


"Melissopalynology"

Definition: The study of honey. By extension, it also includes the study of any pollen contained in honey as well as the pollen's source.

Andrew Schneider aka "The Food Watchdog" is at it again! <http://www.foodsafetynews.c...> Another article about the honey industry that invokes thought and emotion.....yes the Swami is envious! How dare he write an article that wants to improve our Industry by getting a Standard of Identity! How dare he question honey packers on their traceability procedures! This is tuff stuff!! (notice the 2 !!'s)

Let me be clear, the "Watchdog's" opening sentence on his article is mis-stated. "More than three-fourths of the honey sold in U.S. grocery stores isn't exactly what the bees produce". What should have been stated, is stated later in his article, that three fourths of the honey sampled isn't exactly what the bees produce, under his assumptions. The question that comes to my mind is, "What do retailers think their customer want or need?" The better question is, "What do CONSUMERS want?"!

The filtering portion of the article can be discussed for ages. Do keep in mind that GFI does have pollen in their honey as our filtering method allows us this. (In fact our honey CAN be called raw.) Do we need to adopt some European Standards or do we continue our path of USDA standards of 1985?

Click on this link  [United States Standards for Grades of Extracted Honey](#) Go to page 2, section 52.1393 and read what the standard is for filtered honey.

The Transshipping portion of the article just reinforces the need for companies like GFI who do 1st party audits on their suppliers. Knowing 1st hand what goes on at a supplier has proven to be more successful than some of the latest food related issues that used 3rd party audits. Remember this is my opinion, so no hate mail from auditors. Yes I am taking a leap of faith that someone reads my babble.

I don't have to agree with all of "The Food Watchdog's" assumptions, but in a previous "Swami" report I challenged him to get some balance. As you read, you can see he has reached out to the industry for his conclusions. Whether his conclusions meet with everyone's delight, I don't think he cares. But I must say if I overlook some structure issues and a few incorrect facts, he has challenged the industry. The elephant in the room has a visitor. Besides my life would not have been complete until I learned what Melissopalynology was?!



Don't get too caught up in the article specifics, dig deeper and realize this is a view from a non-honey person, there is a message here.

"For those of us that hear our customers, we will survive. For those that don't, you won't"!

~ Say a prayer for our troops & give thanks ~

I remain.....The Swami.....Ernie Groeb
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