



The Bee Informed Partnership
Management Survey Results (2014-2015)
Treatment of Dead Outs
and Colony Replacement

BeeInformed.org

Funded by:



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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and Agriculture

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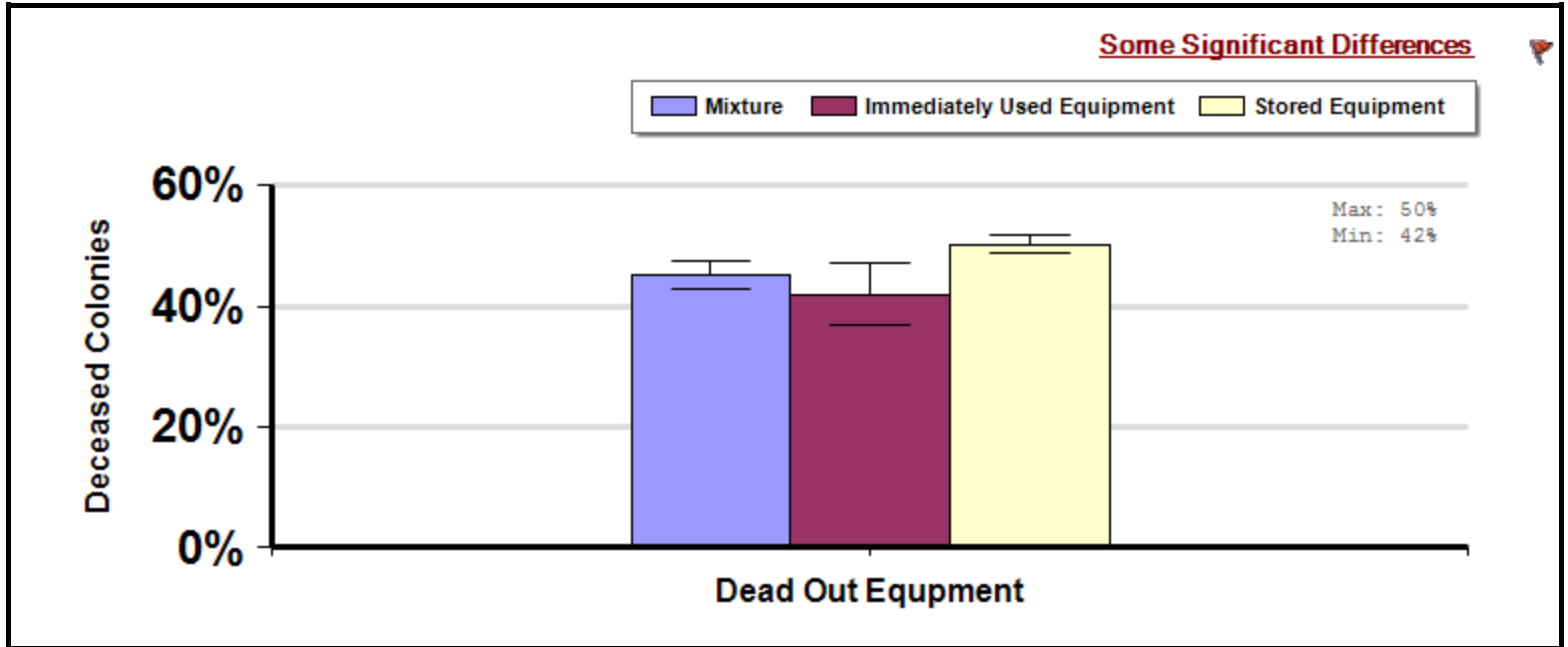
Treatment of Dead Out Equipment

Management
Survey 2015

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

Winter

Report ID: 65-
2015



Interpretation

Beekeepers who immediately used their equipment saw 8.3 fewer overwintering colony deaths out of 100 managed colonies than those who reported storing their equipment before reuse. In other words, beekeepers who immediately used dead out equipment lost 16.5% fewer colonies than beekeepers who stored dead out equipment before reuse.

