DO NOT SEND US THIS PAPER SURVEY! WE WILL NOT ENTER ANY RESPONSES PROVIDED ON THIS PREVIEW.

This preview of the survey is intended to allow you to look through the questions, or print a hard copy, as an aid before taking the survey online (at http://10.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2015).

Completion of all or part of this survey is voluntary. If you are not comfortable answering a question, please leave it blank. Questions marked by an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

1* In what state(s) did you keep your colonies in between April 2014 - April 2015? (Select all that apply)

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming
- Other, please specify:

For the purpose of this survey: a “colony” is a queen right unit of bees that includes full size colonies and queen right nucs (do NOT include mating nucs); “Living” means alive on that date, independent of future prospects; “Increases” include successfully hived swarms and/or feral colonies.

2* How many living colonies did you have last spring on April 1, 2014?

3* How many colonies, splits and/or increases did you make / buy between April 1, 2014 and October 1, 2014?

4* How many colonies, splits and/or increases did you sell or give away between April 1, 2014 and October 1, 2014?

5* How many living colonies did you have on October 1, 2014?

6* How many colonies, splits and/or increases did you make / buy between October 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015?

7* How many colonies, splits and/or increases did you sell / give away between October 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015?

8* How many total living colonies (overwinter surviving colonies plus purchase or splits) did you have on April 1, 2015?

9 What was the largest number of living colonies you owned between April 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015?

10 What was the smallest number of living colonies you owned between April 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015?

11 Of the colonies in question 2, how many of those specific colonies were still alive on October 1, 2014?

12 Of the colonies in question 5, how many of those specific colonies were still alive on April 1, 2015?
13. **What percentage** of loss, over the winter, would you consider acceptable?

Between 0-100%

14. **Was your winter loss this year higher or lower than last year?** *(choose one)*

- [ ] Higher
- [ ] Lower
- [ ] Same
- [ ] I'm unsure
- [ ] I did not keep bees last year

15. **What percentage** of the colonies that died over the winter (between October 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015) were lost without dead bees in the hive or apiary?

Between 0-100%

16. In your opinion, what factors were the most prominent cause *(or causes)* of colony death in your operation between October 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015? *(select all that apply)*

- [ ] I did not experience winter loss
- [ ] Varroa mites
- [ ] Queen failure
- [ ] Starvation
- [ ] Nosema disease
- [ ] Small Hive Beetle
- [ ] Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)
- [ ] Poor wintering conditions
- [ ] Weak in the fall
- [ ] Natural disaster and alike (eg. flood, bear...)
- [ ] Pesticides
- [ ] I don’t know
- [ ] Other, please specify:

17. Please indicate which states you kept bees for the months listed *(mark which months with an “x”)*. Also list the number of colonies you had in each state on December 31, 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Living Colonies on 12/31/2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015)

18** How often did you monitor VARROA mites in your colonies? *(choose one)*

- [ ] Never *(skip Q21)*
- [ ] ~ once a year
- [ ] ~ once every 4 months
- [ ] ~ once every 3 months
- [ ] ~ once every 2 months
- [ ] ~ once a month
- [ ] more than once a month

19** How often did you monitor NOSEMA levels in your colonies? *(choose one)*

- [ ] Never *(skip Q22)*
- [ ] ~ once a year
- [ ] ~ once every 4 months
- [ ] ~ once every 3 months
- [ ] ~ once every 2 months
- [ ] ~ once a month
- [ ] more than once a month

20** How often did you inspect your colonies for BROOD diseases? *(choose one)*

- [ ] Never
- [ ] ~ once a year
- [ ] ~ once every 4 months
- [ ] ~ once every 3 months
- [ ] ~ once every 2 months
- [ ] ~ once a month
- [ ] ~ twice a month
- [ ] ~ every week

