



The Bee Informed Partnership
Management Survey Results (2013-2014)
Treatment of Dead Outs
and Colony Replacement

BeeInformed.org

Funded by:



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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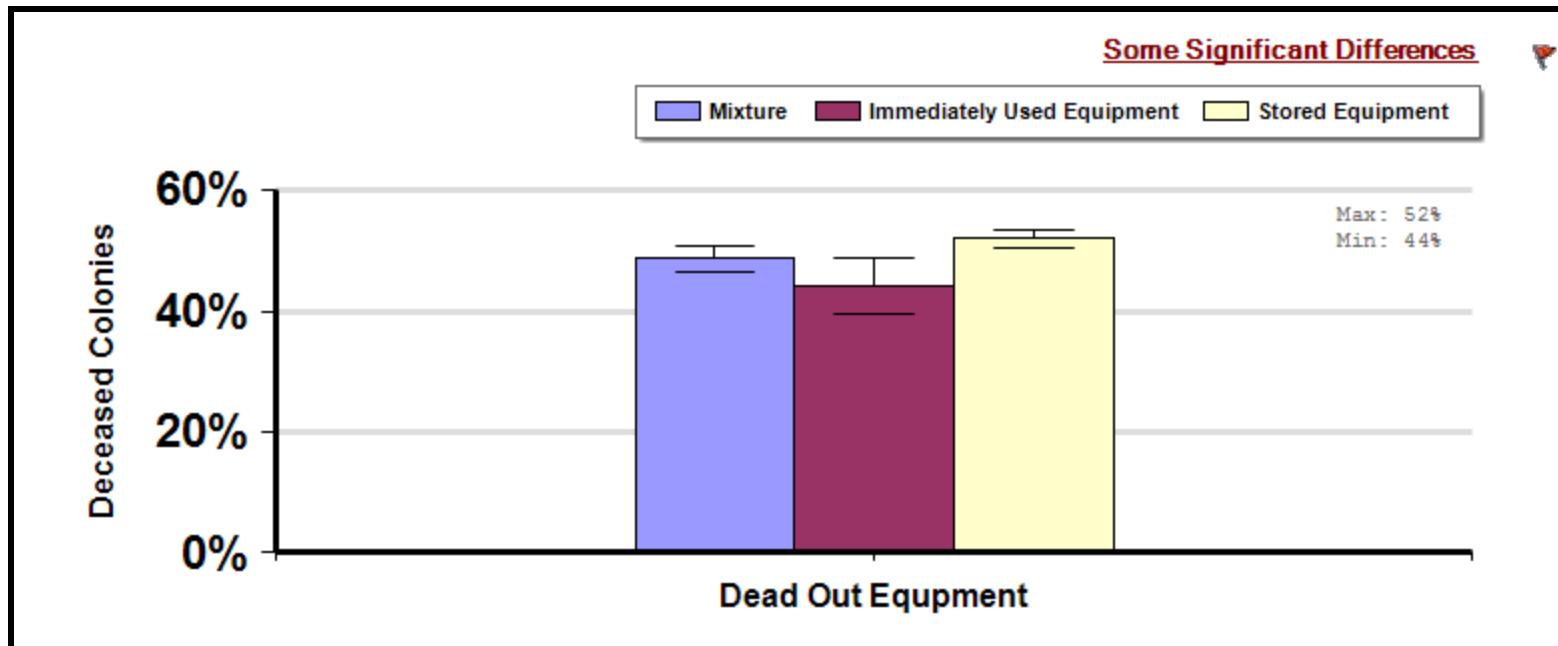
Treatment of Dead Out Equipment

Management Survey 2014

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers who stored or did not store their equipment between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 65-2014



Interpretation

Beekeepers who immediately used their equipment saw 7.7 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who reported storing equipment. In other words, beekeepers who immediately used equipment lost 14.8% fewer colonies than those who reported storing equipment.