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
Dead Out Equipment	Mixture	770	123,698	160.6	43.4	45.1 [43.0, 47.3]
	Immediately Used Equipment	185	12,865	69.5	33.5	41.9 [36.8, 47.0]
	Stored Equipment	2,040	199,001	97.5	34.0	50.2 [48.7, 51.6]

Comments About This Data

Relevant Links, References, and Citations

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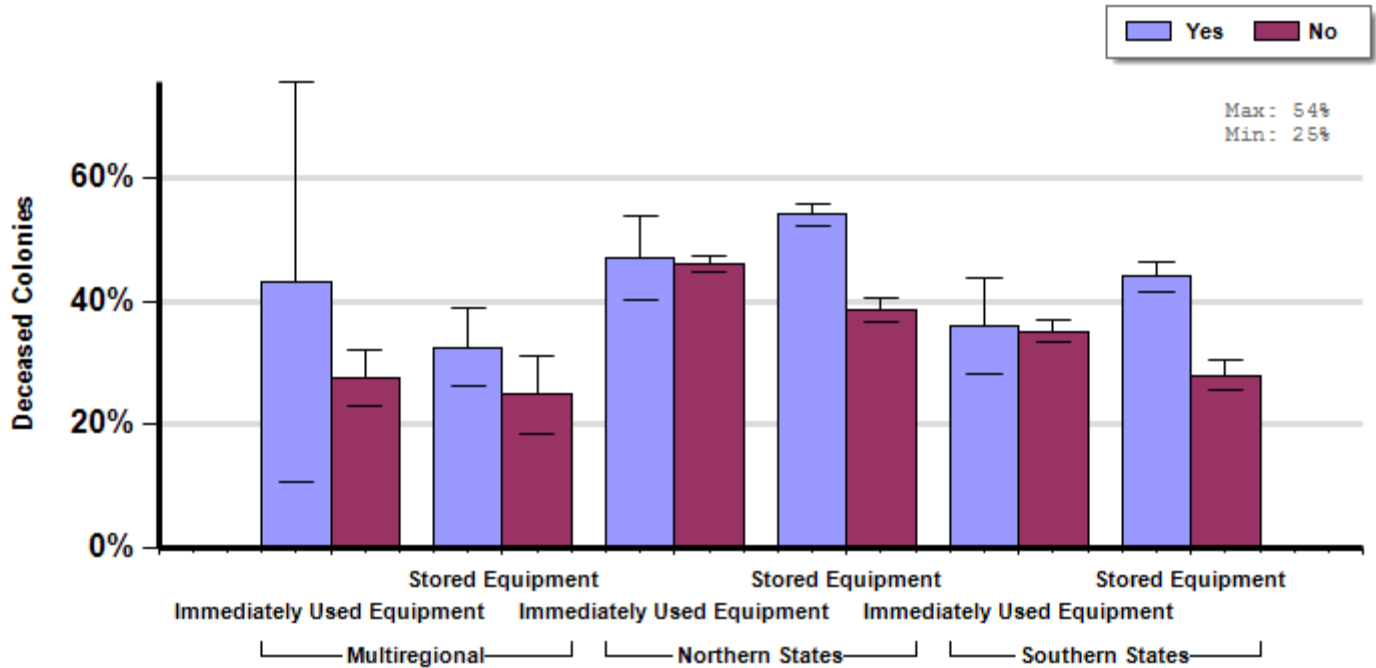
Dead Out Equipment Use By Region

Winter

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

Report ID: 68-2015

Some Significant Differences (within regions)



Respondent Ratio



Interpretation

Northern operations who stored dead out equipment before reuse saw 15 fewer overwintering colony deaths out of 100 managed colonies (27.8% fewer losses) than northern operations who did not report storing equipment. Also, southern operations who stored equipment before reuse lost 16 fewer overwintering colonies out of 100 managed colonies (36.4% fewer losses) than southern operations who did not report storing equipment before reuse.

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(%) [Lower, Upper] CI
					Mean	Standard Error	
Multiregional	Immediately Used Equipment	Yes	7	4,787	683.9	674.0	43[10.7,75.9]
		No	128	232,616	1817.3	556.1	28[23.0,32.2]
	Stored Equipment	Yes	62	150,104	2421.0	1058.0	33[26.2,38.9]
		No	73	87,299	1195.9	383.0	25[18.5,31.2]
Northern States	Immediately Used Equipment	Yes	108	1,008	9.3	2.4	47[40.1,54.0]
		No	2,689	46,884	17.4	4.2	46[44.7,47.5]
	Stored Equipment	Yes	1,339	20,971	15.7	5.1	54[52.4,56.0]
		No	1,458	26,921	18.5	6.1	39[36.8,40.7]
Southern States	Immediately Used Equipment	Yes	64	1,437	22.5	9.1	36[28.1,44.0]
		No	1,334	54,669	41.0	15.2	35[33.3,36.9]
	Stored Equipment	Yes	623	27,031	43.4	21.3	44[41.6,46.6]
		No	775	29,075	37.5	19.8	28[25.6,30.4]

