

Voluntary Honey Bee Best Management Practices Agreement

By initializing each page, signing this agreement and mailing it to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Apiary Section, Box 40627, Nashville, TN 37204 a beekeeper agrees to follow the Voluntary Honey Bee Best management.

(1) A beekeeper will be considered to be following Voluntary Honey Bee Best management practices if he/she does the following:

1. The beekeeper voluntarily agrees to conform to the Honey Bee Best Management Practices contained in this agreement as outlined below:
2. The beekeeper posts a honey bee caution sign in or near the apiary clearly indentifying the apiary with their unique Tennessee Apiary Registration number. The sign will be easily readable from a distance of fifty feet.
3. The beekeeper agrees to limit the number of hives in relation to property lot size in accordance with the following:

In property, less than 0.5 acre - 4 colonies (0.5 acre = 21,780 sq. ft. roughly 100 ft. x 218 ft.).

In property, more than 0.5 acre, less than 1 acre - 6 colonies (1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft., roughly 150 ft. x 290 ft.).

In property, more than 1 acre, less than 5 acres - 8 colonies (1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft., roughly 150 ft. x 290 ft.).

In property, greater than 5 acres- No Limit on the number of hives (1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft., roughly 150 ft. x 290 ft.).

Regardless of lot size: If all hives are situated at least 200 feet in any direction from all inhabited dwellings on adjoining properties of the lot on which the apiary is situated or as long as all adjoining property that falls within a 200-foot radius of any hive is undeveloped property, there will be no limit on the number of hives.

Regardless of lot size: There will be no limitation to the number of queen mating nucs.

Regardless of lot size: if all hives are 20 feet or more above the ground on a platform or roof top there is no limit to the number of hives.

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4. Hive entrances shall face away from neighboring property and in such a direction that bees fly across the beekeeper's property a sufficient distance to gain a height of six feet or above. If bordering property is within a distance of 50 feet, the use of barriers (hedges, shrubs or fencing six feet high) shall be employed to redirect the bees' flight pathway and establish bee flight pathways above head height.
5. Tennessee Beekeepers shall maintain a water source near the colonies at a distance less than the nearest unnatural water supply.
6. No apiary shall be kept within 50 feet of an established animal that is tethered, kenneled or otherwise prevented from escaping a stinging incident.
7. Tennessee Beekeepers shall avoid opening colonies for inspection or manipulation when neighbors are present or in the immediate vicinity.
8. It is strongly encouraged for Tennessee Beekeepers to avoid purchasing queens and honey bees from areas that are documented as having been designated as an established Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) zone and that they keep a record of when and from whom they have purchased queens for 3 years.
9. Tennessee Beekeepers shall manage all colonies to minimize swarming.
10. Tennessee Beekeepers shall within seven days replace queens in colonies exhibiting overly aggressive behavior that may be injurious to the general public or domesticated animals as determined by Tennessee Department of Agriculture Apiary Staff.
11. Any aggressive colony that remains overly aggressive after two attempts to requeen the colony will be immediately depopulated.
12. Anyone transporting colonies shall secure the load and screen entrances or place a net over the colonies to prevent bees from escaping.
13. Tennessee Beekeepers shall properly discard all pesticides and other control agents after proper use as label directions require.
14. Honey Bees used for public demonstrations, entertainment or educational purposes shall be enclosed so as to avoid release of honey bees to the public.
15. The beekeeper will not extract honey from the frames outdoors and exposed to free flying honey bees.

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16. Tennessee Beekeepers shall manage all colonies to minimize robbing.

17. Tennessee Beekeepers will not place wet supers of extracted honey comb in an area accessible to free flying honey bees.

18. Tennessee Beekeepers shall notify the State Apiarist immediately if they encounter an overly aggressive colony.

(a) A Registered beekeeper signs a Voluntary Honey Bee Best Management Practices agreement to be kept on file at Tennessee Department of Agriculture headquarters.

Tennessee Registration Number _____

By signing this agreement, I agree to follow all the Best management Practices as listed above.

Sign _____ Date _____

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