

Apiary Inspection Guidelines

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). However, if you need assistance finding an inspector or finding out if an inspector is valid, we are here to help.
- New members should arrange for their inspection 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 (with a 4 month grace period), ideally by different qualified inspectors each year.
- 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.
- 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.
- You may be delisted from the CNG program if you do not arrange an inspection for your apiary in a timely manner.
- 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.naturallygrown.org/farms-and-apiaries 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) Invite three customers to visit at the same time. One customer will complete the inspection forms while the other two should be given a blank page to write down their notes. They will all sign the Summary Page and share their contact information on the following pages. *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 online at [Farms and Apiaries](#) to find CNG members near you. Search by zip code!

Use the telephone! Email 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 [Inspection Forms](#) or contact us to send you a paper copy.

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