



The Bee Informed Partnership
Management Survey Results (2014-2015)
Colony Placement and
Honey Production

BeeInformed.org

Funded by:



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Release Date: September 24, 2015

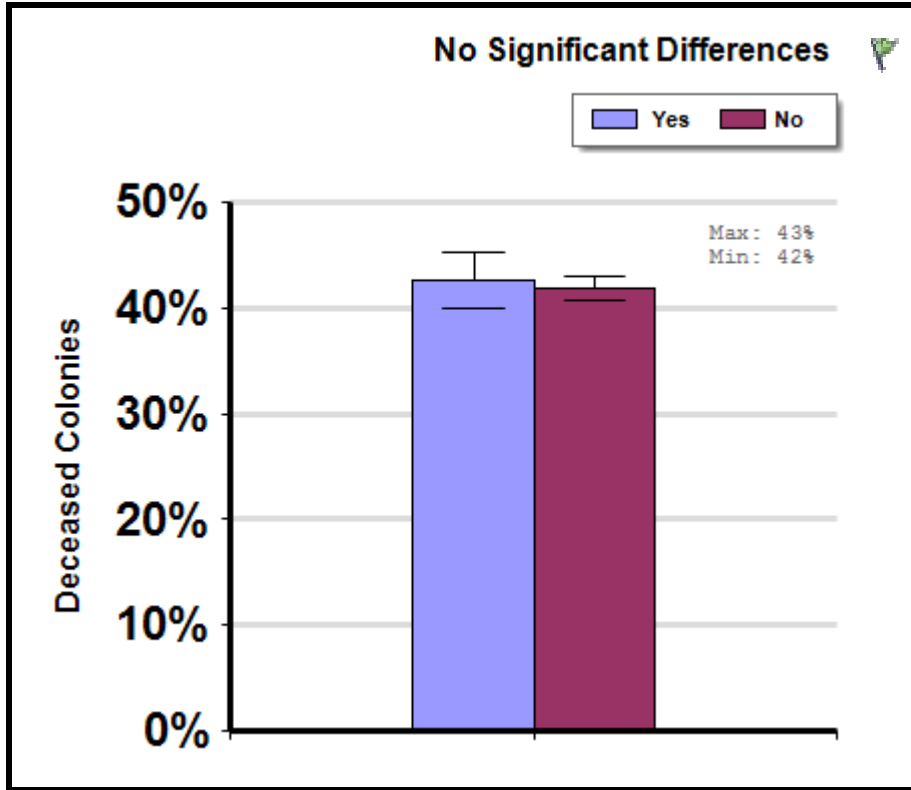
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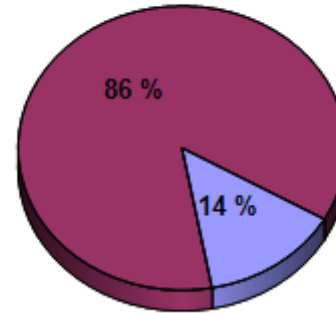
Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers whose colonies were or were not used for pollination between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 98-2015



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Beekeepers who reported renting out their colonies for pollination did not lose more or less colonies than beekeepers who did not rent their colonies for pollination.

Survey Question

Did you derive income from your colonies by renting them out for pollination between April, 2014 and March, 2015?

		Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed		Average Colony Loss
				Mean	Standard Error	
Renting for Pollination	Yes	609	318,186	522.5	125.8	42.7 [40.0, 45.4]
	No	3,820	35,857	9.4	1.0	41.9 [40.8, 43.1]

