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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Eastern Utilization Research and Development Division
Philadelphia 18, Pennsylvania

To: P. A. Wells, Director, EU
From: J. W. White, Jr., Head, Honey Investigations,
Plant Products Laboratory
Subject: Report of attendance at annual meeting of American Beekeeping
Federation, Omaha, Nebraska, February 1 - 4, 1961.

Summary

Better honey prices (averaging about 5% higher) and a generally good crop (third largest) have given the beekeeping industry a good year, with some area exceptions.

The industry faces some problems in addition to the usual ones of insecticide damage and improving marketing. Participation in the voluntary "check-off plan" of 4 cents per 60-lb. can of honey has increased considerably, though it is still far from sufficient. The industry's position regarding residues in honey of drugs used in treating bee diseases and of fumigants and other chemicals was discussed at length and it is thought that some action will take place in this field soon.

Considerable interest was shown in our dried honey and also in other aspects of our program.

Honey in Pharmaceuticals - It was learned that F and F Laboratories, Chicago, who nationally distribute and advertise their cough drops, have introduced a cough sirup which they advertise as having a pure honey base. This undoubtedly arose from our contract work at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

Dried Honey - Interest in this development has remained high. An impression was gained that Superior Honey Company of California is not seriously considering a plant at this time, though they wish to receive our new cost estimate. They have recently acquired a substantial interest in a new wax and candle plant in Mexico. The convention adopted a resolution praising the development of dried honey and hoping that work with it continues.

P. A. Wells	T. W. Quigley, Jr.	SURDD (2)	J. W. White, Jr.
G. W. Irving, Jr.	J. R. Matchett	WURDD	
W. D. Maclay	S. R. Hoover	EURDD Files	
A. M. Dupre', Jr.	NURDD	C. F. Woodward	

Honey Quality Control Committee - This group, of which I am a member, was set up last year by the Honey Industry Council to study problems of the honey industry relative to the new food additive laws.

The retention of several drugs (sulfathiazole, terramycin, fumagillin, erythromycin and streptomycin) in surplus honey when they had been used to treat bee colonies was studied by C. L. Farrar, Bee Culture Investigations. It was concluded in general that when these drugs are used as directed well in advance of the honey flow, little (less than 0.5 ppm) or no residues resulted in the extracted honey.

With respect to phenol, which has been in commercial use for about 25 years to clear bees from supers before removing honey, the situation is not as favorable. Residues of phenol in honey have been found ranging from 1 - 10 ppm; the natural level (no phenol used to harvest) of volatile phenolic material is about 0.5 ppm. These analyses were done at this laboratory. The committee recommended discontinuance of the use of the material and a search for a suitable substitute. Most large producers will not use it this year, though they expected considerable difficulty in operating without it. Several said that they would quit rather than go back to older practices; one said he would be able to handle only half as many colonies. The practice does appear to have a definite economic justification, pointing up the need for a substitute.

Honey packers have agreed to require certification by producers that the honey they sell has no phenol residue, which can only be met in practice by not using phenol to remove honey.

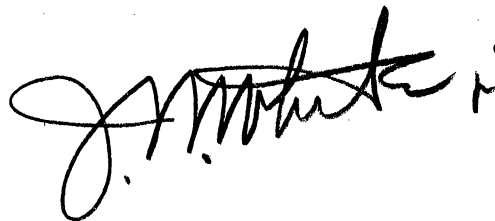
Arrangements were made with Robert Meloy, chemist for Sioux Honey Association, to exchange honey samples for phenol analysis. He is using the method we developed for phenol in honey, sensitive to 0.25 ppm.

Beeswax Adulteration - This issue, "hot" a year or so ago, appears to be under control. All producers of honeycomb foundation have signed an agreement to use no other wax than pure beeswax in its manufacture. The convention passed a resolution, however, stating that some adulterated foundation is still being produced and deploring same, but it was thought by several large foundation producers to be based on misinformation.

"What's Needed in Honey Research" - A talk by this title was given by R. B. Willson, a New York honey and royal jelly broker. His thesis was that about \$500,000 was being spent per year for research related to the beekeeping industry and in the past twenty years nothing can be shown to have resulted from this of benefit to the honey market. The present favorable market he ascribed entirely to the effect of the book "Folk Medicine" by D. C. Jarvis. His point was that this proved the value of health-directed research and promotion, and he gave a misleading description of the results of a rat-feeding experiment carried out

by Dr. Harper at the University of Wisconsin a few years ago, sponsored by the Honey Industry Council. It later became apparent that this talk was a part of an effort by Mr. Willson to obtain Council support (\$5,000) for a research project he was interested in on the value of honey in infant and child feeding.

Later I was told by Mr. Lawrence Budge, Malad, Idaho, the President of the Federation, that our efforts were indeed valued by the industry and that he felt that our work had been more useful to the industry during the past few years than that of any other group.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".