

## Apiculture Permit Application – Instructions

It is important to read and understand the following before completing the form.

Responsible livestock ownership (including honeybees) is about respecting animal and public health, neighbouring properties, the environment, and the economy. Strathcona County's Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw focuses on three key principles: minimize disease risk; support animal welfare; promote environmental and land stewardship.

Steps to take before applying for a Strathcona County Apiculture (beekeeper) Permit.

### 1. Determine if honeybees are allowed and if you need an Apiculture Permit

The Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw 53-2022 sets the number of allowable honeybee hives on a rural property. This depends on land use zoning and property size. Land use can be determined from the [Property Assessment Tool](#).

Under the bylaw, properties with land use districts (zoning) of one of the following do not require an Apiculture Permit:

Agriculture: General (AG); Agri-Industrial (AGI); Agriculture: River Valley (AR); Agri-business (IA); Heavy Industrial (IH) and Heavy Industrial (Heartland) (IHH); Medium Industrial (IM) and Medium Industrial (Heartland) (IMH); Agriculture: Future Development (AD) where a parcel of land is not within the boundary of a hamlet; Agriculture: Future Development (AD) where a parcel of land is within the boundary of a hamlet and the parcel is greater than or equal to 8 hectares (20 ac.) in area. *\*All honeybee keepers must still ensure they are registered with the province (see #3 below)*

Properties with land use zoning not listed above require an Apiculture Permit to have honeybees. Apiculture permits will not be issued if the parcel of land is within the urban service area (Sherwood Park) or within a rural hamlet excluding parcels zoned "Agriculture: Future Development" (AD) and 20 acres or larger.

### 2. Find out if there are honeybee hives already near you

The Provincial Apiculturist recommends hives of different beekeepers are at least a 1.6 km (1 mile) apart to reduce disease spread and is a requirement of the Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw. If you are not sure if there are other honeybee hives in your area, you are welcome to call Planning and Development Services, Agriculture and Environment at 780-464-8080 or email: [agricultureandenvironment@strathcona.ca](mailto:agricultureandenvironment@strathcona.ca)

### 3. Ensure you have the required Provincial Identification

As part of the *Animal Health Act*, owners of bees must register with the Animal Premise Identification (PID) Program and obtain a PID number for the hive location. The purpose of the PID is for traceability. The PID will be used to help protect animal and public health and safety in situations of natural disasters and disease outbreaks in a specific area. Getting a PID is fast, easy, and free: [Register with the animal premises identification program](#)

The *Bee Act and Regulations* requires that beekeepers in Alberta who own bees or use beekeeping equipment, must register with the Provincial Apiculturist. The certificate of registration is valid from the time it is issued until June 29<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Registration must be renewed yearly to keep information current. The information collected for beekeeper registration is used to monitor bee health where diseases and pests can be transferred through the purchase and sale of bees and beekeeping equipment: [Provincial registration](#).

### 4. Apply for a Strathcona County Apiculture Permit (if needed)

The application process includes a neighbourhood notification process. This helps build relationships while setting expectations about having honeybees in the community.

Once your application is complete, please print, sign, scan and submit it through [County Connect](#) or email: [agricultureandenvironment@strathcona.ca](mailto:agricultureandenvironment@strathcona.ca)

**Applicant information**

 Applicant(s) is/are the property owner(s):  no  yes  
**If no, please provide proof of notification.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City

Province

Postal code

 Contact  Phone \_\_\_\_\_  Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 (select preferred)

 How would you like to receive your permit?  email  mail

 Provincial [Beekeeper Registration](#) number: \_\_\_\_\_

 Provincial [Premise Identification \(PID\)](#) number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Apiary information**

 Apiary location:  same as applicant address OR \_\_\_\_\_

Legal description: Lot or unit \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_ Plan \_\_\_\_\_

 (if applicable)  NE  NW  SE  SW Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ W4M

Size of parcel or area of land \_\_\_\_\_ hectares (or \_\_\_\_\_ acres)

**Additional information**

It is recommended to complete a beekeeping course or find a mentor. Please select any that apply:

 beekeeping course complete  access to an apiculture mentor  previous beekeeping experience

 Water source for bees available near hives  no  yes

 Do you allow Strathcona County to inspect the site routinely and as necessary?  no  yes

**Neighbour notifications**

 All adjacent landowners notified (see appendix A for printable template)  no  yes

Adjacent neighbours notified:

|         |  |      |  |
|---------|--|------|--|
| Address |  | Date |  |
| Address |  | Date |  |
| Address |  | Date |  |
| Address |  | Date |  |
| Address |  | Date |  |
| Address |  | Date |  |

Date general notification was posted (see Appendix A for printable template): \_\_\_\_\_

Locations general notifications were posted:

Comments received from notifications  none received  included below

This requirement is a notification to neighbours, not a request for permission. Your neighbours have two (2) weeks to respond after receiving the letter. Letters do not need to be signed.

