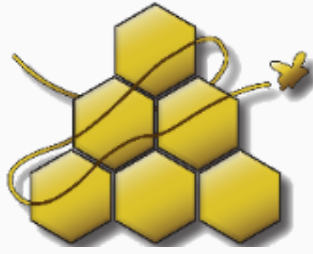


Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



American Honey Producers Association

NEWS!

Check out all the

LATEST NEWS

on our website:

AHPAnet.com

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



*American Honey
Producers Association*

**Annual Conference
& Trade Show**

San Diego



December 4 - 7, 2023

Monday - Thursday

Marriott Mission Valley Hotel

**More information and online registration
is on our **NEW** website!**

www.AHPANET.com

USDA



Farm Service Agency

Employers and Farmworkers, Aiming to Increase Economic and Supply Chain Resilience as Part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 22, 2023– The Biden-Harris Administration today announced that agricultural employers can begin to apply for a pilot program designed to improve the resiliency of the food and agricultural supply chain by addressing workforce challenges farmers and ranchers face. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in coordination with other federal agencies, is announcing up to \$65 million in grants available for the Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program (FLSP Program).

The program will help address workforce needs in agriculture, promote a safe and healthy work environment for farmworkers, and aims to support expansion of lawful migration pathways for workers, including for workers from Northern Central America, through the Department of Labor's seasonal H-2A visa program. The program makes good on a commitment made and [announced](#) as part of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection and is funded by President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

"Our country is facing growing agriculture workforce challenges that jeopardize our farmers' ability to be competitive, threatens the resiliency, abundance and safety of our food system, and has repercussions on our overall economy. At the same time, record numbers of people are interested in living and working in the United States, including from Northern Central America," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This pilot program has been designed with significant input from immigration, labor, and agricultural stakeholders in an effort to help address these immediate challenges. The program will provide incentives designed to simultaneously benefit workers and employers, with the potential to inform the H-2A program, raise labor standards for farmworkers, and help alleviate our agricultural workforce challenges over the long term. In addition to helping agricultural producers recruit and retain workers, at the end of the program we will have tested new ways to promote accountability and improve working conditions for domestic and H-2A workers alike – demonstrating how employers benefit by doing right by workers. The effort will also facilitate safe, orderly, and humane migration. This pilot should be a win for everyone along the agricultural supply chain, from the field to the dinner table."

The FLSP Program seeks to advance the following Administration priorities:

- Address current workforce needs in agriculture: Based on stakeholder input, USDA identified that agricultural employers have experienced increased challenges finding an adequate supply of workers, which threatens our domestic capacity to produce a safe and robust food supply. This pilot program will help address these challenges by expanding the potential pool

- Reduce irregular migration, including from Northern Central America through the expansion of regular pathways: While U.S. agricultural operations seek additional workers, the Biden-Harris Administration has committed to promote the expansion of regular migration pathways, as part of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection. The FLSP offers an opportunity to support this commitment, with economic benefits for foreign workers and their families, and professional and economic development opportunities for communities that send their workers to participate in the H-2A program.
- Improve working conditions for farmworkers: A stable and resilient food and agricultural sector relies on attracting and retaining skilled agricultural workers, and strong working conditions are critical to achieve that goal. Through this pilot program, USDA will support efforts to improve working conditions for agricultural workers, both U.S. and H-2A workers. The pilot will help ensure that workers know their rights and the resources available for them, and will promote fair and transparent recruitment practices.

Additional Information

Eligibility for this competitive grant program is limited to domestic agricultural employers who 1) anticipate meeting all Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulatory requirements for the H-2A program, including demonstrated effort to effectively recruit U.S.-based workers and hire all willing, able, and qualified U.S. workers; and 2) commit to, and indicate capacity to fulfill all Baseline Requirements, as well as any selected (supplemental) commitments that entail additive worker benefits and protections. Eligible employers include fixed-site employers, joint-employers, agricultural associations, and H-2A labor contractors.

The maximum award amount is \$2,000,000 and the minimum amount is \$25,000 per grant agreement (including any sub-awardees). Award amounts will be determined based on the projected number of full-time equivalent (FTE) agricultural employees, desired award level, as well as the competitive nature of the application. Consistent with the H-2A requirements, applicants must demonstrate insufficient availability of a U.S.-based workforce. The grant window for each recipient is 24 months, allowing producers to use the grant over the course of two agricultural production seasons.

