



The Bee Informed Partnership
Management Survey Results (2014-2015)
Honey Bee Stock
Management

BeeInformed.org

Funded by:



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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of Food
and Agriculture

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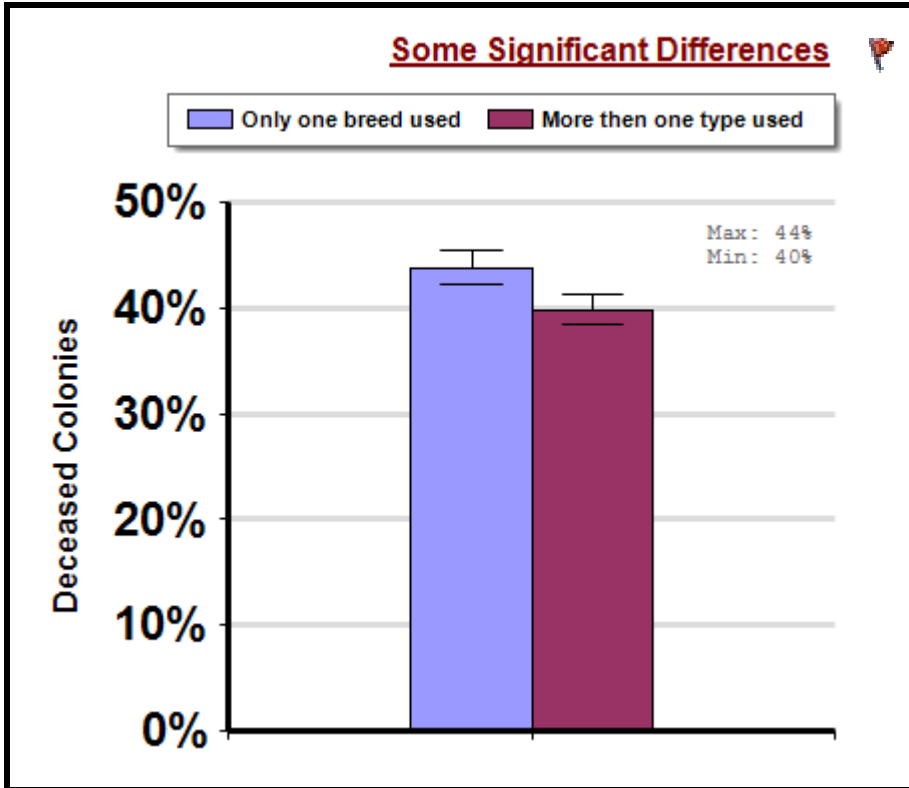
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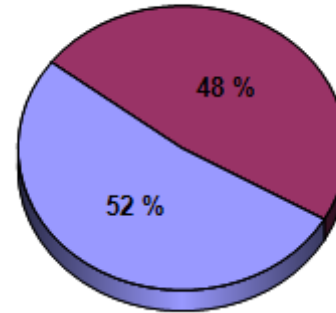
Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers who indicated which race of bees they kept between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 248-2015



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Beekeepers who used multiple races of bees in their operation lost 4 fewer overwintering colonies out of 100 managed colonies (9.1% fewer losses) than beekeepers who only used one race of bees in their operation.

Survey Question

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

- New World Carniolan
- New World Carniolan hybrid
- Caucasian
- Caucasian hybrid
- Italian
- Italian hybrid
- Buckfast
- Buckfast hybrid
- Russian
- Russian hybrid
- Varroa Sensitive Hygienic (VSH)
- Minnesota Hygienic
- German black
- Local selected
- Africanized
- Don't know

		Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss
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				Mean	Standard Error	Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI
	More than one type used	2,154	163,084	75.7	16.5	39.9 [38.5, 41.3]
	Only one breed used	2,333	195,003	83.6	29.6	43.9 [42.3, 45.4]

Comments About This Data

Relevant Links, References, and Citations

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Simple Single Stock By Region

