



# The Bee Informed Partnership Management Survey Results (2013-2014) Summary of Respondant Losses

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Funded by:



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

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## Summary Winter Loss in Northern and Southern States Excluding Multiregional Operations

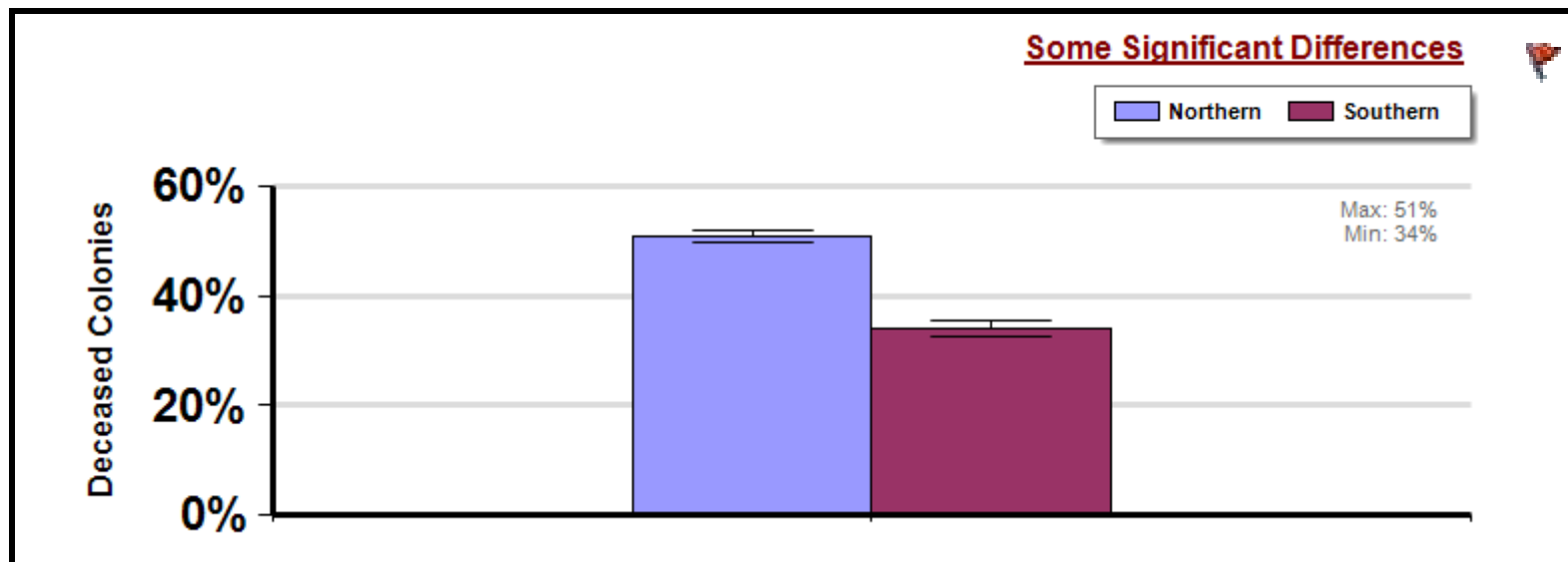
Management  
Survey 2014

( Filtered by: )

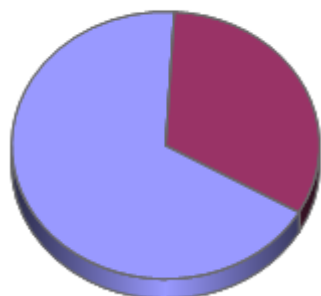
### Winter

Report ID: 29-  
2014

Average winter loss in beekeeping operations that maintained colonies exclusively in northern states (CO, CT, DE, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MS, MT, NB, ND, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SD, VT, WA, WI, WY) and Southern states (AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, NM, NV, OK, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WV) between April and March. Losses in operations that operate in both northern and southern states are not presented.



### Participant Ratio



### Interpretation

Southern beekeepers reported 17 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who kept bees in the Northern States. In other words, Southern beekeepers lost 33.3% fewer colonies than Northern beekeepers.

