

# Iowa's Bee Rule



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE &  
LAND STEWARDSHIP**



Andrew Joseph - IDALS  
2022

# Iowa's "Bee Rule"

Enacted in 1979



# Changes thru time

Beekeeper Notification → Window of Application



# Iowa's "Bee Rule" Since 2009

**45.31(1)** Owners of apiaries, in order to protect their bees from pesticide applications, shall register the location of their apiaries with the state apiarist. Registration shall be on forms provided by the department. The registration expires December 31 each year and may be renewed the following year.

**45.31(2)** Between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., a commercial applicator shall not apply to blooming crops pesticides labeled as toxic to bees when the commercial applicator is located within one mile of a registered apiary. A commercial applicator shall be responsible for maintaining the one-mile distance from apiaries that are registered and listed on the sensitive crop registry on the first day of each month.

DriftWatch.org



## BeeCheck / FieldWatch / DriftWatch ...

Annual Registration required (if choosing to register at all)

Done at any time, but 1st of each month is important...

NOTE: This is specifically for beekeeper-managed hives of honey bees.

DOES THE BEE RULE STOP  
ALL PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS  
NEAR MY HIVES?

Nope.

# Only applies to applications which:

Have a “**Bee warning**” on the product FIFRA label

Are applied by a **commercial** pesticide applicator

Are applied to **blooming crops** (...????)

Are within **one mile radius** of hives that actively registered

*And then the Bee Rule limitation is simply that:*

The application cannot occur between **8 a.m. – 6 p.m.**



# ARE HIVES PROTECTED IF NOT REGISTERED?

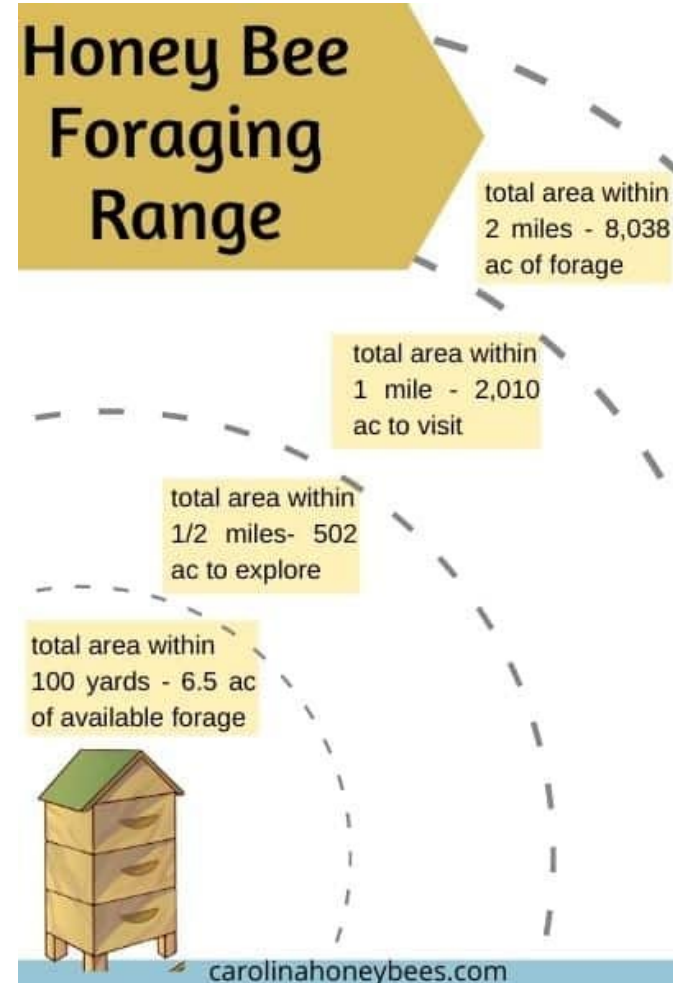
Not by the Bee Rule.

But Label restrictions, drift laws, etc. still apply!

# WHY THE 1 MILE RADIUS?

Compromise.

Pesticide Applicator groups, Beekeepers ,  
ISU Extension, IDALS folks ...



# WHY 8AM to 6PM?

Compromise.

Peak hours of bee foraging activity,  
particularly for soybeans...

