

## **Frequently Asked Questions - Beekeeper Registration**

### **Q1. Why is there a new *Bee Act*?**

New Brunswick has introduced new legislation to further protect the honey bee against pests and diseases. New requirements include identification of hives, import and transport permits, transit permits and new reportable pests and diseases.

### **Q2. Do I need to register as a beekeeper before I get bees for the first time?**

No, do not register before you get your bees. Once you are in possession of bees, you must register within 10 days.

### **Q3. Has the deadline for the annual renewal of registration changed?**

Yes, the deadline for the renewal of registration to keep bees is now June 29<sup>th</sup> of each year. You must register for renewal between May 15<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup> because the department needs timely, critical information regarding the number of colonies in the province that survived the winter. Your Certificate of Registration expires on June 30<sup>th</sup> of every year.

### **Q4. Do I need to register every year, and is there a cost?**

Yes, it is a legal requirement to register every year and there is no cost.

### **Q5. Do I need to register my colonies if I have only one or two?**

Yes, anyone who owns or is in possession of honey bees, must register annually. The benefits to registering your hives include access to bee inspectors who can help you assess the health of your colonies and notify you of any potential honey bee pests or diseases in your area.

### **Q6. All my honey bees have died. Do I have to renew my registration?**

Yes, the department needs to know that you no longer have bees in your possession. If you still have used beekeeping equipment, you are required to continue the annual renewal registration.

### **Q7. I am planning on selling queens, nucs or colonies. Do I need to inform the department?**

Yes, if you expect to sell 20 or more queens, nucs or colonies throughout the year, you are legally required to have the bees inspected prior to the sale and you must state this on your beekeeper registration form. You may also contact the department.

### **Q8. What does acquisition of additional colonies mean?**

Acquisition of additional colonies is when a registered beekeeper takes possession (purchased or been given) additional colonies outside of the annual renewal period. If you split an existing colony to create an additional colony, this does not qualify as an acquisition of additional colonies.

### **Q9. Is there a new requirement for hive identification?**

Yes, you are now legally required to identify one hive per pallet and every hive not on a pallet with the Beekeeper Registration Code. Each letter and number must be at least 2.5 cm tall and displayed in a manner that is clearly visible.