### Survey Question

	Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss	Percentage of respondents, by operation size, in each region		
			Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI	Backyard	Sideline	Commercial
Northern	4,721	58,035	51% [50%, 52%]	67.9%	62.2%	34.4%
Southern	2,266	85,797	34% [33%, 36%]	32.1%	37.8%	65.6%

Comments About This Data

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## Losses in Geographic Sub-Regions Excluding Multiregional Operations

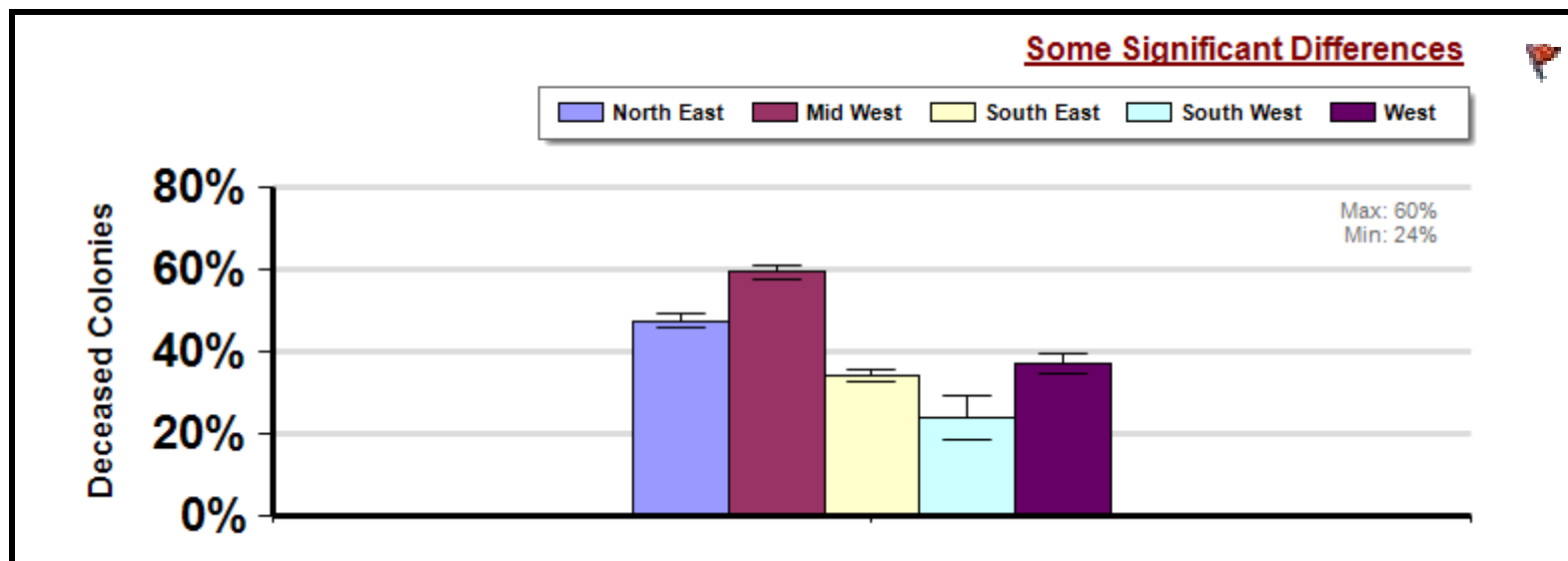
Management  
Survey 2014

Average winter loss suffered by beekeepers who kept their colonies exclusively in different geographic sub-regions of the US including the Northeast (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT), Midwest (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI), South-East (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV), Southwest (AZ, NM, OK, TX), and West (CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY) between April and March. Beekeepers who managed bees in more than one region are excluded.

