



2026 FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA (APPROVED 12-3-25)

I. HONEY PRICING / INTEGRITY

- Enact the Honey Integrity 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.
- Country of Origin (COO) Labeling: As part of Farm Bill 2.0 discussions, improve labeling laws alongside other agriculture sector stakeholders.
- U.S. Honey Promotion: Work together with other industry stakeholders to improve differential marketing of U.S. produced honey, placing emphasis on the shelf / retail honey segment.
- Trade: Continue to engage the Administration to ensure fair treatment of the U.S. honey industry in any bi-lateral or multi-lateral trade deals; seek continued support of appropriate agencies in protecting honey integrity and price stability (e.g. FDA and CBP).
- 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.

II. EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ELAP)

- Engage USDA on the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) for honeybees / beekeepers. As Farm Bill 1.0 is implemented, AHPA will engage USDA in its rule making process to, among other things, ensure: seamless implementation of the 15% mortality rate and AGI waiver changes; improvements are made to the administration of the program; reimbursement rates are established annually based on real market conditions; definitions (e.g. CCD) are maintained or updated to align with beekeeper practices best available science; and the program is expanded wherever possible to cover more beekeeper loss conditions.



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III. RESEARCH

- Honey Bee Research Authorizations: As part of Farm Bill 2.0 discussions, make permanent the honey coordinator position, set the stage for expanded research capabilities and emphasis on *Tropilaelaps* mites, and reverse BARC closure plans.
- Honey Bee Research Funding at ARS: In the appropriations process, request additional funding for honey bee research at USDA-ARS honey bee research labs and cooperator labs commensurate with the impending threat of the *Tropilaelap* mites. Fund and protect existing facilities, including BARC.
- 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.

IV. OTHER ISSUES:

- 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.
- Risk Management Agency: Engage with the RMA, where needed, to ensure the continued integrity and usability of applicable programs for beekeepers.