



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2019 NEBRASKA HONEY BEE COLONIES

LINCOLN, Neb. August 1, 2019 - Data collection for July 2019 quarterly honey bee colonies has been suspended. Before deciding to suspend data collection, NASS reviewed its estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria as well as the amount of time remaining in the fiscal year to meet its budget and program requirements while maintaining the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture. Information about all NASS surveys and reports is available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in Nebraska as of January 1, 2019 totaled 13,500 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. During 2018, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 6,500, 10,500, 52,000, and 45,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2019, was 2,500 colonies or 15 percent lost. The quarter of July-September 2018, at 6,500 or 12 percent, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter in 2018. The quarter of January-March 2018 had a loss of 430 colonies or 3 percent, the lowest number of honey bee colonies lost in 2018.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2019, was 0 colonies. The quarter of July-September 2018, added 8,500 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter in 2018. The quarter of January-March 2018, at 0 added, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added during 2018.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2019, was 0 colonies. During July-September 2018, 5,000 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2018. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter of 2018, at 0, occurred during January-March 2018. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through a nuc or package.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during three of the four quarters of 2018. The quarter of July-September 2018 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites during 2018, at 24.1 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2019 was 32.3 percent.

Access the National publication for this release at:
<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/rn301137d>

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