



2026 Objectives and Resolutions

STATEMENT OF CONTINUING OBJECTIVES FOR THE AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION

- 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 unnecessary 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 ABF Legislative Fund and by keeping their Congressional representatives apprised of the legislative issues of the beekeeping industry.

AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION
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STATEMENT OF MISSION AND VALUES FOR THE 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 January 18, 1997

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

The 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, January 100, 2025, in Reno, Nevada.

CR1. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BEE LABS (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. ADULTERATED, MANUFACTURED AND SYNTHETIC HONEY (2001) (2024)

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

WHEREAS, this adulterated, manufactured & synthetic 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, manufactured & synthetic 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.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation supports the efforts being pursued by members of the American Beekeeping Industry to address these honey fraud issues through efforts to include language in US Farm Bills.

CR3. 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.

CR4. ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT AND FORAGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF POLLINATORS (2001, Revised 2022)

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; and

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, the ABF and the AHPA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the USDA-NRCS and FSA which allows for increased involvement in developing and managing USDA programs that impact pollinators on the landscape; and,

WHEREAS, bee forage is rapidly declining in the United States, and preserving the tallow tree and other plant species beneficial to pollinators is a major contributor to honey bee health and honey production; 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.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to support other efforts to promote, protect and establish additional habitat and forage for honey bees; 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 on the maximum amount of acres available.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF will actively work with APHIS and the United States Forestry Service to attempt to halt any proposal or actions for the biological control of the tallow tree; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF is opposed to programs aimed at eradicating any plant species that is a major contributor to honey bee health and forage.

WHEREAS, efforts to rebuild and develop new foraging habitat are needed to promote healthy honey bees and honey production; and,

CR5. NATIONAL HONEY BOARD (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.

CR6. 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 recommend that EPA consider the effects of these substances upon bee behavior, as well as acute toxicity, when evaluating new pesticides for possible registration.

CR7. REGISTERING NEW HIVE TREATMENTS (2004; Revised 2011; Revised 2012; Revised 2013; Revised 2015)

WHEREAS, the small hive beetle, *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, the accumulation of pesticide 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 hive treatments is causing rapid development of pest populations with elevated tolerance of those compounds; and, now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF continue its ongoing efforts to expedite regulatory approval, registration and the research of safe, efficacious products, especially semi chemically-based and environmentally-safe methods for the control of these pests.

CR8. HONEY LABELING REQUIREMENTS (2006; Revised 2012; Revised 2020)

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

WHEREAS, the misuse of the word honey in describing the contents of a syrup blend of honey and other products must be stopped; 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 products labeled as honey be 100 percent honey and prominently displayed on the front of the label. All other sweetener products which purport to contain honey or contain honey less than 100 percent cannot be labeled as honey.

BE IT FURTHER 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.

CR9. HONEY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2006; Revised 2017)

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; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF work to establish mandatory and accurate country of origin labeling regulations that require the country of origin be stated on the front of the label in the same size font as the net weight.

CR10. 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.

CR11. 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; now,

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 U.S.

CR12. 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; and,

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

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.

**CR13. TIERED TESTING TOXICITY STUDIES AND SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES FOR HONEY BEES
(2013; Revised 2022)**

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. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has “conditionally” approved insecticides such as Clothianidin for use for many years without a valid core bee toxicity study, which is required for providing a permanent registration permit for such insecticides; 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, approximately 80 percent of current insecticides in use have been “conditionally” approved; and,

WHEREAS, the Pellston Conference recently conducted in January 2011 provided new recommendations for long-term toxicity studies requiring “tiered testing” of such insecticides; and,

WHEREAS, it is the EPA mandate to require proper studies prior to registering products for use and is mandated to “do no harm” to the environment; now,

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 American Beekeeping Federation urge the EPA to adopt the methodology as recommended by the Pellston Conference for testing insecticides in order to reduce the number of conditional registrations for new products or insecticides being used in the United States and that the ABF support efforts 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.

CR14. EXPANDING FOREIGN LABOR OPPORTUNITIES (2007; Revised 2022)

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

CR15. 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.

CR16. COLONY HEALTH ISSUES (2010; Revised 2014; Revised 2015)

WHEREAS, large numbers of honey bee colonies have been lost due to colony stressors; and,

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

CR17. DISASTER PROGRAMS FOR BEEKEEPERS (2010, Revised 2022)

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

WHEREAS, USDA Applications for Programs are often misunderstood by beekeepers as well as county employees,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF supports efforts to communicate and help educate to aid with reform to FSA and USDA programs.

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.

CR18. STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY (2010; Revised 2014)

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 continue to urge FDA to adopt a 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 a 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.