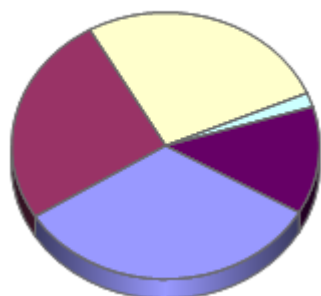
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### Winter

Report ID: 26-  
2014



### Participant Ratio



### Interpretation

Beekeepers who kept bees in the Southwest had significantly less overwintering colony deaths than beekeepers who kept colonies in the Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and West sub-regions of the US. Beekeepers in the Southeast experienced significantly less overwintering colony deaths than beekeepers in the Northeast and Midwest regions. Beekeepers in the West experienced significantly less overwintering colony deaths than beekeepers in the Northeast and Midwest regions.

### Survey Question

	Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss	Percentage of respondents, by operation size, in each region		
			Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI	Backyard	Sideline	Commercial
North East	2,292	21,295	48% [46%, 49%]	32.9%	31.7%	8.7%
Mid West	1,800	21,190	60% [58%, 61%]	25.9%	24.9%	8.7%

South East	1,872	25,179	34% [33%, 36%]	26.8%	27.5%	10.9%
South West	122	5,696	24% [18%, 29%]	1.7%	2.6%	2.2%
West	914	124,779	37% [35%, 40%]	12.7%	13.2%	69.6%

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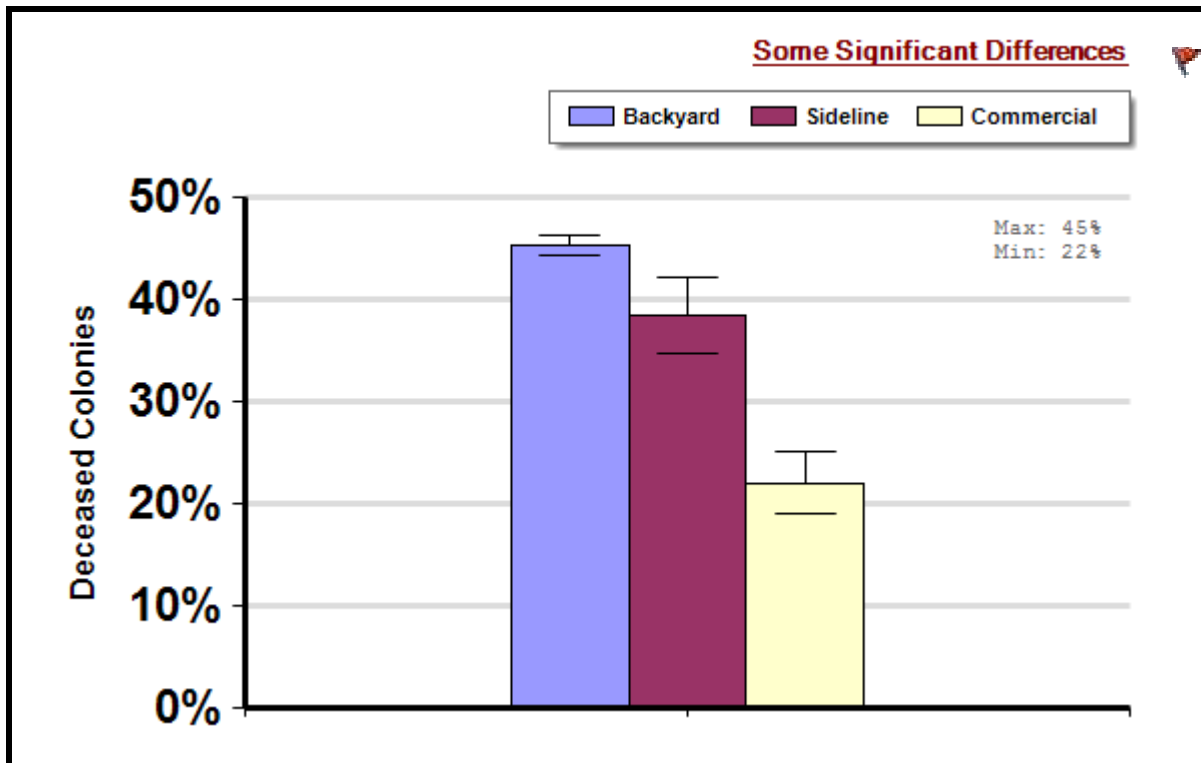


# Loss By Operation Size

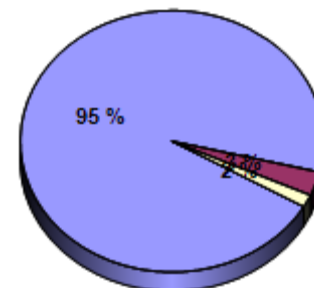
Average winter loss reported by backyard beekeepers (managed fewer than 50 colonies), sideline beekeepers (managed between 51 and 500 colonies) and commercial beekeepers (managed more than 500 colonies).

