In 1892, beekeepers successfully lobbied the Utah territorial legislature to pass the first bee inspection act. The legislation was needed to reduce the spread of deadly foulbrood diseases, which had become rampant.

The law allowed beekeepers to elect a honey bee inspector in every county. Later, registration was introduced to help bee inspectors communicate American foulbrood outbreaks to beekeepers at risk. These efforts significantly reduced the spread of foulbrood.

Over a century has passed since the first bee law, but inspection is still relevant today! Despite the advent of antibiotics and other advances in beekeeping, American foulbrood continues to threaten beekeepers and Utah’s honey industry. Registration and inspection serve to mitigate the spread of this disease and other threats to honey bees.

Benefits to Individual Beekeepers

When you register your hives, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) will alert you if:

- There are outbreaks of American foulbrood, a deadly and highly transmittable honey bee disease.
- The department is conducting pesticide applications in your area.
- State trapping efforts detect movements of Africanized honey bee.

Benefits to the Honey & Specialty Crop Industry

American foulbrood has the capacity to cause great economic devastation—this is especially true of strains which are resistant to antibiotics. The county bee inspectors and UDAF apiary specialists detect and mitigate American foulbrood outbreaks. These early detection and rapid response efforts help prevent the disease from becoming pandemic. This provides stability to the honey industry and ensures that bees will be available for pollination services to crop growers.

What happens to registration fees?

The modest registration fees are used to provide sanitation supplies to bee inspectors, dispose of abandoned beekeeping equipment and assist in the treatment or destruction of colonies infected with American foulbrood. Fees also provide funds for statewide honey bee health surveys and Africanized honey bee trapping.

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