CR19. ILLEGALLY TRANSSHIPPED HONEY (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.

CR20. METHODS FOR HONEY BEE PESTS AND PATHOGEN IDENTIFICATION (2010; Revised 2014)

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.

CR21. HONEY BEE IMPORT BAN (2011; Revised 2013)

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 percent 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 standards on acceptance of queen bees and packages into NAPPO member states.

CR22. EPA DIRECTIONS FOR USE LABEL (2014)

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recently approved new pesticide label language pertaining to pollinator protection for neonicotinoid and other pesticides; and,

WHEREAS, some of this new language in the “Directions for Use” portion of the label is ill advised and not a practical means of protecting pollinators from pesticides; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF urge EPA to amend the newly approved label language “Directions for Use” in order to more fully protect pollinators from pesticides; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF assist EPA in the effort to improve pollinator protection language on pesticide labels; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF enlist the aid of other organizations and legislators to improve pollinator protection labels on pesticides; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Committee be authorized to negotiate with the EPA to construct labeling guidelines that will better protect all pollinators; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation advise U.S. EPA of the need for clear, enforceable pesticide label language if pollinators are truly to be protected.

CR23. BEES ON PUBLIC LANDS (2015)

WHEREAS, the Presidential Memorandum signed in June 2014 called for an all-hands-on-deck effort by federal and state agencies to help stop the decline pollinator populations; and,

WHEREAS, increased access to federal and state lands for managed honey bees in order to access clean, uncontaminated forage would be extremely beneficial to the health of the nation's honey bee population; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other federal and state agencies can all be instrumental in helping with this effort by providing managed honey bees greater access to their lands; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF work with federal and state agencies in an effort to increase access for honey bees on federal and state lands.

CR24. POLLINATOR PROTECTION PLANS (2016)

WHEREAS, Managed Pollinator Protection Plans are being developed by many states across the nation; and,

WHEREAS, these plans include bee registries in order to keep track of apiary locations so that beekeepers can be notified of impending pesticide applications; and,

WHEREAS, moving bee hives away from all pesticide applications is an impossibility and not a sustainable means of reducing bee hazards from pesticides on a broad scale; and,

WHEREAS, non-apis pollinators should be protected by these plans as well as honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, all such plans must be designed to specifically comply with FIFRA's primary goal of preventing unreasonable harm to man and the environment; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation work to ensure that state pollinator protection plans truly protect all pollinators and that no MP3s contain elements that are less restrictive than federal pesticide law; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF continue to stress the fact that clear, enforceable pesticide label language is the best way to protect honey bees and all pollinators from the risks of pesticide exposure.

CR25. SUPPORT H-2A REFORM (2016)

WHEREAS, American beekeepers are vital to American agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, beekeepers struggle with significant labor shortages and are unable to find a sufficient number of U.S. citizen employees to work with bees; and,

WHEREAS, in recent years many beekeepers have participated in the U.S. Department of Labor's H-2A program in order to contract with foreign workers who can help make up for the shortage of American workers; and,

WHEREAS, H-2A program rules are needlessly complex and participation costs are high; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation support Congressional or administrative action to improve and streamline the H-2A program so as to make it more user friendly and cost effective.

CR26. ANTIBIOTIC POLICY (2016; Revised 2017)

WHEREAS, the Veterinary Feed Directive which requires beekeepers to obtain a veterinarian prescription for the purchase, use, and application of antibiotic products such as lincomycin, tylosin, oxytetracycline or any other antibiotic medication that is labeled or developed for the treatment of honey bees; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation request that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration assist beekeepers in implementing the Veterinary Feed Directive; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF urge its members who use antibiotics to treat their bees to do so responsibly and according to the label.

CR27. TREATED ARTICLE EXEMPTION (2016)

WHEREAS, the use of pesticide treated seeds (treated articles) has grown in recent years throughout the USA; and,

WHEREAS, EPA does not consider the planting of such treated articles to be a pesticide application and exempts them from pesticide regulation; and,

WHEREAS, planting of these treated articles has caused significant harm to honey bees, other pollinators, and non-target species; and,

WHEREAS, the ABF, as the largest national organization representing all segments of the beekeeping industry, is concerned with the impact these treated articles have in regard to the health of bees throughout the nation; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF supports creating a record through further dialog and interaction with all interested parties, including EPA, involving the treated article exemption; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF shall formulate a recommendation for any necessary actions in regard to the EPA's treated article exemption.

CR28. HONEY INTEGRITY TASK FORCE (2017)

WHEREAS, a Honey Integrity Task Force has been formed to address issues related to the quality and authenticity of honey in the U.S. market; and,

WHEREAS, representatives of the American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association, Sioux Honey Association, True Source Honey, National Honey Packers and Dealers, and Western States Packers and Dealers comprise this task force; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation continue its involvement with the Honey Integrity Task Force in order to help ensure the quality and integrity of honey in the U.S. market.