Comments About This Data

Relevant Links, References, and Citations

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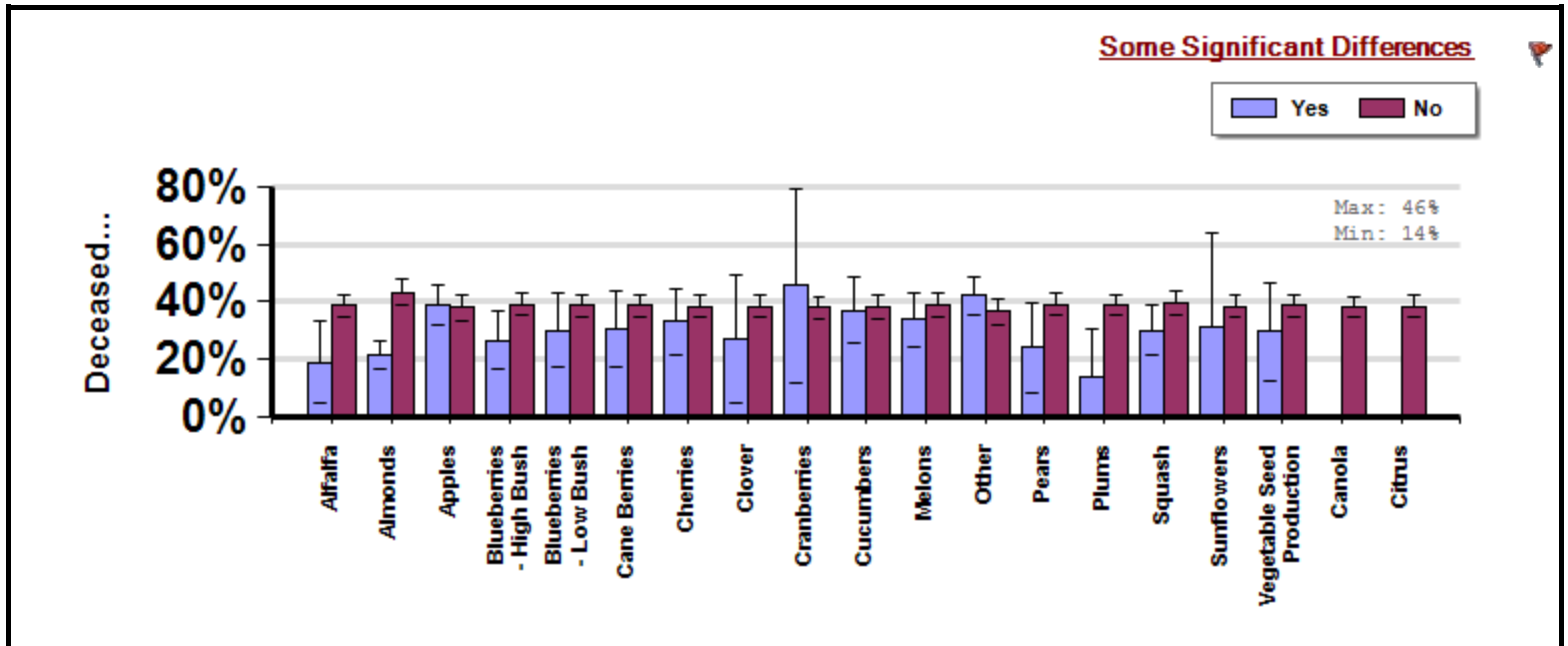
Pollination of Various Crops

Management
Survey 2015

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers whose colonies were or were not used for pollination between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 101-
2015



Interpretation

Beekeepers who rented colonies for alfalfa, almond and plum pollination lost fewer overwintering colonies than beekeepers who did not rent colonies to pollinate these crops.

Survey Question

You indicated that you derived income from renting colonies for pollination last year. Which of the following crops were you paid to pollinate over the last year?

		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
Alfalfa	Yes	8	12,393	1549.1	1507.5	18.9 [4.6, 33.2]
	No	265	282,682	1066.7	276.4	38.7 [34.9, 42.4]
Almonds	Yes	66	275,143	4168.8	1037.0	21.6 [16.6, 26.5]
	No	207	19,932	96.3	26.5	43.4 [39.0, 47.7]

Apples	Yes	70	146,790	2097.0	969.0		38.6 [31.7,45.6]
	No	203	148,285	730.5	143.2		37.9 [33.6,42.3]
Blueberries High Bush	Yes	22	26,624	1210.2	516.5		26.5 [16.3,36.7]
	No	251	268,451	1069.5	292.0		39.1 [35.2,43.0]
Blueberries Low Bush	Yes	19	31,548	1660.4	978.6		30.0 [17.2,42.9]
	No	254	263,527	1037.5	282.8		38.7 [34.8,42.6]
Cane Berries	Yes	16	6,719	419.9	307.2		30.4 [16.9,44.0]
	No	257	288,356	1122.0	287.6		38.6 [34.7,42.4]
Cherries	Yes	19	57,251	3013.2	860.6		32.9 [21.4,44.5]
	No	254	237,824	936.3	282.9		38.5 [34.6,42.4]
Clover	Yes	5	12,972	2594.4	1304.8		27.2 [4.8,49.6]
	No	268	282,103	1052.6	275.4		38.3 [34.6,42.0]
Cranberries	Yes	6	17,356	2892.7	2428.2		45.7 [11.9,79.6]
	No	267	277,719	1040.1	272.6		37.9 [34.2,41.7]
Cucumbers	Yes	21	18,268	869.9	710.4		37.1 [25.5,48.6]
	No	252	276,807	1098.4	288.4		38.2 [34.3,42.1]
Melons	Yes	34	33,796	994.0	481.8		33.8 [24.5,43.0]
	No	239	261,279	1093.2	302.7		38.7 [34.7,42.7]
Other	Yes	81	32,779	404.7	197.3		42.1 [35.4,48.8]
	No	192	262,296	1366.1	375.4		36.4 [32.0,40.8]
Pears	Yes	17	21,580	1269.4	536.9		23.9 [8.4,39.3]
	No	256	273,495	1068.3	287.5		39.0 [35.2,42.8]
Plums	Yes	8	37,280	4660.0	3091.8		13.5 [0.0,30.3]
	No	265	257,795	972.8	262.8		38.8 [35.1,42.6]
Squash	Yes	37	30,126	814.2	449.4		30.0 [21.5,38.6]
	No	236	264,949	1122.7	306.3		39.4 [35.3,43.4]
Sunflowers	Yes	8	31,025	3878.1	2177.6		31.1 [0.0,64.1]

