

## Beekeepers' Legislative Priorities - 2011

- **Funding for CCD Research.** Many beekeepers are again having large losses due to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The Farm Bill authorized additional funds for CCD research, but only a portion of that was actually appropriated. We are encouraging Congress to appropriate the authorized funds.
- **Maintaining ARS Lab Funding.** USDA-ARS conducts honey bee research at four locations: Beltsville, Md.; Baton Rouge, La.; Weslaco, Texas; and Tucson, Ariz. Each of these has a different mission that correlates to its location. It is important that adequate funding be available for them.
- **Protecting our Honey Market.** We have two priorities here: 1) establishing a national standard of identity for honey; and 2) stopping illegal imports, particularly transshipment of Chinese honey through intermediary countries. Our honey market is in precarious shape. Strong steps are needed to shore it up.

FDA has promised Congress that it will get to work on the honey standard of identity that the industry, led by ABF, submitted nearly five years ago. Despite those promises, FDA continues to ignore our need. The national standard of identity would give state and federal enforcement officials a better tool to use to stop those who are adding cheaper sweeteners to our honey.

- **Disaster Programs and Crop Insurance and H2A Labor Programs.** We are continuing to work for USDA disaster programs to be more “user friendly” to beekeepers. While immigration and farm subsidies are sure to create headlines, our industry’s need for legal laborers requires an H2A labor program that works, and programs that allow for the management of risk without opening the door to fraud.

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*Serving the U.S. Beekeeping and Honey Industry Since 1943*