Survey Question

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

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

		Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed		Average Colony Loss
				Mean	Standard	Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI

					Error	
Dead Out Equipment	Mixture	860	214,584	249.5	47.8	48.7 [46.5, 50.8]
	Immediately Used Equipment	236	62,540	265.0	90.9	44.2 [39.5, 48.8]
	Stored Equipment	2,289	148,735	65.0	15.1	51.9 [50.5, 53.4]

Comments About This Data

Relevant Links, References, and Citations

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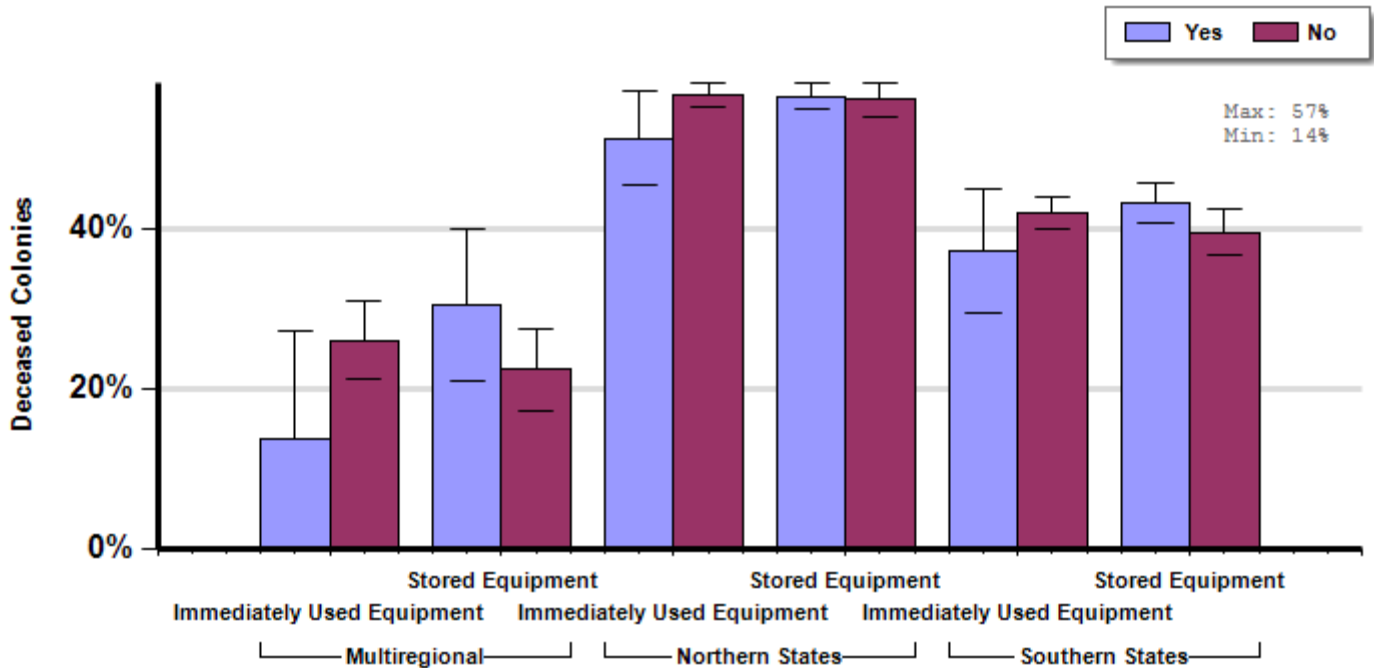
Dead Out Equipment Use By Region

Winter

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers who stored or did not store their equipment between April and March, by region.

Report ID: 68-2014

Some Significant Differences (within regions)



Respondent Ratio



Interpretation

Beekeepers who reported storing their equipment did not report losing more or less colonies than those who did not store equipment among all groups. Also, beekeeper who immediately used their equipment did not report losing more or less colonies than those who did not immediately use their equipment. In other words, there were no significant differences within groups.

Survey Question

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

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

			Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed		Average Colony Loss
					Mean	Standard Error	Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI
Multiregional	Immediately Used Equipment	Yes	10	37,148	3714.8	979.1	14 [0.1, 27.2]
		No	87	360,331	4141.7	888.5	26 [21.2, 30.9]
	Stored Equipment	Yes	29	111,942	3860.1	942.1	30 [20.9, 39.8]
		No	68	285,537	4199.1	1075.7	22 [17.2, 27.5]
Northern States	Immediately Used Equipment	Yes	145	1,909	13.2	3.0	51 [45.4, 57.2]
		No	2,368	36,948	15.6	2.1	57 [55.3, 58.0]
	Stored Equipment	Yes	1,552	20,410	13.2	2.9	57 [54.8, 58.2]
		No	961	18,447	19.2	2.4	56 [53.9, 58.3]
Southern States	Immediately Used Equipment	Yes	75	17,393	231.9	202.6	37 [29.3, 44.9]
		No	1,102	48,719	44.2	11.8	42 [40.0, 43.8]
	Stored Equipment	Yes	696	16,257	23.4	6.9	43 [40.5, 45.6]
		No	481	49,855	103.6	40.3	39 [36.6, 42.3]

