

Cooperation Between Beekeepers & Mosquito Control Programs

UF|IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



HONEY BEE RESEARCH & EXTENSION LABORATORY



Division of Agricultural Environmental Services

Beekeepers and mosquito control programs desire to keep managed honey bee colonies healthy while simultaneously protecting public health. These two groups share several challenges, i.e., public misconceptions about what they do and effective control of harmful pests. Florida's beekeepers and mosquito control programs can follow several steps to ensure a beneficial partnership and promote a healthier, safer environment for citizens and honey bees residing in the state.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Beekeepers



Prevent

- Set hives at least 300 feet from roads (if possible) with their entrances facing away from the road. The typical swath of a ground adult mosquito control application is approximately 300 feet.
- Add an additional empty super to the hive. This provides bees that might otherwise cluster on the outside of the hive space to go into the hive.
- Do not cover hives with plastic or other covers. This can cause colonies to overheat and may lead to other issues.

Assess

- Keep records of each colony inspection. Example observations: date, Varroa levels, visual signs of a laying queen, treatments, general nutrition, etc.
- Contact your local FDACS Apiary Inspector and/or local UF/IFAS Extension office to assist in determining issues in hives and potential solutions.

Communicate

- Speak with local mosquito control program representatives to see if they offer courtesy application notifications. Discuss apiary locations and any concerns about application interactions.
- Practice mosquito prevention around the home and apiary.
- Invite mosquito control personnel to beekeeper association meetings or offer to share information about beekeeping and honey bees to mosquito control employees.

Mosquito Control



Prevent

- Recommend that beekeepers register with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as required by **Florida Statute Chapter 586** and **Florida Administrative Code Rule 5B-54**.
- Offer courtesy application notifications for registered beekeepers and their apiaries.
- Share upcoming adulticide mission locations to the program's website or social media platforms. Encourage area beekeepers to follow the social media channels to receive these public notifications.
- Convey that applications may change due to weather concerns and/or mosquito-borne disease presence.



Florida Statute Chapter 586



Florida Administrative Code Rule 5B-54

Assess

- Review location and timing of applications in areas where beekeeper's hives may be present.
- As per regulatory requirements, maintain all application records. This is useful for any investigations that may arise.
- Direct beekeepers to **FDACS Apiary Inspection** for questions regarding required registration, colony health, and potential hive investigations.



Apiary Inspection Directory

Communicate

- Provide information about product labels to beekeepers such as active ingredients used in the program's Integrated Mosquito Management plan.
- Look for opportunities to network with beekeepers by attending local beekeeper meetings. Beekeeper associations can be an excellent resource for engaging with local beekeepers and learning about honey bees.
- If the local beekeeper association is interested in having presenters, ask to present about mosquitoes and mosquito control methods.