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## **2024 NORTH DAKOTA HONEY BEE COLONIES**

**FARGO, N.D. August 1, 2024 - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies** in North Dakota as of January 1, 2024 totaled 65,000 according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of colonies in North Dakota on April 1, 2024 was 49,000. During 2023, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 82,000, 62,000, 420,000, and 360,000, respectively.

**Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2024, was 8,500 colonies or 11% lost. During April-June 2024, 16,000 colonies or 4% of colonies were lost. The quarter of July-September 2023, at 62,000 or 13%, showed the highest number of lost honey bee colonies of any quarter during 2023. The quarter of January-March 2023 had a loss of 2,400 colonies or 3 percent, 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 no colonies. The number of colonies added during the April-June 2024 quarter was 7,000. The quarter of April-June 2023, added 35,000 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter during 2023. The quarter of January-March 2023, at 2,700 added, showed the lowest number of honey bee colonies added in 2023.

**Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies** during the quarter of January-March 2024, was no colonies. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2024 was 22,000. During July-September 2023, 13,500 colonies were renovated, the highest number of colonies renovated during 2023. The lowest number of honey bee colonies renovated for any quarter, at 1,000, 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 the quarters in 2023. The quarter of April-June 2023 showed the highest percentage of varroa mites in 2023, at 64.6%. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2024, and April-June 2024 were 23.6% and 41.9%, respectively.

Access the National publication for this release at: <u>https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/rn301137d</u>

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