



Chatham County  
Beehive/Apiary Registration  
2012

**Registration Required** Effective November 10, 2012, all beekeepers are required to annually register each apiary within unincorporated Chatham County with the Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services. Each address on which hives are kept requires a separate registration form to be submitted. All information is required and incomplete applications will not be processed.

**Contact Information** (This information is for the person responsible for the hives.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

**Hive Information**

Property Owner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hive Location Address \_\_\_\_\_

Hive Location PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Number of hives in this location \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include sketch of property with property dimensions, location of hives, and distance of hives from property lines.**

**Fees**

The fee for the initial registration will be \$25 per address, regardless of the number of hives.

The fee for renewal registration, when no information has changed, will be \$10 per address regardless of the number of hives. If information has changed, the renewal registration fee will be \$25. Make check payable to Chatham County.

**Beekeeping Provisions** (From the Chatham County Animal Control Ordinance)

**Definitions:**

*Apiary:* A place where bees and beehives are kept, especially a place where bees are raised for

their honey.

*Beekeeper* means a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.

*Colony or hive* means an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and at time many drones, including brood, combs, honey and the receptacle inhabited by the bees.

*Undeveloped property* means any idle land that is not improved or in the process of being improved with any structures or improvements intended for human use or occupancy and the grounds maintained in association therewith. The term shall be deemed to include property developed exclusively as a street or highway or property used for commercial agricultural purposes.

#### Requirements:

*Licensing Requirement for Commercial Beekeepers.* The Georgia Bee Law (O.C.G.A. 2-14-40) requires that all beekeepers selling bees, queens, nuclei, etc. commercially be licensed. All other beekeepers (e.g. hobbyists, pollinators, honey producers) are not required to be licensed or inspected by the Plant Protection Section. Commercial beekeepers are required to submit a copy of their state license with their registration.

Mosquito control operations are conducted to maintain a reasonable quality of life for residents and protect them from mosquito-borne diseases. Mosquito Control staff will notify registered beekeepers prior to control operations that may affect their hives. It is the beekeepers responsibility to take reasonable precautions that will help to protect their hives. Mosquito Control staff can provide hive protection recommendations.

*Fencing of Flyways.* Where a colony is located within 25 feet of a property line, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof that is parallel to the property line and extends ten feet beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six feet high in the vicinity of the apiary. Colonies in stands above six feet should have the hive opening facing inward of the property on which they are located.

*Water.* Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the bees at all times.

*General Maintenance.* Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials are left upon the grounds of the apiary site. All such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

*Queens.* In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusual aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition toward swarming, the beekeeper shall promptly re-queen the colony. Queens shall be selected from

European stock bred for gentleness and non-swarming characteristics.

*Colony Densities.* It shall be unlawful to keep more than the following number of colonies on any parcel within the county:

1. One quarter acre or less tract size - two colonies;
2. More than one-quarter acre but less than one-half acre tract size - four colonies;
3. More than one-half acre but less than one acre tract size - six colonies;
4. One acre or larger tract size - eight colonies.

Regardless of parcel size, if all hives are located at least 200 feet from all property lines, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies.

Regardless of parcel size, if all property, other than the apiary parcel, within a 200 foot radius from the hive is undeveloped property, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies.

Notwithstanding compliance with the various requirements of this article, it shall be unlawful for any beekeepers to keep any colony or colonies in such a manner or of such disposition as to cause any unhealthy condition, interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of human or animal life of others or interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of any public property or property of others.

**Signatures**

I certify that I meet all the requirements of the Chatham County Animal Control Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Beekeeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Property Owner (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submit completed and signed registration form, property sketch, and check made payable to Chatham County to:

Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services, Animal Control Division  
1117 Eisenhower Drive  
Savannah, GA 31405

**Additional Contact Information**

Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services: (912) 201-4300

<http://buildingsafety.chathamcounty.org/>

Chatham County Mosquito Control: (912) 790-2540 <http://mosquitocontrol.chathamcounty.org/>

Chatham County Animal Control: (912) 351-6750 <http://animalcontrol.chathamcounty.org/>

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association: [www.cebeekeeping.com](http://www.cebeekeeping.com)

<p><b>For Internal Use Only</b> Date registration received: _____ Date entered into system: _____</p>
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