Applications for the FLSP program must be received on or before 11:59 pm Eastern Time on November 28, 2023. More information about the application process can be found here: www.ams.usda.gov/flsp.

This announcement is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's [Investing in America agenda](#) to grow

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

make our communities more resilient.



The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) is pleased to announce the release of a new beekeeper management application that is a free version of its professional honey bee health and management tracking application at research.beeinformed.org!

[BIP ArcHive](#) provides a seamless way for beekeepers to record activities and observations in the bee yard, giving insights to improve colony management.

- Map your bee yards
- Track the same colonies over time
- Record Varroa levels
- Mark conditions you observe in your colonies
- Curate a continuous history of honey bee health!

This new application called BIP ArcHive is based on the database and hive inspection procedures used by [BIP Honey Bee Health Specialists](#) in commercial operations since 2011. The application aids the beekeeper, inspector, or beekeeping consultant in keeping track of colony health and management actions over time. The free version, BIP ArcHive, is focused for individuals to track their own colonies and quickly view a timeline of management actions and varroa levels, enabling the beekeeper to better visualize their varroa levels in relation to management they do.

Subscribe
Past Issues
Translate ▼

My Records

Take Samples

Locations 2 >

Sample Events 1 >

Management Actions 4 >

Management Actions Timeline

🕒 03/29/23

👤

Feed with 1:1 Syrup

📍 Home

👤

Feed with Pollen Supplement

📍 Home

🕒 04/26/23

Varroa Levels, 04/26/23 (avg: ...)

BIP ArchiVe home screen allows data entry and viewing a timeline of management applied and varroa levels. Access BIP ArchiVe at <https://research.beeinformed.org/bip-archive-free/>

A web version and mobile app is available for use while networked or remote, for both desktop and mobile use. A portion of BIP ArchiVe development was sponsored by a USDA APHIS cooperative agreement and continues the tradition at BIP to enable citizen scientists and aspiring professional beekeepers to utilize technology and practices used by our Honey Bee Health Specialists and Technical Transfer team.

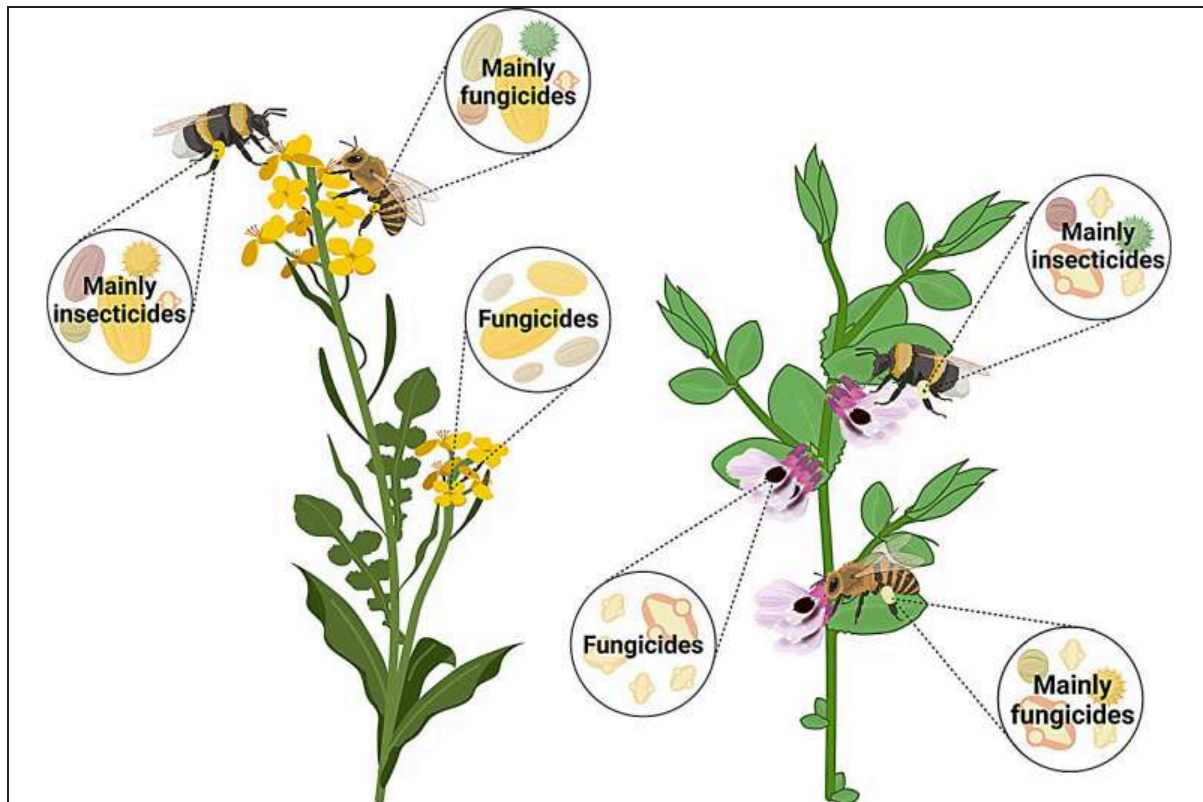
This and other BIP programs are made possible with the support of beekeepers like you. Please consider donating to support this and other beekeeper services.