## Winter

Report ID: 8-2014



## Participant Ratio



### Interpretation

Commercial beekeepers lost 23 fewer overwintering colonies per 100 managed colonies (52.3% fewer losses) than backyard beekeepers. Sideline beekeepers saw 8 fewer colony losses per 100 managed colonies (18.2% fewer losses) than backyard beekeepers.

### Survey Question

	Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss	Total Colony Loss
			Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI	Total [Lower,Upper]
Backyard	6,867	40,145	45% [44%, 46%]	44% [43%, 45%]
Sideline	214	29,552	38% [35%, 42%]	36% [33%, 40%]
Commercial	112	513,222	22% [19%, 25%]	21% [18%, 24%]

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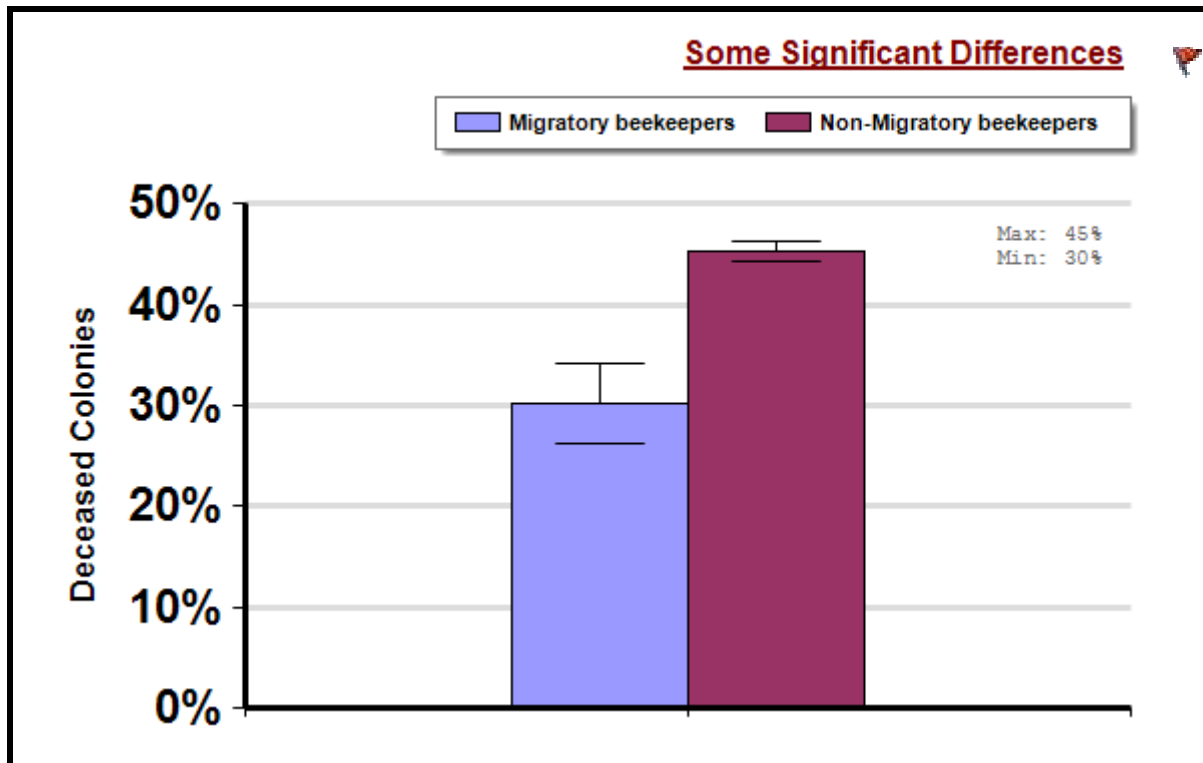
# Reported Average Loss By Operation Type (Migratory )

