



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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2023 KANSAS HONEY BEE COLONIES

MANHATTAN, Kan. August 1, 2023 - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in Kansas as of January 1, 2023 totaled 3,300 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of colonies in Kansas on April 1, 2023 was 2,600. During 2022, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 4,000, 4,800, 7,000, and 6,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies, during the quarter of January-March 2023, was 490 colonies or 13% lost. During the quarter of April-June 2023, 340 colonies or 10% of colonies were lost. The 2022 July-September quarter showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter in 2022, at 1,000, or 14%. The quarter in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies lost was January-March, with 520 colonies lost, or 10%.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies, during the quarter of January-March 2023, was 940 colonies. The number of colonies added during the April-June 2023 quarter was 1,500. The quarter of April-June 2022, added 5,500 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter in 2022. The quarter of October-December 2022, at 100 added, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter in 2022.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies, during the quarter of January-March 2023, was 20 colonies. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2023 was 360. During April-June 2022, 580 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2022. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter in 2022, at 60, occurred during January-March 2022. 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 of the quarters of 2022. The quarter of October-December 2022 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites in 2022, at 70.0%. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2023, and April-June 2023 were 20.9% and 35.5%, respectively.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/rn301137d>

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