21. Which of the following **techniques** did you use to monitor VARROA mites? *(select all that apply)*

- [ ] Visual inspection of adult bees
- [ ] Visual inspection of drone brood
- [ ] Powdered sugar roll
- [ ] Mite drop (sticky boards or other collection tray below the hive)
- [ ] Ether roll
- [ ] Alcohol wash
- [ ] Samples collected by a BIP Tech Transfer Team
- [ ] Samples collected for another monitoring effort (ex: APHIS NHBS, ...)
- [ ] I sent samples to another laboratory
- [ ] Other, please specify:

22. Which of the following **techniques** did you use to monitor NOSEMA levels? *(select all that apply)*

- [ ] Looked for Nosema symptoms in and around the hive
- [ ] Took samples and examined spores loads on my own
- [ ] Samples collected by a BIP Tech Transfer Team
- [ ] Samples collected for another monitoring effort (ex: APHIS NHBS, ...)
- [ ] I sent samples to another laboratory
- [ ] Other, please specify:
Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015)...

23* ...did you use a treatment to try to control VARROA MITES? (choose one)
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24* ...did you use a treatment to try to control NOSEMA? (choose one)
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

25* ...did you use a treatment to try to control SMALL HIVE BEETLES? (choose one)
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Note: a treatment is the application of a biological or synthetic chemical to control the pest.

26* Which, if any, of the following did you apply to any of your colonies between April 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015?
- ☐ None of the following
- ☐ Amitraz-based product (Apivar/other)
- ☐ ApiLife VAR (thymol-based)
- ☐ ApiGuard (thymol-based)
- ☐ Mite-A-Thol (menthol)
- ☐ Hop oil based product (HopGuard)
- ☐ Fumagillin (Fumadil B)
- ☐ Terramycin
- ☐ Tylosin (Tylan)
- ☐ Coumaphos strips (CheckMite+ ) (for varroa)
- ☐ Coumaphos strips (for small hive beetles)
- ☐ Formic Acid (MiteAway QuickStrips)
- ☐ Oxalic Acid
- ☐ Other, please specify:

27 Please specify how and when you used the products selected in Q26 during the last year:

| Product | Specify Months used | % of colonies treated [1-100%] | Dose (per colony) (eg. # of strips) | Frequency (doses per month) | Days between applications within a month | Motive of use[^1]
|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------
|         |                     |                               |                                  |                 |                                 |                                  |
|         |                     |                               |                                  |                 |                                 |                                  |
|         |                     |                               |                                  |                 |                                 |                                  |
|         |                     |                               |                                  |                 |                                 |                                  |
|         |                     |                               |                                  |                 |                                 |                                  |
|         |                     |                               |                                  |                 |                                 |                                  |

[^1] Motive of use: A: as part of my regular maintenance ; B: in response to observed pest outbreaks; C: in response to lab test results indicating pest outbreaks ; D: in response to pest outbreaks in the local area

Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015)...

28* ... did you use any of the following IPM practices / equipment to try to control VARROA MITES ? (select all that apply)
- ☐ I did not use any IPM practices or equipment
- ☐ Drone Brood Removal
  - How many times in the year?
  - What % of your colonies?
  - How much did you remove each time? (choose one)
    - ☐ ~ 1deep fr.
    - ☐ ~ 1medium fr.
    - ☐ ~ 1shallow fr.
    - ☐ only drone brood built between frames
- ☐ Screened bottom board
  - What % of your colonies?
  - During which months?
- ☐ Small cell size comb
- ☐ Powder sugar
  - What % of your colonies?
  - During which months?
- ☐ Other, please specify:

29* ... did you use any of the following techniques to try to control SMALL HIVE BEETLES? (select all that apply)
- ☐ I did not use any technique to control SHB
- ☐ In-hive traps
  - What kind of bait?
  - During which months?
- ☐ Soil drench
  - What % of your colonies?
  - During which months?
- ☐ Coumaphos strips
  - What % of your colonies?
  - During which months?
- ☐ Nematodes
- ☐ Bottom-board traps
- ☐ Other, please specify:
Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015)...  
30* ... did you feed or add a food substitute or stimulant to any of your colonies?  ○ Yes  ○ No (skip Q 31-32)  

