

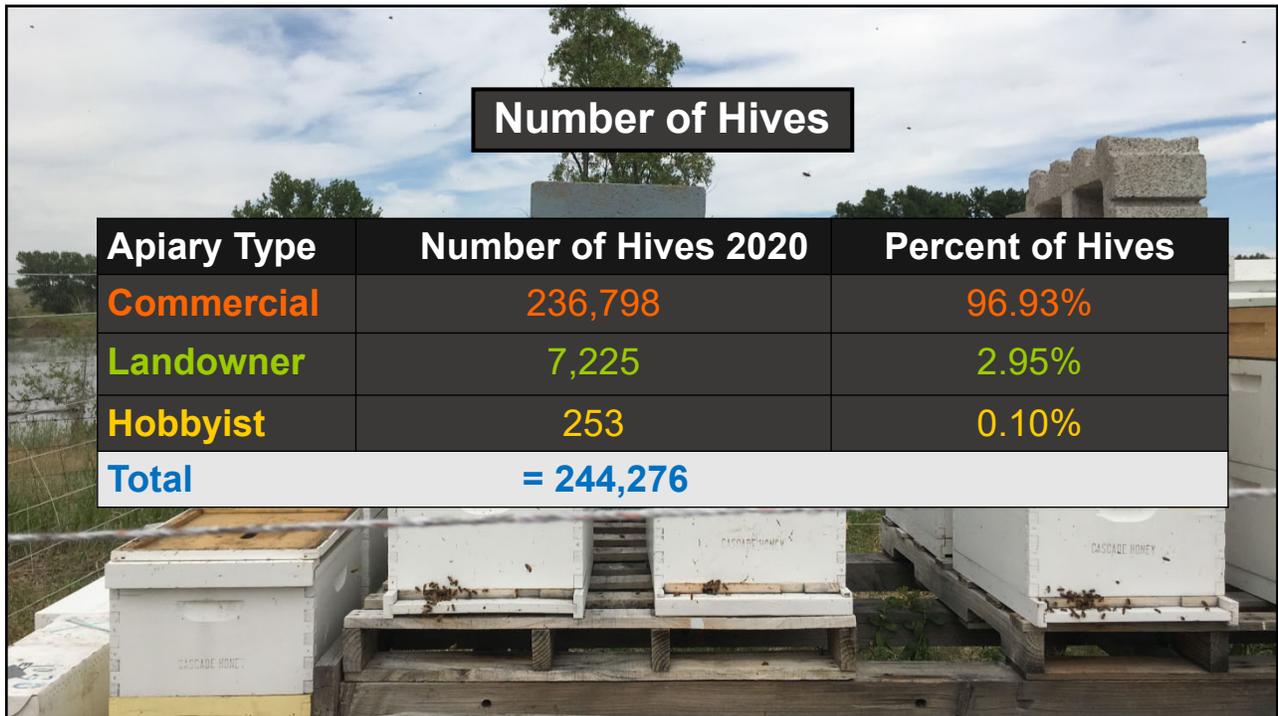
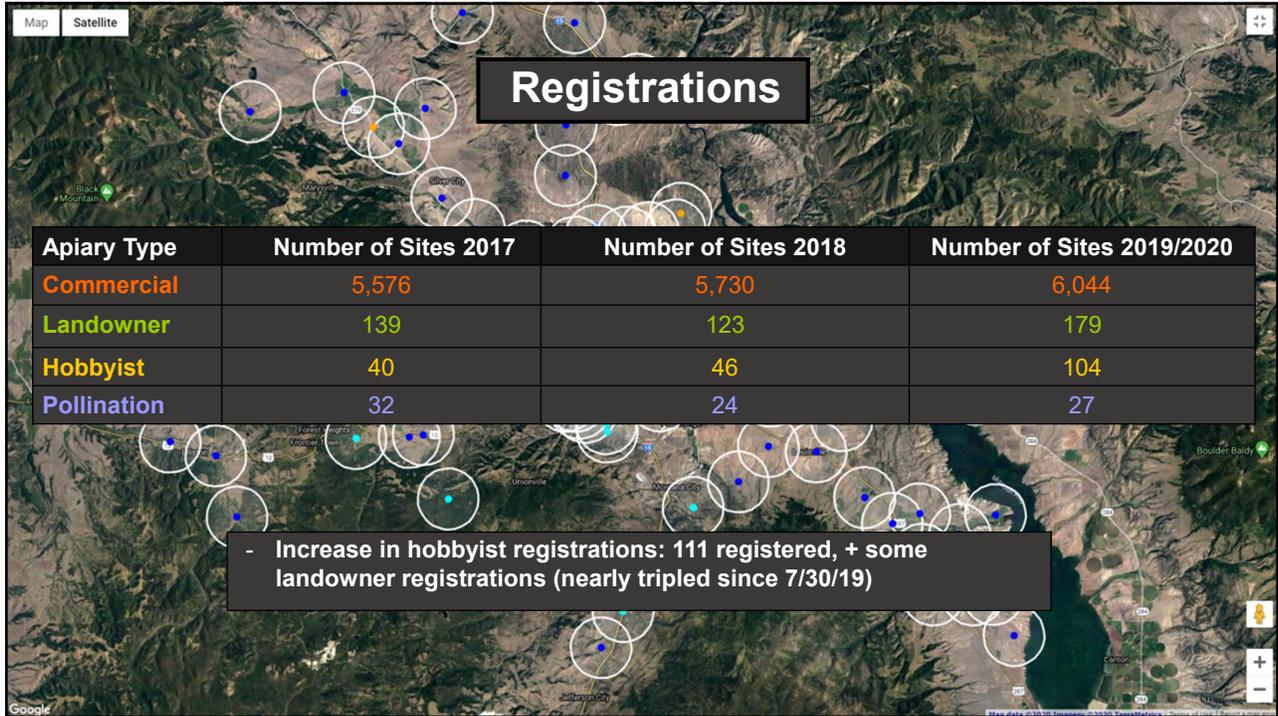