<https://bee-informed-partnership-inc.networkforgood.com/projects/93855-i-support-bip>



Range of pesticides, including neonicotinoids, found in pollen of different bee species

by [Trinity College Dublin](#)



New research paints a worrying picture for the different species of bees that provide multi-million-euro pollination services in Ireland each year.

The work raises concerns about the potential wide-spread exposure to multiple chemicals from two pesticide categories (fungicides and neonicotinoid insecticides) and indicates that different bee species may be exposed differently to [pesticides](#)—meaning that assessments of pesticide risk to [honey](#) bees may not be easily extrapolated to other bees.

The scientists behind the study, from Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University, evaluated [pesticide residues](#) in crop pollen at 12 sites in Ireland, and in pollen collected from honey bees and bumble bees from the same sites. They have just published their findings in the journal [Science of the Total Environment](#).

Key results:

- Most pesticides detected had not been applied recently to the sampled fields—suggesting that some chemicals may persist for a long time (in the soil, which can subsequently end up in

- Crop pollen was only contaminated with fungicides; honey bee pollen was mostly contaminated with fungicides; bumble bee pollen mostly by neonicotinoid insecticides
- The highest number of compounds and most pesticide detections were in bumble bee pollen
- All five [neonicotinoid insecticides](#) assessed were found in bumble bee pollen—even though these had not been applied recently to the sampled fields

Taken in combination, these results raise significant concerns about the potential wide-spread exposure to multiple pesticides. Additionally, some previous studies have shown that when insecticides and fungicides are combined, the results may be more toxic than for each category alone.

Elena Zioga, Ph.D. Candidate in Trinity's School of Natural Sciences, is the first author of the just-published journal article. She said, "The results of this study are concerning on several levels. Of particularly great significance is the indication that different species seem to be exposed to pesticides differently based on the variation in the types and number of different pesticides found in pollen of honey and bumble bees respectively.

"Essentially, this means that using honey bees as a reference for understanding the exposure to different pesticides cannot give a complete picture. What's true for honey bees doesn't seem to be true for [bumble bees](#), and we know that both are important for the overall pollination service and for supporting healthy ecosystems.

"It is also very worrying that the five neonicotinoids we looked for appeared in bumble bee pollen and not in crop pollen. Some of these pesticides, known to be particularly toxic, had not been applied in the fields we sampled for at least three years. This shows either that they persist for a long time in the field edges, where wildflowers grow, or that [bees](#) collected neonicotinoid-contaminated pollen from beyond the sampled fields.

"Our work also showed that [neonicotinoid](#) detection increased when the presence of wild plants in bumble bee [pollen](#) increased, and that is one of many things that require further investigation."

<https://phys.org/news/2023-09-range-pesticides-neonicotinoids-pollen-bee.html>



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Bees have now developed night vision, research finds



By - TIMESOFINDIA.COM

Created: Oct 2, 2023, 19:00 IST

New study has found that some bees, like the Asian giant honeybee (*Apis dorsata*), can see colours even in low light levels, like during half-moon nights. This ability is surprising because most animals, including humans, usually can't see colours very well in dim light.

The study, published in Royal Society of Publishing, titled "Dim-light colour vision in the facultatively nocturnal Asian giant honeybee, *Apis dorsata*" has put forth some new discoveries.

Certain moths and a type of bee, the carpenter bee, were previously found to actually see colours in low light, suggesting that they have special adaptations for seeing in the dark. Understanding how these insects see colour at night can tell us a lot about their eyes and how they interact with flowers during nighttime, which is important because bees play a big role in pollinating plants, even at night.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Nocturnal vision challenges and the new discovery

Humans switch from seeing colours during the day to just seeing shades of grey at night. Insects that visit flowers at night also face similar challenges. However, some insects have evolved unique ways to overcome these obstacles. For instance, certain moths have eyes that let in more light, making it easier for them to see in the dark. Even though the carpenter bee's eyes are not ideal for seeing in low light, it can still see colours at night, which is quite remarkable.

