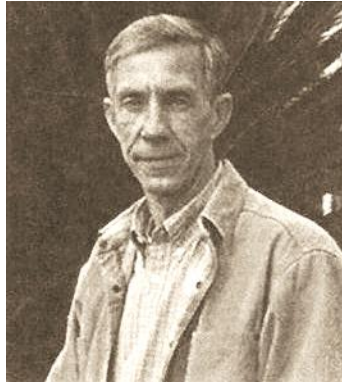


New Baton Rouge Research Leader

USDA is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Robert Danka as the Research Leader for the Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Unit (HBBGPU) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana effective immediately.



Dr. Danka is a Research Entomologist who first came to the HBBGPU as a graduate student in 1983 after having earned B.S. degrees in Biology and Entomology and a M.S. degree in Entomology from Pennsylvania State University. He joined the permanent staff of the laboratory in 1987 after completing his Ph.D. in Entomology at Louisiana State University.

The majority of Dr. Danka's research has been in three areas: crop pollination by honey bees; the biology and management of Africanized honey bees; and genetic resistance of honey bees to biological hazards.

His recent efforts have focused on ways to strengthen the application of ARS' scientific discoveries in the area of honey bees that have resistance to *Varroa* mites; these mites are the primary health threat to honey bees worldwide.

Dr. Danka has served as Acting Research Leader of the HBBGPU since the retirement of Dr. Thomas Rinderer on January 3, 2016. Please join the LBA in congratulating Dr. Danka on his appointment as Research Leader of HBBGPL.