records; and,

WHEREAS, the International Trade Commission, in 2009, did provide a single HTS code -#0106900040 – for the identification of all honey bee imports; however, this code does not adequately distinguish between shipments of packaged honey bees and shipments of honey bee queens; and,

WHEREAS, there is a need for USDA-APHIS-PPQ to be able to clearly identify and inspect packages of honey bees from foreign countries in a timely and efficient manner at the time of entry into the U.S.; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF request that the U.S. International Trade Commission refine the reporting system for honey bees being shipped into the United States to provide the distinctive identification of honey bee packages separate from the identification of queen bee shipments, in a manner that allows the USDA-APHIS-PPQ the ability to identify all import of honey bees from foreign countries.

## **2011 RESOLUTIONS of the American Beekeeping Federation**

The following Resolutions were adopted at the American Beekeeping Federation's Annual Business Meeting, Jan. 8, 2011, in Galveston, Texas.

### **1. SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE AT CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation is grateful for the cooperation, support and work of those who helped make the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference a success; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Director be instructed to express our appreciation to the Texas Beekeepers Association and all others who contributed their time, efforts and resources to make this 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference a notable event for our beekeeping industry.

### **2. CONVENTION SPEAKERS, EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS**

WHEREAS, the exceptional speakers at the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference have significantly contributed to the success of this event and to the knowledge and understanding across our industry through those in attendance; and,

WHEREAS, the advertisers in the conference guidebook have underwritten the publication of a valuable convention and publicity resource; and,

WHEREAS, the sponsors of the refreshment breaks have enhanced the conference experience and assisted in the sociability of the conference; and,

WHEREAS, the trade show exhibitors have generated interest in the conference by the display of their inventories and have provided educational opportunities by showing their latest product developments and have generously donated merchandise to various fundraising activities; and,

WHEREAS, the American Honey Show entrants and sponsors have made it possible for some of the best of America's honey, beeswax, hive products and related retail packaged items to be placed on exhibit; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Director be instructed to write letters of appreciation to the speakers, guidebook advertisers, break sponsors, trade show exhibitors, and Honey Show sponsors and entrants for their participation and support for these special programs of the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference.

### **3. THANKS TO CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS**

WHEREAS, the success of the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference is largely credited to the help of volunteers; and,

WHEREAS, the seamless operation of our convention activities is the result of the dedicated work by the 2011 Conference Committee; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF express our sincere appreciation to Joint Conference Committee and all those who participated in preparation and planning for the 2011 Conference; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that commendations are due to Larry Connor and the presenters for their work on the Serious Sideline Symposium.

#### **4. THANKS TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, the success of the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference has been enhanced by the groups who agreed to partner with ABF by meeting at the conference; and,

WHEREAS, ABF desires for these groups to meet with us at a future conference; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF express our thanks to the American Honey Producers Association, the Canadian Honey Council, the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, the Apiary Inspectors of America, and the American Association of Professional Apiculturists, and, invite these organizations to meet with ABF in the future.

#### **5. AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the American Honey Queen Program makes an important contribution to the promotion of honey; and,

WHEREAS, this promotion to the consuming public is a vital component of a successful beekeeping industry; and,

WHEREAS, the benefits and results of this program depend largely upon the dedication and efforts of the committee members; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we acknowledge the work of the Honey Queen Committee, Chairperson Anna Kettlewell, 2010 American Honey Queen Lisa Schluttenhofer, and 2010 American Honey Princess Amy Roden for their positive representation of our industry during the past twelve months.

#### **6. ABF SPONSORING PARTNERS**

WHEREAS, any trade organization is desirous of having generous sponsors from its area of influence so that it can accomplish more for its members and related industry; and,

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation is blessed with many generous sponsors; and

WHEREAS, Mann Lake Ltd. and Kona Queen Hawaii have risen above the norm to embrace ABF's Partner Program; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF express its appreciation to Mann Lake Ltd. and Kona Queen Hawaii for their increased support and use them as examples to encourage others to join the ABF Partner Program.