Some honeybees, like the Asian giant honeybee (*Apis dorsata*), can see colours even in very low light conditions, like during half-moon nights. Earlier perception of insects being able to sense flowers and the like primarily through smell has been set aside.

How bees see colour

The authors of the paper performed some experiments to understand how these bees see colours in low light. It was found that the relative brightness of the colour isn't a reliable cue for the bees, especially when the light changes quickly in dim-light conditions. This means they can't just rely on how bright a colour is to detect it. Despite this challenge, the bees were still able to recognize and prefer certain colours, even in very low light.

This discovery makes Asian giant honeybees the second insect with eyes like theirs that can see colours in low light. The first one was the carpenter bee. Interestingly, the Asian giant honeybee's ability to see colours in dim light is similar to how humans can see colours in such conditions.

Why does bees' nocturnal vision matter?

Bees are crucial pollinators that help plants produce fruits and seeds. They visit flowers to collect nectar and pollen, transferring pollen between flowers as they go. This process is vital for plants to reproduce and produce the food that we eat. So, understanding how bees interact with flowers and how they see colours, especially at night, is essential for conserving our environment and food sources.

Why would some bees have evolved night vision?

Bees, like many other organisms, evolve traits and abilities in response to environmental pressures and survival advantages. The ability to see in the dark, also known as nocturnal vision, is generally more useful for creatures that are active during nighttime or low-light conditions. Bees, however, are primarily diurnal creatures, meaning they are active during the day and rest at night.

But, as put forth before, evolution is driven by the need to adapt to specific environmental conditions and niches.

Evolutionary adaptations are shaped by challenges and opportunities present in an organism's

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

to claim food resources, the other has to find alternatives for fetching food to sustain.

Apart from competition over resources, avoiding predators could be another reason why bees could have evolved night vision. Further, if that particular species had been preyed upon by nocturnal predators, night vision would help to detect threats and evade predation more effectively, increasing the chances of survival.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/etimes/trending/bees-have-now-developed-night-vision-research-finds/articleshow/104104093.cms?from=mdr>



Slovenia's Beautiful Beehives Turn Apiaries Into Art

Dating back to the 18th century, **AŽ** hive panels depict stories of marriage, damnation, and daily life.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



by [Rebecca L. Rhoades](#) September 29, 2023

“[Slovenia](#) has a strong connection with beekeeping,” says Peter Kozmus, one of the country’s—and the world’s—leading experts on bees. “Historically, every village had at least one beekeeper who produced honey for himself, his relatives, and neighbors.” This tradition continues today, with approximately one in every 200 Slovenians keeping and tending to bee colonies.

Kozmus has been a beekeeper since he was 14 years old. Today, he runs a honey farm in Pilštanj in eastern Slovenia, where he tends to more than 100 bee colonies. He also heads the breeding program for the 8,000-member Slovenian Beekeepers’ Association, a nearly 150-year-old education, research, and training organization.

Drive through the verdant countryside, and you’ll notice hobbit-sized huts, similar in appearance to garden outbuildings or she-sheds. But these small structures aren’t filled with landscaping tools or craft supplies. Instead, they’re apiaries that house unique hives, known as [Alberti-Žnideršič](#) (or AŽ) hives. Invented at the turn of the 20th century by beekeeper Anton Žnideršič, the hives—kranjichi in Slovenian—take their name from their inventor whose design was inspired by a leaf hive system by German teacher and beekeeper Adolf Alberti.

Unlike their American counterpart, the Langstroth hive, with its vertical box shape and hanging honeycomb frames, AŽ beehives are smaller and open from the back instead of the top. They also can be stacked together. Their structural design and small size allow them to be incorporated into

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

Like everyone else in Slovenia, Kozmus oversees colonies of [native Carniolan honey bees](#), the only species the country allows beekeepers to tend. Kozmus's bees are divided between four apiaries outfitted with AŽ hives. A large one near his house serves as the main source of honey production and is used for tourism purposes. Two mobile apiaries can be moved around the property "to find better pastures," Kozmus explains. And a small house is reserved for nucleus colonies—developing colonies with breeding queens. But there is no standard design for an AŽ hive house. It can be as small or as large as the beekeeper desires and can hold dozens of hives, stacked two or three high.