	No	265	264,050	996.4	271.1	38.3 [34.6,42.0]
Vegetable Seed Production	Yes	15	34,052	2270.1	1089.1	29.6 [12.4,46.8]
	No	258	261,023	1011.7	280.1	38.6 [34.8,42.4]
Canola	No	269	272,902	1014.5	264.2	38.2 [34.5,41.9]
Citrus	No	270	286,057	1059.5	272.9	38.4 [34.7,42.1]

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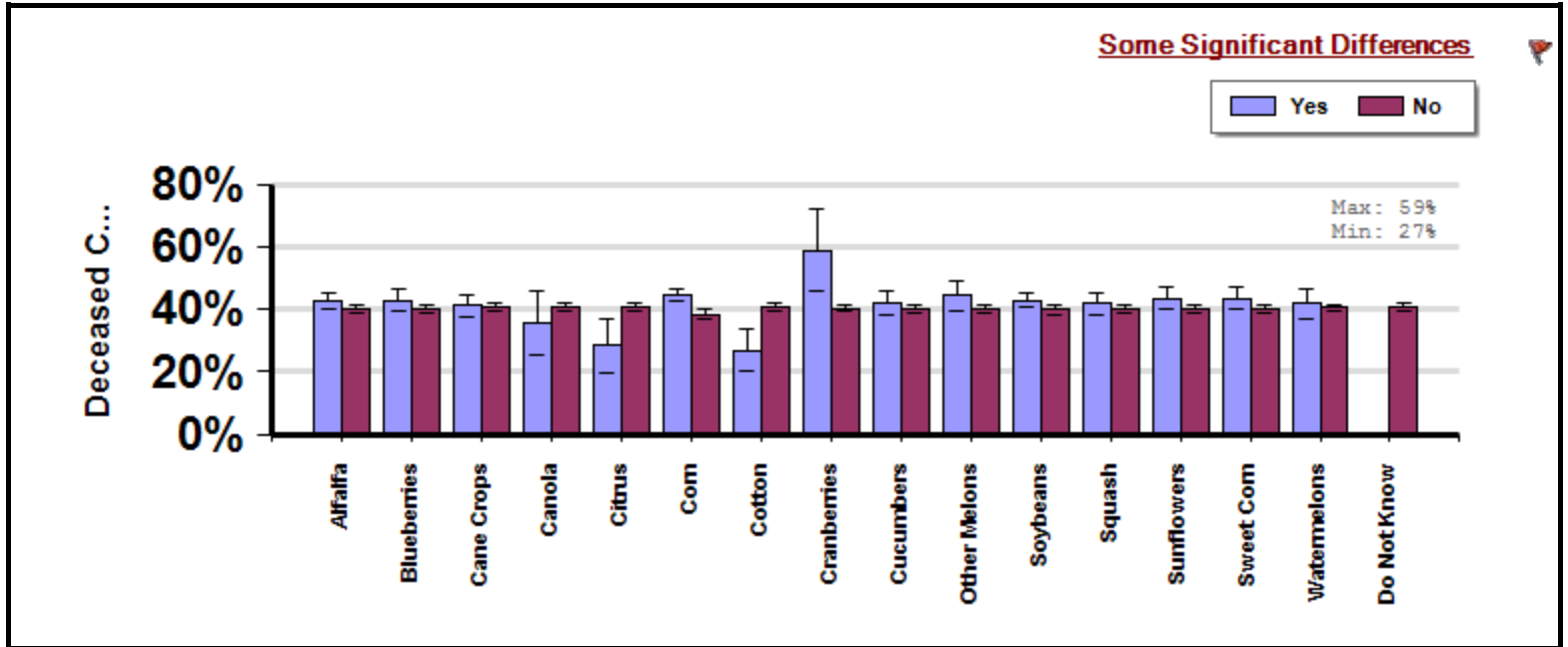
Crops Close to Colonies During Honey Flow

Management Survey 2015

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers whose colonies were in proximity to various crops while they were producing honey between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 86-2015



Interpretation

Beekeepers whose colonies were in close proximity to citrus and cotton crops lost significantly less overwintering colonies than beekeepers who did not report keeping their bees near these crops. Also, beekeepers who kept colonies near cranberries and corn crops lost significantly more overwintering colonies than those who did not. In particular, beekeepers whose colonies were in close proximity to cranberries lost 18.6 more overwintering colonies out of 100 managed colonies (lost 31.5% more colonies) than beekeepers who did not report keeping their bees near cranberries. There are no significant differences between all other groups. In other words, beekeepers who reported positioning their colonies in close proximity to alfalfa, blueberries, cane crops, canola, cucumbers, soybeans, sunflowers, sweet corn, watermelons or other melons did not lose more or less colonies than operations who did not report being in close proximity to those plants.

