



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE**  
**4050 Crums Mill Rd, Harrisburg PA 17112**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 May 18, 2016

Contact: Brook Ferris  
 (717) 787-3904

## January 1 Honey Bee Colonies in U.S. Down 8 Percent from a Year Earlier for Operations with Five or More Colonies

HARRISBURG, PA ---- The number of honey bee colonies in the U.S. on January 1, 2016 totaled 2.59 million for operations with at least five colonies, down from 2.82 million colonies a year earlier, according to King Whetstone, Director of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Northeastern Regional Field Office. The U.S. honey bee colony inventories on April 1, July 1, and October 1 in 2015 were 2.85 million, 3.13 million, and 2.87 million, respectively, for operations with five or more colonies.

Honey bee colony loss in the U.S. during January-March 2016 for operations with at least five colonies totaled 429 thousand colonies, or 17 percent of the colonies at the start of the quarter for such operations. The January-March 2015 colony loss number for the U.S. was 500 thousand colonies, or 18 percent of the colonies at the start of that quarter. This was the highest quarterly percentage loss in 2015.

The number of honey bee colonies added in the U.S. during January-March 2016 by operations with five or more colonies was 378 thousand, compared with the 547 thousand colonies added during the same quarter in 2015. The April-June 2015 quarter had the highest quarterly number of added colonies last year, at 662 thousand.

Renovated honey bee colonies totaled 158 thousand in the U.S. during January-March 2016 for operations with at least five colonies, or 6 percent of the colonies at the start of the quarter for such operations. In 2015, the April-June quarter had the highest quarterly percentage of starting colonies that were renovated, at 24 percent.

Varroa mites were the leading honey bee colony stressor in the U.S. during January-March 2016 and during all four quarters of 2015.

Please see the tables below for detailed quarterly statistics for the eight published Northeastern Region states (CT, ME, MD, MA, NJ, NY, PA, and VT) and the U.S. Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

These are the first published statistics on honey bee colony loss from the National Agricultural Statistics Service. NASS conducted the Colony Loss Survey for the first time in 2015. The survey collects information required by the White House Pollinator Health Task Force's National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators. It provides a statistical benchmark on colony numbers and death loss.

The Honey Bee Colonies report and all other NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

### January - March 2016

#### **Colony Inventory and Lost, Added, and Renovated Colonies for Operations with Five or More Colonies, January-March 2016, Published Northeastern States and the United States**

State <sup>1</sup>	January 1, 2016 Number of Colonies	January-March 2016					
		Maximum Colonies <sup>2</sup>	Lost Colonies	Percentage Lost <sup>3</sup>	Added Colonies	Renovated Colonies <sup>4</sup>	Percentage Renovated <sup>5</sup>
Connecticut	2,700	2,700	270	10	70	10	(Z)
Maine	2,200	3,700	170	5	-	-	-
Maryland	6,500	6,500	1,400	22	40	20	(Z)
Massachusetts	3,000	3,000	370	12	120	330	11
New Jersey	8,500	8,500	1,000	12	80	40	1
New York	31,000	31,000	4,000	13	140	1,400	5
Pennsylvania	12,500	12,500	2,900	23	220	340	3
Vermont	5,500	5,500	410	8	-	-	-
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,594,590</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>428,800</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>378,160</b>	<b>158,050</b>	<b>6</b>

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> January 1 number of colonies plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter.

<sup>3</sup> Number of colonies lost divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage lost is the number of lost colonies divided by January 1 number of colonies.

<sup>4</sup> Surviving colonies that were requeened or received new honey bees through nucs or packages.

<sup>5</sup> Number of renovated colonies divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by January 1 number of colonies.

**Percentages of Colonies Affected by Health Stressors for Operations with Five or More Colonies<sup>1</sup>, January-March 2016, Published Northeastern States and the United States**

State <sup>2</sup>	Varroa Mites	Other Pests and Parasites <sup>3</sup>	Diseases <sup>4</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>5</sup>	Unknown
Connecticut	12.3	0.8	0.2	(Z)	7.7	1.7
Maine	3.3	0.4	0.3	(Z)	0.8	1.4
Maryland	30.2	0.1	(Z)	11.0	7.8	0.8
Massachusetts	10.1	5.2	0.7	(Z)	3.1	1.1
New Jersey	5.5	0.8	0.2	0.4	1.2	8.2
New York	27.5	5.9	1.5	7.6	9.5	2.6
Pennsylvania	44.8	4.3	0.3	3.8	5.5	4.6
Vermont	1.3	(Z)	0.3	(Z)	0.5	1.7
<b>United States</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Percentages of colonies affected by stressors anytime during the quarter. A colony may be affected by multiple stressors during a quarter.

<sup>2</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Tracheal mites, noseema, hive beetles, wax moths, etc.

<sup>4</sup> American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sacbrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damaged/destroyed, etc.

