

# Virginia BeeCheck™ Apiary Mapping Fact Sheet

## VA.BeeCheck.org

As the state's lead agency for pesticide regulation, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), in cooperation with agency stakeholders, developed Virginia's Voluntary Plan to Mitigate the Risk of Pesticides to Managed Pollinators. VDACS' Plan is a voluntary, proactive approach that focuses on enhanced communication and coordination between agricultural producers, landowners, pesticide applicators and beekeepers as a means to protect pollinators.

To facilitate communication between beekeepers and agricultural producers and pesticide applicators VDACS has acquired BeeCheck™, Apiary Registry by FieldWatch®, an on-line system for mapping apiary locations and providing beekeeper contact information. Participation is free and voluntary. Hobbyist and commercial beekeepers are encouraged to use BeeCheck™ to provide contact information to pesticide users. Enrollment in BeeCheck™ is monitored by data stewards at VDACS.

Enrollment and access to the online system is at <https://va.beecheck.org>. To enroll in BeeCheck™ a current and active email address is needed or assistance from someone with an email address to create a login and password. Beekeepers can choose to display apiary locations on the public map site or limit access to agricultural producers and pesticide applicators. Once enrolled in BeeCheck™ participants may purchase signs and other items from FieldWatch® to help identify the locations of their beehives.

To register an apiary location login to BeeCheck™ and select "Add Hive" on the map page. Select the purpose for the bees (commercial or hobbyist) and number of beehives at the site. Additional information regarding the type of hive location (permanent or to be moved), purpose for hive registry (for Virginia locations select "hive only registered on this voluntary registry"), and active dates for the apiary must be provided. Each site registration will expire at the end of the calendar year. Beekeepers will receive notification from FieldWatch® prior to the site expiration to renew their site registration with BeeCheck™,

To display an apiary location, the online aerial map can be centered on each location or address, zip code or gps coordinates for the apiary. Apiary locations are identified on the map with a half-acre circle. If beehives are in close proximity (within ½ mile) to each other, it is acceptable to map them together and indicate the number of beehives at each site in the notes section. Once an apiary location is placed on the map, submit the information for approval by the VDACS data steward.

To learn more about Virginia's Plan to Mitigate the Risk of Pesticides to Managed Pollinators, visit <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-pollinator-protection-plan.shtml>. Questions about BeeCheck™, email [beecheck@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:beecheck@vdacs.virginia.gov) or call the Office of Plant Industry Services at 804-786-3515.