

ARKANSAS APIARY NEWSLETTER
State Plant Board - Apiary Section
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AN UPDATE IN THE LAW REVISION PROCESS

Over the past two months the Apiary Section has traveled the state to meet with all (9) regional beekeeper associations. We have done this to present the proposed changes to the Apiary Laws to as many beekeepers as possible, and to gain their input. Overall the meetings went well.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Beekeeper Association</u>	<u># present</u>	<u>Overall response</u>
Dec. 13	NW Arkansas	37	Positive
Dec. 14	West Arkansas	22	Positive
Jan. 6	NC Arkansas	12	Mixed
Jan. 10	Central Arkansas	36	Negative
Jan. 20	Ozark Foothills & Cleburne Co.*	34	Positive
Jan. 27	S. Arkansas & Greater Garland Co.*	34	Positive
Jan. 29	NE Arkansas	47	Negative

*Two associations

The Apiary Committee will meet on February 15, 2005 at 1:00PM in the Board Room at the Arkansas State Plant Board. All information from the meetings will be presented.

We want to thank everyone for the input, whether it was positive or negative. All input is vital in the process of updating the Apiary Laws. Hopefully with help from beekeepers this process will continue to move forward.

PACKAGE BEES and QUEENS

Our program is charged to slow the spread of the Small Hive Beetle. We know that it will eventually spread to the un-infested parts of the state but, we are also aware, that beekeepers who are free of beetles want to remain free as long as possible. Therefore, the Apiary Section has been trying to find safe, Small Hive Beetle free, and Certified as European Stock (not Africanized) package bee producers around the nation. The following is the list we have compiled to date. This list is being collected through contacting the apiary inspection programs in producer states with some follow-up to individual producers. The Apiary Section and the State Plant Board does not promote or denounce any producers but merely acts to minimize the spread of unwanted diseases and pests.

Packages cannot be fully inspected, and it is easy to introduce the small hive beetle to your apiary through packages from infested areas. We are therefore informing other state apiary programs that packages or nucs of bees from producers located in beetle-infested areas may not be shipped or moved into Arkansas. Likewise, we are notifying our in-state package producers that are in infested areas that they cannot sell their packages or nucs to beekeepers in Arkansas. As usual, a Certificate of Health must be obtained prior to any sale or movement of bees into or within our state.

Queens can be ordered from any queen producer that has a certificate of health from their state's apiary program. Please remember to carefully inspect queen cages and packaging upon their arrival. Small Hive Beetles can easily slip in and out of queen cages and have been found in queen shipments. However, queen cages can be fully inspected and de-beetled. Before sending queens into Arkansas, Queen producers in Africanized areas will be required to first be certified that their bees are of European strains.