



The Bee Informed Partnership Management Survey Results (2014-2015) Summary of Respondent Losses

BeeInformed.org

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

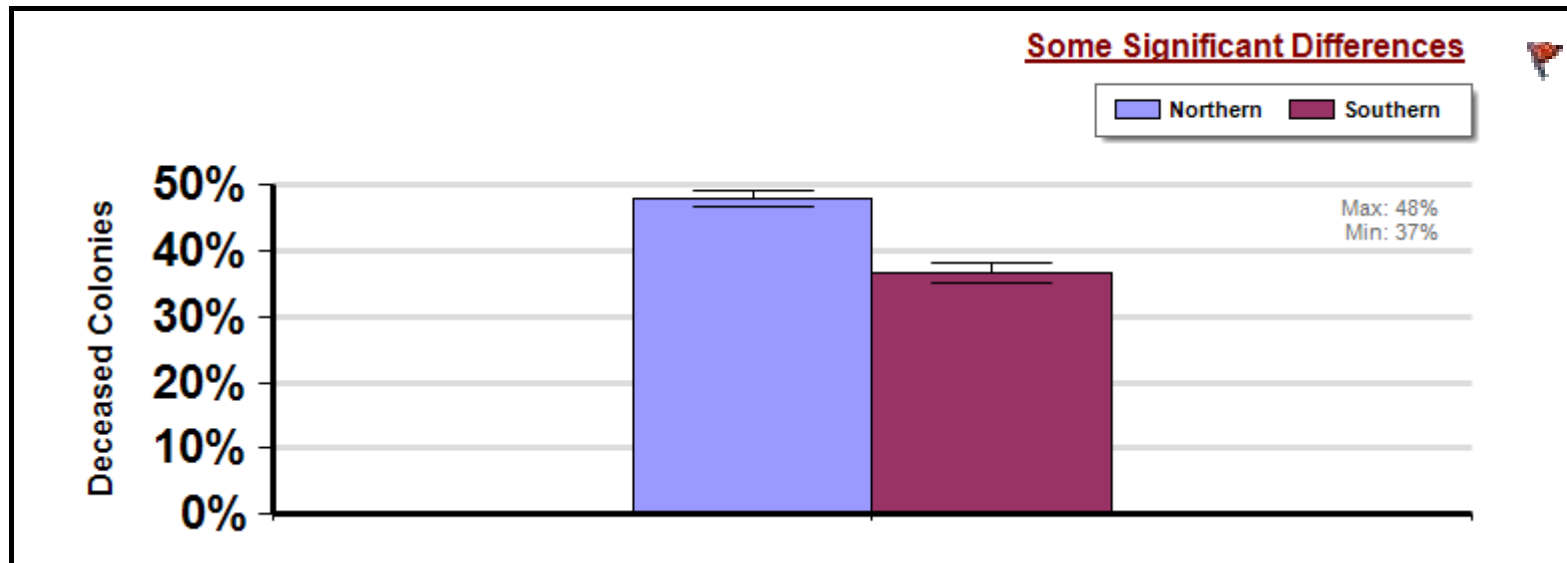
Management
Survey 2015

Winter

Report ID: 29-
2015

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.

(Filtered by:)



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Southern beekeepers reported 11 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who kept bees in the northern states. In other words, southern beekeepers lost 22.9% fewer overwintering 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	3,927	57,581	48% [47%, 49%]	67.0%	55.1%	34.8%
Southern	1,979	79,203	37% [35%, 38%]	33.0%	44.9%	65.2%

Comments About This Data

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Losses in Geographic Sub-Regions Excluding Multiregional Operations

