



OFFICE OF THE
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

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JOHN SNYDER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

January 1, 2009

To All Beekeepers,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that on January 1, 2006, our office once again began requiring an annual registration for all beekeepers that kept bee hives in Riverside County, as provided for in the Food and Agricultural Code.

The annual registration allows this office to more promptly identify the location of bee hives within the county. This is especially important when we must respond to requests from CDFA for special pest surveys, such as for the Red Imported Fire Ant or the Small Hive Beetle. This information is also valuable for compilation of the department's annual crop report.

In addition, the registration process allows our staff to advise beekeepers of the county ordinance related to the keeping of bees. With the ever increasing urbanization of the county, conflicts between landowners and bees can be more effectively managed if we know whom to contact regarding a specific colony of bees.

Lastly, the annual registration process allows our office to provide beekeepers with any relevant pesticide notification information, as provided for in the Food and Agricultural Code and the California Code of Regulations. This notification process was developed to help protect bees from being sprayed by pest control operators in the normal course of treating for pests in the various agricultural crop situations throughout the county.

Please complete the attached registration form, along with the pesticide notification, if desired. Also, please include a detailed map for each bee location. This list should be updated throughout the year when bees are moved in and out of the county.

Included with this letter are several important attachments. The first attachment is the apiary registration form, including the section for pesticide notification. A copy of the pertinent sections of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) is provided for reference. Also included is a copy of the Riverside County Ordinance relating to the keeping of bees (Ord. No. 551). Lastly, a request for crop statistics for the 2008 season is attached. If you have not already returned this form, please complete and return to our office as soon as possible.

Please contact Bill Oesterlein of my staff at 951-955-3045 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

John Snyder,
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Encl.

Apiary Registration/Pesticide Notification Form 2009
Riverside County Ord. No. 551
CCR, Sections 6650-6656
Crop Report Letter dated December 1, 2008
Apiary Production WorkSheet 2008