

Apiary Program

The upper Midwest is one of the major honey-producing area in the United States, and Minnesota ranks among the top 5 states in honey production. Each year more than 50 Minnesota beekeepers move thousands of colonies to California and several southern states for pollination and over-wintering, other beekeepers winter bees here in Minnesota.



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As provided under [Minnesota law](#), our apiary inspection program works with beekeepers to help maintain healthy colonies for honey production and pollination. Disease and pest survey inspections are done each year with a goal of inspecting bees in most counties every 5 years. When disease such as American Foulbrood and pests like Varroa mite or small hive beetle are found, we work with the beekeeper to control them and prevent their spread to other colonies in the area.

Every beekeeper in Minnesota is required to register their colonies. Location data is used in our inspection program and is provided to pesticide applicators on request. Every year we inspect and certify colonies for movement to other states. Import permits are required to bring colonies or nucs into the state.

Beekeepers may sell honey, but all honey offered for sale in a public place must be properly labeled.

Related Links

- [Beekeeping](#) - information from the University of Nebraska.
- [Beekeeping FAQ](#) - list of pointers toward apicultural and beekeeping information on the internet.
- [Beekeeping in the Digital Age](#) - a column describing how communication in the digital age is affecting production and dissemination of beekeeping information.
- [International Bee Research Association](#) - the world information specialist on bees.
- United States Standards for Grades of Extracted Honey ([PDF: 61 KB / 14 pages](#))

- [Lookup registered beekeepers and colony locations](#)
- [Apiary Inspectors of America](#)
- [State Apiarist Directory](#)
- [Canadian Provincial Apiarist Directory](#)
- [Honey Label Requirements](#)
- [Honeybee Swarm Information](#)
- 2004 Apiary Report ([PDF: 673 KB / 2 pages](#))
- [Minnesota Pest Report](#)

Forms

- [Apiary Registration Form](#) ([PDF: 75 KB / 2 pages](#))

Disease Information

- [American Foulbrood](#)
- [Chalkbrood](#)
- [Varroa mite](#)

MDA Contact

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