#### **7. PESTICIDE REGISTRATION PROCESS (Adopted in 2003; Revised 2009; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides applied to crops and range land continue to adversely affect the health and viability of honey bees and other pollinators; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA requires pesticide registrants to submit data pertaining only to adult bee toxicity as part of the pesticide registration process; and,

WHEREAS, the traditional LD50 evaluation for registration does not reflect sub-lethal effects, such as honey bee brood damage or death, decreased queen and/or drone

viability, diminished learning ability and other problems have all been linked to certain insecticides, , fungicides, and herbicides; and,

WHEREAS, past testing protocols have been critically flawed by the use of an insufficient number of colonies, insufficient control and subject areas; and insufficient length of test for Tier I, II, and III evaluations; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF urge EPA to adopt strengthened evaluation protocols that measure sub-lethal effects, as well as toxicity to adult bees as requirements of the insecticide, fungicide, and herbicide registration process.

#### **8. HONEY BEE PEST CONTROLS (Adopted in 2006; Revised 2009; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, the small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida*, the varroa mite, *Varroa destructor*, the honey bee tracheal mite, *Acarapis woodii*, and other known and unknown pests cause substantial damage to honey bee colonies and beekeepers in infested areas, and threaten the domestic beekeeping industry; and,

WHEREAS, other agricultural industries that are dependent on honey bees are threatened; and,

WHEREAS, these pests are not easily controlled with conventional pesticides applied in a safe manner, which pose the additional risks of bee mortality, morbidity, reduced productivity, contamination of hive matrices with chemical residues, and the development of resistance to chemical controls; and,

WHEREAS, some of these pests have developed resistance to several conventional pesticides; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF urge USDA-ARS to increase the level of funding for research and give more emphasis on developing semiochemically-based and environmentally-safe methods for the control of these pests.

#### **9. CALIFORNIA SEEDLESS MANDARIN ORANGE PLANTINGS (2008; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, over one-quarter million colonies of honey bees are placed within the Citrus belt of Central California each year for honey production and crop pollination; and,

WHEREAS, some members of the California citrus industry attempted to impose a ban on the placement of honey bee colonies within two miles of certain mandarin orange plantings; and,

WHEREAS, the California State Beekeepers Association participated in discussions with mandarin growers, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and others in an effort to find alternatives to such a ban; and,

WHEREAS, regulations detailing responsibilities of beekeepers and mandarin growers have been implemented in place of a ban of hive placement; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF support the actions of the California State Beekeepers association in their efforts to help assure that beekeepers maintain their lawful right to keep bees throughout the citrus belt of California; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF members be urged to contribute to the California State Beekeepers Association's "Location Protection/Right to Farm Fund".

#### **10. CONSERVATION PROGRAM LANDS (2009; Revised 2011)**

WHEREAS, the conservation programs, administered by USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource and Conservation Service play an important role in the management of honey bee colony locations in many states by providing set-aside acreages of land intended for the benefit of the land, wildlife, the environment, pollinators, and the farm community; and,

WHEREAS, under the 2008 Farm Bill, conservation programs were expanded to benefit managed honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, since the 2008 Farm Bill, management practices on conservation lands have changed, allowing stewards to use seed mixes that do not necessarily provide abundant benefits to honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, the 2008 Farm Bill conservation programs continue to be implemented though cooperation and feedback from stakeholders but still have certain deficiencies; and,

WHEREAS, the 2008 Farm Bill authorized new enrollment of acres in conservation programs allowing continued opportunities for beekeepers to potentially locate apiaries on conservation program lands; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF conduct efforts to ensure that provisions exist for the placement of apiaries in all current and proposed conservation programs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF encourage the planting and cultivation of legume rich seed formulations for conservation acres using management practices that promote and protect pollinator habitat initiatives.

#### **11. NATIONAL HONEY BEE PEST SURVEY**

WHEREAS, the importation and introduction of honey bees from other countries is occurring and new petitions for importation are being reviewed by USDA-APHIS; and

WHEREAS, tremendous losses of honey bee colonies continue to occur due to “colony collapse disorder” or other unresolved causes; and

WHEREAS, viral diseases have been introduced into the U.S. and are vectored by introduced parasites; and

WHEREAS, these events prove undoubtedly that the U.S. beekeeping industry is vulnerable to other exotic pests and pathogens and that USDA should take stricter measures to prevent the introduction of exotic pests; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, such a survey should utilize current infrastructure among cooperating state agencies to collect and prep samples for USDA analysis; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF urgently request Congress to adequately fund and USDA-APHIS to implement and maintain such a survey for this much needed baseline , not only for *Tropilaelaps clareae*, but for virus complexes and varroa species and their variants, as well as other as yet unknown organisms capable of adversely affecting honey bee health.