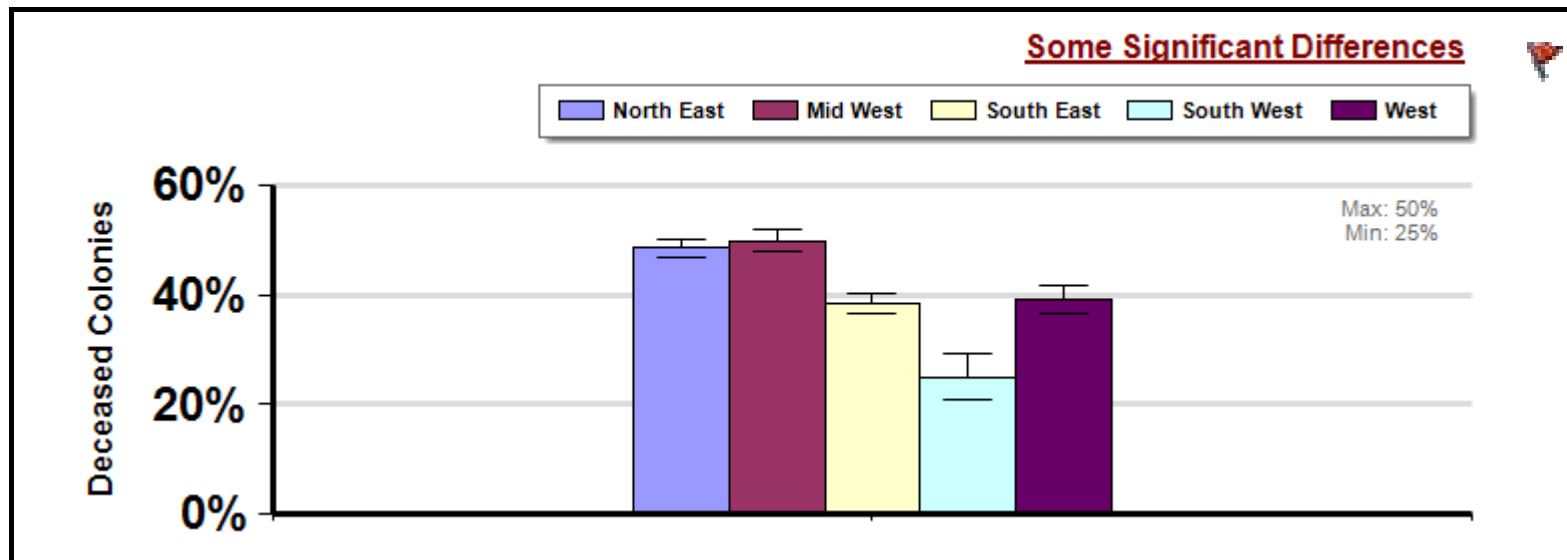
Management
Survey 2015

Winter

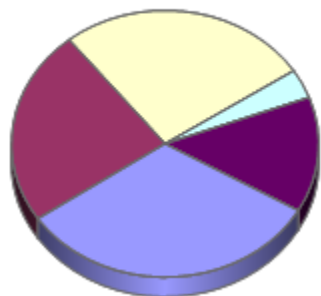
Report ID: 26-
2015

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.

(Filtered by:)



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

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

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	1,902	17,329	49% [47%, 50%]	32.5%	24.6%	6.5%
Mid West	1,403	22,373	50% [48%, 52%]	23.8%	25.7%	6.5%
South East	1,569	18,917	39% [37%, 40%]	26.4%	33.0%	9.7%
South West	211	6,436	25% [21%, 29%]	3.6%	3.4%	3.2%

