# American Honey Producers Association


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*AHPAnet.com*

American Honey Producers Association

# Annual Conference & Trade Show

San Diego

December 4 - 7, 2023

Monday - Thursday

Marriott Mission Valley Hotel

# Amiflex – New varroa mite treatment for commercial beekeepers in the USA

26 April 2023 Fight varroa mites

Fight varroa mites

**Véto-pharma just obtained the EPA federal registration for Amiflex®, a 7-day-flash treatment for varroa mites that has been specially designed for commercial operations.**

After years of rigorous R&D, **Véto-pharma has obtained federal registration** for a unique

and innovative amitraz **gel formulation** that's specially designed to address the needs of **commercial beekeepers**.

This 7-day-flash treatment is **temperature independent** and comes in a tailor-made package to **reduce labor costs**. Its distinctive versatility allows for use **in between honey flows** and eliminates the need for a withdrawal period while delivering accurate and controlled dosages.

**Amiflex® possesses optimal efficacy and comes in a fast and convenient 'ready-to-use' formulation that's safe for colonies and affordable for beekeepers.**

**Optimal efficacy**

Amiflex is a 7-day treatment that can be used 1-4 times a year. The new gel formulation provides a faster release of amitraz than plastic strip applications, achieving 94% efficacy on the 3rd day of application and 100% on the 7th day in broodless colonies. Amiflex also ensures a quick knock-down of varroa mites in the presence of brood with one or two applications, according to the infestation rate.

**Ready to use and guaranteed safety**

Amiflex was designed to be non-labor intensive, decreasing preparation and application time, while guaranteeing a high level of safety for honeybees and minimizing the beekeeper's exposure to the product.

**Availability**

Amiflex has been approved by the EPA and will be available soon to beekeepers in accordance with local state registrations.

In the meantime, you can learn more about Amiflex by visiting the Véto-pharma website: www.veto-pharma.com/products/amiflex

And read more content on our blog about ways to fight varroa: www.blog-veto-pharma.com/us/fight-varroa-mites

# BIP Survey Extended!

The 2022-23 BIP Loss & Management Survey is almost over!

Thank you to all who have already completed the Loss & Management Survey! It helps our industry in many ways and it can not happen without help from U.S. beekeepers! For those who have not responded, we only have a few days left to gather responses from as many beekeepers as possible and want to ask you to watch and share this short video and complete the survey by the extended deadline of MAY 4TH.

Watch the short Loss & Management Survey Video!

Click here to take the Survey!

Thank you so much for supporting our industry with your response!

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National Honey Board™


# Introducing the Hive Sessions

A sweet, new educational resource for the honey industry.

Elevating the collective knowledge of the honey industry is essential for us to effectively capitalize on honey's positive positioning and navigate challenges from traditional and emerging sweeteners. That's why we're thrilled to announce the launch of the National Honey Board's Hive Sessions.

These quarterly video sessions will empower the honey industry with valuable insights and strategies for selling and marketing honey to consumers, foodservice operators and food manufacturers.

Volume 1 includes the following videos:

- What Food Manufacturers Think About Honey

- 3 Big Questions Consumers, Foodservice Operators and Food Manufacturers have about Honey
- The Competitive Landscape for Honey and other Emerging Sweeteners
- What's Trending at Winter Fancy Foods Show and Natural Products Expo West
- Our Favorite New Foodservice and CPG Products

Each topic is covered in a 10-15 minute video, accompanied by a downloadable presentation deck and additional resources. Importantly, there is also a way to ask questions. We will address questions and comments in future Hive Session releases, and we also welcome suggestions for future topics to address.

