



# NEWS RELEASE

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**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
**West Virginia Field Office**  
1900 Kanawha Blvd E  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305



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Contact: Charmaine Wilson  
(304) 357-5126

## West Virginia Honey Bee Colonies

**Charleston, West Virginia - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2020 totaled 6,000, up 20 percent from January 1, 2019. The number of colonies in the State on April 1, 2020 was 7,500. During 2019, honey bee colonies on January 1, July 1, and October 1 were 5,000, 10,000 and 7,500, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** from January-March 2020, were 1,100 colonies, or 14 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April-June 2020 was 570 colonies, or 8 percent. During the quarter of October-December 2019, colonies lost totaled 1,500 colonies, or 19 percent, the highest of any quarter surveyed in 2019. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the lowest number of colonies lost was July-September, with 1,100 colonies lost, or 11 percent.

**Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies** from January-March 2020 were 450 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April-June 2020 was 1,600 colonies. During the quarter of July-September 2019, 200 colonies were added, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2019. The quarter of January-March 2019 added 20 colonies, the lowest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2019.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** from January-March 2020 were 680, or 9 percent. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2020 was 1,500 colonies, or 20 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the highest number of colonies renovated was October-December with 1,600 colonies renovated, or 20 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was January-March, with 60 colonies renovated, or one percent. 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 surveyed in 2019. The quarter of October-December 2019 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 65.8 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2020 and April-June 2020 was 17.3 percent and 46.2 percent respectively.

### Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies in West Virginia

Quarter	Number of colonies	Maximum colonies <sup>1</sup>	Lost colonies	Percent lost <sup>2</sup>	Added colonies	Renovated colonies <sup>3</sup>	Percent renovated <sup>4</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Jan-Mar 19	5,000	7,000	1,300	19	20	60	1
Apr-Jun 19 <sup>5</sup>	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Jul-Sep 19	10,000	10,000	1,100	11	200	1,100	11
Oct-Dec 19	7,500	8,000	1,500	19	30	1,600	20
Jan-Mar 20	6,000	8,000	1,100	14	450	680	9
Apr-Jun 20	7,500	7,500	570	8	1,600	1,500	20

<sup>1</sup> Number of colonies at the beginning of quarter plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter. <sup>2</sup> Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by maximum colonies. <sup>3</sup> Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package. <sup>4</sup> Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by maximum colonies. <sup>5</sup> Data collection for July 2019 quarterly honey bee colonies was suspended. April 1 colonies plus all colonies moved during the quarter. (NA) not available.

**United States - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies** in the United States on January 1, 2020 totaled 2.88 million colonies, up 8 percent from January 1, 2019. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2020 was 2.98 million colonies. During 2019, honey bee colonies on January 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.67 million, 3.18 million, and 3.02 million colonies, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** from January through March 2020, was 399,570 colonies, or 14 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2020 was 252,630 colonies, or 8 percent. During the quarter of July through September 2019, colonies lost totaled 434,700 colonies, or 14 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2019. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the lowest number of colonies lost was October through December, with 399,510 colonies lost, or 13 percent.

**Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies** from January through March 2020 was 477,200 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April through June 2020 was 596,860. During the quarter of July through September 2019, 252,550 colonies were added, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2019. The quarter of October through December 2019 added 233,260 colonies, the least number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2019.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** from January through March 2020 was 153,390 colonies, or 5 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2020, 632,680 colonies, or 21 percent, were renovated. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the highest number of colonies renovated was July through September with 355,330 colonies renovated, or 11 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October through December 2019, with 91,000, or 3 percent. 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 quarters surveyed in 2019. The quarter of October through December 2019 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 45.7 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2020 and April through June 2020 are 25.5 percent and 42.3 percent respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms on operations with five or more colonies** was 105,240 colonies from January through March 2020. This is a 76 percent increase from the same quarter of 2019.