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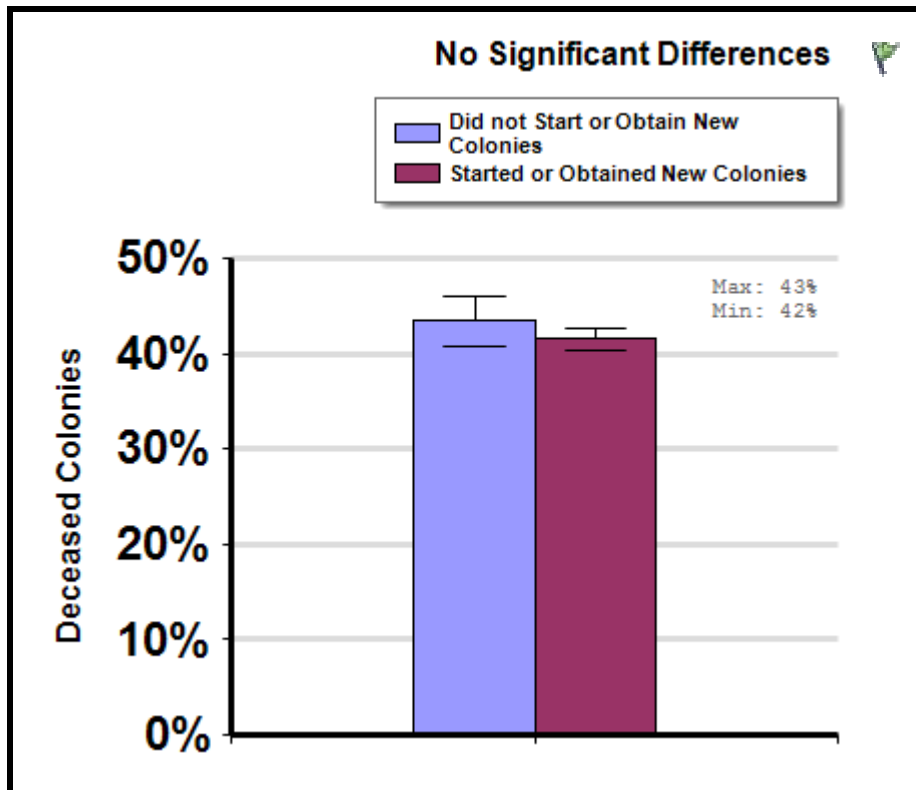
Started or Obtained New Colonies

Management Survey 2015

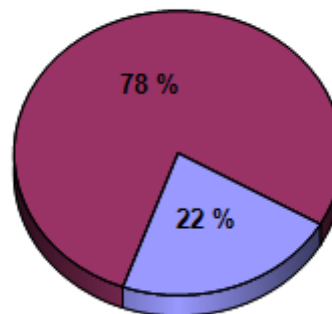
Average winter colony mortality suffered by beekeepers who reported they did not start or obtain new colonies, between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 233-2015



Participant Ratio



Interpretation

Beekeepers who started or obtained new colonies did not report losing more or less overwintering colonies than those did not start or obtain new colonies. In other words, there was not a significant difference.

Survey Question

Did you start or obtain any new colonies between 1 April 2014 and 1 April 2015?

		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	987	42,253	42.8	17.9	43.4 [40.9, 46.0]
	Started or Obtained New Colonies	3,472	313,126	90.2	21.8	41.6 [40.4, 42.7]

