



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will hold a public hearing for the purpose of accepting testimony on the proposed amendments made to Chapter 901:5-55 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

The rules contained in this chapter establish an apiary program to ensure a healthy beekeeping industry in the state of Ohio. Honey bees have always played a vital role in agriculture and as such the Ohio Department of Agriculture (“Department”) has overseen their inspection since House Bill 28 was approved on April 21, 1904. Honey bees not only provide honey but are a vital source of pollination for many of the fruit and vegetable crops grown in Ohio such as apples, melons, cucumbers, and pumpkins. They are also used to pollinate seed crops such as sunflower and canola.

The Department’s apiary program coordinates state and county inspection services that help to ensure a healthy beekeeping industry. In 2014, 4,435 beekeepers registered in accordance with Ohio Revised Code section 909.02 which represents 6,028 apiaries, and an estimated 39,055 colonies. Additionally, the apiary program works with several national groups and the USDA in providing samples for the study of Colony Collapse Disorder which caused massive colony deaths in various parts of the nation, including Ohio. The rules contained in this package focus on science-based practices which support responsible apiary practices while allowing Ohio to continue to grow the apiary industry.

The hearing will be held on:

September 7, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.

**Ohio Department of Agriculture
Bromfield Administration Building
Hearing Room 133 (Seminar “B”)
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399.**

More information on the rule package, including a business impact analysis and copies of the rules, can be found at <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/proposedrules/proposedrules.aspx> or by visiting the Register of Ohio at www.registerofohio.state.oh.us.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Revised Code. Any person affected by the no change rule package may appear and be heard in person, by his attorney, or both, may present his position, arguments, or contentions, orally or in writing, offer and examine witnesses, and present evidence tending to show that the no change rule package, if adopted or effectuated, will be unreasonable or unlawful.

Any person who wishes to present his position, arguments, or contentions in writing, other than at the public hearing, may do so by either mailing his or her written comments to the Ohio Department



of Agriculture, c/o Legal Section, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068; by email at ecomments@agri.ohio.gov, or by transmitting by facsimile at (614) 995-4585. Written comments sent by mail shall be postmarked no later than the day of the hearing. Written comments transmitted by facsimile shall be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing.