Typically, the hives are built into the south side of a bee house to capture the sun, while the opposite wall blocks the cold north winds. The eaves should extend about three feet to protect from rain and snow, while the entire house should be raised about four feet off the ground in order to keep the hives dry. Many bee houses are built on wheels, allowing them to be moved around the property as the seasons change.

Inside, the apiaries are a mix of workspace and living room. Depending on their location, they can include heat or air conditioning. Some are large enough to hold the extractor and other machinery needed to process the honey, as well as space for the beekeeper to hang out. "You'll see a lot of bee houses that have beds or a table and chairs in them," says Suzanne Brouillette, the owner of [Slovenian Beekeeping](#). Brouillette, a New Hampshire resident, organizes beekeeping-themed trips to Slovenia and is one of the few providers of AŽ hives in the United States. "You'll go out and take care of the bees, have some bread and wine and cheese, and take a nap," she says.

A small hole or slit on the front of the hive allows the bees to enter and exit, while the beekeeper accesses the combs from the rear of the hive, which is located inside the apiary. The hives themselves are divided into two chambers. "They're basically two-story bee apartments," says Wesley Brittenham, director of horticulture for Los Poblanos, a historic inn and lavender farm in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The property recently built a Slovenian apiary as part of its beekeeping program. "The queen does all the brood rearing and egg laying in the downstairs portion, while upstairs, all the bees can build pure, clean honeycomb," he explains.

Each weighing about eight pounds, AŽ bee house frames are easy to remove, simply sliding out one at a time like books off a bookshelf. Langstroth hive frames can weigh as much as 40 to 90 pounds and must be lifted up out of the hive. "There are so many benefits to this style of beekeeping," Brouillette says. "Number one, anyone can do it—children, the elderly, if you're in a wheelchair. It really opens up beekeeping to everyone."

But the most memorable aspect of Slovenian bee houses is their colorful appearance. The hives

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The first panels were created in the 18th century. Back then, beekeepers thought they helped the bees navigate to their own hives. “Today, we know that’s not the case, that bees remember the location of the right hive,” Kozmus says. Also, most beekeepers at the time were illiterate and the panels, which were often painted by traveling artists, told stories about their lives.

Brouillette says there are 600 known panel motifs from the 1800s, ranging from the religious to the political to the quotidian. “It was a way of being a little bit more prestigious than your neighbor if you had them,” she says.

About half of the motifs tell stories from the Bible. “The panels were like frescoes in a church,” Brouillette adds. The oldest-known bee panel is from 1758 and depicts the Madonna and Child. There’s Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, images of patron saints, and scenes of sinners in Hell.

Secular subject matter includes animals and hunting scenes, caricatures of important figures, and social commentary. There are themes of marriage and funerals, moral tales of drinking and infidelity, important events from history, and amusing looks at daily life.

While the art of hand-painting bee panels faded away after World War I, many beekeepers still use reproduction panels or ones with their own designs. “Beekeepers still paint the fronts of their hives because it’s our tradition and because we want to have beautiful hives,” Kozmus says. “Some apiaries still have such beautifully painted beehive headboards that visitors can watch them like they’re watching TV, because each headboard tells a story.”

When it comes to the story of beekeeping, the future looks uncertain. The prospect of a world without bees is dark: The Beekeepers’ Association warns that “Without bees, there is no life, no diversity, and almost one-third less food production. Which means no future.” But there is hope, as more Slovenian beekeepers continue the historic tradition. Thanks to the group’s educational efforts, the average beekeeper age has decreased from 65 to 59 over the past 15 years in Slovenia.

“In our country, we have mostly small hobby beekeepers for whom beekeeping is a way of life,” Kozmus explains. For Slovenians, he says, tending bees is not viewed as work, but something “that makes their lives better.”

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/what-are-slovenian-beehouses>

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

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. Schmidlein, 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.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

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.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

https://www.usitc.gov/press_room/news_release/2022/er051111935.htm

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.

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>



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. Secondly, 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.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

[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.

Please do not respond to this message.
This email is sent from an unattended mailbox

The materials and information included in this electronic newsletter are provided as a service to you and do not reflect endorsement by the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA). The content and opinions expressed within the newsletter are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by AHPA. AHPA is not responsible for the accuracy of information provided from outside sources.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
American Honey Producers Association · PO Box 435 · Mendon, Ut 84325 · USA