

## NAC 552 - BEES AND APIARIES

### **Background**

With the authority provided to the Nevada Department of Agriculture under NRS 552, notification and apiary identification is needed to protect neighbors and allow for education and compliance action to be taken.

With the increase in small and/or hobbyist apiaries throughout the state, an increase in complaints has been experienced from impacted neighbors. This has also posed issues to hives involving pesticide applications from adjacent properties. Neighbors have been unintentionally impacted that have severe allergies or that may be impacted in ways previously unknown to new beekeepers. This notification also would assist in the protection of the bees from pesticide use on the adjacent lands.

Recent increases in the number of apiaries and an increased focus on pollinator protection has created the need to be able to identify apiaries and to contact the beekeeper. This regulation would allow appropriate contact to be made involving pesticide application in addition to enforcement action involving hive mismanagement that could lead to the spread of diseases and pests to other hives.

Additions are marked in *blue* and verbiage removal is marked in ~~red~~ with a line indicating the stricken language.

### **Adjacent Property Owner Identification:**

- 1) Notification of adjacent property owners All property owners adjacent to any apiary of any size must be notified in writing by the beekeeper if the area on which the apiaries are placed is under five acres. Notifications must be maintained by the beekeeper as long as apiaries are present.

### **Apiary Identification:**

- 1) Each apiary location shall be identified by a sign showing the owner's name, home or business address and contact information (telephone or email), unless the apiary is located on property owned by the beekeeper.
- 2) The identifying information shall be at least one inch in height, easily readable and displayed in a conspicuous location in the apiary; or similar identification conspicuously displayed on one or more hive bodies within the apiary. Any apiary not so identified shall be considered abandoned and shall be subject to seizure and destruction as provided for in NAC XXXXX.