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Beekeeping Rules & Regulations

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1

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Objectives

- General Information
- Laws, Rules and Regulations
- Registration
- Inspection
- Selling queens, nucs and equipment
- Selling honey
- Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Responsibility

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2

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General Information

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3

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General Information

Ohio Department of Agriculture Apiary Program

- Overseen inspection since HB 28 on April 21, 1904
- Vital agriculture source for fruits and vegetables and soybeans
- Apiary Program coordinates state and county inspections
- Active Registered Beekeepers in accordance with ORC 909.02
 - 2019 – 6,183 registered with 9,462 apiaries
- USDA NASS in 2015 – Ohio produced 850,000# of honey (50#/colony)
- The Program works with several national groups and USDA

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General Information

Sensitive Crop Registry

<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/resources/oscr>

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Laws, Rules & Regulations

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What's the difference in laws, rules & regulations?

- Laws are the written items in the Ohio Revised Code passed by Ohio Congress.
- Rules are the written items in the Ohio Administrative Code
- Regulations are controlled by the governing body, Ohio Department of Agriculture, according to the laws and rules that were written and approved.

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Ohio Revised Code

Chapter 9 Apiaries

- Apiaries falls under Title 9 – Agriculture-Animals-Fences
- <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/chapter-909>
- Sections 909.01 – 909.18 plus 909.99

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Chapter 9 - Apiaries

- Definitions
- Registration application
- Control, eradicate disease
- Quarantine orders
- Premise inspection
- State apiarist & deputies
- Commissioners may appropriate funds for inspections
- Annual inspection of queen apiaries
- Permit necessary for transfer
- Inspections certificate required to ship or move
- Additional control & eradication measures
- Frames & honeycombs must be removable and accessible
- Revocation of certificate or permit
- Effect of child support default certificate
- Annual report
- Moneys credited to general revenue fund
- Director of Agriculture to prosecute violators
- Prohibition
- Penalty

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Chapter 901:5-55

Apiary Registration

- Chapter 901:5-55 – 01 through 08
- <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-901:5-55>

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Chapter 901: 5-55

- Definitions
- Registrations
- Serious bee diseases
- Inspection and procedures
- No consent and search warrant
- Confirmation of disease
- Disease controls
- Special inspection fees

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Regulations

- Ohio Department of Agriculture is the regulatory agency by putting the ORC and OAC into action through registrations, certificates, inspections, investigations, etc.

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ODA Mission

“Safeguards the health of Ohio's food supply to protect consumers, promotes environmental stewardship, and maintains the health of the state's animals and plants.”

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Registering Your Apiary

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Apiary Registration

ORC 909.02

- All apiaries must be registered
- Expires annually on May 31 each year
- Renewal paperwork and payment due before June 1
- New apiaries are **required** to be registered within 10 days of receipt of honeybees
- https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/forms/plnt_4201-002



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Apiary Registration

Nucs and Transfer Permit/Health Certificate

- Nucs – “a nuc should be a colony of bees in a box with 3 – 8 frames containing a laying queen bee and her progeny in all life stages
- Transfer Permit/Health Certificate – sell, transfer ownership of bees or used equipment requires a transfer permit/health certificate per ORC 909.09
 - Cannot be issued if serious bee disease or pests are above the threshold

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Apiary Registration

Importation of bees or used equipment & No Consent

- Importation – these items require an official Certificate of Inspection from the state of origin to accompany the shipment – ORC 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 disease and pest
 - Beekeepers may file a “No Consent form” by March 15 each year
- **ALL APIARY(S) FROM WHICH BEES OR QUEENS ARE SOLD MUST BE INSPECTED TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE**

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Inspection

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Inspection

County Inspectors

- Monitored by county inspectors via the State Apiarist
- County inspectors are appointed and paid by a county
- Crucial component to provide hands-on interaction with beekeepers
- Increase the likelihood that bees required for pollination are disease and pest free

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Inspection

Colony Inspection

- May be inspected to detect serious bee disease or Africanized honeybees in the state
- Inspections certificates are required for any person rearing queens or packaged bees.
 - Required for selling, gifting, or bartering bees, honeycombs or equipment

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21

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Selling Queens, Nucs, & Equipment

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Selling Queens, Nucs & Equipment

Apiary Inspection

- Any person engaged in bee rearing to sell or trade queens, nucs or colonies in Ohio must be inspected at least once each year
- Check the queen inspection box on application and returning by April 1 annually
- County inspectors conduct these inspections

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Selling Queens, Nucs & Equipment

Health Certificate

- Inspectors issue a Certificate of Inspection
- Pest and disease level must be below USDA threshold levels
- Make certificate available to anyone purchasing bees or equipment
- No certificate if presence of serious bee disease, pest or Africanized population
 - No ship, sell, transfer, exchange, donate, or give away bees
- ODA maintains a list of apiaries with Certificate and is available to anyone by request

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Selling Queens, Nucs & Equipment

Queen rearing notification to ODA

- Annually ID apiaries that require Queen Certificate on annual registration form by April 1
- Forms filled out properly expedites the inspection process
- ODA informs county inspectors of location request inspection
- Early spring, no problem. Contact ODA Directly!