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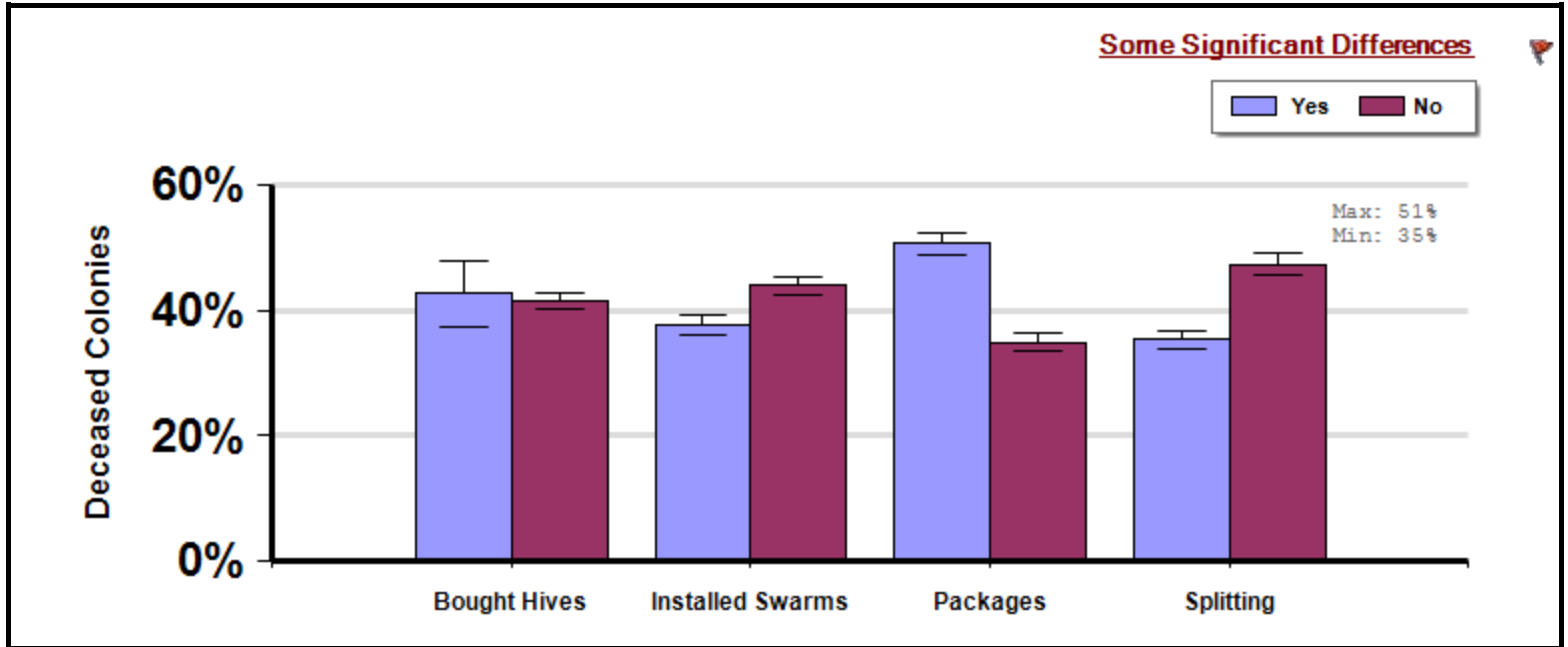
Started or Obtained New Colonies by Method

Management Survey 2015

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

Winter

Report ID: 242-2015



Interpretation

Beekeepers who obtained new colonies by installing swarms reported 6.3 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies (14.3% fewer losses) than beekeepers who used a different method. However, beekeepers who installed packages of bees reported 15.8 more overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than beekeepers who did not use this method to make increases. Also, beekeepers who split strong colonies to make new colonies reported 12 fewer overwintering colony deaths out of 100 managed colonies (25.3% fewer losses) than beekeepers 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	164	16,299	99.4	58.6	42.7 [37.3,48.0]
	No	3,290	296,702	90.2	22.8	41.6 [40.4,42.8]
Installed Swarms	Yes	1,288	25,966	20.2	1.8	37.7 [36.0,39.4]
	No	2,166	287,035	132.5	34.8	44.0 [42.4,45.5]
Packages	Yes	1,469	17,727	12.1	1.3	50.7 [48.8,52.5]
	No	1,985	295,274	148.8	38.0	34.9 [33.5,36.3]
Splitting	Yes	1,658	299,245	180.5	45.4	35.4 [33.9,36.8]
	No	1,796	13,756	7.7	1.6	47.4 [45.7,49.2]

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Started or Obtained New Colonies by Region

