

March 31, 2006

Dear Beekeepers,

In response to some of the questions I have recently received, I have written this letter to try and explain our laws and regulations. The state of S.C. does not allow any food items for public sale to be manufactured in a home kitchen or other NON-APPROVED facility. Any process where exposed food is mixed, repacked, packaged and/or cooked is considered food preparation and falls under SCDA/FDA jurisdiction.

Any product that is manufactured in a non-approved facility (such as a home kitchen) will be considered adulterated and removed from public sale. Any product mislabeled will be considered adulterate and removed from public sale.

What is public sale?

If you sell your product at a flea market or farmers market, if you place a sign in your yard, or if you sell to local stores, this is considered PUBLIC SALE and all regulations and laws will be applied.

If you sell by word of mouth or to your neighbors, this is NOT public Sale.

In order to manufacture food for public sale, you must follow these requirements:

1. Use an inspected facility (either SCDHEC approved or SCDA approved). Review the Processor Guidelines regarding buildings and grounds when constructing your honey house.
2. An approved label that includes Name of Product (HONEY), Your Business Name and Address, and Net Weight. Pay close attention to font size and placement of information especially Net Weight. It is critical that the font size is at least the minimum size allowed by law. Use the Honey Label Sample as a guide only. When you have a label ready for review, you may call our office or drop the label off.
3. Following all Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP's) which are enforced by SCDA during routine inspections of your facility. Hair restraints, hand

washing, sanitized jars, clean utensils (knives), and clean equipment (extractors, tanks, etc.)

We will work with you to bring you into compliance with our Food and Cosmetic Act and will help if you choose rent or build an approved facility. We try to ensure that wholesome and approved SC products are available to the public; your help is greatly appreciated.

Remember to look into Product Liability Insurance. If someone gets sick (or makes a claim) and sues you, you need to have product liability insurance to cover your assets.

Thank You,

Derek M. Underwood
Consumer Safety Officer

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner

Carol Fulmer, Director
Consumer Services

SCDA
Consumer Service Division
1101 Williams Street
PO Box 11280
Columbia SC 29211
(803) 737-9690