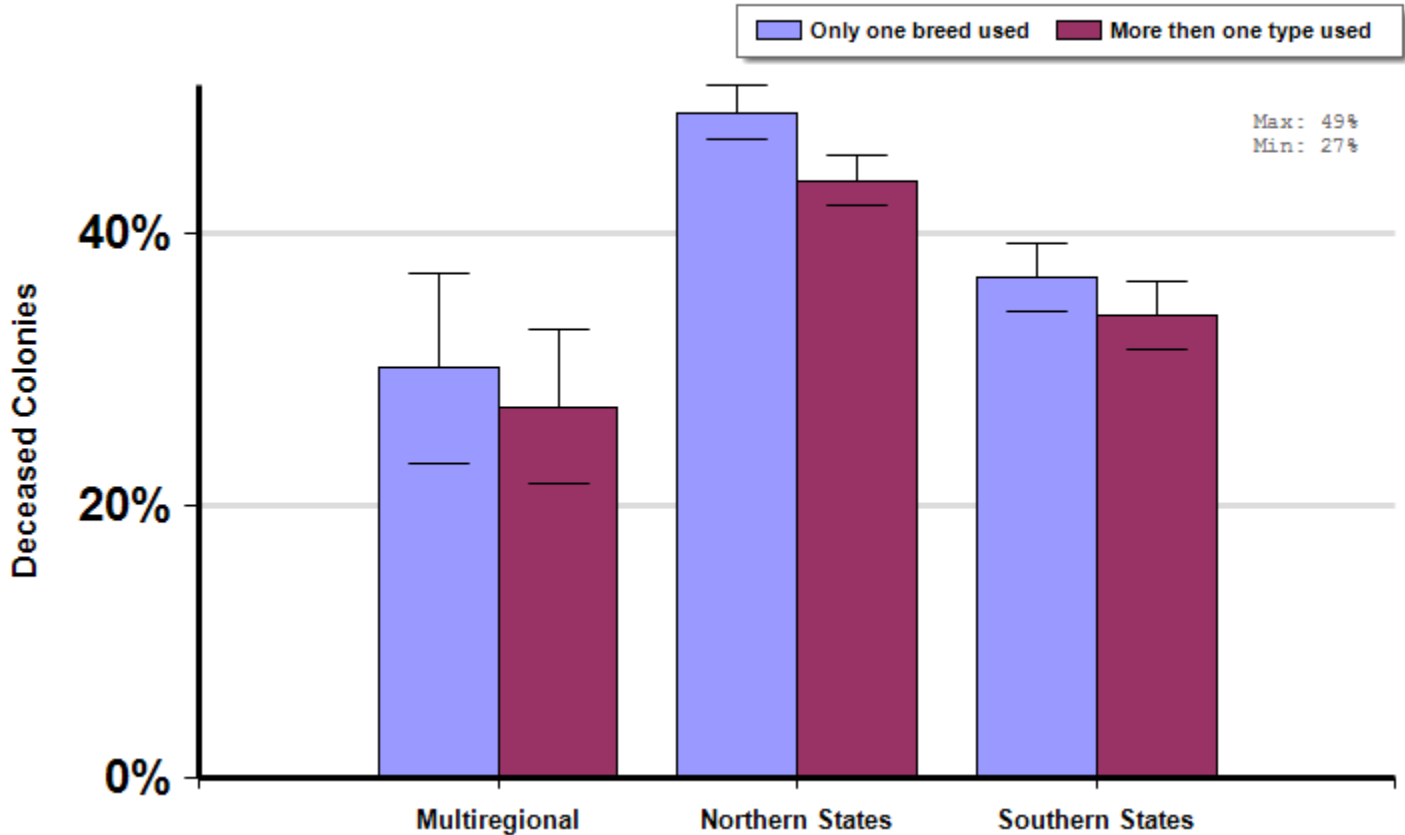
Management Survey 2015

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers who indicated which race of bees they kept between April and March, by region.

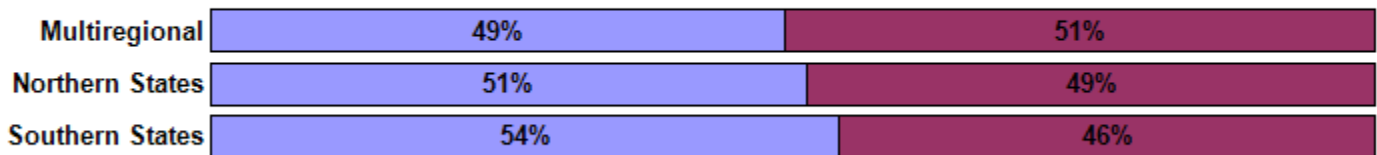
Winter

Report ID: 252-2015

Some Significant Differences (within regions)



Respondent Ratio



Interpretation

Northern beekeepers who used multiple races of bees in their operation saw 5 fewer overwintering colony deaths out of 100 managed colonies (10.2% fewer losses) than northern beekeepers who only used one race of bees in their operation.

