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ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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Twelve Days of Arkansas Agriculture: Apiary Division Assists Arkansas Honey Bee Population

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Arkansas was home to over 2,500 registered beekeepers in 2016, with over 45,000 registered bee colonies. The Apiary section of the Agriculture Department’s Plant Board Plant Industry Division oversees bee keeper registration and hive inspections, responds to apiary complaints, issues bee movement permits, and monitors for Africanized honey bees and other pests and diseases.

“Our role is to assist beekeepers with best management practices for healthy, productive hives, and to do our part to grow the beekeeping population in Arkansas,” says Agriculture Program Manager Mark Stoll. “Bees are an important piece of Arkansas’s agriculture industry and we are here as a resource to help beekeepers get started, and provide guidance along the way,” he said.

According to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Honey bees are managed and used to pollinate over 100 crops grown commercially in North America including Arkansas commodities such as cotton, tomatoes, strawberries, sunflowers, apples, watermelons, squash, peaches, and blueberries.

Registration allows the Apiary section to organize annual inspections at all registered colonies for diseases, mites, and beetles, all of which can negatively impact honey yield. Requiring permits for the movement of bees ensures that Arkansas hives receive thorough inspection before leaving or entering the state, which could lead to the transportation of diseases and other pests from other areas.

Apiary inspectors also monitor for Africanized honey bees during site visits which are well known for their dangerous aggressive behavior. Africanized honey bees can also be collected through traps, which inspectors have distributed across the state, but are concentrated in the southern and western regions. Residents are encouraged to contact the Plant Industry Division if they notice activity of any type of bee swarm, anywhere in the state.

Beekeepers can find registration forms, permits, and rules and regulations, [here](#). Arkansans should report apiary complaints or concerns by calling 501-225-1598 or emailing Mark.Stoll@aspb.ar.gov.

This release is the ninth edition to the Twelve Days of Arkansas Agriculture campaign, which highlights some of the programs and services provided by the AAD that support our state’s agriculture industry. Follow each of the 12 stories by searching the #12DaysofARagriculture hashtag, or visit aad.arkansas.gov. The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation.

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