



**Department of
Agriculture**
Plant Health

Agri.Ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor Jon Husted, Lt. Governor Brian Baldridge, Director



December 15, 2023

BY: _____

Dear County Commissioners:

Thank you for your continued support of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Apiary Inspection program. We are writing to encourage you to appoint or reappoint a County Apiary Inspector. This position is crucial in providing hands-on interaction with beekeepers and helping to ensure that bees are disease and pest free.

Monitoring colony health is extremely important to curtail the spread of contagious bee diseases and pests. County Apiary Inspectors are key to this prevention. Attached is a statewide summary, showing the number of inspections performed and diseases/pests identified in Ohio's apiaries. Please note the statistics and information in your county. While American foulbrood (AFB) detections are low, varroa mite and small hive beetle counts are increasing.

ODA offers mandatory training for **all** apiary inspectors in April. The training provides continuing education, updates on policies and procedures, and a review of the proper and professional way to conduct inspections consistent with Ohio Revised Code Section 909.

Please return the attached appointment form with the appointed inspector's information by January 31, 2024. We will then reach out to your appointed inspector with information about the training.

Thank you for valuing the Apiary program as much as we do. If you would like help with the inspector appointment process or have any other questions, please call 614.728.6373 or email at apiary@agri.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

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