

BEE AWARE

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News and Notes from The Texas Apiary Inspection Service



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Texas has received an abundance of rainfall this year which makes it way above average on moisture. Also, this is a great year for wildflowers and wildlife all over the state. The Brazos Valley area in June and July, saw below average daily maximum temperatures and above average rainfall. However, August brought more typical summer like weather according to the State Climatologist. This has created a long swarming condition in the feral population. Therefore, this office has received more than normal complaints regarding wild bees.

Bee complaints are showing a pattern —

- 1) Clearing land or brush using a dozer, tractor, mower, or similar machinery: Feral nest or wild colony in the hollow of the tree being removed or nest in stump at or near the ground level. Operator of the equipment knew feral nest was present; however, the bees were not aggressive several weeks prior to incidents.
- 2) Within a town or city limits: Mowing yard, trimming shrubs, or in wall of build-

ing. Owner came in close contact with feral nest or hit nest with object, causing a stinging incident.



This agency, since 1991, has kept records on human deaths due to bee stinging incidents in Texas. Although our records may not be complete, we show the average fatality is 1.94 per year. So far, this year we have shown 7 human deaths due to bee stings.



