

INSPECTIONS

Inspections of bee yards and colonies serve the purpose of finding potential diseases or other bee ailments or unwanted species and taking care of them in ways that are consistent with the Apiary Laws and Regulations and the Plant Act in order to minimize the negative effects and spread of honeybee ailments. More often than not, diseases and other serious bee problems are not found to be out of control but there are situations when the beekeeper may need some guidance in dealing with various honeybee situations. In certain circumstances quarantines have to be put in place to minimize the spread of specific bee problems. These quarantines are removed as soon as the requirements of the quarantine have been met and the problem is found to be under control.

During inspections our inspectors also take the time to educate the beekeeper about different facets of modern beekeeping methods.

Because the apiary section is short staffed, we find it necessary to prioritize the inspections we do. Priorities are based on several factors that include: trouble areas, movements, sales (or transfers of ownerships), historic problem areas and requests for inspections.

The way the regulations are written, they put the burden of requesting inspections on the beekeeper in certain circumstances. The beekeeper is obligated to contact the Apiary Section office to request an inspection when they are planning to move bees or when they are planning to sell or transfer the ownership of bees. Not notifying the Department of Agriculture prior to these circumstances is inconsistent with the Apiary Laws and Regulations. Beekeepers can also request inspections when they suspect problems or need guidance.

The inspector will always make efforts to coordinate inspections with the beekeeper. When possible the inspector would prefer that the beekeeper is present to both observe the inspection as well as to open the hives, remove supers, avail requested frames for inspection and to close the hives after the inspection.