



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2016

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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, 2016 totaled 6,500. This is 38 percent above the 4,700 colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 4,700, 7,000, and 7,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016, were 1,700 colonies or 23 percent lost. The quarter of January-March 2015 had a loss of 1,800 colonies or 30 percent, the highest honey bee colonies loss of the five quarters. The quarter of July-September 2015, at 300 colonies or 4 percent, showed the least amount of lost honey bee colonies.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016 were zero colonies. This is the lowest number of colonies added during the five quarters. The quarter of April-June 2015, added 2,900 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added of the five quarters.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016 were 10. This is the lowest number of colonies renovated during the five quarters. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2015 was 590, the highest number of honey bee colonies renovated. 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 January-March 2016 showed varroa mites at 21.9 percent. This was the highest percent of varroa mites during the five quarters. The quarter of April-June 2015, at 15.6 percent, showed the least amount of varroa mites.

United States - Honey bee colonies for operations with less than five colonies in the United States on January 1, 2015 were 50.0 thousand. Honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1, 2015 were 43.0 thousand, 52.0 thousand, and 49.0 thousand, respectively. Unknown colony health stressors (includes weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damage/destroyed, etc.), at 20.8 percent, were the highest for operations with less than five colonies during 2015. Varroa mites were the next ranked stressor at 19.8 percent.

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

Quarter	Number of colonies ¹	Maximum colonies	Lost colonies	Percent lost ²	Added colonies	Renovated colonies ³	Percent renovated ⁴
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Jan-Mar 15	4,700	6,000	1,800	30	570	60	1
Apr-Jun 15	4,700	4,700	570	12	2,900	590	13
Jul-Sep 15	7,000	7,000	300	4	300	270	4
Oct-Dec 15	7,000	7,000	610	9	190	140	2
Jan-Mar 16	6,500	7,500	1,700	23	0	10	<1

¹ Number of colonies at the beginning of quarter plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter. ² Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by maximum colonies. ³ Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package. ⁴ Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by maximum colonies.

National release: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/BeeColonies/2010s/2016/BeeColonies-05-12-2016.pdf>

National honey bee colony briefing: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive_Briefings/2016/05_12_2016.pdf