**January - March 2015**

**Colony Inventory and Lost, Added, and Renovated Colonies for Operations with Five or More Colonies, January-March 2015, Published Northeastern States and the United States**

State <sup>1</sup>	January 1, 2015 Number of Colonies	January-March 2015					
		Maximum Colonies <sup>2</sup>	Lost Colonies	Percentage Lost <sup>3</sup>	Added Colonies	Renovated Colonies <sup>4</sup>	Percentage Renovated <sup>5</sup>
Connecticut	3,900	3,900	870	22	290	-	-
Maine	3,100	6,500	380	6	20	-	-
Maryland	7,500	10,000	4,100	41	1,600	870	9
Massachusetts	2,900	4,600	1,000	22	260	120	3
New Jersey	6,000	9,000	1,100	12	570	1,600	18
New York	27,000	30,000	6,500	22	430	950	3
Pennsylvania	14,000	21,000	6,500	31	360	-	-
Vermont	5,500	5,500	700	13	1,200	20	(Z)
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,824,610</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>500,020</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>546,980</b>	<b>270,530</b>	<b>10</b>

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> January 1 number of colonies plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter.

<sup>3</sup> Number of colonies lost divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage lost is the number of lost colonies divided by January 1 number of colonies.

<sup>4</sup> Surviving colonies that were requeened or received new honey bees through nucs or packages.

<sup>5</sup> Number of renovated colonies divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by January 1 number of colonies.

**Percentages of Colonies Affected by Health Stressors for Operations with Five or More Colonies<sup>1</sup>, January-March 2015, Published Northeastern States and the United States**

State <sup>2</sup>	Varroa Mites	Other Pests and Parasites <sup>3</sup>	Diseases <sup>4</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>5</sup>	Unknown
Connecticut	2.5	1.4	(Z)	(Z)	21.2	2.4
Maine	4.4	0.1	(Z)	(Z)	7.5	1.9
Maryland	10.1	1.8	0.4	(Z)	24.2	12.4
Massachusetts	23.5	3.5	2.1	2.8	7.6	4.7
New Jersey	40.1	13.2	30.4	11.1	19.5	16.7
New York	7.6	2.6	0.5	4.4	12.4	8.3
Pennsylvania	28.1	6.3	1.9	1.9	17.8	6.3
Vermont	2.3	5.6	(Z)	(Z)	5.8	4.9
<b>United States</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Percentages of colonies affected by stressors anytime during the quarter. A colony may be affected by multiple stressors during a quarter.

<sup>2</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Tracheal mites, noseema, hive beetles, wax moths, etc.

<sup>4</sup> American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sacbrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damaged/destroyed, etc.

## April - June 2015

### Colony Inventory and Lost, Added, and Renovated Colonies for Operations with Five or More Colonies, April-June 2015, Published Northeastern States and the United States

State <sup>1</sup>	April 1, 2015 Number of Colonies	April-June 2015					
		Maximum Colonies <sup>2</sup>	Lost Colonies	Percentage Lost <sup>3</sup>	Added Colonies	Renovated Colonies <sup>4</sup>	Percentage Renovated <sup>5</sup>
Connecticut	3,000	3,000	80	3	1,100	150	5
Maine	4,600	30,000	3,200	11	3,500	700	2
Maryland	8,000	11,000	370	3	2,600	710	7
Massachusetts	4,100	14,000	320	2	940	510	4
New Jersey	8,500	19,000	1,800	10	2,100	2,900	15
New York	24,000	34,000	1,100	3	11,000	1,500	4
Pennsylvania	15,500	19,000	1,600	8	8,500	2,600	14
Vermont	6,000	6,000	100	2	580	50	1
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,849,500</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>352,860</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>661,860</b>	<b>692,850</b>	<b>24</b>

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> April 1 number of colonies plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter.

<sup>3</sup> Number of colonies lost divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage lost is the number of lost colonies divided by April 1 number of colonies.

<sup>4</sup> Surviving colonies that were requeened or received new honey bees through nucs or packages.

<sup>5</sup> Number of renovated colonies divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by April 1 number of colonies.

### Percentages of Colonies Affected by Health Stressors for Operations with Five or More Colonies<sup>1</sup>, April-June 2015, Published Northeastern States and the United States

State <sup>2</sup>	Varroa Mites	Other Pests and Parasites <sup>3</sup>	Diseases <sup>4</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>5</sup>	Unknown
Connecticut	10.2	0.4	1.9	0.8	1.0	0.7
Maine	72.1	34.5	0.1	34.5	0.5	0.1
Maryland	4.9	1.3	0.2	2.5	1.6	1.5
Massachusetts	66.8	61.7	0.2	61.8	4.4	3.1
New Jersey	52.5	3.6	0.3	26.1	1.0	2.4
New York	19.1	12.5	4.5	4.4	3.3	1.1
Pennsylvania	11.4	5.8	2.6	1.6	6.7	2.1
Vermont	3.7	1.9	0.1	(Z)	1.3	0.1
<b>United States</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Percentages of colonies affected by stressors anytime during the quarter. A colony may be affected by multiple stressors during a quarter.

<sup>2</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Tracheal mites, nosema, hive beetles, wax moths, etc.

<sup>4</sup> American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sacbrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damaged/destroyed, etc.

