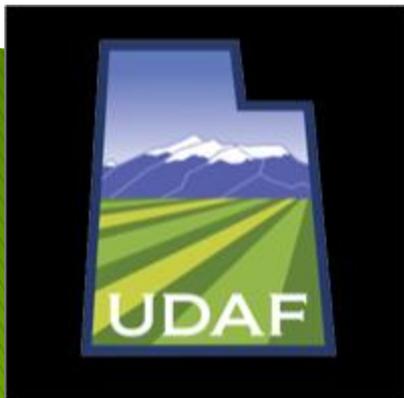


Honey Bee Ordinances

Stephen Stanko – Utah Department of
Agriculture and Food



Benefits Bees Bring to Communities

- ▶ Pollination
- ▶ Education Opportunities
- ▶ Local Honey



Beekeeping on London Rooftops
Photo Credit: GETTY



The “First” Hive at the White House >>

Photo Credit: tonitoni.org



Paris >>

Photo Credit: Hugh Schofield



New York >>

Photo Credit: TDG Community



St. Louis >>

Photo Credit: TDG Community



Denver >>

Photo Credit: TDG Community



San Jose >>

Photo Credit: TDG Community



Tacoma >>

Photo Credit: TDG Community



The University of Utah >>

Photo Credit: Stephen Stanko



The University of Utah >>

Photo Credit: Douglas Harper



Your Backyard? >>

Photo Credit: TDG Community

The Fear

- ▶ Health/Nuisance Issues
- ▶ Bee Stings
- ▶ Bee Allergies



Photo Credit: Douglas Harper



Photo Credit: KSL News



Photo Credit: RT News

The Rebuttal

- ▶ Less of a nuisance than wasps.
 - ▶ Honey Bees already exist in all Utah cities and towns – in trees and in the nooks and crannies of the city’s buildings. Or in “illegal” apiaries in many cases.
 - ▶ Bees maintained by beekeepers are safer because beekeepers can kill queens that are producing aggressive stock and can introduce queens known to produce gentle European stock.
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Keeping it in Perspective

- ▶ More of a perception issue than an actual public health threat.
 - ▶ Bee attacks are very rare.
 - ▶ Annually only 50–60 deaths are attributable to insect stings or bites.
 - ▶ 40–50 People on average are killed by lightning strikes in the US each year. [1]
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State Law

- ▶ A person may not raise bees in this state without being registered with the department.
 - ▶ A beekeeper may not intentionally maintain an aggressive or unmanageable stock, whether African or European in origin.
 - ▶ Designed to protect honey bees and the honey/pollination industry.
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Good Ideas

- ▶ Requiring a water source in urban areas.
- ▶ Requiring placement in side or back yards in urban areas.
- ▶ Flight path orientation so as to minimize contact with domestic animals and humans.



Bad Ideas

- ▶ Requiring large fees.
 - ▶ Rules not based on science and reason:
 - Limiting the number of “boxes”
 - Re-queening Requirements
 - Hive to lot ratios that are too stringent
 - ▶ Unintended consequences.
 - ▶ Banning beekeeping altogether.
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Communication is Key

- ▶ Issues most often stem from a break down in (or lack of) communication between neighbors.
- ▶ Getting the two parties to talk is often all that is needed.



Photo Credit: Daily Mail

Who to include when drafting/changing ordinances:

- ▶ Local Beekeepers
 - ▶ Department of Agriculture and Food
 - ▶ Concerned Community Members
 - ▶ Good chance for communication
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Contact Info:

- ▶ <http://ag.utah.gov/plants-pests/beekeeping.html>
 - ▶ (801) 538-4912
 - ▶ UDAF-Insects@utah.gov

 - ▶ (619) 929-6576
 - ▶ sstanko@utah.gov
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Sources

- ▶ *"2008 Lightning Fatalities"* (PDF). *light08.pdf*. NOAA. 2009-04-22. Retrieved 30 March 2013.