2021 NORTH DAKOTA HONEY BEE COLONIES

FARGO, N.D. August 2, 2021 - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in North Dakota as of January 1, 2021 totaled 51,000 according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of colonies in North Dakota on April 1, 2021 was 42,000. During 2020, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 53,000, 67,000, 455,000, and 445,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2021, was 180 colonies or less than one half of one percent lost. During April-June 2021, 4,400 colonies or 1% of colonies were lost. The quarter of July-September 2020, at 53,000 or 11%, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter during 2020. The quarter of January-March 2020 had a loss of 7,500 colonies or 9 percent, the lowest number of honey bee colonies lost in 2020.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2021, was 2,700 colonies. The number of colonies added during the April-June 2021 quarter was 4,800. The quarter of July-September 2020, added 57,000 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter during 2020. The quarter of January-March 2020, at 0 added, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added in 2020.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2021, was 0 colonies. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2021 was 3,500. During April-June 2020, 38,000 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2020. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter, at 0, occurred during both January-March 2020 and October-December 2020. Renovated colonies are those that were requueoned 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 three of the quarters in 2020. The quarter of July-September 2020 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites in 2020, at 61.3%. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2021, and April-June 2021 were less than one half of one percent and 29.9%, respectively.

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