

Other Laws that Affect Beekeepers

Beyond the Arkansas' Apiary laws and regulations, beekeepers can be affected by other laws. Arkansas, other states and the Federal Government have laws on the books that can affect beekeepers in their beekeeping endeavors.

Pesticides, Herbicides, and Antibiotics

Honeybees produce a food product and that creates issues that laws address.

The most obvious of these involve the use (or misuse) of chemicals. Pesticides and antibiotics must be registered with the Federal Government and with state governments. Depending on whether they are pesticides, herbicides, or antibiotics, their uses, and methods of use, are strictly described by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). After their registration by the federal government, the distributor or manufacturer of a chemical or drug is required to get the label registered in each state.

The directions must describe the legal use and any variance of that is an infraction. Plant Board officials are mandated to report such infractions.

There are some products that the EPA does not really like but due to special circumstances, will allow their temporary use through an annually renewable Section 18. Section 18s can be thought of as temporary permits for a non-registered product. They also come with precise directions that must be followed.

In the case of Section 18 products, a report must be filled within 10 days of using the product. This report must be filed with the EPA through the State Plant Board.

For your convenience, the reporting form for Section 18 Product Use is available in this website.

Other State's Laws

Bees also are social insects that live both in crowded conditions and go out and mingle with other bees. This creates issues of contagious situations and the passing on of parasites, pathogens and unwanted species that are addressed by our apiary laws and regulations and those of other states.

For those reasons, our laws and regulations and those of other states are concerned with the movement of bees across state lines. Almost all states have laws concerning the movement of bees and these laws and regulations must be obeyed when moving bees into or through other states.

Our office can help you in being sure you are in compliance with all related laws.