



# NEWS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## 2019 SOUTH DAKOTA HONEY BEE COLONIES

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D. August 1, 2019** – Data collection for July 2019 quarterly honey bee colonies has been suspended. Before deciding to suspend data collection, NASS reviewed its estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria as well as the amount of time remaining in the fiscal year to meet its budget and program requirements while maintaining the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture. Information about all NASS surveys and reports is available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

**Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies** in South Dakota as of January 1, 2019 totaled 18,500 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. During 2018, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 23,000, 10,000, 168,000, and 140,000, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2019, was 1,100 colonies or 6 percent lost. The quarter of July-September 2018, at 22,000 or 11 percent, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter during 2018. The quarter of January-March 2018 had a loss of 390 colonies or 1 percent, the lowest number of honey bee colonies lost in 2018.

**Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2019, was 0 colonies. The quarter of April-June 2018, added 12,500 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter in 2018. The quarter of January-March 2018, at 250, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added during 2018.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2019, was 0 colonies. During April-June 2018, 65,000 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2018. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter, at 90, occurred during January-March 2018. 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 2018. The quarter of April-June 2018 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites in 2018, at 55.1 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2019 were 0.8 percent.

Access the National publication for this release at:  
<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/rn301137d>

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