United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Wisconsin Ag News – Honey Bee Colonies

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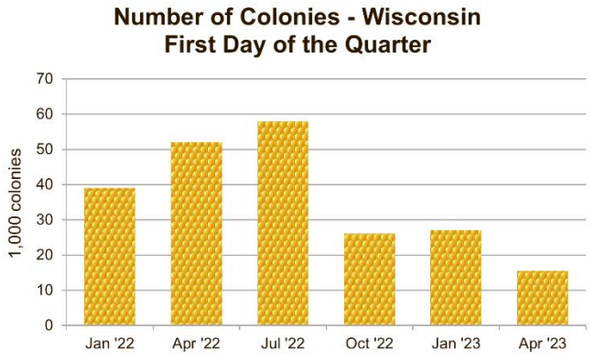
August 1, 2023 - For Immediate Release *Media Contact: Greg Bussler*

Honey bee colonies for operations with 5 or more colonies in Wisconsin as of January 1, 2023, totaled 27,000 colonies. This was down 31 percent from 39,000 colonies on January 1 last year but up 4 percent from 26,000 colonies during the October-December 2022 quarter. The maximum number of colonies during the January-March 2023 quarter was 29,000.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with 5 or more colonies for the January-March 2023 quarter was 3,300, or 11 percent. This was up 6 percentage points from the same period last year and up 4 percentage points from losses reported during the October-December 2022 quarter.

Varroa mites was the number one stressor for operations with 5 or more colonies in all of 2022.



Honey Bee Colonies – Wisconsin: 2022-2023

[Operations with 5 or more colonies.]

	First of the quarter number of colonies[1]	Maximum colonies[2]	Lost colonies	Percent lost[3]	Added colonies	Renovated colonies[4]	Percent renovated[5]
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Jan-Mar 2022 ..	39,000	53,000	2,800	5	1,400	240	(Z)
Apr-Jun 2022 ...	52,000	62,000	1,600	3	7,000	1,300	2
Jul-Sep 2022 ...	58,000	58,000	14,000	24	4,400	8,000	14
Oct-Dec 2022 ..	26,000	47,000	3,500	7	140	380	1
Jan-Mar 2023 ..	27,000	29,000	3,300	11	1,400	270	1
Apr-Jun 2023 ...	15,500	52,000	570	1	4,900	1,300	3

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.
[1] Number of colonies in the state as of the first day of the quarter.
[2] Number of colonies in the state on the first day of the quarter plus all colonies moved into state during the quarter.
[3] Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by the maximum colonies.
[4] Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.
[5] Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by the maximum colonies.

Colony Health – Wisconsin: 2022-2023

	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites[1]	Diseases[2]	Pesticides	Other[3]	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Jan-Mar 2022 ...	7.9	(Z)	(Z)	6.5	2.0	0.5
Apr-Jun 2022	26.9	14.6	4.9	11.8	9.6	6.0
Jul-Sep 2022	20.4	7.9	7.2	6.7	5.0	6.9
Oct-Dec 2022 ...	23.2	21.4	19.4	17.5	9.9	11.7
Jan-Mar 2023 ...	15.0	0.9	0.8	0.5	2.7	7.2
Apr-Jun 2023	67.2	9.8	47.8	49.2	48.1	46.8

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.
[1] Tracheal mites, nosea, hive beetle, wax moths, etc.
[2] Includes American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sabrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.
[3] Includes weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damage/destroyed, etc.

UNITED STATES HONEY BEE COLONIES

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2023, totaled 2.68 million colonies, down 7 percent from January 1, 2022. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2023, was 2.71 million colonies. During 2022, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.88 million, 2.91 million, 3.11 million, and 2.89 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023, was 373,880 colonies, or 14 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2023, was 237,350 colonies, or 9 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2022, colonies lost totaled 363,570 colonies, or 13 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2022. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies lost was January through March, with 331,480 colonies lost, or 12 percent.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023 was 384,790 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April through June 2023 was 596,360. During the quarter of April through June 2022, the number of colonies added were 573,160 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2022. The quarter of July through September 2022 added 152,640 colonies, the least number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2022.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023 was 113,440 colonies, or 4 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2023, the number of colonies renovated were 478,440 colonies, or 18 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the highest number of colonies renovated was April through June 2022 with 494,890 colonies renovated, or 17 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October through December 2022, with 147,950, 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 2022. The period with the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites was April through June 2022 at 47.5 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2023 and April through June 2023 are 39.7 percent and 50.9 percent, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms on operations with five or more colonies was 107,630 colonies from January through March 2023. This represents a 25 percent increase from the same quarter in 2022.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.