

Results from Pa State Beekeepers Winter Loss Survey 2021

The number do not always come out to the total responses, as some questions could have multiple choices and some people did not answer each question.

We had 951 total responses. That was 12 less than last year, but still exceptional.

- 451 were members of the State association , 500 were not.
- 7445 colonies went into November and 3677 were alive this Spring ,about 50.6% loss

Cause of death was listed as: (Multiple choices could be made)

- Unknown by 439 beekeepers
- Too small cluster 272
- Mites 216
- Queen failure 125
- Starvation 114
- Nosema 11
- No Loss (all survived) 124

655 beekeepers provided supplemental feed, 296 did not

- Fondant or sugar candy 363
- Dry sugar 172
- Honey from own stock 169
- Pollen substitute 129
- Sugar syrup 120
- Pollen from own stock 21
- Commercial supplements 59
- Other 17
- Probiotics 12
- High Fructose Corn Syrup 5

682 monitor for mites 269 did not

- Alcohol wash 224
- Sugar roll 213
- Drone brood inspection 124
- 48 hour drop (sticky board) 123
- Other 87

721 used some type of mite treatment 230 did not

Treatments used were:

- Formic acid 333
- Oxalic acid (vapor) 306
- Apivar 141
- Oxalic acid (dribble) 78
- Other 64
- Hopguard 48
- Apistan 21
- Apilife Var 20
- Checkmite 1

452 have found Small hive beetle in their hives 453 have not 46 were unsure (This is a major increase)

- 31 have experienced losses from small hive beetle in stored honey 890 have not

41 beekeepers have been impacted by Spotted Lanternfly 910 have not

51 beekeepers provided pollination services 900 did not

- Fruit trees 59.5%
- Garden crops 53.6%
- Other crops 36.9%
- Brambles 19%

43 moved their bees with in or out of Pa in 2020 908 did not

The top ten counties by resposne to the survey are : (If your county did not make the top ten list give it a shot next year. The more responses we get the more accurate they are.)

- Allegheny 69
- Montgomery 58
- Bucks 51
- York 50
- Chester 46
- Berks 31
- Lancaster and Erie 30 each
- Westmoreland 27
- Cambria 25
- Butler 24

776 have only one beeyard 172 have multiple

Elevation of Primary apiary:

- Unknown 331
- 0-500 ft 193
- 500-1000 175
- 1000-1500 153
- 1500-2000 62
- 2000-2500 32
- 2500 or higher 5

How beekeepers replaced losses

- Splits 321
- Package bees 260
- Nucs 246
- Did not replace 165
- Unknown swarms 148
- Own swarms 133

When do you have your primary nectar flow?

- Mid season (June-July) 383
- Early (April-May) 302
- Combination of times 251
- Late (Aug-Sept) 217

What is our primary nectar flow?

- Unknown 418
- Clover 334
- Goldenrod 313
- Black Locust 141
- Tulip Poplar 124
- Other 107
- Japanese Bamboo (knotweed) 59

57 are raising nucs for sale in Pa 894 are not

Number of nucs raised in Pa sold or contracted to sell:

- 1-10 47
- 11-25 5
- 26-50 1
- 201-500 1

7 beekeepers responding are buying nucs to resell in Pa 944 are not

Number of nucs they have sold or contracted to be sold

- 1-10 4
- 11-25 1
- 26-50 1
- 101-200 1

17 beekeepers responding have been queens in the past year 934 have not

- 19 are producing the queens here in PA (sometimes the numbers don't add up to well)

What stock of queens are you using in your operation?

- Italian 398
- Unknown 237
- Carniolian 189
- Survivor stock 169
- Mixed race 148
- Saskatraz 74
- Russian 53
- Other 26
- Buckfast 10
- Caucasian 6

Do the queens you are using possess any specific traits?

- None that I am aware of 799
- Other 63
- VSH 47
- Mite Biter 61
- Minnesota Hygenic 7

Did you sell or plan to sell package bees in Pa this year?

- 4 said yes 947 say no

Of those who replied one planed to sell 1-10 and 1 planned to sell 51-100

How many years experience do you have keeping honey bees?

- Less than a year 53
- 1-2 years 179
- 2-5 400
- 5-10 172
- Over 10 147

636 are willing to provide data on winter survival to Beescape.org 315 are not

Thank you to everyone who helped make this survey a success.