Survey Question

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

- New World Carniolan
- New World Carniolan hybrid

- Caucasian
- Caucasian hybrid
- Italian
- Italian hybrid
- Buckfast
- Buckfast hybrid
- Russian
- Russian hybrid
- Varroa Sensitive Hygienic (VSH)
- Minnesota Hygienic
- German black
- Local selected
- Africanized
- Don't know

		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	Only one breed used	68	149,286	2195.4	967.0	30.1 [23.1, 37.0]
	More than one type used	70	95,773	1368.2	402.7	27.2 [21.5, 32.9]
Northern States	Only one breed used	1,463	11,085	7.6	1.0	48.8 [46.8, 50.8]
	More than one type used	1,397	37,222	26.6	7.9	43.8 [42.0, 45.7]
Southern States	Only one breed used	777	28,321	36.4	17.1	36.7 [34.2, 39.2]
	More than one type used	661	28,199	42.7	23.2	33.9 [31.5, 36.4]

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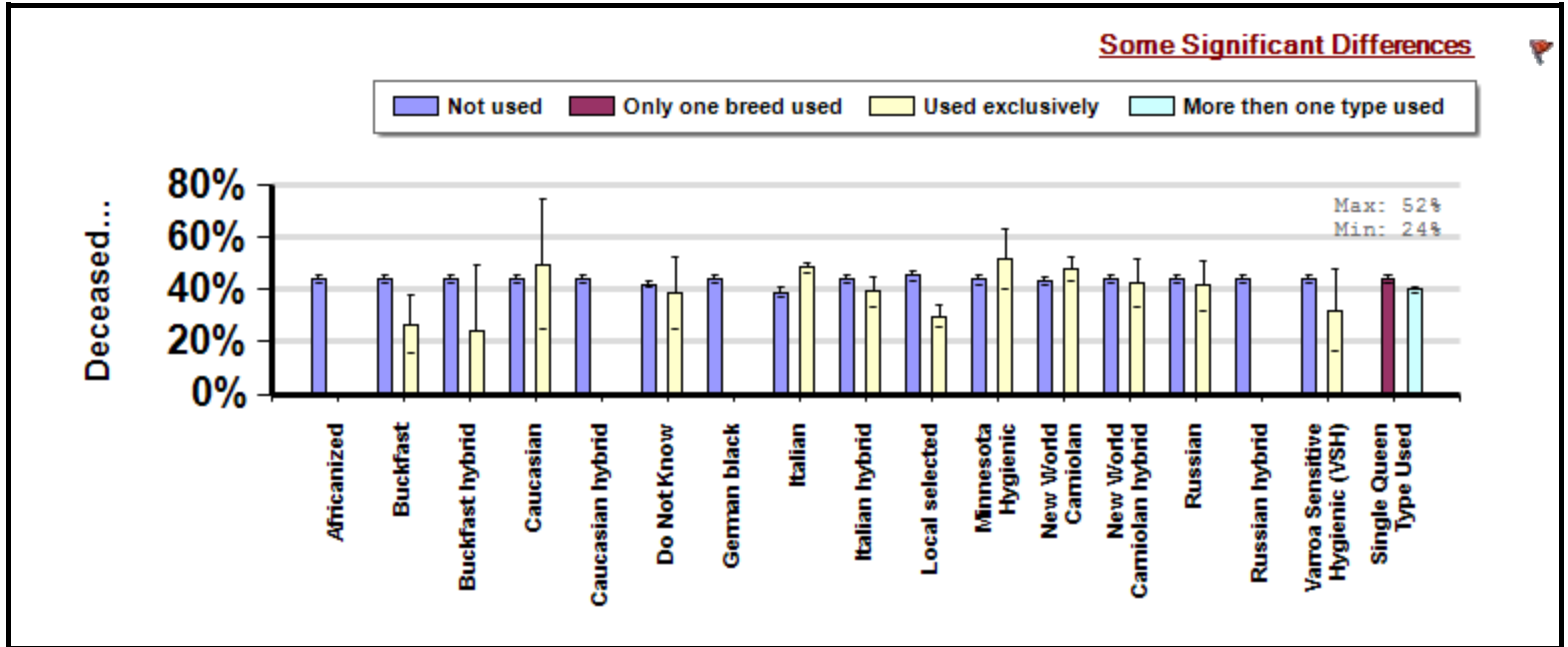
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Winter

Report ID: 206-
2015

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers who indicated which race of bees they kept between April and March.



