

# Apiary Inspection Information

**Please read this now to ensure your certification remains in good standing.**

- You are responsible for making the arrangements to have your apiary inspected (no one sets them up for you).
- Your apiary must be inspected *by two different beekeepers* each season. They may inspect at the same time or on different days. If you prefer to have your second inspection done later in the season, that's totally fine.
- To avoid conflicts of interest, trading inspections is discouraged (and is not allowed for produce or livestock inspections). If Beekeeper A inspects Beekeeper B's apiary, then Beekeeper B should not turn around and inspect Beekeeper A's apiary. Because two inspections are required for beekeepers, this restriction may be waived in areas where there are few natural beekeepers, so long as two different people serve as the second inspectors.
- An inspection round of three or more is allowed (encouraged!). That's when Beekeeper A inspects Beekeeper B, who inspects Beekeeper C, who in turn inspects Beekeeper A. This is the beginning of a local network!
- Every CNG beekeeper must *conduct* at least one inspection of *another* CNG apiary annually. This particular requirement is waived if there's not another CNG apiary within an hour's drive.
- New members should arrange for their inspections as soon as possible once the season starts (no later than two warm months from the date when they were accepted into the program).
- Inspections shall be conducted annually (4-month grace period), ideally by different qualified inspectors each year.
- You may be de-listed from the CNG program if you do not arrange an inspection for your apiary in a timely manner.
- You may be de-listed from the CNG program if you do not *conduct* an inspection of another CNG apiary when there is a CNG apiary within an hour's drive from your apiary that needs an inspection.
- Inspections by family members, employees and interns are not considered valid.

**Types of Inspectors** *Note there are options besides other CNG beekeepers!*

- Beekeepers in Your Local Network Choose beekeepers with experience using natural practices, even if they are not in the Certified Naturally Grown program.
- Nearby CNG Beekeepers Visit the CNG map at [www.CNGfarming.org/map](http://www.CNGfarming.org/map) to see if there is a CNG beekeeper near you who isn't (yet) part of your local network.
- Other Beekeepers Using Natural Practices You may rely on beekeepers with experience in the challenges and techniques of natural practices, whether certified or not, and whether or not they're in your local network.
- Customers (three or more) Make the inspection an open house for your customers, and be sure at least three of them are prepared to follow the inspection worksheets and complete the report. *The inspection forms are designed to walk people who don't know a lot about beekeeping through a meaningful inspection process.*
- Educators Someone who teaches courses on natural beekeeping practices may conduct your inspection.

*Your state bee inspector is not on this list. It is not their job to serve as a CNG inspector.*

## Tips for success

Look at the Map on the website to find CNG members near you. Search by zip code! [www.CNGfarming.org/map](http://www.CNGfarming.org/map)

Use the telephone! E-mail is fine for initial outreach, but a follow-up phone call will get much better results.

Follow-up! If your inspector made vague plans to come by, but never did, go ahead and give them another call. A friendly reminder is usually all that's needed to get the job done. Or, if necessary, find someone else to inspect.

*Find Inspection Forms at [www.CNGfarming.org/cngforms](http://www.CNGfarming.org/cngforms)  
or use the Order Form if you're not online.*