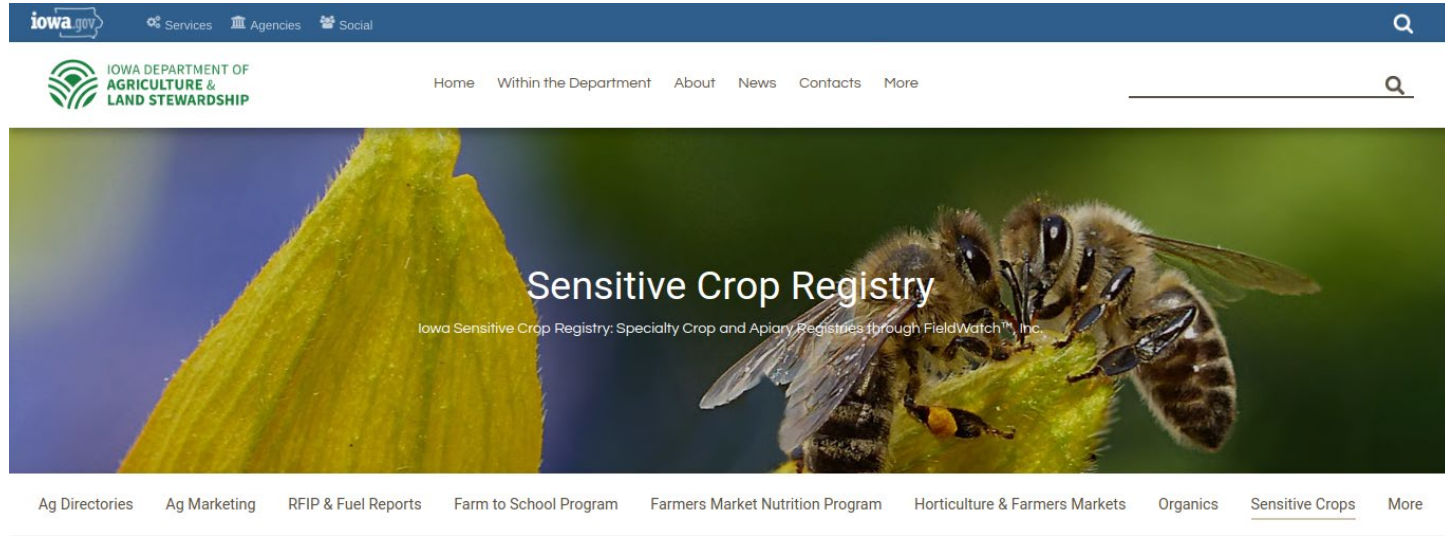


# WHAT ABOUT NOTIFICATION PRIOR TO APPLICATION?

No longer required (2009).



# IowaAgriculture.gov/SensitiveCropRegistry



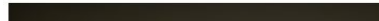
The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has partnered with the non-profit company FieldWatch™, Inc., to provide online registry tools to promote communication between producers of pesticide-sensitive (i.e. specialty) crops, beekeepers and pesticide applicators. An agreement with IDALS and FieldWatch™, Inc. was arrived at in 2016 with rollout of a new Iowa Sensitive Crops Registry using the FieldWatch™, Inc. platforms as of January of 2017.

These online FieldWatch™ registries support ongoing stewardship activities to reduce incidences of off-target pesticide exposure. The registries provide state of the art mapping features that provide applicators the locations of registered specialty sites. The boundaries on map entries are user-submitted



Click on logo to visit Driftwatch

**First Time User Instructions**



# FAQ ... Wouldn't hurt to have one handy

Iowa Bee Rule FAQs

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## FIELDWATCH & THE IOWA BEE RULE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FieldWatch™, Inc. registries will help protect honey bees from exposure to chemicals that are toxic to bees. Registered locations of beehives enable applicators to locate and minimize exposure to applied pesticides. Iowa employs FieldWatch™ registries, including BeeCheck™ for managed honey bees, as the Iowa Sensitive Crops Registry platform.

Effective January 22, 2009, the Department adopted an amended “Pesticide/Bee Rule” of the Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 21-45.31(206). The Rule reads:

**45.31(1)** Owners of apiaries, in order to protect their bees from pesticide applications, shall register the location of their apiaries with the state apiarist. Registration shall be on forms provided by the department. The registration expires December 31 each year and may be renewed the following year.

**45.31(2)** Between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., a commercial applicator shall not apply to blooming crops pesticides labeled as toxic to bees when the commercial applicator is located within one mile of a registered apiary. A commercial applicator shall be responsible for maintaining the one-mile distance from apiaries that are registered and listed on the sensitive crop registry on the first day of each month.

### ▶ ARE MY HIVES PROTECTED IF I DON'T REGISTER?

Honey bee registry is voluntary in Iowa. If hives are not registered the prohibition of pesticide application of a product with a bee warning on the label, by a commercial pesticide applicator, to blooming crops within one mile of hives, between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm, does *not* apply to the unregistered hives. However, FIFRA label laws still apply to the pesticide application.

# IDALS Contacts

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