

## Updates to CNG [Apiary Standards](#) \* 2024

### [Introduction](#)

Add the text in **yellow** to the current introduction (copied below).

CNG certified beekeepers are encouraged to engage in safe beekeeping practices at all times, obtaining training and utilizing assistance when needed, wearing appropriate protective clothing, operating their smoker in a safe manner, using common sense and good judgment, and keeping their equipment clean and in good working order. They are to make regular hive inspections and maintain strong, gentle, queenright colonies.

These standards do not provide guidance on any federal, state or local regulations concerning beekeeping, food production, or labeling. Contact your local beekeepers association or your state Agriculture department to ensure you're adequately informed about pertinent regulations. **CNG standards require that you follow federal, state, and local regulations for use of beekeeping treatments and products. Note that there are beekeeping products that have been approved in some but not all states.**

### [Supplemental Feeding](#)

Add the text in **yellow** to the existing prohibited section below:

Prohibited: Brown sugar, **raw sugar**, confectioner's sugar, sugar produced from ~~GMO~~ beets. High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) **as a source of carbohydrates.**

Treatment of Specific Pests and Diseases ([click here](#) and scroll down a half page)

### **Varroa Mites**

Add this bullet under Required:

**- Use of treatments must be in accord with product labels.**

Add this bullet under Recommended:

**- Use of the Honeybee Health Coalition [Varroa Management Decision Tool](#)**

Remove this bullet under Recommended:

~~– Monitoring for Varroa infestation levels with a sugar shake test and/or brood uncapping test when brood is present every six weeks in order to determine the mite peak in your area.~~

Edit this bullet under Permitted by removing text indicated:

~~- Formic acid must be used in accordance with application instructions (including ambient temperature) and may not be used while honey supers intended for humans are present on the hive, or for longer than these time limits despite application instructions: maximum 21 days for MiteGone, 7 days for Mite Away Quick Strips, 24 hours for a Formic Acid Fumigator [Amrine, References].~~

Remove this bullet under Permitted:

~~—Thymol-based products (ApiLife VAR, Apiguard) and other essential oils may only be used after any honey supers intended for humans have been removed.~~

Edit this bullet under Specifically Prohibited by removing text indicated:

- Fumigation with ~~any material, including~~ food grade mineral oil (FGMO).

#### Appendix I - Allowed and Prohibited Substances

- Update this line under Allowed substances for CNG Beekeeping: (Application method removed because there are now several approved commercial methods, including an extended release Oxalic Acid-impregnated strip):

- Oxalic Acid – to manage Varroa mite levels, ~~either vaporized or trickled,~~ only according to label instructions.

- Add the text in **yellow**, under Prohibited substances for CNG Beekeeping:

- Oxalic Acid that is not specifically formulated and approved for apiary applications (Wood Bleach)
- High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) **as a source of carbohydrates**

#### Appendix II – Transition Table

- Update Transition Schedule for oxytetracycline from 1 to 3, requiring that: *Prior brood comb replacement or operation expansion schedule that achieves the removal (or 'dilution') of at least 60% of the exposed comb prior to being CNG certified. Removal and replacement of the remaining (< 40% of) exposed comb within the first two years after certification. Each frame will require marking at the beginning of the transition period, to ensure that all of the previously exposed comb is replaced within two years after CNG Certification. Permanent suspension of exposure (immediate compliance).*
- Streamline the Transition Table in other ways as [detailed here](#).

#### Appendix III - Definitions and Technique Descriptions

- Remove the Oxalic Acid section (It's the only treatment application described and it's not necessary, since we recommend following label instructions. It's also outdated.)

- ~~**Oxalic Acid**—OA is one of the most common treatments employed in Europe and Canada due to its efficacy and low risk. It was recently registered in the United States as an approved substance for use in beekeeping operations. The most effective treatment time is when colonies have no brood. The best practice is to treat with Oxalic Acid in autumn or winter (depending on location and times when colonies are broodless) or in the spring on a new package of bees. Treatments should be applied when temperatures are above 32F. Oxalic acid is not to be used during a honey flow. It is illegal to purchase Oxalic Acid for your apiary from anywhere other than an approved distributor in the United States. At the time of publication, Brushy Mountain Bee Farm was the only approved distributor. CNG standards require that you follow the application instructions on the label. Making up your own concoction or one you found on the internet can be harmful to you, the applicator, and to the bees.~~