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Selling Queens, Nucs & Equipment

No Consent

- Ohio Law requires all Queen rearing operations to be inspected
- Got a concern, contact ODA
- Don't have a county inspector, contact ODA

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Selling Honey

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Selling Honey

Food Safety

- Regulated under the Division of Food Safety
- A beekeeper that jars honey, when a minimum of 75% of honey is from own hives, is exempt from licensing, registration and mandatory inspection.
- If more than 25% of honey sold comes from another beekeeper, honey processor is considered "food processing establishment"
 - Subject to registration and inspection of Division of Food Safety
- Honey is considered under the "Cottage Food Laws"
 - <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/resources/honey>

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Selling Honey

Label

- Regardless of whether or not honey is sold from home, a market or elsewhere, it must have a label (including honey products gifted or traded).
 - **Statement of Identity** - the common or usual name of the food product;
 - **Net Quantity of Contents** - If sold ON SITE the label must declare the net weight in the U.S. Customary System (ounces) but does not have to have the weight in metric (grams). If sold OFF SITE, it must have both (ounces and grams).
 - **Statement of Responsibility** - the name and address of the business.
- Honeybee Fact Sheet
 - <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/resources/honey>

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EXAMPLE LABEL OF BASIC LABELING COMPONENTS

30

30

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Selling Honey

What are the Tolerance Levels for miticides and antibiotics?

- The detection of antibiotics in any amount in any sample of honey or beeswax shall render the honey or beeswax as adulterated. *Coumaphos* shall not exceed 100 parts per billion in any sample of honey; 100 parts per million in any sample of beeswax.

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Selling Honey

What are the requirements for new and reused jar/container sanitation?

- If jars for honey are to be reused they must be washed and sanitized. Closures shall not be reused. All packaging shall be free from rust on food contact surfaces and not contain any substances or be made from any material which could damage either the color or flavor of the honey.
- Questions? Contact ODA Division of Food Safety; 1-800-282-1955 Ext 4366; email: foodsafety@agri.ohio.gov

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Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Responsibility

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Pesticide Applicator Responsibility

Protecting Bees in Ohio

- READ, READ, READ!
- The label and follow directions
 - Avoid harm to environment
 - Non-target organisms
 - Endangered species
- Label indicates if toxic to
 - Non-target organisms such as fish, aquatic invertebrates, bees, etc.

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Pesticide Applicator Responsibility

Applicator's Responsibility

Ohio Law

- IF** pesticide is **toxic to bees**
 - Applicator's responsibility to contact beekeepers with registered apiaries (beehives) within ½ mile of the target area if it is more than ½ acre in size
 - Notification **MUST** be made at least 24 hours before application
- ODA has the list of registered apiaries

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Pesticide Applicator Responsibility

Encouraged to avoid spraying when...

- Spraying when bees are active in flowering plants
- Spraying in afternoon when bees are active
- Drift and risk to neighboring flowering plants

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Beekeeping Rules & Regulations

Sensitive Crop Registry

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Beekeeping Rules & Regulations

Take Home Message

- Register your apiaries before the June 1 deadline or 10 days of acquiring
- Renew each year before April 1 and have apiaries inspected
- Put your apiary registration number on each box, required if not on your own property
- Encouraged to put your contact information on or near hives so you can be contacted, especially by pesticide applicators
- Good neighbor policy, let your neighbors know you have bees, **especially** your agriculture neighbors
- Register with the Sensitive Crop Registry

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Questions?

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Contact and Works Cited

<p>Gigi Neal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSU Extension Educator • Agriculture and Natural Resources • Clermont County • 513-732-7070 • neal.331@osu.edu 	<p>Ohio Department of Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Bloetscher, State Apiarist • Apiary Program Ohio Department of Agriculture 8995 E Main St Bldg 23 Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 • Phone: 614-728-6373 Fax: 614-728-6453 Email: apiary@agri.ohio.gov • https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program
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40