Watch Hive Sessions: Volume 1

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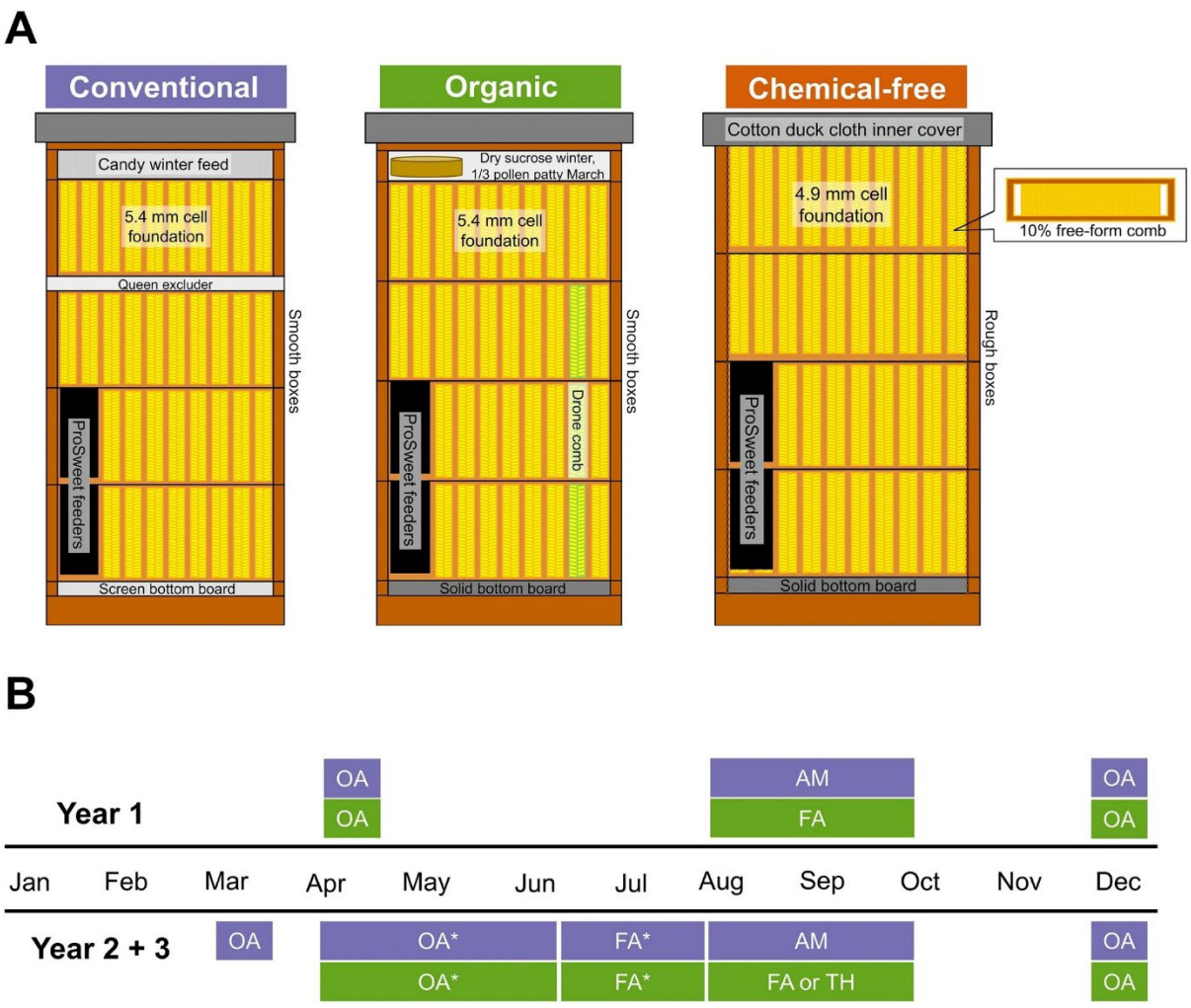
# Study shows organic beekeeping rivals conventional methods for bee health, productivity

by Chuck Gill, Pennsylvania State University
April 19, 2023




Honey bee colonies managed using organic methods were as healthy and productive as those managed in conventional systems, while avoiding the use of synthetic pesticides to control pests and pathogens inside the hive, according to newly published research led by Penn State entomologists.

The researchers said they believe that their study, which compared the performance of honey bees under three types of management systems, is the first to show that organic beekeeping management is sustainable and supports high honey-bee survival and honey production.

The methods beekeepers use to manage honey bee colonies are crucial in helping their bees overcome stressors such as pests, diseases, pesticide exposure and nutritional deficiencies, noted study lead author Robyn Underwood, apiculture educator for Penn State Extension.

