



2015

Thank you for interest in becoming a Pennsylvania beekeeper! You will be in good company with over 3,000 other Pennsylvanians who are also beekeepers.

Under "Forms" on this website, you will find an Apiary Registration form and a voluntary Pennsylvania Apiary Advisory Board's Best Management Practices form.

Please complete and return the Apiary Registration form with a check or money order for \$10.00 to the address listed at the bottom of the form.

Please read the Best Management Practices (BMP) form and if you agree to follow those practices, sign and date the form. Please **keep** this form in a file at your home. The BMP form has been helpful for beekeepers if neighbors or local government have a problems or complaints about managed honey bees. The BMP are helpful to assure those concerned that the beekeeper is trying to be a good neighbor and a responsible citizen.

In 1994, the apiary advisory board (a group of industry leaders who advise the Secretary of Agriculture on bee-related matters) recommended that the Pennsylvania Bee Law be amended to require all beekeepers in the state register their apiaries. This amendment was adopted, as was a ten-dollar licensing fee (valid for approximately for two years) to help cover the administrative costs of mandatory registration. The advantages of registration are clear: it makes bee inspection more efficient and provides a means to alert beekeepers about potential threats to their bees. For instance, this office gives apiary location information to DEP officials before they apply mosquito (West Nile virus) control sprays. By alerting beekeepers, accidental bee poisonings may be avoided.

You may wish to learn more about honey bees and beekeeping by joining your local bee group and/or the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association (PSBA). State Association membership comes with a newsletter subscription. This newsletter commonly disseminates new industry developments. (<http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org>) Information about bees, beekeeping, and local/state bee groups are found at Penn State's web site: <http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/>.

If you do not have web access contact Yvonne Crimbring ((570) 673-8201) for information regarding the PSBA. Please do not hesitate to contact this office regarding any other questions or concerns.

Best wishes on your beekeeping endeavors,

Sincerely,

Karen Roccasecca
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