

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Bear Facts for Homeowners

Beehives/Crops/Livestock

Black bears have diverse food habits, which are reflected in the different types of damage they cause, ranging from sweet corn damage to beehive destruction.

Livestock including chickens, rabbits, sheep and goats are also subject to depredation by black bears. Follow these tips to avoid attracting bears.

- Black bears are attracted to honey and will also consume bee larvae from beehives. Beehives should be located at least 50 yards from forest tree lines or other sources of cover for bears.
- Livestock feed should not be left out overnight. Livestock pens should be located at least 50 yards from forest tree lines or other sources of cover for bears.



Protect Beehives with Electric Fencing



Example of Crop Damage

- Protect crops, beehives and small livestock by installing electric fencing if you live in an area with a large black bear population.
- Electric fencing is the most effective and efficient method of preventing bear damage to beehives, crops and livestock.
- Electric fencing should be simple and as strong as possible. Use a minimum voltage output of 3000 volts and use bait like bacon strips on the fence. Fencing is only effective if it is maintained.
- Detailed fencing and maintenance instructions are available at www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/bear/bearfacts_agriculturalists.pdf.
- The Wildlife Control Unit is also available to provide on-site assistance with fence construction techniques to anyone who is interested in installing electric fencing to prevent bear damage to beehives, crops and livestock.
- Depredation Permits are available to eligible farmers who are experiencing crop and livestock depredation by black bears. For more information, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Control Unit at (908) 735-8793.