31* Which, if any, of the following did you apply to any of your colonies between April 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015?  
- None of the following  - High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS)  - Bee Pro  - Honey -B-Healthy  
- Honey (capped frames)  - Candy (i.e., Fondant)  - MegaBee  - Vitafeed Gold  
- Honey (excess extracted)  - Protein patties  - LaFore patties  - Vitafeed Green  
- Sugar (Sucrose) syrup  - Other, please specify:  

32 Please specify how and when you used the products selected in Q31 during the last year:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Specify Months used</th>
<th>% of colonies fed [1-100%]</th>
<th>Concentration (if mixed) (eg. 1 part water: 2 part sugar)</th>
<th>Dose (per colony) (eg. # of patties)</th>
<th>Frequency (doses per month)</th>
<th>Was this amount (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(1) Was this amount:  A: on par with what I usually feed this month of the year;  B: above what I usually feed this month of the year;  C: below what I usually feed this month of the year;  D: not applicable (first year beekeepers).  

33* What type or race of bees do you use in your operation?  

34 How old on average, were the queens that headed a majority (>50%) of your colonies on 1 October 2014? (choose one)  
- Less than 6 months  
- 6 months – 1 year  
- 1 – 2 years  
- Older than 2 years  
- I don’t know  

35 Generally, how often do you replace the queens in your colonies? (choose one)  
- Never (let them re-queen on their own)  
- Only to correct behavior / disease susceptibility  
- Every 2 to 3 years  
- Every year  
- Twice a year  
- More than twice a year  

36* Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015) did you replace the queen of any of your colonies? (Say yes also if natural requeening)  

37 In what percentage of the colonies in your operation did you replace queens over the last year?  
- Between 0-100%  
- None  

38 How did you re-queen the colonies that you re-queened last year? (select all that apply)  
- Introduced mated queens  
- Introduced virgin queens  
- Introduced queen cells  
- Permitted colony or split to rear a new replacement queen on its own  
- Other, please specify:  

39 If introduced, where did you get the majority (>50%) of the queens? (select all that apply)  
- from commercial producers  
- from beekeeper (noncommercial)  
- I reared them myself  
- Other, please specify:  

40 What hive type do you use to keep your colonies? (select all that apply)  
- Langstroth 10 frame hive bodies (even if use less than 10 frames in it)  
- Langstroth 8 frame hive bodies (even if use less than 8 frames in it)  
- Home-made (not Langstroth dimensions)  
- Top bar hives  
- Warre  
- Nucs boxes  
- Other, please specify:  

41 When adding new frames, what type of foundation do you use? (select all that apply)  
- Foundation-less  
- Wax foundation  
- Plastic foundation  
- Other, please specify:  

4
National Colony Loss and Management Survey

42 Which of the following (other than feeding), did you use to prepare for last winter (2014-2015)? (select all that apply)

☐ I did not prepare my colonies for winter
☐ I created or engaged an upper entrance
☐ I used an entrance reducer
☐ I equalized colony strength
☐ I moved my colonies to a southern location
☐ Other (but NOT feeding), please specify:

43 On October 1 2014, what was the average configuration of the brood chambers in your colonies? (please enter number of hive boxes for your configuration)

☐ deeps
☐ mediums
☐ nucs
☐ other

44 On average, how old is the brood comb in your colonies? (choose one)

☐ Less than 1 year old
☐ 1 – 2 years
☐ 2 – 3 years
☐ 3 – 4 years
☐ 4 – 5 years
☐ More than 5 years old
☐ I don’t know

45 Last year how many frames from the brood nest of your colonies did you replace on average? (choose one)

☐ I did not replace any frames
☐ I only replaced broken frames
☐ ~10% (eg. 1 frame per brood box)
☐ ~20% (eg.2 frames per brood box)
☐ 25 – 50% (eg. between 3 to 5 frames per brood box)
☐ More than 50% of frames (>5 frames per brood box)
☐ I don’t know

