Ohio State Beekeepers Association

Use the QR code above to access the OSBA New Beekeeper Outreach page for enrolling class attendees into the 1 yr Complimentary OSBA Membership. (not available to those who have previously been members)

Resource Links

Apiary Laws

https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/chapter-909

You must register your apiary every year. It must be completed by June 1st.
https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/licenses/apiary-licenses

Sensitive Crop Registry

https://beecheck.org

BeeCheck is a voluntary communication tool that enables beekeepers and pesticide applicators to work together to protect apiaries through use of the BeeCheck mapping program. It is not a substitute for any state regulatory requirements.

Recent Law Changes

Ohio State Beekeepers Association

The previous state budget bill, HB 96, made several changes to the Apiary Program, effective during the 2026 renewal process.

Apiary Registration: The $5 registration fee has been removed. Beekeepers are still required by Ohio law to register their apiary locations with ODA.

ODA will transition to an online registration system, while making accommodations for individuals that lack online connectivity.

Queen Rearing/Packaged Bee Sales: Queen rearing operations will be required to pay a $50.00 queen rearing apiary certification fee. This fee will cover all queen rearing locations under the individual's control.

HB 96 also has created a compliance agreement option for queen rearing apiaries who agree to implement best management practices within their operation to reduce the risk of spreading serious bee disease.

ODA will continue to maintain oversight of the apiary inspection program, registrations, and queen certification, in collaboration with county inspectors to enforce registration requirements. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our team.

For more resources and information, please visit **FieldWatch, Inc.**

https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program

USDA Bee Research Laboratory https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-barc/beltsville-agricultural-research-center/bee-research-laboratory/docs/bee-disease-diagnosis-service/

The Beltsville Bee Lab operates a bee disease diagnostic service that receives over 4,000 samples annually from across the United States and Europe. This service provides beekeepers and bee inspectors with authoritative identification of bee diseases and pests.

The diagnosis of bee diseases has been a focus of this laboratory since its inception in 1891 and they operate a "Bee Disease Diagnosis Service" for beekeepers across the U.S.

There is no charge for this service currently though you must pay the postage to send a sample.

Apiary Inspectors-https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program/inspection

Honey Bee Health Coalition https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/

OSBA will not be printing this publication for distribution to Ohio Clubs as it has not yet been updated from the 2022 version.

The Honey Bee Health Coalition is an industry group formed to improve the health of honey bees in general, and more specifically around production agriculture. As part of their services they provide a variety of useful resources for beekeepers and growers including the interactive downloadable PDFs Tools for Varroa Management and Best Management Practices for Hive Health. There is also a Tropilaelaps mite resource , a Varroa Management Decision Tool, and a downloadable guide to Bee Nutrition.

National Honey Board https://honey.com/

Providing information on everything that has to do with honey for the individual and retail producer. This site includes recipes, research, national pricing and retail sales and marketing strategies. There are numerous informational handouts that are also downloadable for printing if you are in a hurry. Jar tags and you will receive a roll of "I Love Honey" stickers for only a $14.95 shipping fee! Individuals may place one order per year-Be sure to take a look at all the stuff at the NHB Store- https://honey.com/shop

The Ohio State Phenology Calendar https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/

It is important to know what is blooming and when in your area. This tool allows you to see what nectar and pollen sources may be available throughout the year. Know what your bees are feeding on and select plants for your apiary to bridge the resource gaps and minimize dearth!

In person training

There is **no substitute** for hands-on experience. Check the OSBA calendar of events for classes held by local clubs in your area, most clubs can connect you with a mentor to help you.

Ohio State Beekeepers Association

WEBINARS

OSBA Recorded Webinars on their YouTube channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOFVaRx00YMUvbVtTR2RxsQ

Morning Ag Clips

University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre

Michigan State University

BLOGS

70 best Beekeeping blogs

https://agriculture.feedspot.com/beekeeping_blogs/

https://beekeepinglikeagirl.com/

POD CASTS

https://podcast.feedspot.com/beekeeping_podcasts/

https://www.beekeepingtodaypodcast.com/

https://frederickdunn.podbean.com/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

American Bee Journal

Bee Culture Magazine

OSBA Newsletters

Ohio State Beekeepers Association

Books-

https://wicwas.com/

https://www.northernbeebooks.co.uk/

Swarms: The Biology and Control of Swarms in Northern States
https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Swarms_Milbrath2018.pdf

Downloadable PDF
This article by Meghan Milbraith of Michigan State is an educational publication that discusses the reasons for swarming – and what you can do to prevent it.

Beekeeping Safety Resources https://www.buyrope.co.uk/beekeeping-safety/
Useful checklists, videos and guides.

All About Bees https://www.wirefence.co.uk/melittology-resources/

Collection of Melittology Resources

Buzz About Bees https://www.buzzaboutbees.net/

Explore the World of Bees, learn the best crocus to plant for bees and many other useful things about the wonderful world of bees

GARDENING FOR BEES

The Ecoregional Revegetation Assistant (ERA) Tool
http://www.nativerevegetation.org/era/
A user-friendly online tool to identify and generate a spreadsheet of the best native plants for revegetation and pollinator habitats in a project ecoregion.

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center http://www.wildflower.org/

The Bee Conservancy https://thebeeconservancy.org/10-ways-to-save-the-bees/
10 ways to save the bees

National Wildlife Federation https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife

Creating a Wildlife Habitat

Xerces Society https://www.xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators

https://www.beeandbutterflyfund.org/

Invertebrate Conservation

OSU-Pesticides and Bees https://u.osu.edu/beelab/pesticides-and-bees/

Pollinator Stewardship Council https://www.pollinatorstewardship.org/

https://www.gardeningchannel.com/bee-friendly-garden-pest-control/

Education Resources for Children & Adults

Seedles https://growtherainbow.com/pages/seed-balls-growing-instructions

National Honey Board https://honey.com/bees-sustainability/educational-materials

American Beekeeping Federation https://www.abfnet.org/

Heartland Apicultural Society https://www.heartlandbees.org/

Eastern Apicultural Society https://easternapiculture.org/

WesternApicultural Society https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/