



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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2022 NEBRASKA HONEY BEE COLONIES

LINCOLN, Neb. August 1, 2022 - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in Nebraska as of January 1, 2022 totaled 24,000 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of colonies in Nebraska on April 1, 2022 was 19,000. During 2021, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 11,000, 18,500, 45,000, and 43,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2022, was 840 colonies or 3% lost. During April-June 2022, 2,400 colonies or 5% of colonies were lost. The quarter of October-December 2021, at 7,500 or 17%, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter in 2021. The quarter of January-March 2021 had a loss of 640 colonies or 4%, the lowest number of honey bee colonies lost in 2021.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2022, was 30 colonies. The number of colonies added during the April-June 2022 quarter was 8,000. The quarter of April-June 2021 added 9,000 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter in 2021. The quarter of October-December 2021, at 10 added, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added during 2021.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2022, was 0 colonies. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2022 was 5,000. During July-September 2021, 1,800 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2021. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter of 2021, at 0, occurred during January-March 2021. 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 all quarters of 2021. The quarter of October-December 2021 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites during 2021, at 28.0%. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2022, and April-June 2022 were 3.2% and 26.6%, respectively.

Access the National publication for this release at:

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