Survey Question

Which of the following crops were the majority of your colonies in proximity to when they were producing honey?

		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

Alfalfa	Yes	584	175,589	300.7	114.2	42.7 [40.0,45.4]
	No	2,646	126,263	47.7	11.7	40.2 [38.9,41.5]
Blueberries	Yes	395	17,761	45.0	23.9	43.1 [39.8,46.4]
	No	2,835	284,091	100.2	25.8	40.3 [39.0,41.6]
Cane Crops	Yes	322	3,118	9.7	1.1	41.3 [37.6,45.0]
	No	2,908	298,734	102.7	25.4	40.6 [39.3,41.8]
Canola	Yes	30	40,711	1357.0	456.8	35.6 [25.2,45.9]
	No	3,200	261,141	81.6	22.6	40.7 [39.5,41.9]
Citrus	Yes	51	16,497	323.5	184.8	28.4 [19.9,37.0]
	No	3,179	285,355	89.8	23.0	40.8 [39.6,42.1]
Corn	Yes	1,142	80,387	70.4	22.7	44.5 [42.5,46.5]
	No	2,088	221,465	106.1	33.1	38.5 [37.1,40.0]
Cotton	Yes	66	12,323	186.7	104.7	27.0 [20.4,33.5]
	No	3,164	289,529	91.5	23.2	40.9 [39.7,42.1]
Cranberries	Yes	32	2,512	78.5	51.5	59.1 [46.0,72.1]
	No	3,198	299,340	93.6	23.1	40.5 [39.3,41.7]
Cucumbers	Yes	344	6,484	18.8	8.5	42.3 [38.6,45.9]
	No	2,886	295,368	102.3	25.5	40.5 [39.2,41.7]
Other Melons	Yes	193	5,911	30.6	15.4	44.6 [39.7,49.4]
	No	3,037	295,941	97.4	24.3	40.4 [39.2,41.6]
Soybeans	Yes	745	143,593	192.7	90.4	43.0 [40.6,45.4]
	No	2,485	158,259	63.7	12.1	40.0 [38.6,41.3]
Squash	Yes	402	3,915	9.7	0.9	42.0 [38.6,45.4]
	No	2,828	297,937	105.4	26.1	40.5 [39.2,41.7]
Sunflowers	Yes	391	45,977	117.6	45.7	43.6 [40.1,47.1]
	No	2,839	255,875	90.1	25.2	40.2 [39.0,41.5]
Sweet Corn	Yes	336	9,091	27.1	14.4	43.5 [39.9,47.2]
	No	2,894	292,761	101.2	25.4	40.3 [39.1,41.6]

Watermelons	Yes	183	10,402	56.8	28.3	41.9 [37.0,46.8]
	No	3,047	291,450	95.7	24.1	40.6 [39.3,41.8]
Do Not Know	No	3,230	301,852	93.5	22.8	40.6 [39.5,41.8]

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Multiregional

Alfalfa	Yes	39	149,260	3827.2	1595.2	24[16.1,32.8]
	No	78	61,444	787.7	352.2	29[22.9,34.7]
Blueberries	Yes	8	9,066	1133.3	1104.4	35[18.1,51.2]
	No	109	201,638	1849.9	630.8	27[21.8,31.8]
Cane Crops	Yes	6	114	19.0	7.8	23[0.0,53.3]
	No	111	210,590	1897.2	622.8	28[22.7,32.5]
Canola	Yes	12	39,900	3325.0	887.2	29[13.6,44.1]
	No	105	170,804	1626.7	650.6	27[22.1,32.3]
Citrus	No	113	199,555	1766.0	609.4	27[22.5,32.3]
Corn	Yes	37	62,490	1688.9	653.0	26[18.6,33.7]
	No	80	148,214	1852.7	814.0	28[21.8,34.0]
Cotton	Yes	7	5,810	830.0	778.6	16[0.0,36.0]
	No	110	204,894	1862.7	627.7	28[23.1,33.0]
Cranberries	No	117	210,704	1800.9	592.0	27[22.6,32.1]
Cucumbers	Yes	13	518	39.8	24.0	31[11.9,50.1]
	No	104	210,186	2021.0	663.2	27[22.0,31.8]
Do Not Know	No	117	210,704	1800.9	592.0	27[22.6,32.1]
Other Melons	Yes	5	179	35.8	20.0	35[0.0,76.3]
	No	112	210,525	1879.7	617.5	27[22.2,31.9]
Soybeans	Yes	40	130,877	3271.9	1625.8	26[18.6,32.8]
	No	77	79,827	1036.7	292.8	28[21.9,34.6]
Squash	Yes	13	197	15.2	3.8	24[7.6,40.8]
	No	104	210,507	2024.1	663.1	28[22.7,32.8]
Sunflowers	Yes	15	41,646	2776.4	991.2	15[7.8,21.9]
	No	102	169,058	1657.4	663.4	29[23.9,34.5]
Sweet Corn	Yes	11	4,993	453.9	434.6	29[10.5,47.3]
	No	106	205,711	1940.7	650.8	27[22.2,32.2]
Watermelons	Yes	12	1,164	97.0	37.4	42[21.0,63.9]