West	827	101,085	39% [37%, 42%]	13.7%	13.4%	74.2%
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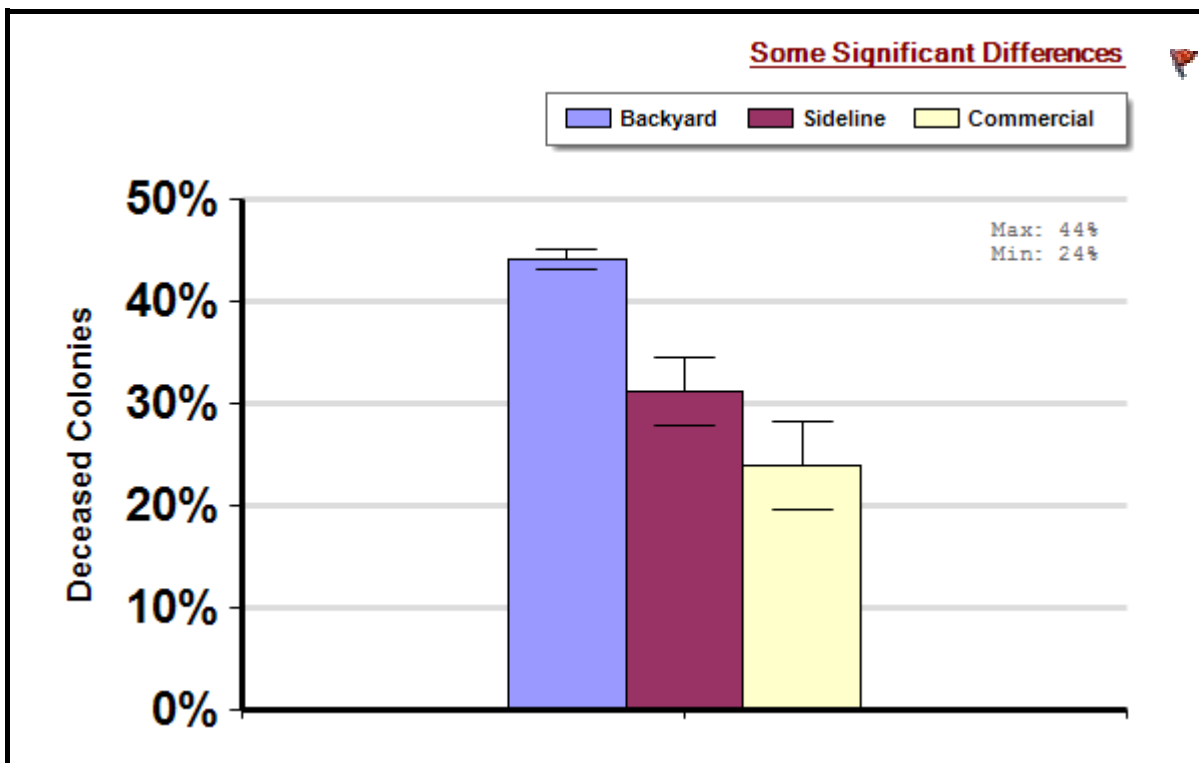
Loss By Operation Size

Management
Survey 2015

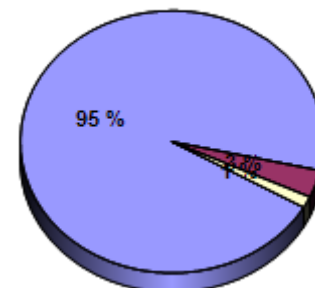
Winter

Report ID: 8-2015

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).



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Commercial beekeepers reported 20 fewer overwintering colonies deaths per 100 managed colonies than backyard beekeepers. In other words, commercial beekeepers lost 45.5% fewer colonies than backyard beekeepers. Sideline beekeepers saw 13 fewer colony losses per 100 managed colonies (29.5% 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	5,883	36,682	44% [43%, 45%]	41% [40%, 42%]
Sideline	209	27,264	31% [28%, 34%]	30% [27%, 34%]
Commercial	88	443,855	24% [20%, 28%]	20% [17%, 23%]

