



# Jo Daviess County Beekeeper Guidelines & Resources

Version 2\_February2024



## 1. Register your bee hives/apiary

- Jo Daviess County Assessment Office requires your bee operation/hive to be registered through the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Information on registration may be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Insects/Bees/Pages/default.aspx>
  - Specifically, IL Bees & Apiaries Rules
  - Beekeeper Registration Form
  - Yearly renewal registration is required (with the State) in November per Section 60.20 - Registration; Colony Identification - C (link provided above)
- It is the responsibility of the property owner(s) to submit a copy of the renewed registration yearly to the County Assessment Office; failure to provide this could result in your preferential farm assessment being removed and your property re-classed accordingly.

## 2. Jo Daviess County also follows the guidelines of the ILSBA (Ill State Beekeepers Association)

- It is recommended that you register with the IL State Beekeepers Association
- Here you can define your apiary (bee yard) locations to Beecheck.org. It is free to create an account on Beecheck.org and register (define) all of your bee yard locations. The annual renewal is also free.
- It is recommended that if you are growing specialty crops you should define those locations on the Driftwatch.org site

## 3. Other Documents or Requirements to establish preferential farming in Jo Daviess County.

- Must provide income tax documents for the sale of honey or other honey products (schedule F) should be submitted,
- It is recommended that a “pollinator” garden or field is planted on the property, or near the property (1/2 mile to 3 miles from hives),
- Map showing approximate location of hives.

## 4. Jo Daviess County Assessment Office requires 2-3 hive huts per acre.

- Average bee hive densities (hives per acre) recommended for crops grown in the USA range from 1-7. Most crops that benefit from honey bees require 2-3.
- Recommended numbers have inched upwards in recent years because of a drop in wild honey bee densities.

## 5. All General Farmland Guidelines aside from above also apply per 35 ILCS 200/1-60 & 10-115, and all requirements.

\*this is an on-going guide and may be updated at anytime without notice by the County Assessment Office of Jo Daviess County



# Useful



# Resources!



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:  
[HTTPS://AGR.ILLINOIS.GOV/INSECTS/BEES.HTML](https://agr.illinois.gov/insects/bees.html)



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - APIARY INSPECTORS  
[HTTPS://AGR.ILLINOIS.GOV/INSECTS/BEES/IDA-APIARY-INSPECTORS.HTML](https://agr.illinois.gov/insects/bees/ida-apiary-inspectors.html)



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPER ASSOCIATION:  
[HTTPS://WWW.ILSBA.COM/](https://www.ilsba.com/)



BEE CHECK  
DEFINE YOUR APIARY (BEE YARD) LOCATIONS: [BEECHECK.ORG](http://BEECHECK.ORG)



BEE CHECK  
DEFINE YOUR SPECIALTY CROPS: [DRIFTWATCH.ORG](http://DRIFTWATCH.ORG)



USDA - SPECIALTY CROPS AND POLLINATION:  
[HTTPS://WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV/ABOUT-NIFA/IMPACTS/SPECIALTY-CROP-FARMERS-CAN-INCREASE-YIELDS-THROUGH-IMPROVED-POLLINATION](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/about-nifa/impacts/specialty-crop-farmers-can-increase-yields-through-improved-pollination)