



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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KANSAS HONEY BEE COLONIES

Manhattan, KS – Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in Kansas as of January 1, 2016 totaled 4.70 thousand. This is 2 percent above the 4.60 thousand colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 6.0 thousand, 9.0 thousand, and 8.50 thousand, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016, was 980 colonies or 21 percent lost. The quarter of October-December 2015 had a loss of 3.40 thousand colonies or 40 percent, the highest honey bee colonies loss of the most recent five quarters. The quarter of April-June 2015, at 670 colonies or 10 percent, showed the least amount of lost honey bee colonies.

Operations with five or more colonies added no colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016. The quarter of April-June 2015, added 2.80 thousand colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added of the five quarters.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016 was 200 colonies or 4 percent. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of January-March 2015 was 70 or 1 percent. The highest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter, at 420 or 6 percent, occurred during April-June 2015. The quarter of October-December 2015 renovated 20 colonies, the lowest of any quarter. 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 32.2 percent. The quarter of October-December 2015 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites at 44.5 percent affected.

Access the National publication for this release at:

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

Access the National Honey Bee Colony Briefing at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive_Briefings/2016/05_12_2016.pdf

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