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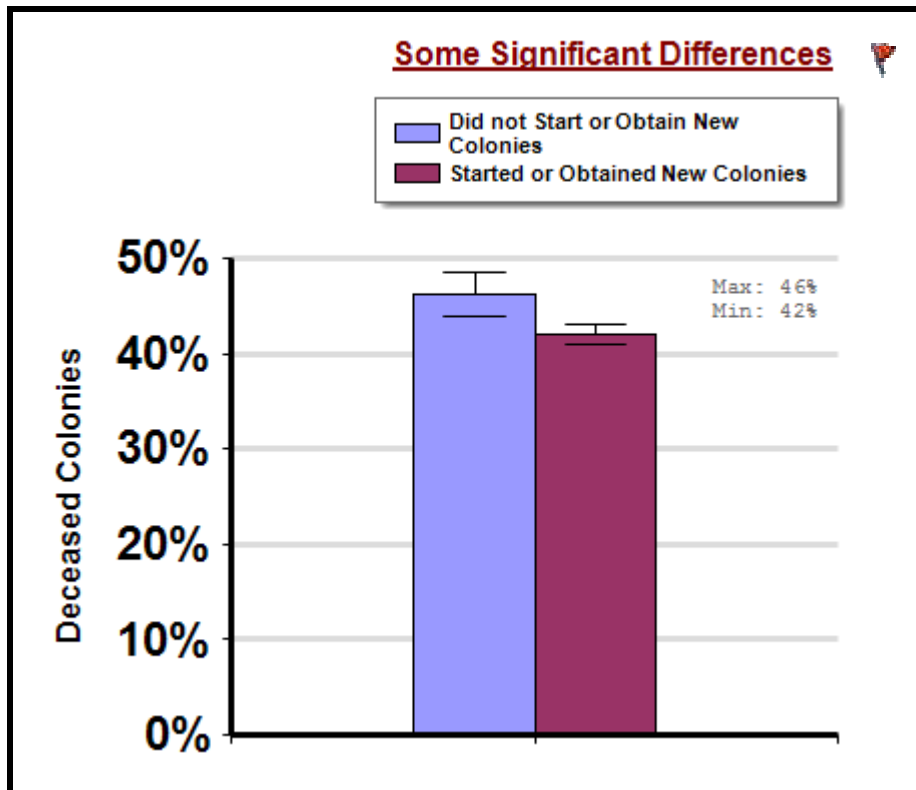
Started or Obtained New Colonies

Management Survey 2014

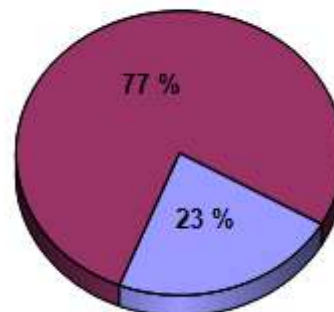
Average winter colony mortality suffered by beekeepers who reported they did not start or obtain new colonies, between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 233-2014



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Beekeepers who started or obtained new colonies reported 4.2 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies (9.1% fewer losses) than those who did not report obtaining or starting new colonies.

Survey Question

Did you start or obtain any new colonies between 1 April 2013 and 1 April 2014?

		Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed		Average Colony Loss
				Mean	Standard Error	Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI
	Did not Start or Obtain New Colonies	1,205	27,821	23.1	8.8	46.3 [43.9, 48.7]
	Started or Obtained New Colonies	4,112	487,678	118.6	21.6	42.1 [41.0, 43.2]