46 Last year, what did you do before you re-used brood comb that you had taken out of production or purchased?

☐ I did not reuse any old brood comb
☐ I culled any particularly old or bad combs and replaced them
☐ I did not treat the comb in any particular way
☐ I fumigated the comb with acetic acid
☐ I froze the comb
☐ I stored the comb with paradichlorobenzene crystals (moth crystals)
☐ I irradiated the comb
☐ I stored the comb with napthalene (moth balls)
☐ Other, please specify:

47 Generally, when you found a dead and/or weak colony in your operation over the last year you would: (choose one)

Note: Excluding colonies killed by AFB

☐ Immediately replaced dead colony by splitting frames of bees/brood from other colonies into the dead out equipment
☐ Packed up the dead equipment and stored it for re-use at a later date
☐ A mixture of both, I immediately replaced some and packed up others
☐ I did not find dead colonies
☐ Other, please specify:

48* Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015)... did you start or obtain any new colonies? (Q 49 & 50)

☐ Yes
☐ No (skip Q 49 & 50)

49 How did you start or obtain new colonies last year? (select all that apply)

☐ I made increases by splitting strong colonies
☐ I bought and installed packages and/or nucs
☐ I caught and installed swarms
☐ I bought (or received) hives from another beekeeper

☐ From what state?

50 What percentage of the colonies in your operation that were alive on October 1, 2014 came from splits, increases, or packages established or made the previous spring and summer, after April 1, 2014? (In other words, what % of your colonies experienced their first winter)

Between 0-100%

51 What best describes the environment around your apiary(ies)? (Consider ~3 miles radius)

(select all that apply, specify the % in total area; the total should add up to 100%)

☐ Natural
☐ Agricultural
☐ Urban
☐ Suburban
### Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015)...

52* ... did you harvest or remove honey from your colonies?  
- Yes  
- Not last year  
- I never attempt to (skip Q54-56)

53 If yes, during which months did you harvest honey?

54 If yes, how much honey did your average colony produced?  
- in lbs per colony

55 How was it compared to previous years?  
- No harvest  
- Above average  
- Average  
- Below average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>No harvest</th>
<th>Above average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below average</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Honey</td>
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<td>Summer Honey</td>
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<td>Fall Honey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Honey</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

56 If yes, which crops were in proximity of the majority (>50%) of your colonies when they were producing honey?  
- I don’t know  
- Please specify the crops:

### Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015)...

57* ... did you use any of your colonies for pollination of agricultural crops?  
- Yes  
- No (skip Q58 & 59)

58 If yes, did you derive an income by renting your colonies for pollination?  
- Yes  
- No  
- Prefer not to say

59 If yes, how many colonies did you rent for which crop last year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th># of colonies rented</th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th># of colonies rented</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Last year (April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015)...

60 ... why did you keep bees?  (select all that apply)  
- For pollination  
- For Queen production  
- For Package production  
- For Nuc production  
- For research  
- For honey/ pollen/ wax production for sale  
- For honey/ pollen/ wax production for personal use only  
- For enjoyment/ hobby  
- For teaching/ education  
- Other, please specify:

61 ... were you expecting to derive an income from your beekeeping activities?  (choose one)  
- No, beekeeping is a hobby  
- No, but I occasionally derive an unpredictable income (occasional honey, wax, package...)  
- Yes, I was expecting my beekeeping activities to supplement my income  
- Yes, I was expecting my beekeeping activities to provide me a majority or all of my income

62 ... what percentage of your annual income was derived from your beekeeping activities?  (choose one)  
- None  
- Less than 5%  
- I lost money  
- Between 5 to 50%  
- I prefer not to say  
- Between 51 to 90%  
- I don’t know  
- Over 90%

63 Approximately how many years have you been keeping bees?  
- in years

64 How did you first learn beekeeping?  (select all that apply)  
- From a mentor beekeeping (friend or family)  
- From a Beekeeping Class (bee group/club/master class...)  
- On my own (books, internet...)  
- Other, please specify:

