

NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

152 Broad Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520-3218

January 29, 2005

During the Winter Meeting of the General Membership of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, the following RESOLUTION was presented to the membership and was adopted by unanimous acclaim:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Beekeepers Association is a statewide organization whose purpose is to foster and promote the art of apiculture in the Garden State, and;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey state insect, the honey bee, is endangered on many fronts, including diseases, parasitic mites, and predators, and;

WHEREAS, the honey bee is an integral component of the agriculture of New Jersey through its pollination of cranberries, blueberries, peaches, apples, melons, cucumbers, pumpkins, squashes, soybeans, strawberries, and other crops, as well as being essential to the well-being of New Jersey citizens by virtue of being responsible for nearly one-third of the food consumed by the people of the Garden State, and;

WHEREAS, New Jersey has in recent years experienced severe losses of honey bee colonies due to parasitism by the imported Asian mite, Varroa destructor, and resistance on the part of said Varroa mite to the major pesticides licensed for use in treatment of infested colonies, and;

WHEREAS, commercial beekeepers in New Jersey are facing enormous economic hardship and difficulty maintaining a sufficient number of healthy honey bee colonies to meet pollination needs in New Jersey and elsewhere, and;

WHEREAS, the only hope in finding a practical, economical method of combatting the Varroa mite lies in apiculture research, now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the General Membership of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association that the New Jersey Beekeepers Association

1. Supports allocation of all funds necessary to preserve the position of post-doctoral Research and Extension Specialist at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and;
2. Supports allocation of all funds necessary to provide said Research and Extension Specialist with appropriate staff and equipment to continue research into mitigating the effects of Varroa destructor on honey bee colonies.