



# NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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## Virginia Honey Bee Colonies

**Richmond, Virginia - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies** in Virginia as of January 1, 2016 totaled 6,500. This is 19 percent below the 8,000 colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 7,500, 8,000, and 7,500, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2016, were 1,100 colonies or 17 percent lost. The quarter of January-March 2015 had a loss of 2,500 colonies or 28 percent, the highest honey bee colonies loss of the five quarters. The quarter of April-June 2015, at 270 colonies or 4 percent, showed the least amount of lost honey bee colonies.

**Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2016 were 500 colonies. The quarter of April-June 2015 added 2,100 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added of the five quarters. The quarter of October-December 2015 added zero colonies, the lowest number of honey bee colonies added.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2016 were 130. This was the lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated of the five quarters. The number of colonies added during the quarter of January-March 2015 was 460, the highest number of honey bee colonies renovated. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.

**Varroa mites were the number one stressor** for operations with five or more colonies during each of the quarters surveyed. The quarter of January-March 2016 showed varroa mites at 32.7 percent. This was the highest percent of the five quarters. The quarter of January-March 2015, at 19.0 percent, was the lowest percentage.

### Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies in Virginia

Quarter	Number of colonies <sup>1</sup>	Maximum colonies <sup>2</sup>	Lost colonies	Percent lost <sup>3</sup>	Added colonies	Renovated colonies <sup>4</sup>	Percent renovated <sup>5</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Jan-Mar 15	8,000	9,000	2,500	28	800	460	5
Apr-Jun 15	7,500	7,500	270	4	2,100	430	6
Jul-Sep 15	8,000	8,000	680	9	520	220	3
Oct-Dec 15	7,500	7,500	750	10	0	350	5
Jan-Mar 16	6,500	6,500	1,100	17	500	130	2

<sup>1</sup> Number of colonies as of January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. <sup>2</sup> Number of colonies at the beginning of quarter plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter. <sup>3</sup> Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by maximum colonies. <sup>4</sup> Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package. <sup>5</sup> Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by maximum colonies.

National release: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/BeeColonies/2010s/2016/BeeColonies-05-12-2016.pdf>

National honey bee colony briefing: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive\\_Briefings/2016/05\\_12\\_2016.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive_Briefings/2016/05_12_2016.pdf)