#### **12. HONEY BEE IMPORT BAN**

WHEREAS, the American Beekeeping Federation appreciates the action taken by USDA-APHIS to close the U.S. border to further introduction of honey bee queens and packages from Australia after surveys conducted by USDA-APHIS and the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) members show that the *Apis cerana* honey bee and the Slow Paralysis Virus which have been reported in Australia do not occur in the United States; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, ABF would like to express concern that USDA-APHIS is giving consideration to allowing honey bee importation from Argentina, Brazil, and/or Chile; and,

WHEREAS, the market for imported honey bees is relatively small while the risk of introducing new bee pathogens could have widespread consequences at a time when U.S. bee losses of 32-35% are attributed to viruses and other pathogens; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF request USDA-APHIS continue to protect American agriculture by keeping our borders closed to honey bee introductions until such time as science can identify the impact of viruses and other pathogens to beekeeping; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF request USDA-APHIS to enter into trade discussions with North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) members encouraging NAPPO to unilaterally protect North American beekeeping from the risk of pathogen introduction into North America, specifically for NAPPO members to agree to uniform arguments on acceptance of queen bees and packages into NAPPO member states.

### **13. GLYPHOSATE-TOLERANT ALFALFA**

WHEREAS, On Dec. 16, 2010, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has announced the Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Glyphosate-Tolerant (GT) Alfalfa; and,

WHEREAS, USDA-APHIS, considered three alternatives in the final EIS: (1) to maintain Roundup Ready (RR) alfalfa's status as a regulated article; (2) to deregulate RR alfalfa; and (3) to deregulate RR alfalfa with geographic restrictions and isolation distances for the production of Roundup Ready alfalfa; and,

WHEREAS, the agency will choose one of these options after the 30 days public review; and,

WHEREAS, about one-third of our food supply depends upon pollination; and,

WHEREAS, a healthy bee industry is necessary to maintain an adequate number of managed bee colonies to furnish adequate pollination for crops and for plants in the environment; and,

WHEREAS, even though much research is being done to determine causes of colony health problems, much has yet to be learned to know how to cope with some of the new bee health problems; and,

WHEREAS, an adequate source of flowering plants is beneficial to maintaining healthy bees; and,

WHEREAS, common and conventional alfalfa is grown by farmers in many states, and those farmers allow a significant amount of the common alfalfa to mature, to bloom and produce seed, providing nectar and pollen forage for honey bee colonies in the area, and,

WHEREAS, if genetically engineered alfalfa (the first perennial plant to be considered for release into the environment) could be planted near common alfalfa fields, the genetically engineered genes would spread into the plantings of common alfalfa and production of common alfalfa seed would be adversely affected by the presence of Glyphosate-Tolerant (GT) alfalfa genes, and the GT alfalfa genes would spread uncontrollably year after year thereafter; and,

WHEREAS, all of the responsibility for whatever liability that there may be as a result of introducing these GT alfalfa plants into the environment, is placed directly upon grower, instead of the company selling the seed; and,

WHEREAS, if one large company is permitted to gain "monopolistic control" of alfalfa seed, many farmers will lose the option of growing alfalfa for hay and/or

seed production so the beekeeping industry will then suffer loss of alfalfa acreage that may be left to bloom and loss of “goodwill” of the land owners and neighbors of landowners where the bees are located; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ABF go on record in favor of approval of option number 1, to maintain Glyphosate-Tolerant alfalfa’s status as a regulated article; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF express strong opposition to option number 2, to deregulate GT alfalfa and strong opposition to option number 3, to deregulate GT alfalfa with geographic restrictions and isolation distances for the production of GT alfalfa by filing appropriate comments with USDA-APHIS before Jan. 16, 2011; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF encourage its individual members and other beekeepers also to file comments with USDA-APHIS which are in support of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF monitor the development of additional genetically engineered crops, assess their potential hazards to pollinators and the environment, and cooperate with other groups and organizations in pursuit of the aims of reducing the perils of genetically engineered crops and their attendant management practices for pollinators and the resources upon which pollinators depend.