



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## 2024 SOUTH DAKOTA HONEY BEE COLONIES

**SIoux FALLS, S.D. August 1, 2024 - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies** in South Dakota as of January 1, 2024 totaled 68,000 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of colonies in South Dakota on April 1, 2024 was 16,500. During 2023, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 93,000, 13,000, 141,000, and 182,000, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2024, was 2,000 colonies or 3% lost. During April-June 2024, 5,500 colonies or 3% of colonies were lost. The quarter of July-September 2023, at 20,000 or 10%, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter during 2023. The quarter of January-March 2023 had a loss of 2,200 colonies or 2%, the lowest number of honey bee colonies lost in 2023.

**Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2024, was 40 colonies. The number of colonies added during the April-June 2024 quarter was 16,500. The quarter of April-June 2023 added 11,500 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter in 2023. The quarter of January-March 2023, at 0, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added during 2023.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2024, was 50 colonies. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2024 was 1,900. During April-June 2023, 26,000 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2023. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter, at 0, occurred during January-March 2023. 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 in 2023. The quarter of October-December 2023 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites in 2023, at 52.7%. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2024 and April-June 2024 were 42.9% and 70.0%, respectively.

Access the National publication for this release at:

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