Interpretation

Beekeepers who kept Buckfast bees reported 17.2 fewer overwintering colony deaths out of 100 managed colonies (39.1% fewer losses) than beekeepers who did not keep Buckfast bees. Beekeepers who used Italian bees exclusively reported 9.4 more overwintering colony deaths out of 100 managed colonies (19.4% greater losses) than those who did not use Italian bees. Beekeepers who kept a locally selected race of bees reported 15.4 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies (34.1% fewer losses) than beekeepers who did not keep a locally selected race of bees. Also, beekeepers who used more than one breed of queen in their operation saw 4 fewer losses out of 100 managed colonies (9.1% fewer losses) than beekeepers who only used one breed of queen.

Survey Question

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

- New World Carniolan
- New World Carniolan hybrid
- Caucasian
- Caucasian hybrid
- Italian
- Italian hybrid
- Buckfast
- Buckfast hybrid
- Russian
- Russian hybrid
- Varroa Sensitive Hygienic (VSH)
- Minnesota Hygienic
- German black
- Local selected
- Africanized
- Don't know

		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
Africanized	Not used	2,330	194,969	83.7	29.6	43.9 [42.4,45.5]
Buckfast	Not used	2,312	194,667	84.2	29.9	44.0 [42.5,45.6]
	Used exclusively	21	336	16.0	6.8	26.8 [15.5,38.1]
Buckfast hybrid	Not used	2,321	194,966	84.0	29.8	44.0 [42.4,45.5]
	Used exclusively	12	37	3.1	0.8	24.0 [0.0,49.1]
Caucasian	Not used	2,318	194,957	84.1	29.8	43.8 [42.3,45.4]
	Used exclusively	15	46	3.1	0.4	49.8 [25.2,74.4]
Caucasian hybrid	Not used	2,329	194,973	83.7	29.7	43.9 [42.4,45.4]
Do Not Know	Not used	4,462	357,931	80.2	17.4	42.0 [40.9,43.0]
	Used exclusively	25	156	6.2	1.8	38.7 [25.1,52.4]
German black	Not used	2,331	195,000	83.7	29.6	43.9 [42.3,45.4]
Italian	Not used	1,123	89,376	79.6	23.6	39.0 [36.8,41.1]
	Used exclusively	1,210	105,627	87.3	52.7	48.4 [46.3,50.6]
Italian hybrid	Not used	2,156	185,639	86.1	31.9	44.3 [42.7,45.9]
	Used exclusively	177	9,364	52.9	33.4	39.3 [33.7,44.9]
Local selected	Not used	2,128	192,620	90.5	32.5	45.2 [43.6,46.9]
	Used exclusively	205	2,383	11.6	2.5	29.8 [25.5,34.1]
Minnesota Hygienic	Not used	2,287	186,568	81.6	30.1	43.7 [42.2,45.3]
	Used exclusively	46	8,435	183.4	114.7	51.7 [40.6,62.9]
New World Carniolan	Not used	2,067	188,299	91.1	33.4	43.3 [41.7,45.0]
	Used exclusively	266	6,704	25.2	10.2	48.2 [43.6,52.8]

New World Carniolan hybrid	Not used	2,265	194,274	85.8	30.5	43.9 [42.4,45.5]
	Used exclusively	68	729	10.7	3.3	42.5 [33.6,51.5]
Russian	Not used	2,269	194,386	85.7	30.4	43.9 [42.4,45.5]
	Used exclusively	64	617	9.6	3.8	41.5 [31.8,51.2]
Russian hybrid	Not used	2,333	195,003	83.6	29.6	43.9 [42.3,45.4]
Varroa Sensitive Hygienic (VSH)	Not used	2,309	193,439	83.8	29.9	44.0 [42.5,45.5]
	Used exclusively	24	1,564	65.2	56.0	32.1 [16.3,47.9]
Single Queen Type Used	Only one breed used	2,333	195,003	83.6	29.6	43.9 [42.3,45.4]
	More then one type used	2,154	163,084	75.7	16.5	39.9 [38.5,41.3]

