
BEEKEEPER/APIARY REGISTRATION

Section 29040 of the California Food and Agricultural Code states, in part:

“Every person that is the owner, broker, or is in possession of an apiary that is located within the state, on the first day of January of each year, shall register the number of colonies in each apiary ...”

Section 29043 states in part:

“Registration of an apiary shall be filed with the commissioner of the county in which the apiary is located ...”

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Important Information: No registration fees will be collected until the new fee schedule is finalized in regulation. Absence of a registration fee does not impact the beekeeper requirement to register.

Registration for 2024 begins on December 1, 2023. The Apiary Registration Form must be filled out completely and returned by January 1, 2024, or when your apiary first enters Los Angeles County.

Please submit the following information (Registrations with incomplete or missing forms will not be processed):

A Completed 2024 Annual Apiary Registration Application, including:

- Colony Locations:** Provide details of colony (apiary) placements for mapping purposes.
For Urban (City) Placements: Please provide a full address or Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN).
For Rural Apiaries: A location description with GPS Coordinates is required.
Example: Big Tujunga Canyon Rd. & Foothill Blvd. - 34.2356, -118.2453
- Months on Site:** Indicate which months of the year the hives will be on site (e.g. Oct-Dec).
- Crop Report Information:** Please note that Crop Report Statistics reflect previous year figures.

Please mail completed application to:

Los Angeles County Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures
12300 Lower Azusa Road
Arcadia, CA 91006

Live Bee Removal:

If you intend to perform live bee removal and/or swarm pick-up and would like to be contacted by the public, please indicate so on back of the registration form. In Los Angeles County, as an estimated 80% of feral bees are Africanized, it is important that such colonies be destroyed if deemed aggressive or re-queened immediately for public safety. *(Live bee removal does not require possession of a State Pest Control Business License)*

Bee Removal Using Pesticides:

For activities involving any use of pesticides, you must possess a valid State Pest Control Business (PCB) License. The type(s) of required license(s) is determined by the site where the bees are located. Please call our office at (626) 575-5466 for information about obtaining an appropriate license.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BEE QUARANTINE REGULATIONS

Receiving Hives from Out of State

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) Quarantine is unchanged. Bees and/or bee equipment entering California are issued a “Quarantine Warning Hold Notice” at a port-of-entry inspection station. Upon destination arrival, you must call for inspection by the County Agricultural Commissioner. *No charges apply for inspections of incoming shipments.*

Moving Bees to Another State

Prior to exiting California, you may need to obtain a RIFA Quarantine Compliance Certificate (Fee based on number of colonies in shipment). *If you need this service, please call our Quarantine Division at (562) 622-0426.*

ZONING AND CITY ORDINANCES

To determine if a City has ordinances or zoning restrictions regarding keeping bees, please contact the respective City Land Use or Zoning Code Enforcement departments. Some Cities (e.g., Burbank, Glendale, Los Angeles, etc.), have zoning codes and maps displayed on their websites. *Registration with our department does not exempt you from compliance with County/City ordinances.*

CERTIFIED PRODUCER'S CERTIFICATE (CPC)

Beekeepers who intend to sell their honey products at California Certified Farmers' Markets are required to possess a current and valid Certified Producer's Certificate (CPC).

Prior to certification as a Certified Producer, a beekeeper must register his/her apiary with the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner Apiary Program by calling (626) 459-8894.

To obtain a CPC, please contact our Direct Marketing Division at (562) 622-0426.

BACKYARD BEEKEEPING REMINDERS

All municipalities have nuisance ordinances, even in areas that allow beekeeping. So, if you intend to keep hive boxes within any city limits, it is important to follow these suggestions:

- **Check Zoning Ordinances.**
- **Provide a sufficient water source.**
- **Encourage hive bees to fly up.**
 - Devise a structure around hives to encourage bees to fly above eye level (8-10 feet).
- **Distance from public areas (roads, parks, schools, etc.)**
 - Bees may sting unsuspecting people as far as 100 feet or more from the hive.
- **Re-queen the hive with known genetics.**
 - Re-queening with temperate queens will help prevent aggressiveness.
- **Be sensitive to your neighbors.**
 - Keep hive boxes as far away and hidden from neighboring properties as much as possible.

Common courtesy can be sweeter than honey!

If you have any questions or require additional guidance or information, please contact us as follows:

• Inspector Diana Gelvin: (626) 459-8894

• Inspector Juan Moreno: (626) 459-8895