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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, 2018 totaled 7,000 according to Greg Matli, State Statistician, USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office. This number is unchanged from January 1, 2017. During 2017, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 7,500, 13,000, and 11,500, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for Indiana operations with five or more colonies during the quarter January-March 2018 was 1,000 colonies, or 13 percent. The quarter of April-June 2018 had a loss of 1,800 colonies or 20 percent.

Three hundred honey bee colonies were added in Indiana on operations with five or more colonies during the January-March 2018 quarter. During October-December 2017 quarter there were 320 honey bee colonies added.

Thirty honey bee colonies were renovated on operations with five or more colonies during the January-March 2018 quarter. The highest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter in 2017 in Indiana, at 730, occurred during April-June 2017. 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 2018 showed varroa mites stressing 33.4 percent of all colonies. The largest stressor in the April to July 2018 quarter was again varroa mites with 78.9 percent of all colonies affected.

Nationally, honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 2.63 million colonies, down slightly from January 1, 2017. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2018 was 2.69 million colonies. During 2017, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.64 million, 2.69 million, 2.99 million, and 2.85 million colonies, respectively.

Nationally, honey bee colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms on operations with five or more colonies was 77.8 thousand colonies from January through March 2018. This is a 15 percent increase from the same quarter of 2017. 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 noseema loads

Media Contact: Greg Matli · 765-494-8371

**P.O. Box 30239 · Lansing, MI 48909-9983
(517) 324-5300 · (855) 270-2709 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov**

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