		No	105	209,540	1995.6	657.3	26[20.9,30.4]
Northern States	Alfalfa	Yes	442	8,147	18.4	3.4	46[42.8,49.1]
		No	1,614	36,280	22.5	6.9	45[43.4,46.9]
	Blueberries	Yes	265	4,071	15.4	5.9	47[42.6,50.6]
		No	1,791	40,356	22.5	6.2	45[43.5,46.8]
	Cane Crops	Yes	227	1,722	7.6	0.7	44[39.8,48.7]
		No	1,829	42,705	23.3	6.1	45[43.8,47.1]
	Canola	Yes	6	57	9.5	3.1	58[26.4,88.6]
		No	2,050	44,370	21.6	5.5	45[43.7,46.8]
	Citrus	No	2,054	44,418	21.6	5.4	45[43.7,46.8]
	Corn	Yes	853	13,294	15.6	2.1	48[45.9,50.5]
		No	1,203	31,133	25.9	9.2	43[41.2,45.3]
	Cotton	No	2,054	43,980	21.4	5.4	45[43.8,46.8]
	Cranberries	Yes	28	1,862	66.5	55.0	60[45.8,74.7]
		No	2,028	42,565	21.0	5.5	45[43.6,46.7]
	Cucumbers	Yes	212	1,626	7.7	0.9	45[40.3,49.5]
		No	1,844	42,801	23.2	6.1	45[43.7,47.0]
	Do Not Know	No	2,056	44,427	21.6	5.4	45[43.8,46.9]
	Other Melons	Yes	123	1,388	11.3	2.2	48[41.8,53.7]
		No	1,933	43,039	22.3	5.8	45[43.6,46.8]
	Soybeans	Yes	530	8,733	16.5	2.1	48[44.8,50.6]
		No	1,526	35,694	23.4	7.3	44[42.7,46.3]
	Squash	Yes	257	2,071	8.1	0.8	46[41.6,50.1]
		No	1,799	42,356	23.5	6.2	45[43.6,46.9]
	Sunflowers	Yes	263	3,213	12.2	5.1	47[42.6,51.3]
No		1,793	41,214	23.0	6.2	45[43.4,46.7]	
Sweet Corn	Yes	242	2,568	10.6	1.3	47[42.3,50.9]	
	No	1,814	41,859	23.1	6.2	45[43.5,46.8]	

Southern States	Watermelons	Yes	90	1,149	12.8	3.4	45[38.6,51.9]
		No	1,966	43,278	22.0	5.7	45[43.7,46.9]
	Alfalfa	Yes	98	16,919	172.6	124.2	37[30.9,43.3]
		No	918	21,860	23.8	6.7	33[31.4,35.5]
	Blueberries	Yes	120	3,982	33.2	24.1	36[30.2,42.2]
		No	896	34,797	38.8	14.9	33[31.4,35.5]
	Cane Crops	Yes	86	1,268	14.7	3.3	36[29.0,42.3]
		No	930	37,511	40.3	14.7	34[31.6,35.7]
	Canola	Yes	9	171	19.0	4.8	35[11.5,58.5]
		No	1,007	38,608	38.3	13.6	34[31.8,35.7]
	Citrus	Yes	37	4,970	134.3	81.2	29[19.5,39.5]
		No	979	33,809	34.5	13.6	34[32.0,35.9]
	Corn	Yes	247	3,920	15.9	2.5	35[31.1,38.7]
		No	769	34,859	45.3	17.7	33[31.2,35.7]
	Cotton	Yes	57	6,066	106.4	75.6	27[20.0,33.9]
		No	959	32,713	34.1	13.5	34[32.2,36.2]
	Cranberries	No	1,014	38,771	38.2	13.5	34[31.8,35.7]
	Cucumbers	Yes	118	4,260	36.1	24.5	39[32.3,45.2]
		No	898	34,519	38.4	14.9	33[31.1,35.2]
	Do Not Know	No	1,016	38,779	38.2	13.4	34[31.8,35.7]
Other Melons	Yes	62	3,613	58.3	46.7	40[31.0,49.3]	
	No	954	35,166	36.9	14.0	33[31.4,35.4]	
Soybeans	Yes	168	2,708	16.1	2.3	33[28.8,37.2]	
	No	848	36,071	42.5	16.1	34[31.8,36.1]	
Squash	Yes	130	1,556	12.0	2.1	36[30.3,42.3]	
	No	886	37,223	42.0	15.4	33[31.4,35.5]	
Sunflowers	Yes	112	1,115	10.0	1.6	40[33.8,46.2]	
	No	904	37,664	41.7	15.1	33[31.0,35.1]	

