



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NORTH DAKOTA HONEY BEE COLONIES

Fargo, ND – Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in North Dakota as of January 1, 2016 totaled 82.0 thousand according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is 44 percent above the 57.0 thousand colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 121 thousand, 460 thousand, and 230 thousand, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016, was 17.0 thousand colonies or 10 percent lost. The quarter of July-September 2015, at 93.0 thousand or 19 percent, showed the highest amount of lost honey bee colonies. The quarter of January-March 2015 had a loss of 620 colonies or 1 percent, the least honey bee colonies loss of the most recent five quarters.

Operations with five or more colonies added no colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016. The quarter of April-June 2015, added 39.0 thousand colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies.

Operations with five or more colonies renovated no colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of January-March 2015 was 530. The highest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter, at 61.0 thousand, occurred during April-June 2015. 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 July-September 2015 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites at 33.8 percent.

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 Executive Briefing at:

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

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