Management Survey 2014

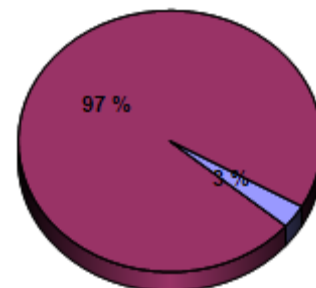
## Winter

Migratory beekeepers were beekeepers who moved a majority of their colonies, at least once, across state lines between April and March.

Report ID: 11-2014



## Participant Ratio



## Interpretation

Migratory beekeepers reported 15 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than non-migratory beekeepers. In other words, migratory beekeepers lost 33.3% fewer colonies than non-migratory beekeepers.

## Survey Question

	Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss
			Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI
Migratory beekeepers	200	447,072	30% [26%, 34%]
Non-Migratory beekeepers	6,717	108,365	45% [44%, 46%]

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# Average Loss in operations with different Beekeeping Management Philosophies

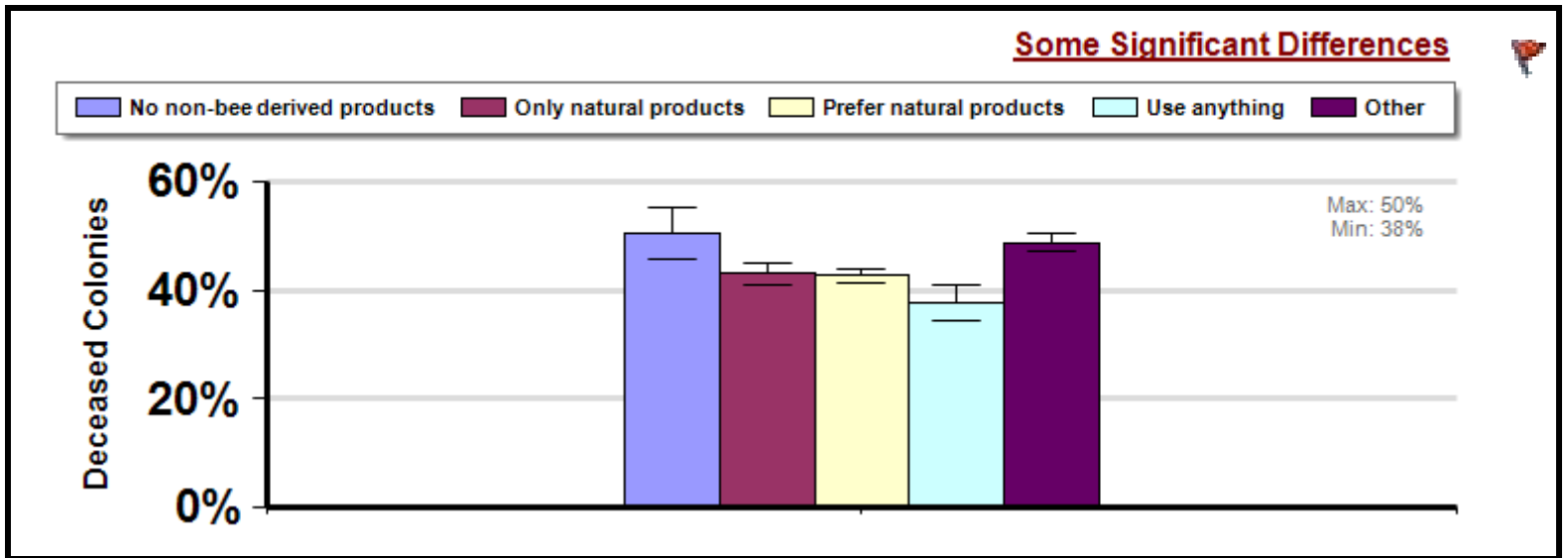
Management Survey 2014

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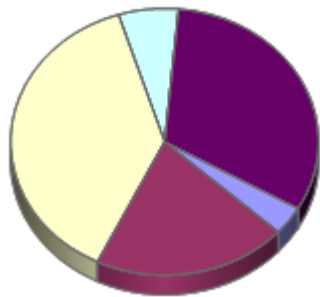
## Winter

Average winter loss suffered by beekeepers who had different beekeeping management philosophies between April and March.

