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# News Release

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## Indiana Honey Bee Colony Inventory

Honey bee colonies in Indiana as of January 1, 2016 totaled 6,500 according to Greg Matli, State Statistician of the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office.<sup>1</sup> This is 28 percent below the 9,000 colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 8,000, 15,000, and 11,500, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost in Indiana during the quarter of January-March 2016 was 770 colonies, or 12 percent lost. This quarter showed the lowest number of loss. The quarter of January-March 2015 had a loss of 2,100 colonies or 22 percent, the highest loss of the five quarters surveyed.

Honey bee colonies added in Indiana during the quarter of January-March 2016 was 40 colonies. This quarter showed the least amount of honey bee colonies added. There were 4,900 colonies added during the April-June 2015 quarter, the highest number of honey bee colonies added of the five quarters in the state.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for Indiana. The quarter of January-March 2016 showed varroa mites at 17.4 percent of colonies affected. By comparison, the quarter of January-March 2015 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites at 20.7 percent of colonies affected.

Nationally, honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies as of January 1, 2016 totaled 2.59 million. This is 8 percent below the 2.82 million colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.85 million, 3.13 million, and 2.87 million, respectively. Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies was highest during the quarter of January-March 2015 and lowest during the quarter of April-June 2015.

Nationally, colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) symptoms peaked at 114 thousand colonies lost during January-March 2016. That same quarter a year ago showed 92.3 thousand colonies lost in the United States. Colonies with CCD loss were those that met all of the following criteria: 1) Little to no build-up of dead bees in the hive or at the hive entrance 2) Rapid loss of adult honey bee population despite the presence of queen, capped brood, and food reserves 3) Absence or delayed robbing of the food reserves 4) Loss not attributable to varroa or nosema loads.

<sup>1</sup>Includes operations with five or more colonies

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