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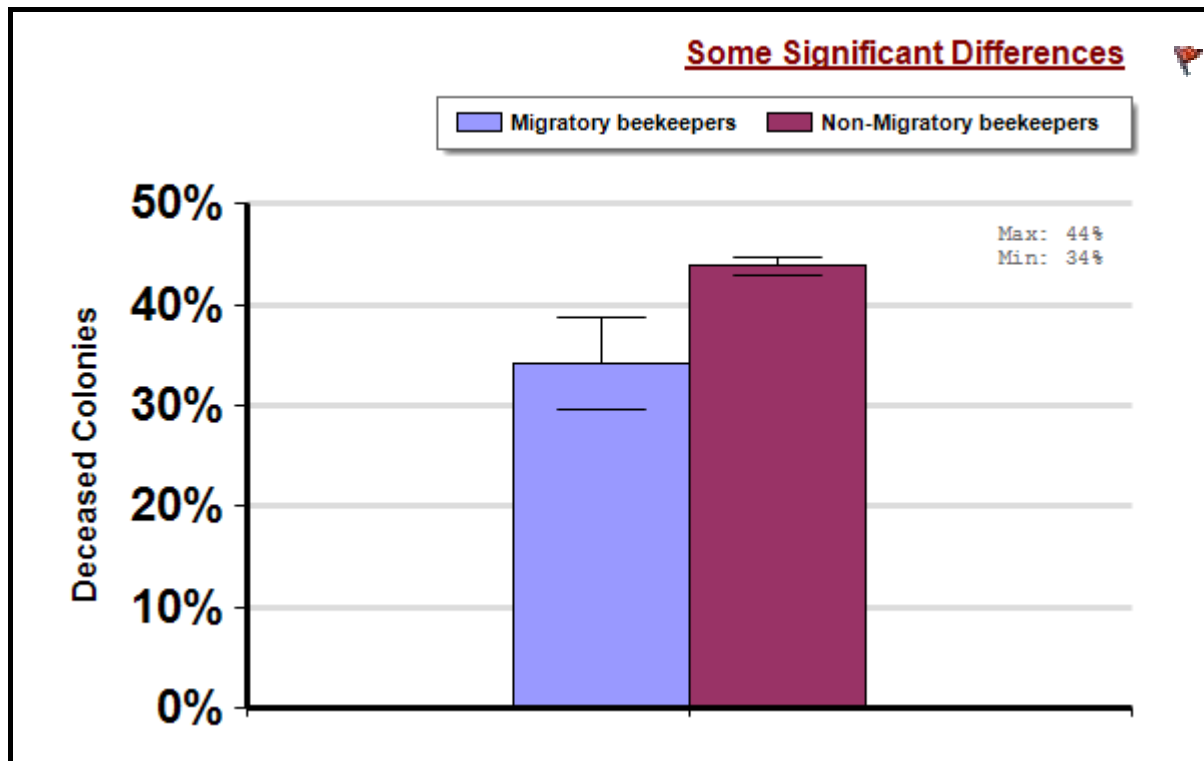
Reported Average Loss By Operation Type (Migratory)

Management Survey 2015

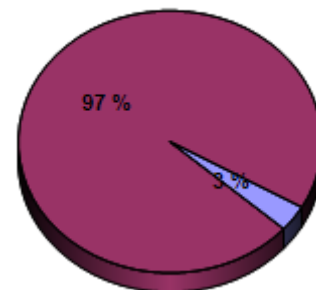
Winter

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

Report ID: 11-2015



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Migratory beekeepers reported 10 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than stationary beekeepers. In other words, migratory beekeepers lost 22.7% 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	190	367,139	34% [30% , 39%]
Non-Migratory beekeepers	5,702	108,192	44% [43% , 45%]

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Average Loss in operations with different Beekeeping Management Philosophies

