



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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SOUTH DAKOTA HONEY BEE COLONIES

Sioux Falls, SD – Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in South Dakota as of January 1, 2016 totaled 30.0 thousand according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is 40 percent below the 50.0 thousand colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 100 thousand, 295 thousand, and 194 thousand, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016, was 770 colonies or 1 percent lost. This is the least honey bee colonies loss of the most recent five quarters. The quarter of July-September 2015, at 53.0 thousand or 18 percent, showed the highest amount of lost honey bee colonies.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016 was 30 colonies. This is the least amount of honey bee colonies added of the most recent five quarters. The quarter of April-June 2015, added 27.0 thousand colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added.

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 2.80 thousand. The highest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter, at 23.0 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 22 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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