CR29. DOT HOURS OF SERVICE (2017)

WHEREAS, safe and efficient transport of bee hives throughout the U.S. is essential to American agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, the current hours of service limitations make it extremely difficult to transport bees legally during the time of year with longer daylight hours; and,

WHEREAS, the ABF fully supports maintaining the highest truck safety standards on our highways; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation petition the U.S. Department of Transportation in order to seek a limited exemption from the strict hours of service limitations for those transporting bee hives during months of the year with longer daylight hours.

CR30. HONEY BEE SPECIES (2017)

WHEREAS, genetics is an important tool in sustaining as well as improving the honey bee in America; and,

WHEREAS, collection of genetic material will help maintain as well as improve those stocks; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF encourage the USDA to continue funding collection of genetic materials.

CR31. USE OF FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM FOR COLD STORAGE OF BEEHIVES (2018)

WHEREAS, beekeeping is widely accepted as agricultural enterprise; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers programs including the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP); and,

WHEREAS, beekeeping qualifies for several USDA programs; and,

WHEREAS, some of the eligible uses for application for the FSFLP include facilities for cold storage; and,

WHEREAS, indoor storage of beehives includes refrigeration, thus meeting the qualifying test of approved uses for FSFLP use; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation petition the United States Department of Agriculture to specifically include Cold Storage of Beehives as qualifying uses for the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

CR32. NEONICOTINOID MORATORIUM (2020)

WHEREAS, pollinators such as honey bees add nearly \$20 billion to the quantity and quality of U.S. agricultural crops annually through their crop pollination activities; and,

WHEREAS, the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and their state primacy partners have failed to live up to their charge of “Prevention of Unreasonable Risk to Man and the Environment” as it pertains to risk management and the application of pesticides affecting honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, the neonicotinoid class of pesticides has been shown to negatively impact honey bees in many detrimental ways including acute toxicity, reduced foraging, thermoregulation, reproductive ability, etc.; and,

WHEREAS, EPA was mandated to review the use and registration of neonicotinoids by the end of 2018, which they have failed to do; and,

WHEREAS, the Pollinator Stewardship Council Board of Directors is calling for a moratorium on the use and registration of the neonic class of pesticides and is seeking support for this effort; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation support the Pollinator Stewardship Council in its efforts to establish a moratorium on the use and registration of

neonicotinoid pesticides until such time as the required EPA registration reviews are completed; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation continue to work with the Pollinator Stewardship Council wherever possible on this and other pesticide issues which negatively impact the viability of honey bees and other pollinators

CR33. SECURING AVAILABILITY OF SHIPPING RESOURCES FOR QUEENS AND THEIR ATTENDANTS (2022)

WHEREAS, beekeepers depend on queen bee availability to revitalize losses, maintain viable numbers, and increase hive counts,

WHEREAS, Pollination is critical to agriculture as well as the environment as a whole, and because

WHEREAS, UPS is our primary source of queen bee distribution, and

WHEREAS, Package bee shipments via UPS are problematic and may jeopardize queen distribution,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ABF requests that UPS is encouraged to handle queen bees and their attendant bees with care and efficiency to ensure the well-being of the packages involved, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ABF assist in encouraging direct package distribution.

CR34. ABF SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE BEE AND BUTTERFLY HABITAT FUND AND THE HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION (2017, Revised 2022)

WHEREAS, important habitat and forage for honeybees has decreased significantly in many areas critical for honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund is funding and delivering private conservation programs to provide essential habitat for honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, bee and butterfly projects provide beekeepers with an opportunity to work with landowners to specifically improve forage where it can benefit their bees; now,

WHEREAS, the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) has been developing and delivering valuable products/projects that have been positively impacting honey bee health; and,

WHEREAS, the ABF has participated in HBHC since its inception; and,

WHEREAS, the dynamic interaction and collaborations with the broad spectrum of stakeholders in HBHC has resulted in the potential for many additional positive outcomes; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF encourage its membership to support and contribute to the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the ABF continue its strong support for and participation in the Honey Bee Health Coalition.

CR35. NORTH AMERICAN BEE STRATEGY (2024)

WHEREAS, Biosecurity has become critically important in North America and to US Beekeepers; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Beekeeping Federation is supportive of the idea of a North American Bee Strategy in conjunction with the Canadian honeybee industry with the possibility of including future North American Partners.

