

Legal regulation of beekeeping

No bees, no plants. Beekeeping is a necessity, which warrants quantity and quality of agricultural production, that is why this section regulated by law. There is no special apicultural act in Czech republic. Legal regulation of beekeeping is divided into a few branches. Provisions, which are related to beekeeping are involved in Civil Code, Veterinary Act, Plant medicine Act, Foodstuff Act and so on. Most of provisions are involved in implementing regulations.

Civil Code No. 40/1964 is concerned with statutory questions of a civil law, as a proprietary law, neighbour's rights and damages with beekeeping. Most frequent problems which the Civil Code deals with, are disputes between two neighbours, when the first one, who is afraid of bees asserts, that the other neighbour's beekeeping interferes with his owner's freedom, because he can't use his property. He may for example be allergic to bee stings. Civil jurisdiction answer the question what is a bee bothering and when is it adequate or inadequate. There are a few crimes possibly concerned with beekeeping, grounded in Criminal Code No. 140/1961. It might be felony theft, destroying another's property, and environmental leopardy.

Plant medicine Act No. 326/2004 is that one, which protects the bees and other untarget organisms against chemical substances used at agricultural plants nursing.

Two dangerous diseases, the bee plague and varroa, present a huge problem, which is regulated by Veterinary Act No. 166/1999 and its implementing regulations. Very important in this branch of law is the position of the State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic as a public administration body under the Ministry of Agriculture, which passes methodical instructions for the fight against dangerous bee diseases. State Veterinary Administration cooperates at this law making with Bee Research Institute at Dol.

Quality, composition and marking of the honey governs Foodstuff Act No. 110/1997. In the Czech republic there are problems with the quality of imported honey, which is also very cheap and press redemption prices of czech honey down. Beekeeping as a profession has become unprofitable because of this. It is government business to support beekeeping, that is why there is a lot of supporting endowment programs for this activity.