



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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2018 NORTH DAKOTA HONEY BEE COLONIES

FARGO, N.D. August 1, 2018 - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in North Dakota as of January 1, 2018 totaled 64,000 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of colonies in North Dakota on April 1, 2018 was 72,000. During 2017, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 50,000, 115,000, 470,000, and 410,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2018, was 3,200 colonies or 3 percent lost. During April-June 2018, 11,000 colonies or 3 percent of colonies were lost. The quarter of July-September 2017, at 48,000 or 10 percent, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter during 2017. The quarter of January-March 2017 had a loss of 640 colonies or 1 percent, the lowest number of honey bee colonies lost in 2017.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2018, was 2,600 colonies. The number of colonies added during the April-June 2018 quarter was 30,000. The quarter of April-June 2017, added 31,000 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter during 2017. The quarter of January-March 2017, at 1,100 added, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added in 2017.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2018, was 10 colonies. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2018 was 46,000. During July-September 2017, 100,000 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2017. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter, at 10, occurred during January-March 2017. 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 four quarters in 2017. The quarter of July-September 2017 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites in 2017, at 42 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2018, and April-June 2018 were 1.4 percent and 24.7 percent, respectively.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/BeeColonies/2010s/2018/BeeColonies-08-01-2018.pdf>

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