

Beekeeping: some frequently asked questions



Is a license necessary to keep honeybees?

Yes. Even if you only have one hive, you must register with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) within 30 days of receiving your bees.

Why should I register my bees?

It is crucial that your beekeeping registration is kept current to protect the health of your bees. American foulbrood (AFB) is a highly contagious and devastating disease that is in Utah; UDAF has no way of warning beekeepers about outbreaks of this disease if they are not registered. Registered beekeepers also receive complementary health survey, information about honeybee health and best management practices, and will be warned about movements of Africanized honeybees in the state.

What else is required?

- ⇒ Your beekeeping license number should be prominently displayed in the apiary (i.e. painting the number on a hive box with a stencil).
- ⇒ Unused equipment and tools should be stored in a bee-proof location.
- ⇒ Honey can only be extracted in a bee-proof location.
- ⇒ The county bee inspector or a UDAF apiary specialist may inspect your hive once a year.
- ⇒ Your city or county may have additional requirements or prohibit beekeeping altogether. Contact your local government for more information.

**Please see the Utah Bee Inspection Act for all regulations*

How do I protect my bees from disease?

- ⇒ Keep your registration current. UDAF alerts registered beekeepers when there are outbreaks of AFB or other health issues.
- ⇒ Know the signs and symptoms of AFB and European foulbrood (EFB). Examine your brood comb for these diseases during inspections.
- ⇒ Never share equipment or hive tools with another beekeeper unless you are certain they are free from disease or have been sterilized.
- ⇒ When purchasing bees request the seller provide a health certificate from the state of origin.

How do I protect my bees from varroa?

Measure your mite presence with a sticky screen, ether roll or powdered sugar roll. Don't let your mite load exceed 5% of the colony's population (or 5 mites for every 100 bees). Remember: You can't effectively manage mites if you aren't measuring their population!

What if I think my colonies are diseased?

If you believe you have AFB or EFB contact your county bee inspector or UDAF for a complementary health survey. We can provide testing services and treatment options. See the next page for contact information.

How do I get more information?

Our website has information about disease prevention and diagnosis and best management practices.

Please visit:

<http://ag.utah.gov/plants-pests/beekeeping.html>





County Bee Inspectors

Bee inspectors are available to assist Utah's beekeepers. Although not all counties employ an inspector, you are welcome to contact them if you have questions or concerns about beekeeping, or contact UDAF Apiary Program.

County	Name	Phone	Email
Box Elder	Martin James	(435) 760-0805	martin@slideridgehoney.com
Cache	Martin James	(435) 760-0805	martin@slideridgehoney.com
Davis	Roman Frazier	(561) 801-6321	rfra358515@bellsouth.net
Duschene	Steve Yack	(435) 823-6153	Yack3YYY@yahoo.com
Grand	Jerry Shue	(435) 260-8581	shue.jerry@gmail.com
Iron	Blaine Nay	(435) 590-7569	blaine@nay.org
Millard	Gary Dutson	(435) 864-4844	
Salt Lake	Chris Rodesch	(801) 633-6589	chrisrodesch@gmail.com
Sanpete	John Scott	(435) 283-9457	scottjg@ldschurch.org
Tooele	Kelly Keele	(435) 830-3888	
Utah (north)	Neil Shelley	(801) 822-4114	neil@utahcountybeekeepers.org
Utah (south)	Charles Siglar	(801) 794-2586	swarm@utahcountybeekeepers.org
Washington	Casey Lofthouse	(435) 467-2787	cblofty@cpaz.net
Weber	Brock Lenox	(801) 444-9220	brlenox@gmail.com



UDAF Apiary Program

UDAF offers complementary health survey and testing services for AFB, EFB, nosema, and tracheal mites. If you are interested in any of these services, please contact:

Clint Burfitt

Apiary Program Manager

(801) 538-7184

cburfitt@utah.gov

