



The Managed Mentoring Program on getting started in beekeeping.

Managed Mentoring



Managed Mentoring

Bringing Bees into the Community

Lesson | Adherence to Regulations



What is Covered in this Module

Adherence to Regulations

Proximity to Others

Education & Registration Requirement

NJ Cottage Law

Right of Inspection

Management Requirements

Beekeeper Responsibilities

Resource Links



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Illustrative Examples

- **Our base is New Jersey**
 - As such, the talk will use New Jersey laws and regulations illustratively for some of the more common rules one might encounter
 - It is incumbent upon the beekeeper to learn and adhere to laws and regulations. Better to do this up front, and not get into uncomfortable situations
- **Strive to be defensible**
 - If you do not follow rules, you cannot count on allies to help you.



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Comb Examination

Modern, Moveable, Frame Hives

■ Hives must permit inspection

- Laws are in place (in NJ) that require hives that can be fully inspected. This is commonplace in the U.S.
 - *Hives that do not abide by this are subject to seizure and hive destruction.*
 - *The hive must allow for thorough inspection of every comb.*
- Inspection is for detection of, and determination of the presence of bee diseases.

We recommend you start with Langstroth Style hives. This will mean all hives are compliant.



Hive Density

Number of hives on the property

- **Starting out, you should only have two hives**
 - We recommend you start with two and will explain why as we go along
- **It is common that regulations dictate how many hives one can have on a property**
 - In NJ there is a regulation that stipulates colony density:
 - *1/4 acre or less – No more than 3 colonies*
 - *1/2 acre or less – No more than 6 colonies*
 - *3/4 acres or less – No more than 9 hives*
 - *1 acre or less – No more than 12 hives and so on....*



Community Density

- **Consider the Neighborhood**
 - Supporting hives peppered around the community
 - *One might be surprised, especially in NJ, at the number of hives tucked in and around properties in each municipality*
 - *Consider the hive density of beekeepers keeping bees in the neighborhood, in the context of forage available.*
 - Be considerate of established Commercial Yards
 - *Commercial operators often prefer that local beekeepers not crowd their established apiaries.*

- **Common Sense**
 - If a situation seems forced, consider other options.



Property Setback

- **Respect regulations that dictate setbacks**
 - NJ dictates a minimum of 10 foot from property lines
 - *Also 20 foot from any roadside, sidewalk, and walking path*
 - Setups that require 'flyway barriers'
 - *Colonies less than 20 foot from a property line require a 6-foot flyway barrier, and they describe what that is*
 - Hives that are on rooftops have to be 20 foot from outdoor human activity
 - *Not permitted on balconies, or within multi-family dwellings*
- **Common Sense**
 - Put hives as far away from border as is feasible
 - *Go beyond the limitation if possible*



Education Requirement

- **NJ has an education requirement**
 - Within one year you must take training
 - *Training will consist of a beginner/general beekeeping course from an accredited college or university, the State Apiarist, or a local beekeeping club*
 - A 'short course' is recommended but it can be an association led training course or program.
 - Visit www.njbeekeepers.org for listings
 - Not required if you had your hives registered prior to 5/6/2019
 - Does not apply if you have received a Master Beekeeper Certification



Yard Registration

- **Yards must be registered with the NJ Dept. of Agriculture**
 - Initial, and then Annual renewal is required
 - *Upon registering in NJ you will be assigned an Apiary Inspection Service (AIS) number.*
 - *It is important that you keep a record of it.*
 - *It is necessary for renewal*
 - Hive registration instructions provide for information that is necessary and how it is handled
 - Registrations expire 12/31 of each year



New Jersey Cottage Law

- **New Jersey Cottage Law**
 - There are some stipulations in the relatively new NJ Cottage Law legislation that impacts beekeepers
 - *If you venture into production of, and sale of, products of the hive you could be subject to oversight by the states cottage law.*
 - Cottage Law Requires:
 - Registration with the state
 - Training Stipulations
 - Water Tests and Subject to Inspection of the Premises
 - And other guidelines that have to be adhered to
 - Raw Honey is EXEMPT
 - Recently NJ passed legislation that exempts raw honey production and sales from Cottage Law oversight