Maximum hives that may be permitted:

- 4 hives for a property at least 2 acres but less than 5 acres
- 8 hives for a property at least 5 acres but less than 7.5 acres
- 12 hives for a property at least 7.5 acres but less than 10 acres in size

Should I be granted a permit I, the applicant, will be engaged in apiculture and will undertake to be responsible for the good order and conduct thereof. I also understand that permit requirements help to manage the proximity of honeybee colonies in the area to reduce the risk of disease or pest transfer between hives and improve pollination in plants without reducing resources available to native pollinators.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Date**Collection and use of personal information**

Personal information is collected in accordance with section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and will be used in the management and administration of the permit approval process and for enforcement purposes. Information related to permit applications and approvals may be made public as allowed or required by law. If you have any questions about the collection, use, or disclosure of this information, please contact the Manager, Agriculture and Environment at 780-464-8080.

**Office use only**Is the proposed apiary within 1.6 km distance of other apiculture permit holders  no  yesIs the proposed apiary within 150 m of a school  no  yesIs the proposed apiary within 150 m of a public meeting place  
(playground, sports field, community hall, church)  no  yesProof of landowner notification received (if applicable)  no  yesLand use district \_\_\_\_\_  Fee received (\$25) Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Site plan**

Please show the following:

- a) location and size of buildings and existing fencing in relation to property lines
- b) location of individual hives including distance to property lines, and indicating hive entrance
- c) location and size of water source
- d) location of any other apiary or apiculture related equipment including distance to property lines

## Appendix A

### Neighbour Notification – Apiculture Permit Application

Bylaw 53-2022 Responsible Livestock Ownership requires that all landowners within 1.0 km of the proposed apiary have been notified of the apiculture permit application. Notification is to be completed in two ways.

#### 1. Adjacent neighbours notification

The attached letter template is to be used as a letter to adjacent neighbours. A list of locations the letter was delivered must be provided with your application. If there are questions or concerns that you as the applicant are unable to address, please encourage your neighbours to contact Strathcona County at 780-464-8080.

Adjacent neighbours are determined as sharing a property line, boundary, or equivalent if not for a road, lane, walkway, watercourse, utility lot, pipeline right-of-way, power line, railway, or similar feature.

#### 2. General notification

The attached poster template is to be used as a general notification to the larger community. Notification posters are to be placed in highly visible areas for two weeks on public property or meeting areas within a 1-kilometer radius of the property the honeybee hives will be housed. Temporary signage is allowed on public property, including areas where community mailboxes are located, for this purpose.

Templates for these two notifications are on the following pages.

## Adjacent neighbour notification letter - Apiculture Permit Application

Date:

Address:

Hello Neighbour\*

This letter is to inform you of my application to have honeybees and provide you with an opportunity to ask me any questions about my beekeeping plans. I will be applying to Strathcona County for an Apiculture (honeybee) Permit. It is my intention to keep honeybees and participate in beekeeping activities.

Managed well, beekeeping can help improve pollination of plants without reducing resources available to native pollinators.

In addition to this notification, there are a number of requirements of the permit. Some of these are as follows:

- I have registered with the province as a beekeeper
- I am committed to following good management and husbandry practices to prevent aggressive behaviour and disease
- I will not move hives from the location provided on the Strathcona County approved site plan
- I will be limited to the maximum number of hives stated on the permit
- I will provide a constant and adequate water supply for the bees
- Confirmation that there are no additional apiculture practices within 1.6 km of my property

Please contact me within two weeks of the date on the top of this page if you would like to discuss the addition of the honeybees.

If you have concerns that I am not able to address, you are welcome to contact Strathcona County at 780-464-8080 or submit a County Connect case online at [www.strathcona.ca/countyconnect](http://www.strathcona.ca/countyconnect) to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Name:

Location/address:

Contact:

\*Adjacent neighbours are determined as sharing a property line, boundary, or equivalent if not for a road, lane, walkway, watercourse, utility lot, pipeline right-of-way, power line, railway, or similar feature.

**General Notification**  
**Intent to keep honeybees**



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Hive location: \_\_\_\_\_

An application to keep honeybees and participate in beekeeping activities at the above location is being submitted.

If approved, an Apiculture (honeybee) Permit will be issued with several requirements. Some of these are as follows:

- Registration with the province as a beekeeper
- Commitment to following good management and husbandry practices to prevent aggressive honeybee behaviour and disease
- Hives are not to be moved from the location provided on the Strathcona County approved site plan
- Maximum number of hives limited by the permit
- Confirmation that there are no additional apiculture practices within 1.6 km of hive location

If managed well, beekeeping can help improve pollination of plants without reducing resources available to native pollinators.

If you would like to discuss the addition of honeybees to the community, please contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have unaddressed concerns about the addition of the honeybees, please contact Strathcona County at 780-464-8080, or place a County Connect case online at [www.strathcona.ca/countyconnect](http://www.strathcona.ca/countyconnect).

The period to provide comments is two weeks from the above date.

*\*This notice has been posted on public property or meeting areas within a 1-kilometer radius of where honeybees will be kept.*