WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FLORIDA APIARY INDUSTRY

FLORIDA BEEKEEPING GUIDELINES

- Contact your inspector and arrange to have your hives inspected within 30 days of arrival.
- When choosing an apiary site, be sure to have permission. Written contracts are highly recommended.
- Place hives away from fence lines, property lines, driveways, walkways, roadways, trails, pens with tethered animals or buildings.
- Display a placard or notice at each apiary site with your current contact information.
- Follow department best management practices for maintaining European honey bee colonies.
- Register your colony location at the Florida Apiary/Citrus Mapping Service: FloridaBeeProtection.org.

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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner
Florida Apiary Rules and Regulations

Highlights

**Florida Statutes 586:**
**Honey Certification and Honey Bees**
- All forms of honey bee and related equipment are subject to inspection; all are subject to detention if warranted.
- All colonies are to be inspected once a year for registration renewal purposes and all registrants must pay an annual fee.
- Honey in Florida may be certified by the department, in accordance with Rule 5K-4.027 the Florida Honey Standard.

Other laws applicable to beekeeper protection:
- **F.S. 812.014** “It is grand theft of the third degree to steal a bee colony of a registered beekeeper.”
- **F.S. 812.015** “Retail and farm theft”...of items that are grown/produced (e.g. honey) or “the unlawful taking possession of associated equipment.”
- **F.S. 604.60** “damage or destruction of agricultural products or production systems...includes the products of an apiary.”
- **F.S. 316.520** –Transporting agriculture products, such as honey bees requires netting or tarping if product is being transported over 20 miles or if posted speed is over 65 miles per hour.

**Florida Rule Chapter: 5B-54.010**
- All beekeepers entering the state of Florida are required to register with the department. This registration must be renewed annually.
- Certificate of apiary inspection and out-of-state shipping certificate is required to move out of state.
- Unidentified (unmarked) apiaries are considered abandoned and are subject to removal by the state.
- Permanent brands are required on all brood boxes and beekeepers must present bill of sale for equipment marked from another beekeeper.

For the complete list of laws and regulations visit: FloridaBeeProtection.org