Sweet Corn	Yes	80	860	10.8	1.8	38[30.3,44.9]
	No	936	37,919	40.5	14.6	33[31.4,35.5]
Watermelons	Yes	81	8,089	99.9	63.5	38[30.4,45.9]
	No	935	30,690	32.8	13.5	33[31.4,35.4]

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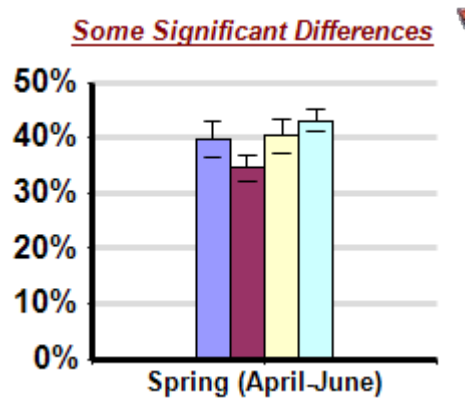
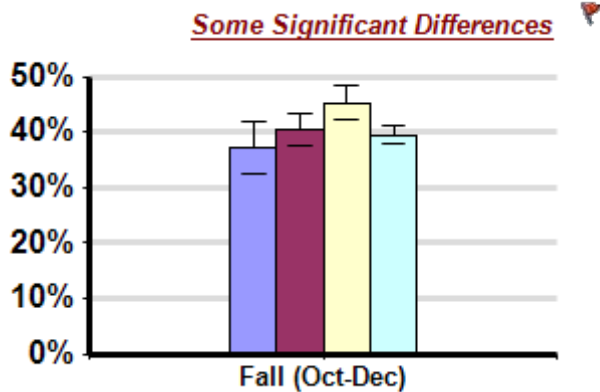
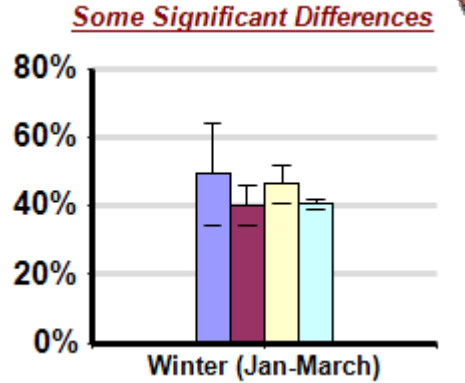
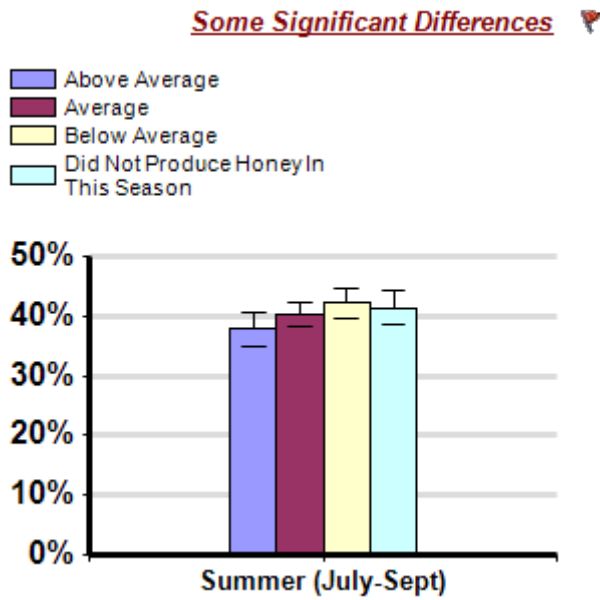


Honey Production by Season

Average winter colony mortality suffered by beekeepers in comparison to amount of honey production between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 92



Interpretation

Operations who reported average honey production during the spring months (Apr-Jun) lost fewer colonies than operations that had below average honey production or did not produce honey in the spring. Also, beekeepers who reported below average honey production in the fall (Oct-Dec) lost more colonies than those who did not produce honey in the fall.

