



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. Charlie Hatcher
COMMISSIONER

DIVISION OF CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY SERVICES
PLANT CERTIFICATION/APIARY SECTION

March 23, 2020

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has deemed that the protection of our food supply is an essential service. TDA will continue service to citizens while maintaining the health and safety of employees. TDA will communicate with employees regularly and any time additional information becomes available. TDA will provide guidance to inspectors during this time of uncertainty and rapid change. All meetings are cancelled until further notice. At the present time all scheduled Apiary inspections will be conducted on schedule. With the rapidly changing situation that may change at any time. If it becomes necessary to suspend inspections for a period of time, I will notify the beekeepers of the change. At this time anyone scheduled for an inspection that has reason to believe they may have been exposed to anyone that has covid-19 or that is feeling ill please inform your inspector so that precautions can be taken to reduce the spread of covid-19. If the few inspectors we have become infected that would cause an unnecessary delay for everyone needing inspections and the sale of bees this spring. This pandemic has hit us at the worst time of the year for the beekeeping industry.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Studer