# Beekeeping in Montana:

## Industry, Rules and Regulations

### Types of Beekeepers in Montana:

1. **Commercial** – Must be at least 3 miles from another commercial apiary site operated by a different beekeeper. Commercial yards must also have at least 10 hives present from April 15 – October 15 for 10 consecutive days.
2. **Landowner** – Able to register any number of colonies. Landowner must own the bees, work the bees, and own the land the yard is registered on.
3. **Pollination** – Provisional locations registered for the pollination of specific commercial seed, fruit, or other agricultural commodity. Locations are only valid for specific amount of time that crop is in peak bloom.
4. **Hobbyist** – Individual hobbyist may not have more than 5 hives at one location. A family unit hobbyist registration may have no more than 10 hives at two locations.



## Honey Production in Montana

Montana is typically ranked in the top 5 of honey producing states  
(usually includes N Dakota, S Dakota, California, and Florida)

**Table 33. Other Animals and Animal Products - Sales: 2017 and 2012**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	2017			2012		
	Farms	Number	Value (\$1,000)	Farms	Number	Value (\$1,000)
Honey collected <sup>1</sup> (pounds) (see text) .....	281	11,609,849	22,083	147	7,906,649	13,377
Milk from sheep and goats .....	54	(NA)	650	53	(NA)	435
Bison .....	67	4,725	10,004	66	3,524	7,493
Deer in captivity .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elk in captivity .....	4	58	48	11	194	145
Alpacas .....	21	99	66	31	189	266
Llamas .....	23	100	76	24	103	90
Mink, live .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rabbits, live .....	11	306	10	22	398	4
Equine products (see text) .....	218	(X)	2,217	(NA)	(X)	(NA)
Other livestock (see text) .....	18	(X)	656	13	(X)	(D)
Other livestock products <sup>1</sup> (see text) .....	60	(X)	629	358	(X)	3,618

<sup>1</sup> Data are for farms with production, not necessarily sold.