Report ID: 20-2014



### Participant Ratio



### Interpretation

Beekeepers who choose to use only bee-derived products in their colonies lost more colonies than those who choose to use only natural products, prefer only natural products or who will use anything in their colonies.

### Survey Question

	Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss	Percentage of respondents in different operation size classifications who indicated a particular management philosophy		
			Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI	Backyard	Sideline	Commercial
No non-bee derived products	250	2,462	50% [46%, 55%]	3.5%	4.2%	0.0%
Only natural products	1,466	20,108	43% [41%, 45%]	20.8%	15.9%	2.7%
Prefer natural products	2,730	227,128	43% [41%, 44%]	38.0%	36.4%	40.2%
Use anything	453	193,741	38% [35%, 41%]	5.7%	16.4%	25.9%
Other	2,294	139,480	49% [47%, 50%]	32.1%	27.1%	31.3%

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# Average Loss By Percent Income Derived From Beekeeping

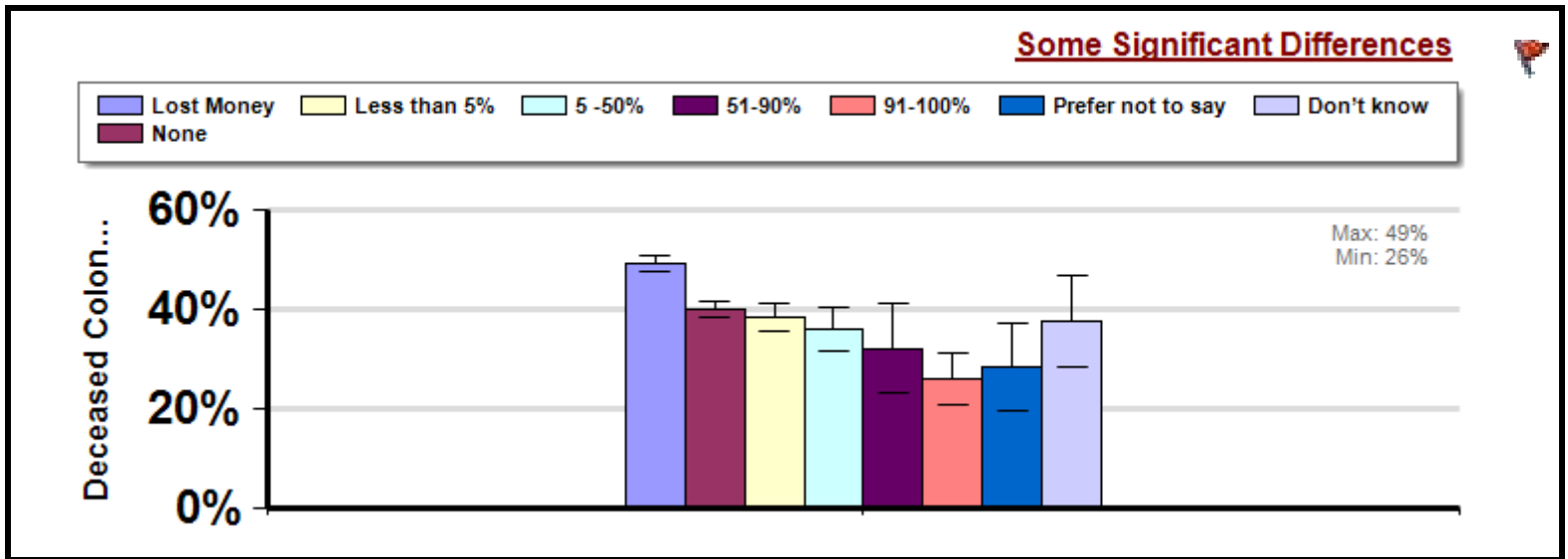
Management Survey 2014

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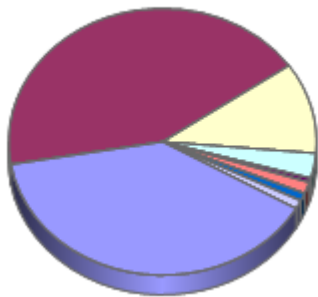
Winter

Average loss suffered by proportion of total income derived from beekeeping activity differed from April to March.