65 Are you member of a beekeeping organization?  (select all that apply)  
- Local beekeeping group  
- State beekeeping organization  
- National beekeeping organization  
- No, I’m not a member of any beekeeping organization  
- I prefer not to say

66 Did you take part in any of the following monitoring efforts?  (select all that apply)  
- APHIS National Honey Bee Survey  
- Bee Informed Tech Transfer Teams  
- Bee Informed Tier 4 (real time disease load monitoring)  
- None of the above  
- I prefer not to say  
- I’m unsure
67. What are your primary sources of bee health information? (select all that apply)
- Other beekeepers (Mentor, Friends, Family, Neighbors...)
- Beekeeping Class
- Beekeeping Club / Association meetings
- Online (blogs, videos, media...)
- Books
- Bee Journals or Magazines
- Scientific publications
- Beekeeping Association Newsletters
- Beekeeping Conventions
- Suppliers (of beekeeping equipment)
- Apiary inspector (or any state officials)
- University Extension / Outreach
- Bee Informed Partnership
- Other, please specify:

68. When choosing treatment or feeding strategies for your colonies, would you say that you are: (choose one)
- Not willing to use any non-bee produced products in the hive
- Only willing to use natural or organic products in the hive
- Prefer to use natural or organic products in the hive but will use synthetic products if needed
- Will use synthetic products if needed
- No preference
- Other, please specify:

69. How much time over the course of the entire year would you estimate that you and/or others spend caring for all of your colonies? (in total hours)

70. Of the time spent caring for your colonies, what percentage of time was spent on the following activities? (the total should add up to 100%)
- Travel (time spent to and from your apiary(ies))
- Feeding (or adding food substitute or stimulant)
- Honey (harvest and production)
- Normal Seasonal Management (visit to the hives, prevention of swarming...)
- Pest monitoring (checking for Varroa, Nosema...)
- Applying chemical treatments (as selected earlier in the survey)
- Displaying other pest control techniques (drone brood removal, SHB traps...)
- Other

71. How much (in $) would you value your average colony if you were forced to sell it at the following times of year?
- October
- February
- April

72. How much money over the last year did you spend on feed (protein and/or carbohydrates)?

73. Do you believe that you are using Best Management Practices in your colonies? (choose one)
- Yes, always
- Sometimes
- In some hives and not others
- With some aspects of beekeeping and not others
- No
- I don’t know
- I don’t know what best practices are
- I don’t think best management practices work

74. If not always, what is stopping you to adopt best management strategies? (select all that apply)
- Not enough information about those practices
- Practices too costly
- Practices too labor-intensive
- Other, please specify:

CONGRATULATIONS! You’re almost there!!
Thank you for participating in this survey!

Results will be posted at the [beeinformed.org](http://beeinformed.org) website as they become available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>We may wish to contact you if we have questions about your responses. Is this OK?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Would you be willing to participate in future beekeeping surveys?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>If you agree to be contacted, please enter your email address here:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Did you complete this survey on behalf of someone else?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Is this the first year you are participating in our survey?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Where did you hear about this survey? (select all that apply)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organization newsletter</td>
<td>Bee meeting</td>
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<td>Friend or neighbor</td>
<td>State apiarist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paper survey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other, please specify:</td>
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<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Any comments?</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your time in answering our Colony Loss and Management Survey!

The Bee Informed Partnership is an extension project that endeavors to decrease the number of managed honey bee colonies loss.

By answering those questions on colony loss and management, you are helping us describe a realistic picture of the losses in the US and better understand factors that contribute to reducing colony losses.

Come visit [beeinformed.org](http://beeinformed.org) for some insights on how the survey results can benefit the decisions in your colony management!

**DO NOT SEND US THIS PAPER SURVEY! WE WILL NOT ENTER ANY RESPONSES PROVIDED ON THIS PREVIEW.**

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