

<b>DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION</b>		Number: 9500-009
SUBJECT: Policy of Africanized Honey Bees	DATE: January 18, 1990	
	OPI: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	

1 PURPOSE

This regulation sets forth Departmental Policy relating to Africanized honey bees and coordination of Africanized honey bee activities among agencies of USDA and other executive agencies, organizations, and individuals. It is in furtherance of USDA responsibilities mandated by the legislation identified in Section 6a. Agencies of the Department affected by this regulation include AMS, APHIS, ARS, CSRS, ERS, ES, FmHA, FS, NASS, OPA and OICD.

Honey bees are a major agricultural resource. They provide for the pollination of essential food for people and animals and provide unique economic opportunities for people and communities.

The USDA is vitally interested in the maintenance, enhancement, and protection of the Nation's honey bee industry and the well-being of the people of the United States. The Department has played, and will continue to play, an active role in developing, demonstrating, and applying essential science, technology, and stewardship necessary to effectively protect the honey bee industry of this nation and throughout the world.

2 BACKGROUND

Approximately 250,000 beekeepers manage over 4 million honey bee colonies throughout the United States. These honey bees provide for the pollination of crops worth about \$20 billion and produce honey and other hive products worth about \$200 million.

The Africanized honey bee was introduced into the western hemisphere in Brazil in 1956. Since that time it has spread throughout South America, Central America, and into Mexico.

3 POLICY

In dealing with the Africanized honey bee, it is USDA policy to undertake activities and implement programs to:

- a Promote, through research, education and technology transfer, the management of desirable strains of honey bees in the United States.

b Promote and facilitate cooperation among public agencies, private organizations, international organizations, and individuals in planning and implementing programs to mitigate the undesirable characteristics of Africanized honey bees while minimizing duplication and overlap of roles in reaching Departmental goals.

c Disseminate information and educate the general public.

4 ABBREVIATIONS

- AMS - Agricultural Marketing Service
- APHIS - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- ARS - Agricultural Research Service
- CSRS - Cooperative State Research Service
- ERS - Economic Research Service
- ES - Extension Service
- FmHA - Farmers Home Administration
- FS - Forest Service
- OPA - Office of Public Affairs
- OICD - Office of International Cooperation and Development
- NASS - National Agricultural Statistics Service
- USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture

5 DEFINITIONS

a Africanized honey bees are honey bees which are descendants of *Apis mellifera scutellata* that was introduced from Africa into Brazil either as a genetically pure species or as hybrids with European honey bees which exhibit Africanized traits.

b Desirable honey bees are honey bees commonly found in the United States and are descendants of the various European sub-species of *Apis mellifera* currently found in the United States, including *A.m. ligustica*, *A.m. caucasica*, *A.m. carnica*, *A.m. mellifera* and their inter-specific hybrids which exhibit the desirable traits commonly associated with the European sub-species.

6 RESPONSIBILITIES

a Plans of action to implement the policies of this regulation developed by affected agencies will be subject to review by the Interagency Technical Working Group for the Africanized Honey Bee which is composed of representatives from APHIS, ARS, CSRS, ES, and OPA. These plans will be prepared in accordance with directions of the Honeybee Act of August 31, 1922, as amended June 25, 1976; the Federal Plant Pest Act of May 23, 1957, as amended (Title 7, USC, Section 150aa-150jj); the Cooperation with States Act of September 28, 1962, (Title 7, USC, Section 450); the Agricultural Act of 1949 (Title 7, USC, Section 1446); the Food and Securities Act of 1985 (PL 99-198).

b The Interagency Technical Working Group will provide Departmental leadership to coordinate and facilitate activities to mitigate the impact of the Africanized honey bee.

c The Interagency Technical Working Group will:

(1) Coordinate the Africanized honey bee policies of the affected USDA agencies.

(2) Provide a forum for formulation and assessing alternative Africanized honey bee policies and programs to serve missions of the various agencies within USDA and those of other executive agencies.

(3) As appropriate, provide the Secretary with reports of emerging Africanized honey bee issues or issues under consideration, progress toward resolution of the issues, and identify prospects for USDA involvement.

(4) Coordinate USDA programs designed to disseminate information and educate the general public.

d Agency Compliance

Each agency of the USDA will maintain its policies and program direction in compliance with this regulation. Agency heads will assure that current Africanized honey bee activities are delineated and that Africanized honey bee programs of each agency are known to the Interagency Technical Working Group on the Africanized Honey Bee.