Comments About This Data

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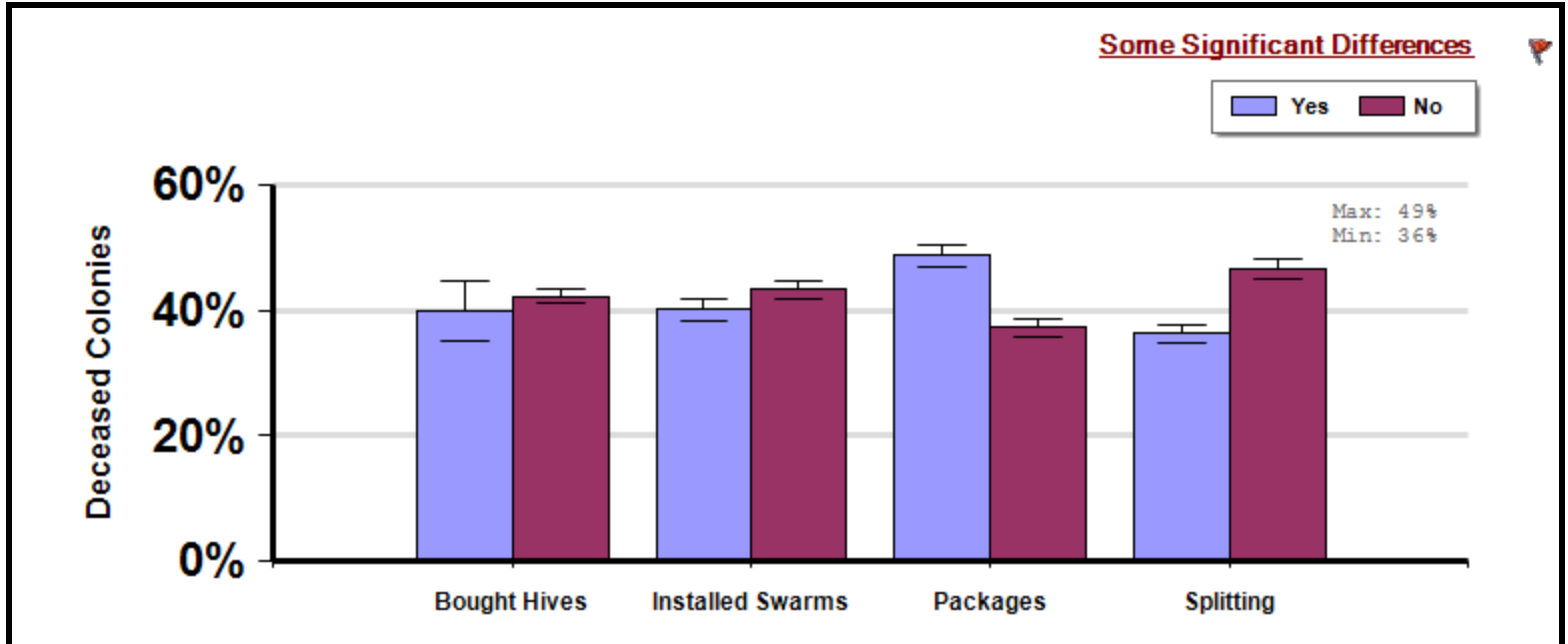
Started or Obtained New Colonies by Method

Management Survey 2014

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers who reported starting or obtaining new colonies, between April and March by different methods.

Winter

Report ID: 242-2014



Interpretation

Beekeepers who installed swarms reported 3.2 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies (7.4% fewer losses) than those who used a different method to increase colony numbers. Beekeepers who installed packages reported 11.5 more overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies (23.6% more losses) than those who used a different method to make increases. Those who split colonies reported 10.1 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies (21.7% fewer losses) than those who used a different method to increase colony numbers.

Survey Question

How did you start or obtain new colonies over the last year?

- Made increases by splitting strong colonies
- Bought and installed packages
- Caught and installed swarms
- Bought hives and/or nucs from another beekeeper

		Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed		Average Colony Loss
				Mean	Standard Error	Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI

Bought Hives	Yes	239	69,910	292.5	129.5	39.8 [35.0, 44.6]
	No	3,847	401,778	104.4	21.4	42.3 [41.1, 43.4]
Installed Swarms	Yes	1,541	30,078	19.5	2.6	40.1 [38.5, 41.7]
	No	2,545	441,610	173.5	34.5	43.3 [41.8, 44.8]
Packages	Yes	1,716	56,417	32.9	14.0	48.8 [47.0, 50.6]
	No	2,370	415,271	175.2	35.7	37.3 [35.9, 38.7]
Splitting	Yes	1,775	449,068	253.0	49.2	36.4 [34.9, 37.8]
	No	2,311	22,620	9.8	3.6	46.5 [44.9, 48.1]

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Started or Obtained New Colonies by Region

