

Bee Attentive: Guide to Preventing Hive Theft

Every January beekeepers across the state are busily prepping as almonds and other tree crops bloom. Unfortunately for some, that includes dealing with beehive thefts. This crime has become increasingly common in response to a shortage of bees needed to pollinate California crops.

California beekeepers, farmers and local law enforcement need your help to prevent beehive theft. Here's how you can help.



BEEKEEPERS please make sure to:

1. Clearly mark beehives, vehicles and equipment. (name, logo, phone number, etc.).
2. Communicate regularly with farmers/property owners.
3. Make sure farmers/property owners know you and your equipment.
4. Immediately report theft to local law enforcement.
5. Secure, gather and protect evidence. (tire tracks, witnesses, etc.)
6. Give this flyer to farmers, property owners, neighbors or those who may be around your beehives.



FARMERS please make sure to:

1. Use only reputable, registered beekeepers who can show proof of ownership of their beehives.
2. Encourage beekeepers to clearly mark their hives and equipment.
3. Know your beekeepers, their equipment and move-in/move out schedule.
4. Maintain current contact information of beekeepers.
5. Give this flyer to beekeepers, PCA's, applicators, farm employees and neighbors.



EVERYONE can help! Here's how:

1. Pay attention to anyone moving beehives out of an orchard.
2. Bees are not typically moved out of orchards until bloom is over in late February or March.
3. Note markings on beehives, vehicles and equipment. They should all be the same.
4. Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement.
5. Be prepared to provide information such as description of vehicles, license plate numbers, etc.