'Killer' honey bees gain advantage

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

HARLINGEN (AP) - Efforts exceedingly frustrating." to slow the Africanized honey Funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's bee sur-

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to leave her speechless."

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-1.64	Sold	3690 00
1.01		3130 25
1.01		2666 00
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.92		1797 50
78	Sold	1628 00
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.70		1649 00
.70		2100 00
.68		1496 00
.61		1952 00
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.50		1450 00
50	Sold	950 00
.50		440 00
.47		1150 00
.46		575 00
43	Sold	750 00
40	Sold	395 00
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.57 G/VVS1	239400
.57 F/VVS2	273600

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Weight 1.00		Price \$3099 25
.73 .72	Sold	2250 ⁰⁰ 2175 ⁰⁰
.63 .50		1575 ⁰⁰ 1550 ⁰⁰ 980 ⁰⁰
.46 .45		860 ⁰⁰ 654 ⁶⁴
.45	Sold	950 ⁰⁰ 677 ⁰⁰ 225 ⁰⁰
	Ovals	

Weight	Cald	Price \$3620.20
2	Sold	40000
1.09	Sold	101900
.70		1350 00
.58		127600
.57		125400
.55		121000
.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 .86		\$3050°0 1900°0
21.	Radiant Cut	1500

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bee's invasion into the United States have suffered a major setback because there is no money to fight the hot-tempered insect,

veying program expired last weekend. Texas A&M University announced Thursday that it cannot afford to battle the bees without emergency money from

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 haven't got a shovel," Thomas, a member of the Texas Africanized Honey Bee Advisory Committee, said Thursday. "It's

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 de-

stroy any wild swarms.

That has stopped, however,
"because there is not 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 "We need to dig a ditch, and \$197,000 to last through the end of August, but the Senate still had not acted on the measure

The plan includes the two-

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 un-der 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.

McMullen and Zavala counties.

But the quarantine remains in effect for Webb, Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, Willacy and Zapata USDA's Africanized bee program in Harlingen, however, and last week that APHIS would

pressed frustration with the lack of state funding to slow the bees' invasion into the state. He said the end of the two-mile quaran-

mile quarantine zones, traps to tines 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 sus-

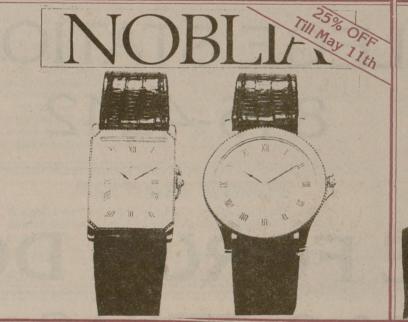
pected intruders. They also are difficult to manage and are expected eventually to cause tens of millions of dollars in annual damage to the

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 miles questrations.

said last week that APHIS would continue maintaining the trap lines, assisting with bee identification and conducting public education programs.









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