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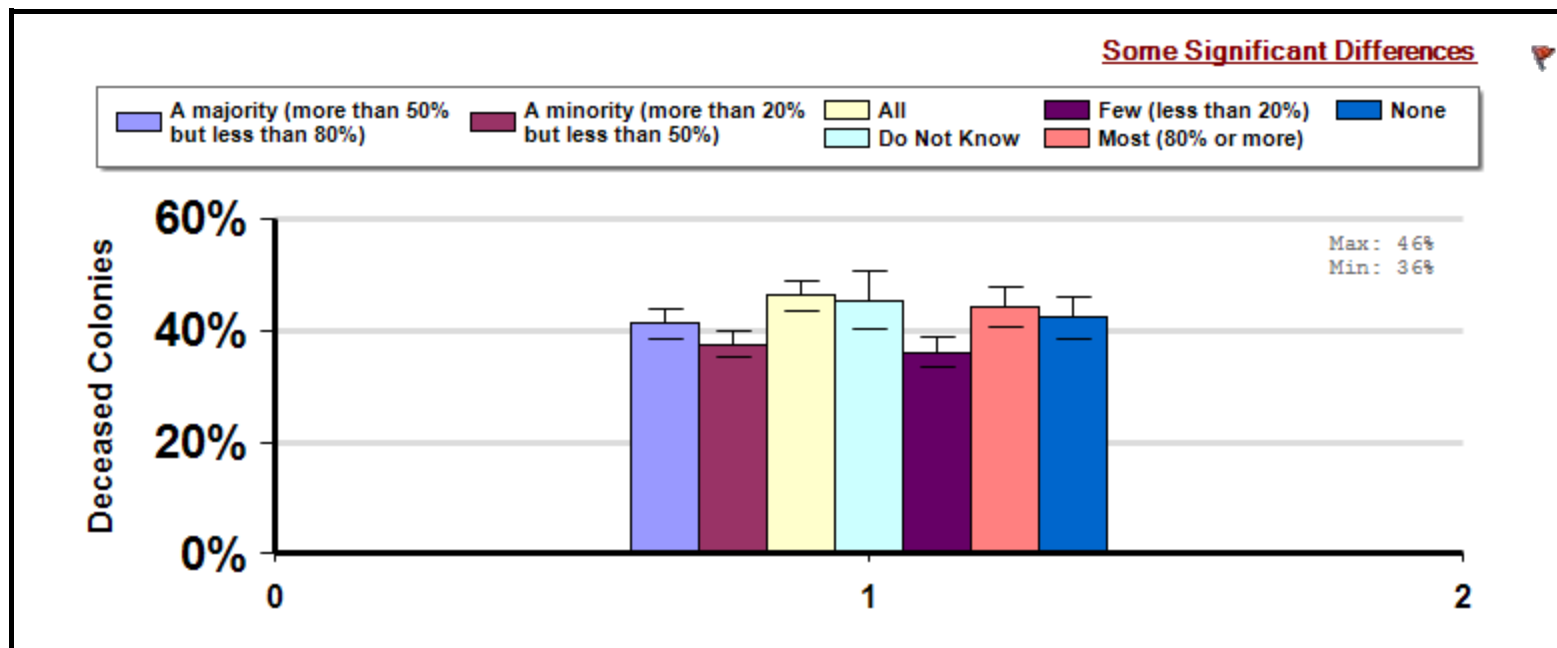
Proportion of Operation Derived from Packages

Management
Survey 2015

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers starting new colonies with packages, between April and March by the proportion of their colonies that were alive on March of the following year and which had originated as packages earlier in the year.

Winter

Report ID: 239-
2015



Interpretation

Beekeepers who started a few (less than 20%) new colonies with packages reported less overwintering colony deaths than those who started 80-100% of their new colonies with packages. Similarly, beekeepers who started a minority (20-50%) of their new colonies with packages reported less overwintering colony deaths than beekeepers who started 100% of their new colonies with packages.

Survey Question

What proportion (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?

- None
- All
- Most (80% or more)
- A majority (more than 50% but less than 80%)
- A minority (less than 50% but more than 20%)
- Few (less than 20%)
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

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
	A majority (more than 50% but less than 80%)	524	35,013	66.8	25.9	41.3 [38.6,44.0]
	A minority (more than 20% but less than 50%)	772	84,969	110.1	35.9	37.6 [35.3,39.8]
	All	816	111,810	137.0	81.3	46.2 [43.5,48.9]
	Do Not Know	181	28,759	158.9	73.4	45.5 [40.3,50.6]
	Few (less than 20%)	433	16,184	37.4	14.2	36.1 [33.4,38.9]
	Most (80% or more)	300	25,216	84.1	33.2	44.4 [40.8,47.9]
	None	417	9,693	23.2	13.1	42.4 [38.7,46.2]

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