



BEEKEEPING and APIARIES

REGISTRATIONS ARE REQUIRED
TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE
CRITERIA ENCLOSED HAVE BEEN
MET. PLEASE VISIT THE CENTRAL
PERMIT FACILITY TO OBTAIN
MORE INFORMATION.

Central Permit Facility
500 W. Winchester Rd.
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Phone: 847-377-2600
Fax: 847-984-5608
E-Mail: lcpermits@lakecountyil.gov



BEEKEEPING and APIARIES

Honey bees may be kept as an accessory use on residentially zoned lots in the Agricultural, Rural Estate, Estate, R1, R2, R3, and R4 zoning districts. Two full beehives and two “nucleus hives” are permitted on lots up to and including 10,000 square feet of area, and one beehive and one nucleus hive are permitted for each additional 10,000 square feet. Nucleus hives, consisting of five or fewer frames, are kept for the purposes of queen and pest management.



Screening and Notification:

Property Lines

- ✿ Hives and related structures that form the apiary must be at least 10 feet from property lines and at least of 30 feet from any adjoining improved road right-of-way or transportation easement.

Neighboring Structures

- ✿ Apiaries must be at least 30 feet away from existing structures on any adjoining parcel, such as dwellings, non-residential buildings, patios, decks, swimming pools, or permanently affixed play equipment, but not including storage structures such as garages or sheds.

Fencing and Signage

- ✿ On parcels of 40,000 square feet or less, hives must be either enclosed behind a minimum four-foot high fence, hedge, or wall, or be identified with appropriate signage. The sign(s) must be reasonably visible within close proximity of the apiary.

Flyway Barrier

- ✿ If the beehive entrance is oriented to an exterior property line, on a parcel of 40,000 square feet or less, a flyway barrier (e.g. solid fence, wall, or dense shrub) is required. The six foot tall flyway barrier must be located between the hive entrance and the property line and extend five feet in each direction.

Maintenance:

Requeening and Hive Management

- ✿ If the hive exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics, as verified by an Illinois Apiary Inspector, the property owner must destroy, move to another parcel, or requeen the hive within fourteen (14) days of observation.

Water Supply

- ✿ A supply of water must be continuously available and located closer than water sources on any adjoining parcel. Water must be available from April 1 – Nov. 30 or any and all days in which temperature exceeds 55 degrees for 3 consecutive days.

Moveable Combs

- ✿ All honey bees shall be kept in hives with removable combs, which must be kept in good repair and usable condition.



Per the Illinois Department of Agriculture, hives shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and actively maintained in accordance with 510 ILCS 20/1 et seq. the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act. See <http://www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/beekeep.pdf> for more information.