2017 Census of Agriculture – State Data (USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service)

## Primary Duties of Department

- Inspection of bees and beekeeping equipment from out of state
  - Health certificates
- National Honey Bee Surveys
- Hobbyist meetings and presentations
- Montana State Beekeeper's Association
- Registration/Database Maintenance
- Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee/General Entomology Programs

## Apiary Laws and Rules

### Apiary Laws

TITLE 80. AGRICULTURE  
CHAPTER 6. APICULTURE

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DIVISION  
HELENA, MONTANA

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
CHAPTER 12- AGRICULTURE  
SUBCHAPTER 1 – APICULTURE  
RULES 4.12.101 THROUGH 4.12.113



### Apiary Laws

TITLE 80. AGRICULTURE  
CHAPTER 6. APICULTURE

- 80-6-101. Definitions
- 80-6-102. Registration Classes and fees (site cannot be less than \$10 or more than \$50)
- 80-6-103. Changing Locations or Transfer of Apiaries
- ☞ 80-6-104. Termination of Rights/Abandonment
- 80-6-106. Application fee (cannot be less than \$10 or more than \$100)
- 80-6-111. General Apiary Site Registrations
- 80-6-112. Pollination Apiary Site Registrations
- ☞ 80-6-113. Landowner Apiary Site Registrations
- ☞ 80-6-114. Hobbyist Apiary Site – Registrations
- ☞ 80-6-201. Apiaries – powers and duties of the department
- ☞ 80-6-202. Inspection of Bees or Used Beekeeping Equipment Transported Interstate
- ☞ 80-6-203. Importation of Bees in Packages or Queen Cages
- 80-6-301. Orders Effective Until Reversed or Modified By Court
- ☞ 80-6-303. Penalty
- 80-6-311. Bee Laboratory Authorized
- 80-6-315. State Special Revenue Account – Source of Funds

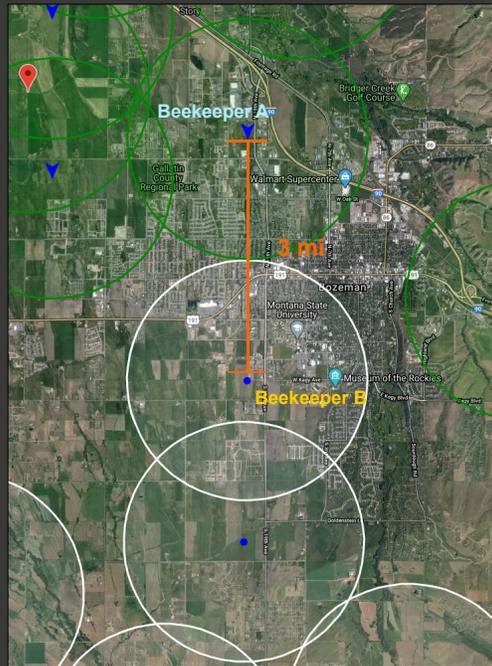
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- 4.12.101 Registration of apiaries and limitations of registration
- 4.12.102 Apiary, located by permission
- 4.12.103 New locations of apiaries
- 4.12.104 Limitations of colonies
- 4.12.105 Delineating honey producing seasons and registration periods
- ☞ 4.12.106 Inspection of apiary equipment
- 4.12.107 Inspection of pesticide damages
- ☞ 4.12.108 Hourly inspection fee
- ☞ 4.12.109 Civil penalties – enforcement
- ☞ 4.12.110 Civil penalties – matrix
- ☞ 4.12.111 Regulated bee diseases
- 4.12.112 Definitions
- 4.12.113 Registration and certification fees – apiary fees

### 3-mile radius law

- Only applies to commercial apiary locations
- Unique to Montana (other states have variations of law)



## 4.12.111 REGULATED BEE DISEASES

(1) Bee diseases and pests regulated under Title 80, chapter 6, parts 1 through 3, MCA, are as follows:

- (a) American Foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*);
- (b) Africanized bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata*);
- (c) Cape bees (*Apis mellifera capensis*);
- (d) Tropilaelaps mites (*Tropilaelaps clareae*, *T. koenigerum*, *T. thaii*, and *T. mercedesae*); and
- (e) Small-hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*).

(2) The department may conduct inspections for other bee diseases for export certification purposes based on requirements of destination states.





The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook profile for the Montana State Entomologist. The profile picture features the Montana Department of Agriculture logo and the Great Seal of the State of Montana. The cover photo shows a bee on a flower. A text overlay in green reads: "Please follow us on Facebook for Department updates! (@Montana State Entomologist)". The page includes an 'Intro' section with a link to the MDA Apilary Program, a 'Works at Montana Department of Agriculture' section, and a 'Photos' section. A post from September 23, 2020, is visible, mentioning an update about the Department's Bees and online running.

