



Dear Ohio Beekeeper,

The Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Apiary Program is responsible for overseeing registration and inspection of managed honey bee colonies in Ohio in accordance with Ohio law. The Program's goals are to monitor the health of honey bee colonies, promote good beekeeping practices, and support the Ohio beekeeping industry. The program also assists with possible pesticide investigations involving bees, and works with the United States Department of Agriculture and other organizations to assess the many threats to honey bees and other pollinators through outreach and surveys. Please see the following reminders regarding the requirements for apiaries in Ohio:

APIARY REGISTRATION: All apiaries in the state of Ohio must be registered with ODA as required by ORC 909.02. Your registration expires on May 31, 2020. Please return your application for renewal and payment prior to June 1, 2020. If you no longer have bees, please indicate that on your application and return it. Please note that any newly established apiaries are required to be registered within 10 days of receipt of the honey bees.

INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF QUEEN REARING APIARIES: Any beekeepers who plan to raise bees to sell queens, nucs or colonies must first pass an inspection of their apiaries for the presence of any serious bee diseases or pests. This can be done by checking the Queen Inspection request box on your application and returning it by April 1, 2019. Queen inspection may require sampling of a section of brood comb and 100-300 bees to test for the presence of serious bee diseases and pests. A Certificate of Inspection will be issued to beekeepers for their apiaries that are found to be healthy with pests below the recommended threshold. Beekeepers should ask to see this before purchasing **any** bees.

NUCS

When purchasing nucs use the following as a guideline; a nuc should be a colony of bees in a box with three to eight frames containing a laying queen bee and her progeny in all life stages. The nuc shall have honey and a viable population sufficient enough to develop into a full-sized colony.

TRANSFER PERMIT/HEALTH CERTIFICATE: If you plan to sell, or otherwise transfer ownership of any bees or used beekeeping equipment please contact the Apiary Program to obtain a Transfer Permit/Health Certificate as required by RC 909.09. Please note that a Transfer Permit/Health Certificate cannot be issued if serious bee diseases or pests are detected above threshold levels.

IMPORTATION OF BEES OR USED BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT: If you are planning to purchase bees or beekeeping equipment from outside of Ohio, please note that these items require an official Certificate of Inspection from the state of origin to accompany the shipment (RC 909.10). Bees brought into Ohio or moved out of Ohio also require a Certificate of Inspection.

NO CONSENT: ODA encourages all beekeepers to have their apiaries inspected to help detect pest and diseases however, beekeepers may file a "No Consent Form" by March 15 each year with the department which indicates that they are denying an inspector access to an apiary. A "No Consent Form" may be obtained from the ODA website at www.agri.ohio.gov. **Note: all apiary(s) from which bees or queens are sold MUST be inspected prior to obtaining a Certificate.**

Thank you for registering your apiary. Please contact the Apiary Program if you have any questions about the information provided in this letter.

Sincerely,
ODA Apiary Program