Survey Question

Season	Result	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 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Fall (Oct-Dec)	Above Average	224	26,611	118.8	70.3	37.2	32.6	41.9
	Average	519	23,915	46.1	16.6	40.5	37.5	43.5

	Below Average:	496	15,062	30.4	8.4	45.3	42.3	48.4
	Did Not Produce Honey In This Season:	1,625	150,041	92.3	21.0	39.5	37.8	41.1
Spring (April-June)	Above Average:	366	13,633	37.2	14.3	39.8	36.5	43.1
	Average:	686	46,757	68.2	28.5	34.6	32.1	37.0
	Below Average:	464	37,839	81.5	22.8	40.3	37.3	43.3
	Did Not Produce Honey In This Season:	1,459	134,650	92.3	22.9	43.2	41.4	45.0
Summer (July-Sept)	Above Average:	523	48,369	92.5	26.0	37.8	35.0	40.6
	Average:	1,123	153,994	137.1	59.7	40.2	38.2	42.3
	Below Average:	759	86,103	113.4	37.2	42.2	39.7	44.6
	Did Not Produce Honey In This Season:	627	12,076	19.3	7.6	41.3	38.5	44.1
Winter (Jan-March)	Above Average:	32	302	9.4	3.4	49.3	34.5	64.1
	Average:	153	13,093	85.6	47.9	40.1	34.4	45.9
	Below Average:	155	5,403	34.9	21.3	46.2	40.5	51.9
	Did Not Produce Honey In This Season:	2,280	191,364	83.9	16.6	40.5	39.1	41.9

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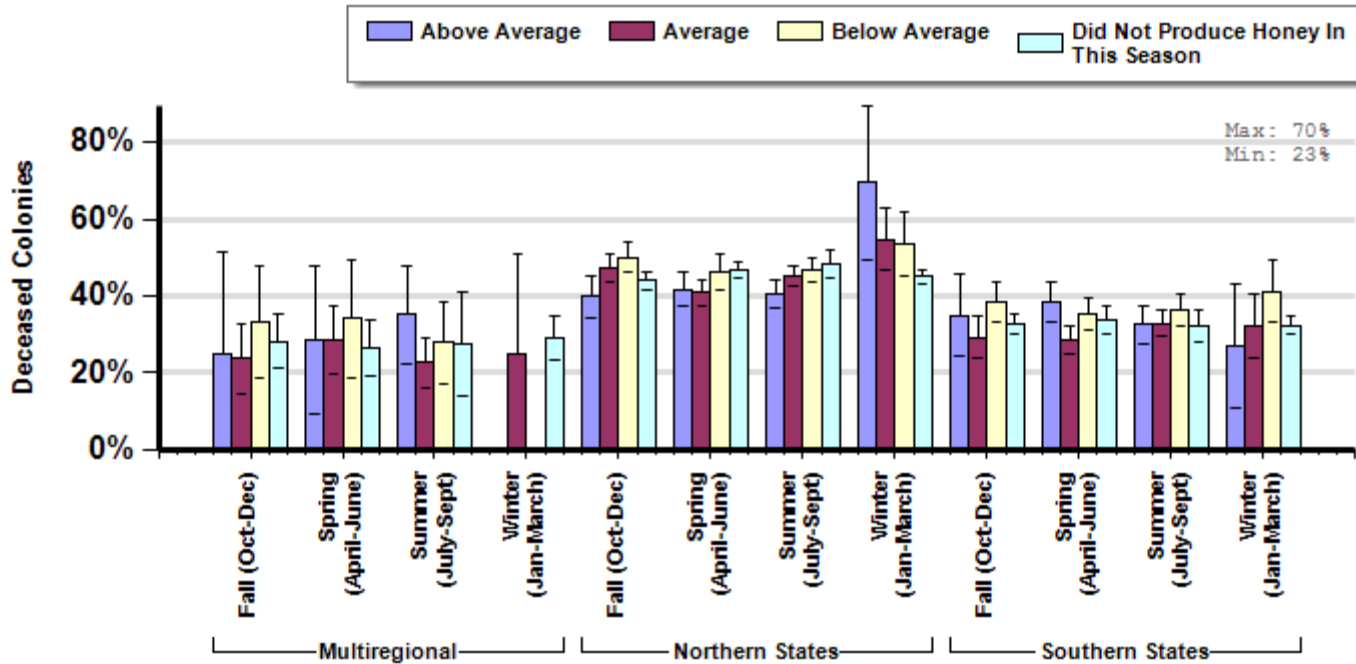
Honey Production by Region

Winter

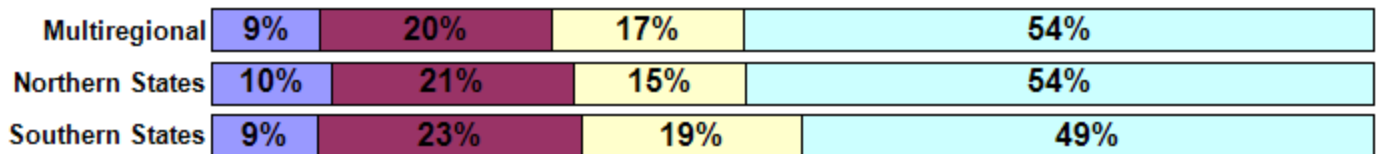
Average winter colony mortality suffered by beekeepers in comparison to amount of honey produced in April and March.

