



Honey Bee FAQ's

How many hives do I need onsite, per acre, to receive special assessment?

You need a minimum of 2 hives onsite, per acre, to receive special assessment. In addition to those hives, the land must be planted in a flowering cover crop to qualify the land itself as being engaged in farm use.

Are there any requirements for the size or type of hives?

Rather than listing a specific type of hive or physical size, Oregon Administrative Rules (Chapter 603, Section 55-005, filed with the Secretary of State on August 17, 1960, as Administrative Order AD 643) provides a minimum amount of comb space required per standard hive. The comb space approach is flexible as it accounts for the different shapes, sizes, and configurations of hive bodies. The minimum size of 3,000 square inches of comb space was listed for a standard hive. Using the Langstroth hive as a common example, a 2 box hive would surpass the minimum for this standard.

Am I required to register my hives?

Every person who owns, or is in charge of, five or more colonies of bees located within the state of Oregon, must register their hives each year with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, with the exception of nucleus hives. Nucleus hives do not currently require registration. If you currently own less than five hives you are not required to register your bees at this time.

I own five or more colonies of bees, how do I register them?

The form needed to register colonies with the Department of Agriculture is located online at <https://apps.oregon.gov/SOS/LicenseDirectory/LicenseDetail/606> or obtained in person by visiting 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem, OR, 97301.

Where can I find more information online?

Department of Agriculture:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/IPPM/InsectsSpiders/Pages/BeesApiaries.aspx>

OSU Extension Service:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/pollinators/honey-bees-pollinator-health>

Statute:

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors602.html

Rules:

http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_600/oar_603/603_055.html