



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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2020 NEBRASKA HONEY BEE COLONIES

LINCOLN, Neb. August 3, 2020 - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in Nebraska as of January 1, 2020 totaled 9,000 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of colonies in Nebraska on April 1, 2020 was 16,500. During 2019, honey bee colonies on January 1, July 1, and October 1 were 13,500, 40,000, and 37,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2020, was 670 colonies or 4% lost. During April-June 2020, 1,800 colonies or 5% of colonies were lost. The quarter of July-September 2019, at 3,700 or 9%, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter in 2019. The quarter of January-March 2019 had a loss of 2,500 colonies or 15%, the lowest number of honey bee colonies lost in 2019.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2020, was 70 colonies. The number of colonies added during the April-June 2020 quarter was 7,000. The quarter of July-September 2019, added 680 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter in 2019. The quarter of January-March 2019, at 0 added, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added during 2019.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2020, was 0 colonies. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2020 was 1,100. During July-September 2019, 1,400 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2019. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter of 2019, at 0, occurred during January-March 2019. 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 two of the quarters in 2019. The quarter of January-March 2019 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites during 2019, at 32.3%. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2020, and April-June 2020 were 2.2% and 15.8%, respectively.

Access the National publication for this release at:

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