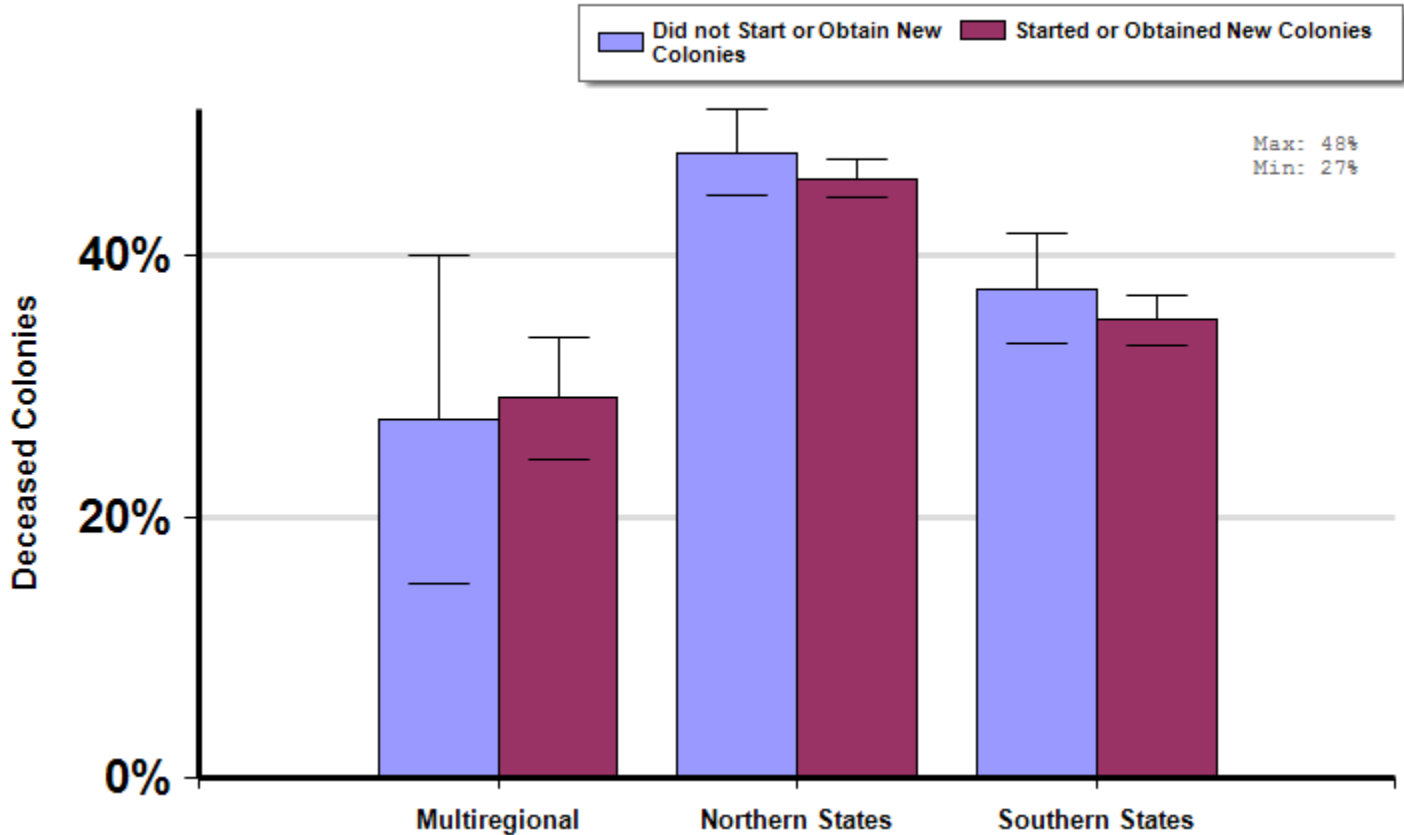
Management Survey 2015

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: 236-2015

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 2014 and 1 April 2015?

		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	Did not Start or Obtain New Colonies	29	19,376	668.1	299.3	27.4 [14.9,40.0]
	Started or Obtained New Colonies	109	223,429	2049.8	648.1	29.1 [24.3,33.8]
Northern States	Did not Start or Obtain New Colonies	623	6,199	10.0	3.3	47.9 [44.6,51.2]
	Started or Obtained New Colonies	2,221	41,917	18.9	4.9	45.9 [44.4,47.4]
Southern States	Did not Start or Obtain New Colonies	324	16,461	50.8	46.3	37.5 [33.2,41.7]
	Started or Obtained New Colonies	1,102	39,796	36.1	12.4	35.0 [33.1,37.0]

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