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# News Release

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## Indiana Honey Bee Colony Inventory

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in Indiana as of January 1, 2017 totaled 7,000 according to Greg Matli, State Statistician of the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office. This is 8 percent above the 6,500 colonies on January 1, 2016. During 2016, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 4,300, 9,500, and 7,500, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for Indiana operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2017 was 1,900 colonies, or 25 percent lost. This quarter showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies. The quarter of April-June 2016 had a loss of 220 colonies or 3 percent, the lowest number of lost honey bee colonies of the five quarters.

Honey bee colonies added in Indiana for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2017 was 1,700 colonies. During the quarter of October-December there were no reports of honey bee colonies added. There were 2,700 colonies added during the April-June 2016 quarter, the highest number of honey bee colonies added of the five quarters in the state.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2017 was 70. The highest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter in Indiana, at 900, occurred during April-June 2016. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for Indiana operations with five or more colonies. The quarter of January-March 2017 showed 15.8 percent of colonies affected by varroa mites. The quarter of July-September 2016 showed the highest percentage of colonies affected by varroa mites at 50.4 percent.

Nationally, honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2017 totaled 2.62 million colonies, down slightly from January 1, 2016. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2017 was 2.89 million colonies. During 2016, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.62 million, 2.80 million, 3.18 million, and 3.03 million colonies, respectively.

Nationally, Honey bee colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms on operations with five or more colonies was 84.4 thousand colonies from January through March 2017. This is a 27 percent decrease from the same quarter of 2016. Colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder Symptoms were reported to meet 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

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