



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **THE FLORIDA APIARY INDUSTRY**

FLORIDA BEEKEEPING GUIDELINES

- Contact your inspector and arrange to have your hives inspected and become registered within 30 days of arrival.
- Brand all hive bodies with your registered firm number for quick identification.
- When choosing an apiary site, be sure to have permission from the landowner. 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.
- Ensure apiary locations meet the Beekeeper Compliance Agreement and that you are following the best management practices for maintaining European honey bee colonies.

**For more information, contact the
Division of Plant Industry**

1911 SW 34th Street
Gainesville, FL 32608
1-888-397-1517
DPIHelpline@FDACS.gov



**Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Division of Plant Industry**



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 beekeepers must pay annual registration fees and make their colonies available for inspection.
- 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.
- **F.S. 570.15** – It is unlawful for the driver of any vehicle transporting agricultural products to pass any official agricultural inspection station without first stopping and submitting the vehicle for inspection.

Florida Rule Chapter: 5B-54

- All beekeepers entering the state of Florida are required to register with the department. This registration must be renewed annually.
- Moving colonies out of state requires a Certificate of Apiary Inspection and an out-of-state certificate, when required by the destination 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:

[FDACS.gov/ApiaryInspection](https://fdacs.gov/ApiaryInspection)