## July - September 2015

### Colony Inventory and Lost, Added, and Renovated Colonies for Operations with Five or More Colonies, July-September 2015, Published Northeastern States and the United States

State <sup>1</sup>	July 1, 2015 Number of Colonies	July-September 2015					
		Maximum Colonies <sup>2</sup>	Lost Colonies	Percentage Lost <sup>3</sup>	Added Colonies	Renovated Colonies <sup>4</sup>	Percentage Renovated <sup>5</sup>
Connecticut	3,700	3,700	50	1	190	440	12
Maine	6,000	6,000	450	8	410	140	2
Maryland	7,000	7,500	680	9	730	70	1
Massachusetts	7,500	7,500	560	8	290	400	5
New Jersey	18,500	18,500	210	1	190	500	3
New York	44,000	47,000	6,500	14	4,400	7,000	15
Pennsylvania	25,000	25,000	1,800	7	1,800	2,400	10
Vermont	6,000	6,500	40	1	30	20	(Z)
<b>United States</b>	<b>3,132,880</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>457,100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>172,990</b>	<b>303,070</b>	<b>10</b>

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> July 1 number of colonies plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter.

<sup>3</sup> Number of colonies lost divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage lost is the number of lost colonies divided by July 1 number of colonies.

<sup>4</sup> Surviving colonies that were requeened or received new honey bees through nucs or packages.

<sup>5</sup> Number of renovated colonies divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by July 1 number of colonies.

**Percentages of Colonies Affected by Health Stressors for Operations with Five or More Colonies<sup>1</sup>, July-September 2015, Published Northeastern States and the United States**

State <sup>2</sup>	Varroa Mites	Other Pests and Parasites <sup>3</sup>	Diseases <sup>4</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>5</sup>	Unknown
Connecticut	39.3	1.2	0.4	1.5	7.8	(Z)
Maine	9.9	3.4	13.2	(Z)	2.6	7.8
Maryland	26.9	19.1	2.9	22.8	7.1	2.0
Massachusetts	16.3	2.9	0.4	2.1	2.5	0.3
New Jersey	7.2	1.0	0.1	(Z)	1.1	0.7
New York	40.0	14.3	5.7	17.1	8.8	1.5
Pennsylvania	45.1	11.3	3.7	5.1	7.2	0.8
Vermont	22.7	0.5	(Z)	(Z)	0.4	(Z)
<b>United States</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Percentages of colonies affected by stressors anytime during the quarter. A colony may be affected by multiple stressors during a quarter.

<sup>2</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Tracheal mites, noseema, hive beetles, wax moths, etc.

<sup>4</sup> American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sacbrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damaged/destroyed, etc.

**October - December 2015**

**Colony Inventory and Lost, Added, and Renovated Colonies for Operations with Five or More Colonies, October-December 2015, Published Northeastern States and the United States**

State <sup>1</sup>	October 1, 2015 Number of Colonies	October-December 2015					
		Maximum Colonies <sup>2</sup>	Lost Colonies	Percentage Lost <sup>3</sup>	Added Colonies	Renovated Colonies <sup>4</sup>	Percentage Renovated <sup>5</sup>
Connecticut	3,200	3,200	210	7	40	70	2
Maine	4,700	4,700	60	1	530	20	(Z)
Maryland	7,500	9,500	730	8	-	-	-
Massachusetts	4,500	4,500	260	6	30	30	1
New Jersey	8,000	8,500	270	3	20	10	(Z)
New York	45,000	45,000	4,000	9	260	10	(Z)
Pennsylvania	22,000	23,000	2,500	11	1,300	6,500	28
Vermont	6,500	6,500	940	15	10	10	(Z)
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,874,760</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>412,380</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>117,150</b>	<b>158,790</b>	<b>6</b>

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island are not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>2</sup> October 1 number of colonies plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter.

<sup>3</sup> Number of colonies lost divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage lost is the number of lost colonies divided by October 1 number of colonies.

<sup>4</sup> Surviving colonies that were requeened or received new honey bees through nucs or packages.

<sup>5</sup> Number of renovated colonies divided by maximum number of colonies, except for United States, where percentage renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by October 1 number of colonies.

**Percentages of Colonies Affected by Health Stressors for Operations with Five or More Colonies<sup>1</sup>, October-December 2015, Published Northeastern States and the United States**

State <sup>2</sup>	Varroa Mites	Other Pests and Parasites <sup>3</sup>	Diseases <sup>4</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>5</sup>	Unknown
Connecticut	10.5	1.7	0.5	1.1	3.4	2.0
Maine	18.0	0.2	(Z)	(Z)	0.1	0.4
Maryland	5.6	2.0	0.1	(Z)	0.2	4.3
Massachusetts	31.4	1.6	6.2	1.9	2.6	1.1
New Jersey	7.7	2.2	(Z)	0.4	0.4	1.2
New York	24.5	2.2	0.8	0.9	0.4	6.2
Pennsylvania	32.2	4.3	1.0	0.3	0.8	1.0
Vermont	57.1	16.8	0.9	0.6	0.4	15.6
<b>United States</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.9</b>

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<sup>5</sup> Weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damaged/destroyed, etc.

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