

APIARY INSPECTOR

Work in this class involves inspection, regulatory, and service work in the State's Apiary Inspection Program.

Employees inspect apiaries to detect diseases and assure that only disease free bees and equipment are allowed to be moved within the state or shipped out of the state. Honey processing and packing facilities are inspected to determine that honey is processed under sanitary conditions, is free of adulterants, and properly labeled. Technical expertise is required in the diagnosis of diseases and recommendations for control measures. Work is performed under the general supervision of an Apiary Inspection Supervisor and may include other duties as assigned.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Complexity - Work involves the inspection of hives for evidence and diagnosis of American foulbrood, chalkbrood, European foulbrood, sacbrood, varroa mite, trachea mite, and other bee pests and contagious diseases. Employees collect and submit bee specimens to the laboratory for further diagnosis. Recommendations for treatment and control practices are made by the employees. Employees enforce quarantines that control the movement of bees into, within, and out of the state. Employees participate in survey and detection programs related to the posed threat of the Africanized bee and other exotic pests. Employees participate in fumigation of hives and equipment and administer other treatment to diseased hives. Employees provide technical direction to beekeepers on the practice of beekeeping and promote the beekeeping industry by participating in local civic groups and other organized activities.

Guidelines - State and federal laws and guidelines are specific to most of the work being performed. Additional direction is provided through various manuals and publications. Judgment must sometimes be used when guidelines are not available on some of the less scientific aspects of beekeeping.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Accountability - Employees must make independent decisions in the field regarding the treatments bees and movement of bees and bee equipment. Employees apply technical expertise in assisting beekeepers with beekeeping management recommendations.

Consequence of Action - Failure to enforce laws, rules, and regulations could result in the spread of bee pests or diseases.

Review - Work is reviewed by the Apiary Inspection Supervisor through the analysis of written reports, periodic observation in the field for proper methods and application of standards, and response from the beekeeping industry.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Subject Matter - Employees advise, interpret, and educate the beekeepers and general public on beekeeping practices, disease and pest control regulations and preventive measures and practices.

Purpose - Communications are with beekeepers and the general public for the purpose of explaining and ensuring adherence to established laws, rules, and regulations, and to promote beekeeping in North Carolina.

IV. WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Nature of Working Conditions - Work is performed outdoors, in agricultural environments, in bee processing and packing houses, and in a laboratory, with exposure to all weather conditions, fumes and odors when chemicals are applied for fumigation or regulatory treatment and fire and smoke when smokers are used on the hives.

Nature and Potential of Personal Hazards - Employees are exposed to venomous insect stings, hazardous gases during the fumigation process, and chemicals when being applied for regulatory treatment.

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Considerable knowledge of state and federal laws and guidelines pertaining to bees and beekeeping. Considerable knowledge of bee pests and diseases. Ability to identify bee pests and diagnose bee diseases and to prescribe treatment and control measures. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with beekeepers and the general public. Ability to interpret applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Ability to work independently. Ability to complete required forms, reports, and records.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements - High school or General Educational Development diploma supplemented by college-level coursework in biology, ecology, social insect behavior and microbiology and three years of experience in beekeeping; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.