



NR-18-39

# News Release

August 2, 2018

## Ohio Honey Bee Colony Inventory

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in Ohio as of January 1, 2018 totaled 12,000 according to Cheryl Turner, State Statistician, USDA, NASS, Ohio Field Office. This was 23 percent fewer colonies than on January 1, 2017. During 2017, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 13,500, 23,000, and 18,500, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations in Ohio with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2018 was 4,000 colonies, or 29 percent.

Honey bee colonies added for Ohio operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2018 was 300 colonies.

Honey bee colonies renovated in Ohio for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2018 was 580. The number of colonies renovated during the January-March 2017 quarter was 530 colonies. 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 all quarters of 2017. The quarter of July through September 2017 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 51.5 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2018 and April through June 2018 were 39.6 percent and 38.8 percent, respectively.

Nationally, honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 2.63 million colonies, down slightly from January 1, 2017. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2018 was 2.69 million colonies. During 2017, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.64 million, 2.69 million, 2.99 million, and 2.85 million colonies, respectively.

Nationally, honey bee colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms on operations with five or more colonies was 77.8 thousand colonies from January through March 2018. This is a 15 percent increase from the same quarter of 2017. Colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms were reported to meet all of the following criteria: 1) Little to no build-up of dead bees in the hive or at the hive entrance 2) Rapid loss of adult honey bee population despite the presence of queen, capped brood, and food reserves 3) Absence or delayed robbing of the food reserves 4) Loss not attributable to varroa or nosema loads.

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