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.47	980.00
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.45	Sold 950.00
.44	677.00
.24	225.00

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Weight	Price
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1.09	Sold 1019.00
.70	1350.00
.58	1276.00
.57	1254.00
.55	1210.00
.30	300.00

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Weight	Price
1.00	\$2340.00
.77	1750.00
.47	900.00
.40	572.00

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Weight	Price
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'Killer' honey bees gain advantage

Texas Agricultural Extension Service says lack of funding slows effort to stop insects

HARLINGEN (AP) — Efforts to slow the Africanized honey bee's invasion into the United States have suffered a major setback because there is no money to fight the hot-tempered insect, officials said.

Funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's bee surveying program expired last weekend. Texas A&M University announced Thursday that it cannot afford to battle the bees without emergency money from the state.

Entomologist John Thomas with A&M's Texas Agricultural Extension Service said the lack of funding for surveying areas where bee swarms are found will hasten the Africanized bee's permanent establishment in the United States.

"We need to dig a ditch, and we haven't got a shovel," Thomas, a member of the Texas Africanized Honey Bee Advisory Committee, said Thursday. "It's

exceedingly frustrating."

Fifteen AHB swarms have been found along the Rio Grande from Brownsville to Laredo since last October, including 14 swarms discovered in the past three weeks.

Officials had been surveying a two-mile radius of each trapping to make sure domestic hives were not Africanized and to destroy any wild swarms.

That has stopped, however, "because there is no money to do them with," said Dave Mayes, an spokesman for Texas A&M, the institution that regulates bees in Texas.

Gov. Ann Richards asked the Legislature in March for emergency funding for the Texas Africanized Honey Bee Management Plan. The House recommended \$197,000 to last through the end of August, but the Senate still had not acted on the measure Thursday.

The plan includes the two-

mile quarantine zones, traps to monitor the bees' movements and enforcement of the larger quarantine placed on nine South Texas counties. No bees may be moved from the nine-county quarantine zone.

Ten other counties placed under quarantine last week with the discovery of an AHB swarm in Laredo have been removed from the quarantine. Mayes said because no bees were found in the Laredo area, the quarantine has been lifted from Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Jim Wells, Kleberg, LaSalle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen and Zavala counties.

But the quarantine remains in effect for Webb, Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kennedy, Starr, Willacy and Zapata counties.

For months Thomas has expressed frustration with the lack of state funding to slow the bees' invasion into the state. He said the end of the two-mile quaran-

times means officials won't be sure they have cleared areas of the unwanted bees.

The Africanized bees are known for their highly defensive behavior that causes them to launch mass attacks on suspected intruders.

They also are difficult to manage and are expected eventually to cause tens of millions of dollars in annual damage to the U.S. beekeeping industry and to crops dependent on pollination.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) only had agreed to survey the two-mile quarantine areas around the first five AHB swarms found in Texas.

Elba Quintero, who directs the USDA's Africanized bee program in Harlingen, however, said last week that APHIS would continue maintaining the trap lines, assisting with bee identification and conducting public education programs.

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