

# Beekeeping Fundamentals

## PROTECT YOUR BEES

The Utah Apiary Inspection Act requires beekeepers to register their hives with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF). The UDAF uses the registration database to contact local beekeepers and arrange for precautionary inspections to check for any signs of infections, and to advise on what to do.

The Utah Apiary Inspection Program is also a fantastic source of information on:

- Pest and disease recognition and control
- The legislation you need to know
- Key contacts
- Current areas of research into honey bee protection

Don't put your bees at risk - register with UDAF

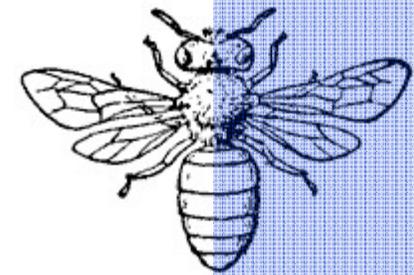
**Registration is easy and inexpensive!**

Go online to: <http://ag.utah.gov/licensing/>

By phone: 801-538-7184



[ag.utah.gov/divisions/plant/](http://ag.utah.gov/divisions/plant/)



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## WHAT BEEKEEPERS SAY

### Get some training or refresh your skills

Most established beekeepers say when starting out, getting the right training and advice is vitally important. They also say training can help established beekeepers keep up-to-date on best practice techniques and disease management. Talk to your local beekeepers association, who run theory and practical training courses, or contact your local bee inspector. [ag.utah.gov/divisions/plant/Apiary/index.html](http://ag.utah.gov/divisions/plant/Apiary/index.html)

### Talk to other beekeepers

One of the best sources of advice, help and support is experienced beekeepers. Join your beekeepers association or befriend a local beekeeper.

### Register your beehives with UDAF

UDAF is an invaluable resource for beekeepers. Not only is UDAF part of the network of information available to help and guide beekeepers, it is also there to help you take necessary action to protect your colonies from any known disease outbreaks in your area. When your hives are registered, UDAF can alert you to any disease outbreaks. UDAF will arrange to inspect your colonies if necessary. To ensure the early action necessary to protect your colonies. For more information go to: <http://ag.utah.gov/divisions/plant/Apiary/index.html>

# hints and tips...

Experience has shown that two aspects of colony management are particularly important in keeping colonies productive: **colony husbandry** and **disease recognition and control**. Here are some hints and tips on good practice for both topics.

### Colony husbandry:

- Maintain good apiary and hive hygiene. It will help prevent disease from taking hold and flourishing. **Avoid used equipment unless you personally know it was disease free.**
- Rotate old black comb out of your hives. It can harbor diseases and pesticide residues.
- Ensure that each colony always has sufficient carbohydrate (honey or sugar) and protein (pollen) as well as access to suitable water sources.
- Try to find apiary sites that offer a wide variety of forage for the bees.
- As much as possible, purchase locally adapted bees and queens. If you do bring bees in from another area make sure they are from a reliable source.
- Concentrate on improving your stock. Cull the queens which least suit your requirements; breed from those which most suit them.

### Disease recognition and control:

- Know the signs of bee diseases and check for them each time you examine your colonies: [www.extension.org/pages/25099/university-of-florida-bee-disease-videos](http://www.extension.org/pages/25099/university-of-florida-bee-disease-videos)

<https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/honey-bee-biology/honey-bee-parasites-pests-predators-and-diseases/>

- Varroa mite management is an ongoing task which should be practiced throughout the active season, not just in the autumn.
- Aim to have healthy bees with minimum varroa levels to go into autumn and winter. They will have a higher chance of surviving winter and helping the queen to raise brood in the new year: <http://www.extension.org/pages/31539/varroa-sampling>
- If you think your bees might have American foulbrood disease contact your local bee inspector for free diagnosis.
- Rotating out old dark combs can have a significant effect on minimizing disease outbreaks and pesticide residues in combs.
- Re-queen hives that aren't thriving with hygienic and/or local survivor stock.