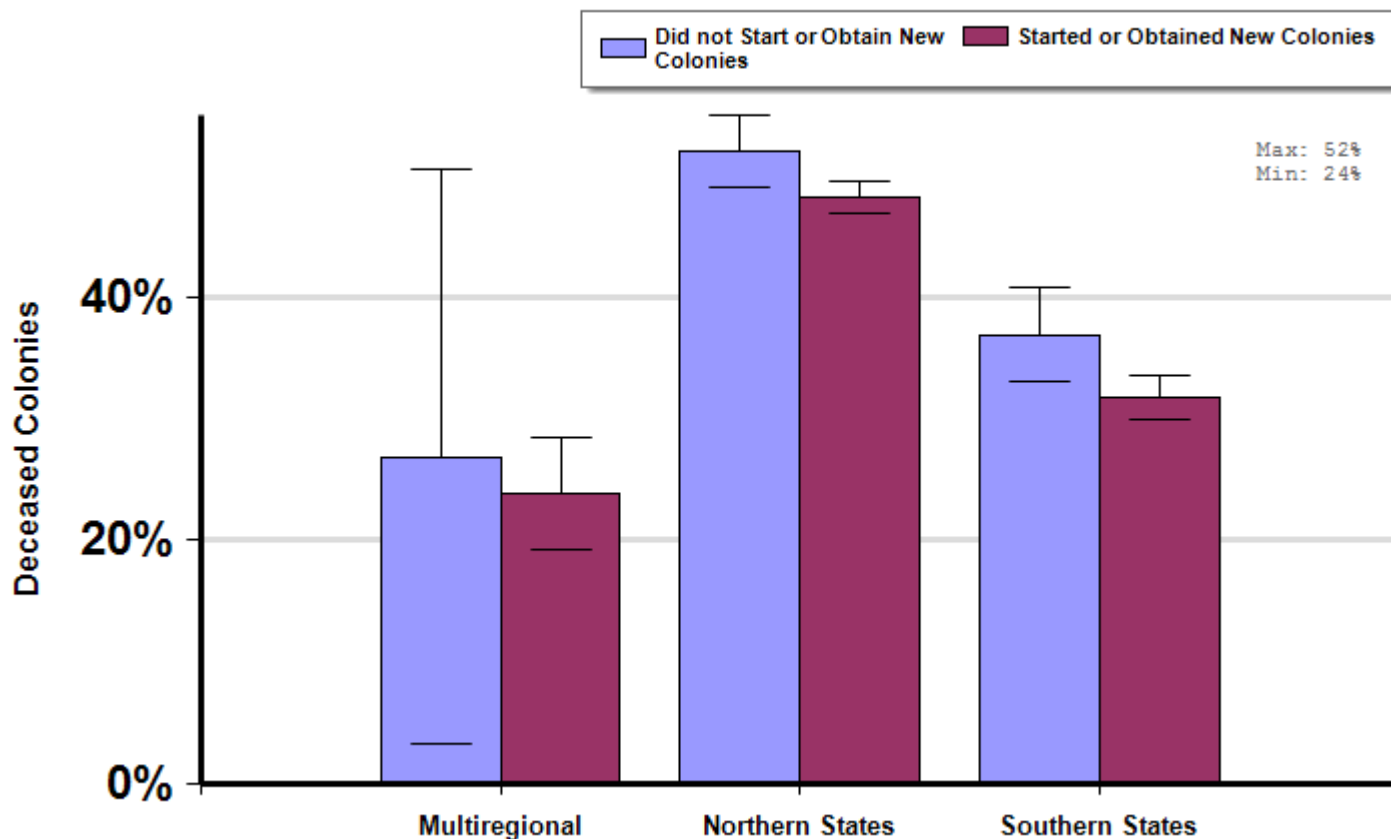
Management Survey 2014

Average winter colony mortality suffered by beekeepers who reportedly did not and did report starting or obtaining new colonies, between April and March, by region.

Winter

Report ID: 236-2014

No Significant Differences (within regions)



Respondent Ratio



Interpretation

There are no significant differences within the regions.

Survey Question

Did you start or obtain any new colonies between 1 April 2013 and 1 April 2014?

		Total Number of Respondents Providing	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss

		Valid Responses				Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI
				Mean	Standard Error	
Multiregional	Did not Start or Obtain New Colonies	8	18,973	2371.6	1060.9	26.8 [3.2, 50.5]
	Started or Obtained New Colonies	92	378,677	4116.1	843.5	23.8 [19.2, 28.4]
Northern States	Did not Start or Obtain New Colonies	791	4,509	5.7	1.0	51.9 [48.9, 54.8]
	Started or Obtained New Colonies	2,675	37,832	14.1	1.9	48.2 [46.8, 49.6]
Southern States	Did not Start or Obtain New Colonies	393	4,288	10.9	5.2	36.9 [33.0, 40.8]
	Started or Obtained New Colonies	1,304	64,339	49.3	15.3	31.7 [30.0, 33.5]

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