

HOW TO LEGALLY SELL YOUR HONEY

January 17, 2012

1. **All Honey sold in South Carolina must be properly labeled** (*regardless whether exempt from registration/inspection*).

Your **label must comply with the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act** (*contact SCDA for requirements and a sample label*).

Labels SHOULD be submitted to SCDA for review prior to printing to ensure compliance with the FPLA (*above act*).

NET WT. must be in both OZ and (g) and must be the proper font size (*contact SCDA for requirements*).

Address must be added (*City, State, Zip*). A street address is required, if business name is not in a local phone book.

2. **Who will your customers be?**

If you plan to sell your honey to or at roadside markets, convenience stores, health food stores, etc. **you will need to register with the SCDA and have your honey house inspected and approved by SCDA.**

All of the above constitute **public sale**. Selling to family and friends by word of mouth is not public sale.

If you sell your honey directly to the end consumer (ie. Farmers markets) and produce no more than 400 gallons (4,800 lbs.) you can apply for registration and inspection exemption. You must file for exemption.

*Note*Honey sold to the public must be labeled properly, even if you apply for exemption.*

3. **If you do not file/qualify for exemption, where will you produce your honey?**

A home kitchen can NOT be used under any circumstances to produce honey for sale to the public.

You will need to **register with SCDA** and have your honey house approved prior to selling your product to the public.

You can use a honey house that is already inspected by SCDA, however, you must submit a **Shared Honey House Permission Letter** to SCDA prior to producing any honey.

Honey house requirements include cleanable walls and floors, approved water source, shatterproof lighting, clean utensils and equipment, sinks, proper drainage, DHEC approved septic system (see Food Processor Guidelines at <http://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?MenuID=98>).

Honey houses can be on your premises. A converted garage, a "fixed up" shop, etc. can all be used as long as it meets SCDA Guidelines.

4. **Am I exempt from honey house requirements?**

If you sell your honey directly to the end consumer and produce no more than 400 gallons (4,800 lbs.) you can apply for registration and inspection exemption. You must file for exemption.

You will still be required to label your product in compliance with the FPLA.

