



# NEWS RELEASE



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**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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## 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, 2022 totaled 5,500, down 21 percent from January 1, 2021. The number of colonies in the State on April 1, 2022 was 5,000. During 2021, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 7,000, 8,000, 8,000 and 7,500, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** from January-March 2022, were 1,000 colonies, or 18 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April-June 2022 was 260 colonies, or 3 percent. During the quarter of January-March 2021, colonies lost totaled 1,200, or 13 percent, the highest of any quarter surveyed in 2021. The quarter surveyed in 2021 with the lowest number of colonies lost was April-June, with 170 colonies lost, or 2 percent.

**Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies** from January-March 2022 were 420 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April-June 2022 was 2,400 colonies. During the quarter of April-June 2021, 1,900 colonies were added, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2021. The quarter of October-December 2021 added 10 colonies, the lowest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2021.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** from January-March 2022 were 200, or 4 percent. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2022 was 2,600 colonies, or 35 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2021 with the highest number of colonies renovated was January-March with 460 colonies renovated, or 5 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2021 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October-December, with 100 colonies renovated, or 1 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 2021. The quarter of July-September 2021 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 24.7 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2022 and April-June 2022 was 15.8 percent and 13.1 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 21	7,000	9,000	1,200	13	200	460	5
Apr-Jun 21	8,000	9,000	170	2	1,900	390	4
Jul-Sep 21	8,000	8,000	570	7	320	220	3
Oct-Dec 21	7,500	7,500	560	7	10	100	1
Jan-Mar 22	5,500	5,500	1,000	18	420	200	4
Apr-Jun 22	5,000	7,500	260	3	2,400	2,600	35

<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.

**United States - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies** in the United States on January 1, 2022 totaled 2.88 million colonies, down 1 percent from January 1, 2021. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2022, was 2.92 million colonies. During 2021, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.90 million, 2.83 million, 3.17 million, and 3.09 million colonies, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** from January through March 2022, was 331,780 colonies, or 12 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2022, was 282,630 colonies, or 10 percent. During the quarter of January through March 2021, colonies lost totaled 464,640 colonies, or 16 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2021. The quarter surveyed in 2021 with the lowest number of colonies lost was July through September, with 295,660 colonies lost, or 9 percent.

**Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies** from January through March 2022 was 367,890 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April through June 2022 was 589,630. During the quarter of April through June 2021, the number of colonies added were 665,730 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2021. The quarter of October through December 2021 added 93,940 colonies, the least number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2021.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** from January through March 2022 was 187,180 colonies, or 7 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2022, the number of colonies renovated were 492,410 colonies, or 17 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2021 with the highest number of colonies renovated was April through June 2021 with 475,750 colonies renovated, or 17 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2021 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October through December 2021, with 146,520, or 5 percent. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through a nucleus (nuc) colony or package.

**Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies** during all quarters surveyed in 2021. The period with the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites was April through June 2021 at 50.7 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2022 and April through June 2022 are 33.7 percent and 45.2 percent, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms on operations with five or more colonies** was 86,070 colonies from January through March 2022. This represents a 12 percent increase from the same quarter in 2021.