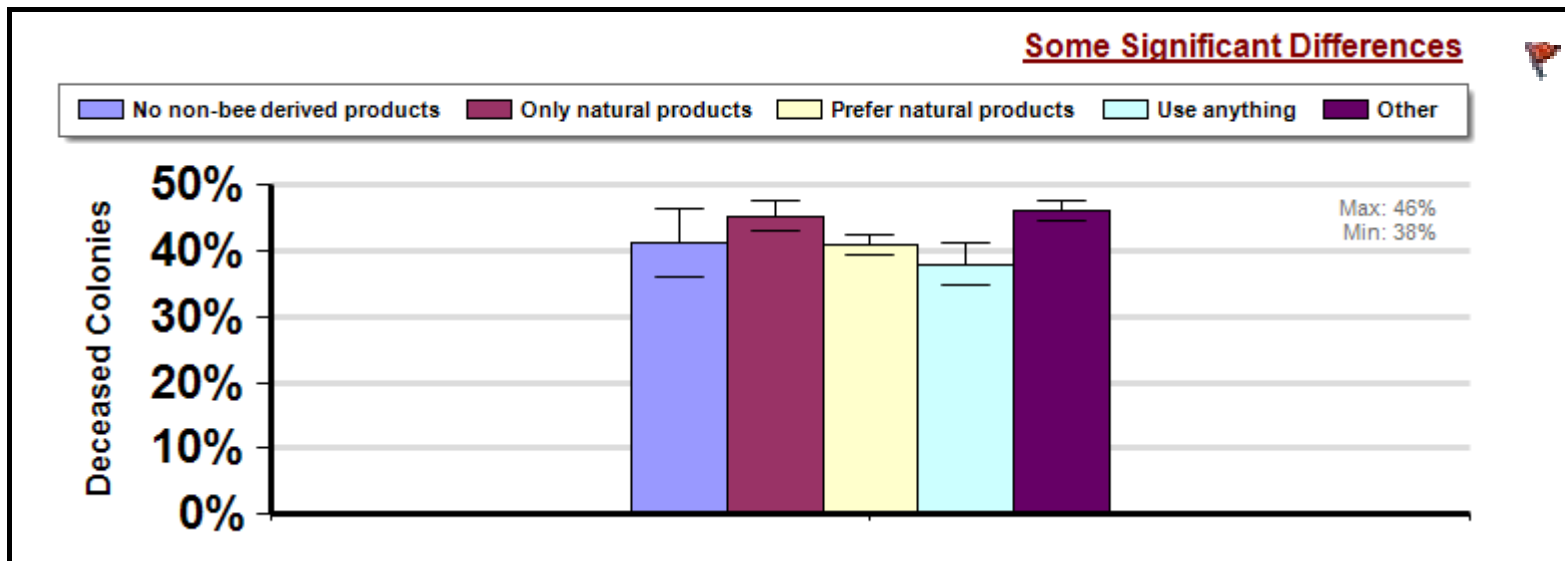
Management Survey 2015

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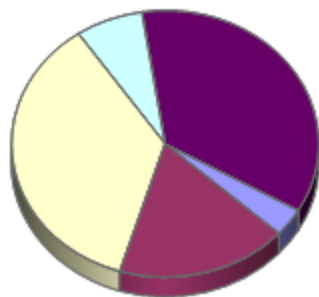
Winter

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

Report ID: 20-2015



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Beekeepers that chose to only use natural products in their operations lost more overwintering colonies than those who preferred to use natural products, or were willing to 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	211	1,740	41% [36%, 46%]	3.5%	2.9%	0.0%
Only natural products	1,113	11,258	45% [43%, 48%]	18.4%	14.8%	1.1%
Prefer natural products	2,206	95,658	41% [39%, 42%]	36.1%	28.2%	27.3%
Use anything	440	207,433	38% [35%, 41%]	6.5%	15.3%	30.7%
Other	2,210	191,712	46% [45%, 48%]	35.6%	38.8%	40.9%

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Average Loss By Reason Responding Beekeepers Indicated they Kept Bees