Report ID: 95-
2015

Some Significant Differences (within regions)



Respondent Ratio



Interpretation

Northern beekeepers who reported above average honey production in the winter months (Jan-Mar) saw 25 more overwintering colony deaths out of 100 managed colonies (35.7% more losses) than northern beekeepers who did not produce honey in this season. Also, southern beekeepers who experienced above average honey production in the spring months (Apr-Jun) saw 10 more overwintering colony deaths out of 100 managed colonies (25.6% more losses) than southern beekeepers who reported average honey production in the spring months.

Survey Question

In your opinion would you say that the amount of honey you produced in the following seasons was above average, average, or below average?

- Did not produce honey this season
- Below Average
- Average
- Above Average

			Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed		Average Colony Loss Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI	
					Mean	Standard Error		
Multiregional	Fall (Oct-Dec)	Above Average	5	15,268	3053.6	2987.0	25[0.0,51.6]	
		Average	18	8,869	492.7	293.3	24[14.5,32.9]	
		Below Average	20	4,831	241.6	100.9	33[18.5,47.9]	
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	63	107,929	1713.2	450.8	28[21.1,35.1]	
	Spring (April-June)	Above Average	10	7,833	783.3	483.4	29[9.4,47.9]	
		Average	25	35,816	1432.6	743.2	29[19.8,37.3]	
		Below Average	17	2,146	126.2	54.1	34[18.9,49.2]	
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	59	108,723	1842.8	478.0	27[19.4,34.0]	
	Summer (July-Sept)	Above Average	25	37,766	1510.6	445.0	35[22.2,47.9]	
		Average	36	130,040	3612.2	1782.6	23[16.3,29.0]	
		Below Average	34	38,495	1132.2	655.6	28[17.4,38.3]	
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	17	4,757	279.8	262.6	27[14.0,40.8]	
	Winter (Jan-March)	Average	6	284	47.3	25.4	25[0.0,51.0]	
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	94	133,762	1423.0	345.7	29[23.4,34.5]	
	Northern States	Fall (Oct-Dec)	Above Average	165	2,000	12.1	1.9	40[34.4,45.3]
			Average	345	11,040	32.0	19.1	47[43.7,51.1]
Below Average			315	4,492	14.3	4.3	50[46.1,53.8]	
Did Not Produce Honey In This			1,002	16,890	16.9	5.1	44[41.8,46.2]	

		Season					
	Spring (April-June)	Above Average	211	2,970	14.1	1.8	42[37.3,46.3]
		Average	361	5,997	16.6	4.1	41[37.3,44.4]
		Below Average	223	16,136	72.4	36.7	46[41.8,50.8]
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	1,085	10,629	9.8	1.3	47[44.7,49.1]
	Summer (July-Sept)	Above Average	357	4,481	12.6	2.8	41[37.0,44.1]
		Average	737	15,640	21.2	6.9	45[42.6,47.7]
		Below Average	472	19,344	41.0	20.7	47[43.4,49.8]
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	365	4,566	12.5	4.4	48[44.5,52.0]
	Winter (Jan-March)	Above Average	18	106	5.9	2.4	70[49.5,89.6]
		Average	71	7,414	104.4	91.6	55[46.5,63.1]
		Below Average	73	769	10.5	1.7	54[45.2,62.1]
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	1,488	24,469	16.4	3.6	45[43.4,47.0]
Southern States	Fall (Oct-Dec)	Above Average	45	3,229	71.8	64.3	35[24.4,45.7]
		Average	140	2,877	20.6	6.7	29[23.8,34.6]
		Below Average	155	5,688	36.7	21.3	39[33.5,43.6]
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	550	24,573	44.7	23.5	33[30.2,35.3]
	Spring (April-June)	Above Average	140	2,062	14.7	2.7	39[33.5,43.8]
		Average	283	4,321	15.3	1.9	29[25.1,32.3]
		Below Average	216	17,045	78.9	29.1	35[31.4,39.6]
		Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	304	14,647	48.2	39.8	34[30.4,37.5]
		Summer (July-	Above	133	2,527	19.0	4.3

Sept)	Average					
	Average	330	4,910	14.9	4.1	33[29.4,36.4]
	Below Average	242	27,338	113.0	55.9	36[32.2,40.3]
	Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	243	2,738	11.3	1.7	32[28.1,36.2]
Winter (Jan-March)	Above Average	12	85	7.1	2.0	27[10.9,42.9]
	Average	63	1,354	21.5	6.1	32[23.8,40.6]
	Below Average	74	4,405	59.5	44.5	41[33.1,49.5]
	Did Not Produce Honey In This Season	682	29,497	43.3	19.4	32[29.9,34.6]

Comments About This Data

Relevant Links, References, and Citations



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