



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Northern Plains Region  
100 Centennial Mall North, Room 263, Lincoln, NE 68508 • (800) 582-6443

[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Nicholas Streff  
(800) 582-6443  
[nicholas.streff@usda.gov](mailto:nicholas.streff@usda.gov)

## 2023 NEBRASKA HONEY BEE COLONIES

**LINCOLN, Neb. August 1, 2023 - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies** in Nebraska as of January 1, 2023 totaled 17,000 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of colonies in Nebraska on April 1, 2023 was 11,000. During 2022, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 24,000, 19,000, 51,000, and 29,000, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2023, was 1,100 colonies or 5% lost. During April-June 2023, 1,200 colonies or 4% of colonies were lost. The quarter of October-December 2022, at 5,500 or 12%, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter in 2022. The quarter of January-March 2022 had a loss of 840 colonies or 3%, the lowest number of honey bee colonies lost in 2022.

**Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2023, was 0 colonies. The number of colonies added during the April-June 2023 quarter was 10,000. The quarter of April-June 2022, added 11,000 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter in 2022. The quarter of January-March 2022, at 30 added, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added during 2022.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2023, was 0 colonies. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2023 was 1,900. During April-June 2022, 5,000 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2022. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter of 2022, at 0, occurred during January-March 2022. 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 of the quarters of 2022. The quarter of October-December 2022 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites during 2022, at 31.4%. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2023, and April-June 2023 were 8.2% and 26.8%, respectively.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/rn301137d>

*Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)*

###

*NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).*