



Steve Bullock
Governor

Ron de Yong
Director

16 March 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montana Beekeepers.

FROM: Cam Lay, Apiary Program Manager, Montana Dept. of Agriculture.

RE: Importation of Washington Bees to Montana.

It has recently come to our attention that the state of Washington has no apiary inspection program. Montana law is very explicit with regard to the requirements for importing bees and used equipment into the state. In short, they must be inspected on arrival (with the MT Dept. of Agriculture being notified in advance of that arrival), be inspected by an official of the originating state, or be inspected by a Montana official at the point of origin. Our law requires that we charge for these inspections, and makes no provision for states that do not have an apiary inspection program. These regulations are contained in Section 80-6-202 and 80-6-203 of the Montana Code Annotated, at <http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/80/6/80-6-202.htm> and <http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/80/6/80-6-203.htm>. Fees are set by Rule 4.12.108, at <http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?RN=4%2E12%2E108>.

If you intend to purchase bees from Washington, including nucs, packages, or queens, please notify the Montana Dept. of Agriculture in advance of when the bees will arrive so that an inspection may be scheduled. The charge for inspections is currently set at \$42.00 per hour plus travel expenses.

Violations of Montana law may result in civil penalties and the loss of bees. We sincerely regret the inconvenience, but a more economical solution is not available. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or wish to discuss alternative resolutions to this issue.