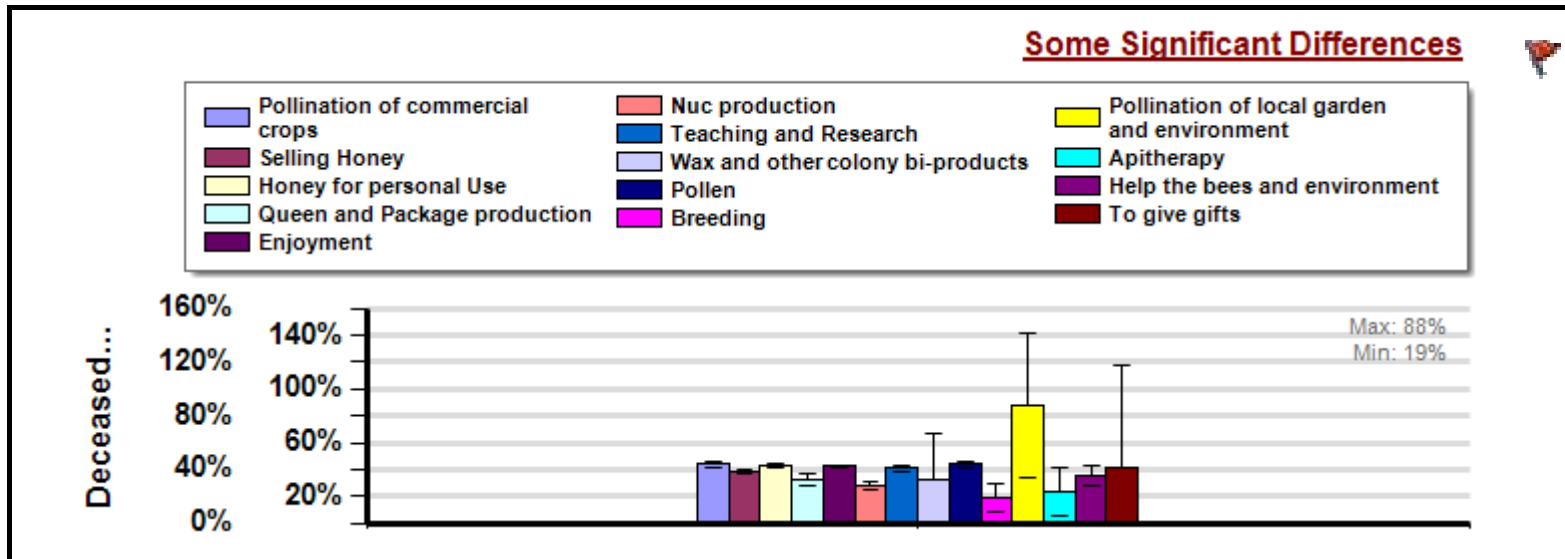
Management Survey 2015

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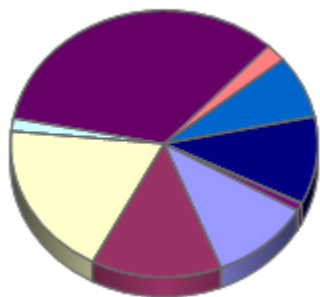
Winter

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

Report ID: 14-2015



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Beekeepers who kept bees primarily for breeding purposes or 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, enjoyment, teaching and research, and pollen production.

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	1,132	282,360	44% [42%, 46%]	25.2%	25.8%	83.6%
Selling Honey	1,460	301,914	38% [37%, 40%]	31.1%	80.1%	90.9%
Honey for personal Use	1,998	22,625	43% [42%, 45%]	47.5%	15.2%	5.5%
Queen and Package production	165	57,202	33% [29%, 37%]	2.7%	28.5%	14.5%

Enjoyment	3,599	42,327	42% [41%, 43%]	85.2%	40.4%	5.5%
Nuc production	231	68,059	28% [25%, 31%]	4.0%	36.4%	21.8%
Teaching and Research	808	15,570	41% [39%, 43%]	18.5%	25.8%	5.5%
Wax and other colony bi-products	5	37	32% [0%, 66%]	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Pollen	1,128	282,327	44% [42%, 46%]	25.1%	25.8%	83.6%
Breeding	4	77	19% [8%, 29%]	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Pollination of local garden and environment	3	11	88% [34%, 141%]	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Apitherapy	8	28	23% [5%, 41%]	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Help the bees and environment	88	1,425	35% [27%, 43%]	2.1%	0.0%	1.8%
To give gifts	3	14	41% [0%, 118%]	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

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