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Bee Aware! African Honeybees (Killer Bees) Becoming Established In Florida

By CHUCK WOODS

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — African honeybees — also known as killer bees — have entered Florida, and a University of Florida researcher

says the aggressive insects may eventually spread throughout the state and move into other areas of the southeastern United States.

The bees, which tend to sting in

large numbers, have been found and stopped at various Florida ports over the past decade, but now it looks like they're here to stay, said Glenn Hall, an associate professor of entomology at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. He said Florida's warm climate is ideal for the bees, which could be bad news for the state's \$16 million honeybee industry.

"If African honeybees become established in large numbers over the next few years, they will affect



PAGE 10 New TV commercials hope to promote Shetland ponies and miniature horses as a mainstream pet for animal lovers.



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Feeding Time
Nicole Griffin, a technician with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, feeds a one-day-old heifer at UF's Dairy Research Unit in Alachua. Griffin said newborn calves usually receive a bottle of milk.



TV Commercials Promote Shetland Pony Club, Mini Horse

New TV commercials for the American Shetland Pony Club and the American Miniature Horse Registry have begun airing nationwide on RFD-TV. The tongue-in-cheek spots are staged in a news studio, where a very convincing newscaster warns viewers about the small equine flu epidemic sweeping the country. The newscaster identified as Scott Shetland, explains that people's love of Shetland ponies and miniature horses is causing the spread of the flu. His field reporter, Mini Lover, confirms the reports from the field, quite literally.

"We saw the spot as a fun way to get people thinking about Shetland ponies and miniature horses," explains ASPC/AMHR Marketing Director, Johnny Robb. "It really is true that these heart-warming little equines can be quite addictive. Entries at our National Miniature Horse Show went over 5,000 last year and our Shetland Congress was the largest in our history in 2004. So the big news is, small equines are definitely catching on," added Robb.

Interest in Shetland ponies and miniature horses peaked after two TV shows about them aired nationally last year on RFD-TV.

For more information about American Shetland Pony Club and the American Miniature Horse Registry, visit www.shetlandminiature.com or call 309-263-4044. ♦