"Beekeeping management is a key aspect of honey bee health because it can help mitigate some of the negative effects caused by these stressors," Underwood said. "For example, supplemental feeding can mitigate a lack of flowering plants nearby for foraging, and beekeepers can manage pests such as Varroa mites with cultural, mechanical and chemical control practices."

Despite these management tactics, 30% or more of honey bee colonies in the United States—including about 40% in Pennsylvania—die each winter, and beekeepers around the world continue to seek advice on best management practices to maintain healthy and productive bees.

Study co-author Margarita López-Uribe, associate professor of entomology and Lorenzo L. Langstroth Early Career Professor in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, pointed out that there has been little research conducted on organic beekeeping, primarily because of requirements that limit beekeepers' ability to sell their products as certified organic.

"In addition, existing studies largely have looked at the effect of one or two aspects of management at a time," she explained. "But in reality, risks and benefits occur in the context of numerous other management decisions involved in beekeeping. Studies like ours using a systems approach can help us better understand the long-term trade-offs among the various practices."

To evaluate the effectiveness of various beekeeping approaches, the researchers studied nearly 300 honey bee colonies located on eight certified organic farms—six in Pennsylvania and two in West Virginia. The research team developed study protocols in collaboration with 30 experienced beekeepers.

"We wanted to replicate what beekeepers were doing in their bee yards," López-Uribe said. "It wasn't scientists just telling beekeepers how to do things—it was beekeepers telling us how they do things, and then we collected data over multiple years comparing the different systems."

Colonies in the longitudinal study were grouped under one of three broad beekeeping management systems based on different beekeeping philosophies:

- Conventional management, which is based on frequent intervention and application of any available chemical and nutritional supplement to keep colonies alive. This management system often is used by large-scale commercial beekeepers and incorporates the use of synthetic chemicals and antibiotics for pest and disease control.
- Organic management. This management system is based on intervention only as needed and excludes the application of synthetic chemicals or antibiotics. This system is common among small and medium-scale beekeepers and incorporates an integrated pest-management approach that combines cultural practices with organic-approved chemical treatments for pest control.
- Chemical-free management. Popular among hobbyists, this is characterized by the absence of chemical applications and the minimal frequency of interventions to the colony. This system relies strictly on cultural practices for pest control and the bees' own defenses against pathogens.

The researchers monitored the colonies over a three-year period, recording overwintering survival and measuring honey production, parasite and pathogen abundance, and the expression of genes regulating immune function as a biomarker of honey bee health.

Their results, reported recently in Scientific Reports, showed that organic and conventional management systems both increased winter survival by more than 180% compared to chemical-free management. Organic and conventional management also increased total honey production across three years by 118% and 102%, respectively. Organic and conventional management systems did not differ significantly in survival or honey production.

Similarly, when compared to the chemical-free systems, organic and conventional management both reduced levels of parasites and pathogens. This included the Varroa mite, which is a serious vector of viral diseases of bees; Vairimorpha ceranae, the microsporidian parasite that causes Nosema disease; and deformed wing virus. Immune gene expression also was lower in the organic and conventional systems relative to chemical-free management.

Because decisions in beekeeping are rarely made in isolation, the researchers said their holistic systems approach is well-suited for incorporating the results into beekeeping operations. They noted that recommendations based on the organic systems used in the study are included in Penn State Extension educational programs and materials for organic beekeeping management.

Underwood emphasized that, although this study investigated organic honey-bee colony management, the apiary products from these systems cannot be marketed as "certified organic." She explained that organic certification requirements call for maintaining at least a 3-kilometer, pesticide-free radius around colonies, a stipulation that is difficult for beekeepers to meet. The team's ongoing research on landscape characteristics and honey bee foraging distances may provide a scientific basis for organic program authorities to ease that requirement.

"Our future research about the landscape and foraging should help us to inform changes in the standards for certification to decrease the required radius of 'clean' forage, assuming our hypotheses are supported," she said.

https://phys.org/news/2023-04-beekeeping-rivals-conventional-methods-bee.html

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# Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam Injures U.S. Industry, Says USITC

May 11, 2022
News Release 22-058
Inv. No. 731-TA-1560-1562 and 731-TA-1564 (Final)
Contact: Jennifer Andberg, 202-205-1819

**Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam Injures U.S. Industry, Says USITC**

The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) today determined that a U.S. industry is materially injured by reason of imports of raw honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam that the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) has determined are sold in the United States at less than fair value.

