



American Honey Producers Association

2025 FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA

I. FARM BILL AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS 2024-5

- Extend the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) for honeybees / beekeepers.
- Increase ELAP Payments - Amend the ELAP program by including the Thune (R-SD)-Lujan(D-NM) Livestock Disaster Assistance Improvement Act (S.555) to establish a consistent normal mortality rate closer to 15%, standardize per colony and hive payment amounts, and expand eligibility for certain drought-related losses.
- AGI Waiver / Expanded Eligibility - Expand beekeeper access to ELAP by including the Panetta (D-CA)-Cammack (R-FL) Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act in the Farm Bill. Senators Padilla (D-CA) and Tillis (R-NC) companion bill in the Senate. The bill provides an exemption from the AGI limitation for farms that receive 75% of their income from farming or related farming practices.
- AMS / Marketing Loan: Increase the statutory marketing loan amount to align with current market conditions, from \$.69/lb to at least \$1.50/lb.
- Honey Bee Research Authorizations: extend honey bee research authorities at ARS honey bee research labs and various other USDA agencies.

II. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TRANSITION ENGAGEMENT

- Work with the Trump Administration transition team and ultimately with new officials at USDA, FDA, DOL, EPA and other agencies to explore opportunities to reduce regulations and or promote actions that prior administrations have been unwilling or unable to do on behalf of the beekeeping industry.
 - Opportunities Include:
 - FDA standard of identity
 - EPA expedited mite approvals
 - Wage and regulatory relief at DOL for H-2A workers
 - Enhanced trade enforcement
 - Enhanced public lands access on multi-use land



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- Improvement of conservation programs for managed pollinators
- Requiring APHIS to conduct a full EIS on tallow mitigation efforts before finalizing any agency decisions, or alternatively to suspend all activities related to Tallow mitigation (**Supportive language included in FY '23 and FY '24 appropriations reports, but the risk continues**).

III. STRENGTHEN HONEY INTEGRITY

- Enact the HIVE ACT: Enact legislation to establish a clear national standard of identity for honey, corresponding testing protocols, and labeling requirements that provide greater assurance to consumers about the origin and authenticity of the honey they consume. Enact the Honey Identification, Verification and Enforcement Act (HIVE Act) (H.R. 4764), as reintroduced in 2025.

IV. FISCAL YEAR 2024/5 APPROPRIATIONS

- Honey Bee Research Funding at ARS: Request \$9 million in additional funding for honey bee research at USDA-ARS honey bee research labs and cooperator labs commensurate with the impending threat of the Tropi mite.
- Honey Bee Lab Funding: Emphasis on core labs: Baton Rouge, Beltsville, and others, as needed. This requires a Louisiana-specific lobbying effort in 2025.
- Additional Honey Bee Research Funding: Maintain funding for the USDA Honey Bee and Pollinator Research Coordinator position within the Office of the Chief Scientist, continue funding for honeybee NASS surveys and an economist position at ERS.

V. OTHER LEGISLATION:

- Immigration Reform: reform the H-2A Program so that beekeepers can more easily access workers, keep them here longer, and move them around the country more freely, among other things. Address labor rates resulting from recent administrative action. Majority Leader Thune has made sweeping immigration reform a priority in 2025.
- CBP Collections: Enact legislation to recoup interest accrued but not paid to eligible beekeepers under the Byrd Rule. The China Trade Cheating Restitution Act is introduced in both the House and Senate and we will continue to push for the legislation to be enacted on the next moving vehicle. The current score is around \$39 million with part of that recovery going to beekeepers.