

Quarterly Colony Loss

Project Code: 115

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United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Survey Overview

- Bee diseases and death loss have become a significant issue over the last few years
 - Some of the loss is due to unknown causes
- NASS doesn't measure losses and diseases on our annual Bee and Honey survey
- You'll be collecting important information on the extent and causes of loss and disease



Data Collection and Due Dates

- Mail Date
 - December 20
- Data Collection Begins
 - December 31
- Data Collection Ends
 - January 16
- Released in the *Honey Bee Colonies Report*
 - August 1 at 2:00 pm



Survey Overview

Beginning of Quarter	End of Quarter
October 1	December 31

- The Quarterly Colony Loss survey includes questions on the following:
 - The number of bee colonies owned by an operation
 - The number of colonies within each state that experienced a variety of specific symptoms



Survey Overview

- The Quarterly Colony Loss survey includes questions on the following:
 - All states the colonies were located in between Oct 1 and Dec 31
 - Total colonies in each state on Oct 1 or when they were first moved into the state after Oct 1
 - Number of colonies that were lost / dead out
 - Number of colonies that were requeened
 - Number of colonies that received nucs or packages
 - Number of colonies added (including splits, newly created, and replacement colonies)

Include all states colonies were in from Oct 1 – Dec 31



Survey Overview

- The Quarterly Colony Loss survey includes questions on the following:
 - Colony health (by state)
 - Varroa Mites
 - Other Pests and Parasites
 - Diseases
 - Pesticides
 - Other
 - Unknown
- Include all states reported in colony loss table
- Colonies affected by these health stressors can include those that were or were not ultimately lost**
- **Note: The combined total of these numbers may exceed the total number of colonies in a state**



Important

- **Attempt to make sure that survey results are consistent across the entire survey**
 - Ideally, the number of colonies that an operation owned on October 1 should be consistent with the reported sums of colonies that an operator had on October 1 within all reported states



Important

– Ideally, for each individual state, the sum of the values within columns 4, 5, and 6 within the table below should not exceed the value within column 3

Between October 1 and December 31, in which states were your colonies located? (EXCLUDE states that were only passed through to reach a destination state.)	Were these colonies located in this state on October 1? Check "No" if colonies were moved into the state between October 2 and December 31.	How many colonies did you have in this state on October 1 or when they were first moved into this state after October 1? (This is Column 3)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many were completely lost/dead out between October 1 and December 31? (This is Column 4)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many were requeened only? (EXCLUDE completely lost/dead out colonies reported in column 4.) (This is Column 5)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many received nucs or packages? (EXCLUDE completely lost/dead out colonies reported in column 4.) (This is Column 6)	How many new colonies did you add? (INCLUDE splits, newly created and replacement colonies. EXCLUDE colonies reported in columns 5 and 6.) (This is Column 7)	
Iowa	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Remove



Important

– Ideally, the number of colonies lost that experienced all four of the specified symptoms (left) should not exceed the sum of the total colonies completely lost/dead for all reported states (right).

1. Of the total colonies owned between October 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, did any lost colonies experience all of the following symptoms?

- Little to no build-up of dead bees in the hive or at the hive entrance
- Rapid loss of adult honey bee population despite the presence of queen, capped brood, and food reserves
- Absence or delayed robbing of the food reserves
- Loss not attributable to Varroa or Nosema loads

- Yes
- No
- No Loss
- Don't Know

a. How many colonies did you lose that experienced all of the symptoms in Item 1?

Between October 1 and December 31, in which states were your colonies located? (EXCLUDE states that were only passed through to reach a destination state.)	Were these colonies located in this state on October 1? Check "No" if colonies were moved into the state between October 1 and December 31.	How many colonies did you have in this state on October 1 or when they were first moved into this state after October 1? (This is Column 3)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many were completely lost/dead out between October 1 and December 31? (This is Column 4)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many were requeened only? (EXCLUDE completely lost/dead out colonies reported in column 4.) (This is Column 5)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many received nucs or packages? (EXCLUDE completely lost/dead out colonies reported in column 4.) (This is Column 6)	How many new colonies did you add? (INCLUDE splits, newly created and replacement colonies. EXCLUDE colonies reported in columns 5 and 6.) (This is Column 7)	
Iowa	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Remove



Important

Beginning Colonies (top left) – Lost Colonies (right) + Added Colonies (right) – Sold Colonies (bottom left) = End Colonies (top left)

- On , how many total colonies did this operation own, regardless of location?
 colonies
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 colonies

- a. Between and , did this operation sell or give away any of the colonies in column 3?
 EXCLUDE packages and nucs created specifically for sale.
- Yes No

- i. How many colonies from those reported in column 3 were sold or given away?

Between October 1 and December 31, in which states were your colonies located? (EXCLUDE states that were only passed through to reach a destination state.)	Were these colonies located in this state or October 1? Check "No" if colonies were moved into the state between October 2 and December 31.	How many colonies did you have in this state on October 1 or when they were first moved into this state after October 1? (This is Column 3)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many were completely lost/dead out between October 1 and December 31? (This is Column 4)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many were requeened only? (EXCLUDE completely lost/dead out colonies reported in column 4.) (This is Column 5)	Of the (column 3) colonies, how many received nucs or packages? (EXCLUDE completely lost/dead out colonies reported in column 4.) (This is Column 6)	How many new colonies did you add? (INCLUDE splits, newly created and replacement colonies. EXCLUDE colonies reported in columns 5 and 6.) (This is Column 7)	
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