Chair Jason E. Kearns, Vice Chair Randolph J. Stayin, and Commissioners David S. Johanson, Rhonda K. Schmidtlein, and Amy A. Karpel voted in the affirmative.

As a result of the Commission's affirmative determinations, Commerce will issue antidumping duty orders on imports of this product from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam.

The Commission made a negative critical circumstances finding with regard to imports of this product from Argentina. The Commission made an affirmative critical circumstances finding with regard to imports of this product from Vietnam.

The Commission's public report *Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam* (Inv. Nos. 731-TA-1560-1562 and 731-TA-1564 (Final), USITC Publication 5327, May 2022) will contain the views of the Commission and information developed during the investigations.

The report will be available by June 20, 2022; when available, it may be accessed on the USITC website at: *http://pubapps.usitc.gov/applications/publogs/qry_publication_loglist.asp*.

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION**
Washington, DC 20436

**FACTUAL HIGHLIGHTS**
Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam
Investigation Nos.: 731-TA-1560-1562, 1564 (Final)

**Product Description:** Honey is a sweet, viscous fluid produced from the nectar of plants and flowers which is collected by honeybees, transformed, and combined with substances of their own, and stored and left in honeycombs to mature and ripen. Raw honey is honey as it exists in the beehive or as obtained by extraction, settling and skimming, or straining.

**Status of Proceedings:**

1. Type of investigation: Final antidumping duty investigations.
2. Petitioners: American Honey Producers Association ("AHPA"), Bruce, South Dakota; and Sioux Honey Association ("SHA"), Sioux City, Iowa.
3. USITC Institution Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021.
4. USITC Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

5. USITC Vote Date:  Wednesday, May 11, 2022.
6. USITC Notification to Commerce Date:  Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

**U.S. Industry in 2020:**

1. Number of U.S. producers:  approximately 30,000 to 60,000.
2. Location of producers' plants: North Dakota, South Dakota, California, Texas, Montana, Florida, Minnesota, and Michigan
3. Production and related workers:  1,360.
4. U.S. producers' U.S. shipments:  $302 million.
5. Apparent U.S. consumption:  $690 million.
6. Ratio of subject imports to apparent U.S. consumption:  42.8 percent.

**U.S. Imports in 2020:**

1. Subject imports:  $296 million.
2. Nonsubject imports:  $93 million.
3. Leading import sources:  Argentina, Brazil, India, Vietnam.

https://www.usitc.gov/press_room/news_release/2022/er0511ll1935.htm

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## What does this mean for beekeepers?

The decision will be transmitted to the Commerce Department, which will issue antidumping duty orders shortly. In addition, the Commission reached an affirmative critical circumstances determination against Vietnam. This means that U.S. Customs will collect antidumping duties on entries going back an additional 90 days prior to the preliminary antidumping duty determination—from August 28, 2020, forward. This is an important additional finding, and one that the Commission rarely makes.

These results should continue to ensure that the American honey producer gets the fair prices they deserve.

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We truly appreciate all of the donations that we have received to cover legal fees.

The good fight isn't over yet, however, and we still need your support.

To donate to the Antidumping Fund, please contact
Cassie Cox: cassie@ahpanet.com
281-900-9740

Or donate on our secure website: https://www.ahpanet.com/donations-1

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American Honey Producers Association

# AHPA App

As AHPA continues to work on behalf of all beekeepers, one of our initiatives is advocating with the FDA in Washington D.C. to update honey labeling guidelines. As part of this effort, we need your help to collect pictures of honey labels from around the United States. Our goal is primarily to find honey that is mislabeled according to current FDA guidelines. Secondarily, we need examples of any labels which misrepresent country of origin or are purposefully confusing to consumers so that we can advocate for positive changes and updates.

Search the App Store or Google Play for "AHPA app". We need to collect as many pictures from honey on the store shelf as possible. Please take a few minutes to help collect this data.

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