Right of Inspection

- **NJDOA Officers and Agents can inspect**
 - The law stipulates that agents working on behalf of the enforcing agency (the NJDOA) can come on to a property to inspect and it is unlawful to interfere.
 - *The officer or agent, as it stipulates, can come on your property to inspect – they do not need permission.*
 - *Typically, the agent in NJ is the state apiarist and their assistants.*
 - It is illegal for you to interfere with their duties.
 - They have the right to ask you to provide necessary paperwork and enforce laws for conduct in the operation.
 - *Marked hives, recordkeeping, training, etc.*



Management Requirements

Colony Oversight

- **In NJ there are stipulations for oversight of colonies**
 - You must maintain your hives
 - *What they are saying here is that you cannot set them up and simply let them be on their own. Management is required.*
 - *You are required to inspect your bees; especially for the purpose of swarm prevention and assuring gentleness.*
 - *You must keep records; and make them available upon inspection.*
 - *You must provide a water source.*
 - Colonies must be adorned with an ownership tag or mark



Management Requirements

- **In NJ there are stipulations for oversight of colonies**
 - You must address colonies that are shown to have American Foul Brood
 - *It is a requirement to report the colonies if AFB is found*
 - There are stipulations for management during transport.



Bee Sale Certificates

- **Sellers of bees are required to be inspected and to hold a certificate**
 - For beginners, one will not be selling bees, but knowing this information is of importance.
 - *It is likely that many beginners will purchase bees to get started.*
 - When purchasing bees, know that:
 - *State law requires the seller to hold a NJDOA certificate*
 - The certificate ensures that they have been inspected
 - It also assures that the operation was free of disease at the time of inspection.



Beekeeper Responsibility

- **It is on the beekeeper to comply**
 - Just like any law or regulation one has to follow, it is incumbent upon the individual to learn and follow applicable rules.
 - *This module was not meant to be comprehensive; it was designed to be illustrative to the more common laws and regulations that one will find.*
 - *Before getting started, and periodically, one should invest the time to become familiar with applicable laws.*
 - *Your local beekeeping association and state apiarists are good resources for consultation and clarification.*



Resources

- **NJ Administrative Code: N.J.S.A. 4:6-1**
 - <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/pdf/Diseasesofbees.pdf>
- **NJ Title 4 – Chapter 6, Diseases of Bees**
 - <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/pdf/NJbeelaws2.pdf>
- **NJ Beekeeping Regulations Frequently Asked Questions**
 - <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/NJBeekeepingRegulationsFAQs.pdf>
- **NJ Title 2 Chapter 20 Quarantines**
 - <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/AmendedFinal05-NJAC220Quarantines.pdf>



Resources

- **NJ Department of Agriculture**

- <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/beeinspection.html>

For the most current access to regulations

Visit the **STATUES** section of this particular webpage.

This page also provides numerous other helpful resources for beekeepers



Resources

- **USA State and Territory Laws and Regs**
 - The Apiary inspector of America provide a web page with links to each states laws

Web Address:

<https://apiaryinspectors.org/state-laws>



Closing Comments

- **Customary Close**
 - Where we stand, where we are going...
 - *This lesson closes out the primer for seeking to know the regulations for your locale, and some wisdom of how to get questions answered..*
 - *Our next topic moves to an overview of apiary design recommendations:*
 - Recommendations for your **Apiary Design**
 - Specific guidance on **Hive Placement**
 - Installing Bees – **Package Install** & Installing Bees – **Nuc Transfer** Install



Q&A

- **What Questions did we not anticipate?**
 - If you have feedback, you can leave a constructive comment; but be nice.
 - You could also send an email to comments@managedmentoring.com
 - *Please refer to this video in the subject so we know what the reference is.*



