

# 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.



# PURE HONEY

Distributed by or Produced for: (if not the producer)  
New Product Enterprises  
1212 Street Avenue  
Columbia, SC 29555

NET WT 22 OZ (622g)

♣ Conversion Factors: 1 ounce = 28.35 grams

♣ Nutritional Fact Panel is required for firms with 100 + employees and over 100,000 unit sales.

## The Four Basic Label Requirements (Fair Packaging & Labeling Act)

1. Statement of Identity (Product Name) *shall* be in **BOLD** print, type size *must* be comparable to the most prominent printed matter (larger than other type). Must be placed on **Principle Display Panel**.
2. \*\*\*Ingredients not needed if using pure honey.\*\*\*
3. Name and address of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor *shall* be added. Address *shall* include a **street address** (if not in a local directory), **city or town, state, and zip code**. Use the phrases "manufactured by", "manufactured for" (if company is not the original manufacturer), or "distributed by".
4. Net Weight *shall* be placed at the **bottom 1/3** of the **Principle Display Panel**, *shall* be in **both customary (pound, ounce, fluid ounce, etc.)**, and *shall* be in **metric (kilogram, gram, milliliter, etc.)** weights, and have a minimum type size of (see below) based on the area of the principle display panel.

### Minimum type size (inches)

1/16  
(Usually) **1/8**  
(Larger jars) **3/16**  
1/4

### Area of display panel (sq. inches)

5 sq. inches or less  
5 sq. inches – 25 sq. inches  
25 sq. inches – 100 sq. inches  
100 sq. inches – 400 sq. inches

\*The following is a list of weight measurements and conversions commonly used for honey

8 OZ. (226g)  
12 OZ. (340g)  
16 OZ. (453g)  
18 OZ. (510g)  
22 OZ. (623g)  
32 OZ. (907g)  
44 OZ. (1.24kg)

Links to FPLA can be found at <https://agriculture.sc.gov>



Hugh E. Weathers  
Commissioner

# State of South Carolina Department of Agriculture

## Laboratory and Consumer Services

Mailing Address  
PO Box 11280  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Physical Location  
123 Ballard Court  
W. Columbia, SC 29172  
Laboratory  
803.737.9700  
Consumer Services  
803.737.9690  
803.737.9703 (FX)  
www.agriculture.sc.gov

### APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION

BEE KEEPERS PRODUCING NO MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED GALLONS (4,800 POUNDS) OF HONEY ANNUALLY  
AND WHO ONLY SELL DIRECTLY TO THE END CONSUMER

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Name of Firm \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Pursuant to Section 39-25-20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AMENDED JUNE 1, 2011, above named Applicant certifies compliance with requirements for exemption from inspections, regulations requiring honey to be processed, extracted and packaged in an inspected food processing establishment, or from being required to obtain a Registration Verification Certificate (RVC) from the Department of Agriculture by verifying that no more than four hundred gallons (4800 pounds) of honey are produced annually and said honey is only sold directly to end consumers. Furthermore, labels are required on all containers of honey that are sold in South Carolina and must be in compliance with the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act.

(Please submit a copy of your sample label or proof of your current or proposed label for review. Please refer to sample "honey label" for Guidance. ALL email submissions must be in PDF format.)

When and if the conditions for this exemption are no longer met, Firm must apply for Registration Verification Certification (RVC).

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*For official use only*

\_\_\_ Labels reviewed and in compliance

\_\_\_ Exemption Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send application and label(s) to:

Angie Culler  
123 Ballard Court  
West Columbia, SC 29172

Email: [aculler@scda.sc.gov](mailto:aculler@scda.sc.gov)  
Phone: (803) 737-734-7321