Report ID: 17-2014



Participant Ratio



### Interpretation

Beekeepers who made more than 90% of their income from beekeeping activity lost fewer colonies than those who made less than 50% of income from beekeeper activities.

### Survey Question

How much of your income was derived from beekeeping activities?

	Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss	Percentage of respondents in each operation size classification who indicated a particular proportion of their income was derived by beekeeping activities		
			Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI	Backyard	Sideline	Commercial
Lost Money	2,043	24,317	49% [48%, 51%]	40.1%	23.2%	4.4%
None	2,256	9,905	40% [38%, 42%]	45.0%	6.5%	0.0%
Less than 5%	580	8,772	39% [36%, 41%]	11.1%	14.9%	1.1%
5-50%	160	17,716	36% [31%, 40%]	1.7%	39.9%	6.6%

51-90%	27	123,860	32% [23%, 41%]	0.1%	2.4%	19.8%
91-100%	72	321,891	26% [21%, 31%]	0.1%	6.0%	64.8%
Prefer not to say	51	2,398	29% [20%, 37%]	0.8%	5.4%	0.0%
Don't know	55	5,533	38% [29%, 47%]	1.0%	1.8%	3.3%

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# Average Loss By Reason Responding Beekeepers Indicated they Kept Bees

Management Survey 2014

( Filtered by: )

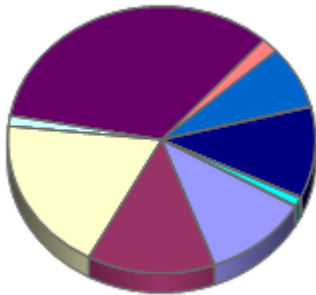
Average loss suffered by beekeepers who indicated the reason or reasons they kept bees between April and March.

## Winter

Report ID: 14-2014



### Participant Ratio



### Interpretation

Beekeepers who kept bees for nuc, queen and package production lost fewer overwintering colonies than those who kept bees for pollination of commercial crops, production of honey for personal use, production of honey for profit, enjoyment, teaching and research, pollen, and to help the bees and environment.

### Survey Question

	Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss	Percentage of responding beekeepers in each operations size classification who indicated a particular reason they kept bees. Respondents could indicate more than one reason.		
			Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI	Backyard	Sideline	Commercial
Pollination of commercial crops	1,423	400,492	43% [41%, 45%]	25.9%	35.7%	74.4%
Selling Honey	1,727	466,957	40% [38%, 41%]	30.1%	81.9%	91.1%
Honey for	2,417	43,265	44% [43%, 46%]	47.7%	15.2%	6.7%

personal Use						
Queen and Package production	162	101,035	31% [27%, 35%]	2.0%	26.3%	21.1%
Enjoyment	4,325	44,218	43% [42%, 44%]	84.8%	43.9%	7.8%
Nuc production	231	116,016	31% [27%, 34%]	3.0%	34.5%	24.4%
Teaching and Research	977	41,391	41% [39%, 43%]	18.3%	32.2%	5.6%
Wax and other colony bi-products	12	574	19% [3%, 35%]	0.2%	1.2%	0.0%
Pollen	1,418	400,367	43% [41%, 45%]	25.8%	35.1%	74.4%
Breeding	3	37	43% [0%, 147%]	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Apitherapy	12	1,143	49% [24%, 74%]	0.2%	1.2%	1.1%
Help the bees and environment	136	682	43% [36%, 50%]	2.7%	1.2%	0.0%
To give gifts	11	29	26% [2%, 50%]	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%

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