CR36. NATIONAL HONEY BOARD FUNDS (2026)

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was established to increase production of domestic agriculture though “the general designs and duties of which shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word, and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants.” (THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS. SESSION II. CH. 72. An Act to establish a Department of Agriculture. May 15, 1862.)

WHEREAS, the importance of honeybees and the necessity of research focusing on honeybees is demonstrated by the presence of the federal Bee Research Laboratory located at USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, established in 1891 and continuously functioning except for a brief hiatus from 1896-1897.

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Codes of the United States makes it clear that “the production of agricultural commodities plays a significant role in the economy of the United States. Thousands of producers in the United States are involved in the production of agricultural commodities, and such commodities are consumed by millions of people throughout the United States and foreign countries.” (US Codes - Title 7 Agriculture. Subchapter II Subsection 7411. 1996)

WHEREAS, The orders for promotion, research and information activities regarding agricultural commodities were established for “the maintenance and expansion of existing markets and the development of new markets for agricultural commodities through generic commodity promotion, research, and information programs are vital to the welfare of persons engaged in

the production, marketing, and consumption of such commodities, as well as to the general economy of the United States” and were also noted for their ability to “provide significant conservation benefits to producers and the public.” (US Codes - Title 7 Agriculture. Subchapter II Subsection 7411)

WHEREAS, The National Honey Board operates under the USDA and was first established in 1984 under the “Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act.” In 1996 the “Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act” reorganized the structure of the NHB. The board again restructured under the “Honey Packers and Importers Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order” in 2008 and has been functioning under this iteration since.

WHEREAS, the National Honey Board has failed in its objective to support the honeybee industry through research, promotion, and information. Their efforts have resulted in decreased purchasing value of honey, decreased exports, decreased honey shares, and decreased productive capacity.

WHEREAS, information, research and promotion of the National Honey Board are funded through honey assessment. Organic Honey is exempt from this assessment fee. There is no official definition or standard for USDA certification of organic honey in the United States; thus, domestic honey cannot be labeled or sold as USDA organic. It is only imported honey that does not have to pay for assessments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marketing Specialist for the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), followed by the Administrator of the AMS, followed by the Secretary of Agriculture, ensure that the National Honey Board cease all promotional activities and focus all funds on research that increases the viability and sustainability of production beekeeping or honey production including research on biological and pesticides, bee forage and grassland restoration such as the research being done by Land Grant Universities; fraud prevention and detection such as that being done by the American Honey Institute at Kansas State; and mite and pest research such as that being done by Project Apis M.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, be it resolved that that the Marketing Specialist for the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), followed by the Administrator of the AMS, followed by the Secretary of Agriculture will act to remove the exemption for organic honey that is giving foreign honey producers an advantage over domestic honey producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, be it resolved that domestic producers can be exempted from the honey assessment, as there is already a standard for exempting a class of honey; thus, building the domestic honey industry.

CR37. ORGANIC HONEY IN THE UNITED STATES (2026)

WHEREAS, there is no official definition or standard for USDA certification of organic honey in the United States. No domestic honey can be labeled or sold as USDA organic.

WHEREAS, imported honey that is certified as organic is not required to meet any standards set by the USDA, foreign certifications are simply honored by USDA. The rate of honey assessment in 2024 was \$0.015 USD at a 100% refund; the calculated amount of honey imported into the United States and labeled USDA organic was 66,231,860 lbs. According to the National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) domestic honey production in 2024 was approximately 134 million pounds, none of which was labeled as USDA organic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, a federal standard be established for USDA Certified Organic Honey. All organic honey both domestic and imported shall be required to comply with the federal standard in order to label honey sold in the U.S. as Certified USDA Organic.

ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS

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 Annual American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow a success; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Director be instructed to express our appreciation to all who contributed their time, efforts and resources to make this Annual American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow a notable event for our beekeeping industry.

2. CONVENTION SPEAKERS, EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS

WHEREAS, the exceptional speakers at the Annual American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow 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 program guide 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 tradeshow 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 sponsors and entrants 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, conference program advertisers, break sponsors, tradeshow exhibitors and American Honey Show sponsors and entrants for their participation in and support for these special programs of the Annual American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow.

3. THANKS TO CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

WHEREAS, the success of the Annual American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow 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 Annual Conference Committee; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF express its sincere appreciation to the Annual Conference Committee and all those who participated in preparation and planning for the Annual American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow.

4. 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 American Honey Queen Program Committee; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF acknowledge the work of the American Honey Queen Program Committee and Chair Anna Kettlewell, Annual American Honey Queen and Annual American Honey Princess for their positive representation of our industry during the past twelve months.

5. ABF SPONSORS

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; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF express its appreciation to all its sponsoring organizations for their continued support during the Annual American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow and throughout the year.