DO NOT SEND US THIS PAPER SURVEY! WE WILL NOT ENTER ANY RESPONSES PROVIDED ON THIS PREVIEW.

This preview of the survey is intended to allow you to look through the questions, or print a hard copy, as an aid before taking the survey online (at http://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=2017)

Completion of all or part of this survey is voluntary. If you are not comfortable answering a question, please leave it blank. Questions marked by an asterisk (*) are mandatory. Without them, we won’t be able to enter your response in our database.

1* In what state(s) did you keep your colonies between April 2016 - April 2017? (Select all that apply)

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- South Dakota
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming
- Other, please specify:

For the purpose of this survey: a “colony” is a queen right unit of bees that includes full size colonies and queen right nucs (do NOT include mating nucs); “Living” means alive on that date, independent of future prospects; “Increases” include successfully hived swarms and/or feral colonies.

2* How many living colonies did you have last spring on April 1, 2016?

3* How many colonies, splits and/or increases did you make / buy between April 1, 2016 and October 1, 2016?

4* How many colonies, splits and/or increases did you sell or give away between April 1, 2016 and October 1, 2016?

5* How many living colonies did you have on October 1, 2016?

6* How many colonies, splits and/or increases did you make / buy between October 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017?

7* How many colonies, splits and/or increases did you sell / give away between October 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017?

8* How many total living colonies (overwinter surviving colonies plus purchase or splits) did you have on April 1, 2017?

9 What was the largest number of living colonies you owned between April 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017?

10 What was the smallest number of living colonies you owned between April 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017?

11 Of the colonies in question 2, how many of those specific colonies were still alive on October 1, 2016?

12 Of the colonies in question 5, how many of those specific colonies were still alive on April 1, 2017?

13 What is the average size of your apiary or apiaries? (How many colonies share the same location, on average)

14* What percentage of loss, over the winter, would you consider acceptable? Between 0-100%

15 Was your winter loss this year higher or lower than last year? (choose one)

- Higher
- Lower
- Same
- I’m unsure
- I did not keep bees last year
16 What **percentage** of the colonies that died over the winter (between October 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017) were lost without dead bees in the hive or apiary?

Between 0-%

- None

17 In your opinion, what factors were the most prominent cause (or causes) of colony death in your operation between October 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017? (select all that apply)

- I did not experience winter loss
- Queen failure
- Starvation
- Varroa mites
- Nosema disease
- Small Hive Beetle
- Poor wintering conditions
- Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)
- Starvation
- Natural disaster and the like (eg. flood, bear...)
- Other, please specify:

18* Did you move any of your colonies **across state lines**?

- Yes
- No

19 Approximately what **percentage** of your operation moved **across state lines** at least once between April 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017?

Between 0-%

- None

20 What **percentage** of your hives did you send to or move into California almond orchards for pollination in 2017?

Between 0-%

- None

21 Please indicate in which states you kept bees for the months listed (mark which months with an “x”). Also list the number of colonies you had in each state on December 31, 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>July</th>
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<th>Dec</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Number of living colonies on 12/31/2016 in each state**

- -
- -
- -
- -
- -
- -

22 In what zip or postal code is your operation based?

23* ...how often did you inspect your colonies for **BROOD** diseases? (choose one)

- Never (skip Q25)
- ~ once a year
- ~ once every 4 months (3x/yr)
- ~ once every 3 months (4x/yr)
- ~ once every 2 months (6x/yr)
- ~ once a month (12x/yr)
- more than once a month

24 Which of the following **techniques** did you use to monitor VARROA mites? (select all that apply)

- Visual inspection of adult bees
- Visual inspection of drone brood
- Powdered sugar roll
- Mite drop (sticky boards or other collection tray below the hive)
- Ether roll
- Alcohol wash
- Samples collected by a BIP Tech Transfer Team
- Samples collected for another monitoring effort (eg: APHIS NHBS, Sentinel Apiary...)
- I sent samples to another laboratory
- Other, please specify:

25 Which of the following **techniques** did you use to monitor NOSEMA levels? (select all that apply)

- Looked for Nosema symptoms in and around the hive
- Took samples and examined spores loads on my own
- Samples collected by a BIP Tech Transfer Team
- Samples collected for another monitoring effort (eg: APHIS NHBS, Sentinel Apiary...)
- I sent samples to another laboratory
- Other, please specify:
### Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017)...

26* ... did you use a **treatment** to try to control VARROA MITES? *(choose one)*
- Yes
- No

27* ... did you use a **treatment** to try to control NOSEMA? *(choose one)*
- Yes
- No

28* ... did you use a **treatment** to try to control SMALL HIVE BEETLES? *(choose one)*
- Yes
- No

**Note:** a “treatment” is the application of a biological, organic or synthetic chemical to control the pest.

- None of the following
- Amitraz-based product (Apivar/other)
- ApiLife VAR (thymol-based)
- Fumagillin (Fumadil B)
- ApiGuard (thymol-based)
- Terramycin
- Mite-A-Thol (menthol)
- Tylosin (Tylan)
- Hop oil based product (HopGuard)
- Other, please specify:

---

### Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017)...

30 Please specify how and when you used the products selected in Q29 during the last year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product (specify brand or recipe)</th>
<th>Months used (eg. Jan&amp;Jul)</th>
<th>% of colonies treated [1-100%]</th>
<th>Dose (per colony) (eg. # of strips) &amp; Delivery method (if applicable)</th>
<th>Frequency (doses per month)</th>
<th>Days between applications within a month</th>
<th>Motive of use <em>(t)</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*(t)* Motive of use: **A:** as part of my regular maintenance; **B:** in response to observed pest outbreaks; **C:** in response to lab test results indicating pest outbreaks; **D:** in response to pest outbreaks in the local area

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### Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017)...

31* ... did you use any of the following **IPM practices** / equipment to try to control VARROA MITES? *(select all that apply)*
- I did not use any IPM practices or equipment
- Drone Brood Removal
  - How many times in the year?
  - What % of your colonies?
  - How much did you remove each time? *(choose one)*
    - ~ 1deep fr.
    - ~ 1medium fr.
    - ~ 1shallow fr.
    - only drone brood built between frames
- Screened bottom board
  - What % of your colonies?
  - During which months?
- Small cell size comb
- Powder sugar
  - What % of your colonies?
  - During which months?
- Other, please specify:

32* ... did you use any of the following **techniques** to try to control SMALL HIVE BEETLES? *(select all that apply)*
- I did not use any technique to control SHB
- Coumaphos strips
  - What % of your colonies?
  - During which months?
- Soil drench specify product:
  - What % of your colonies?
  - During which months?
- In-hive traps
  - What kind of trap? *(choose one)*
    - Poison
    - Enclose
    - Drown
    - Diatomaceous earth
      - Other:
  - What kind of bait?
  - During which months?
- Bottom-board traps
- Nematodes
- Other, please specify:
National Colony Loss and Management Survey

Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017)...

33* ... did you feed or add a food substitute or stimulant to any of your colonies?  ○ Yes  ○ No (skip Q 34-35)

34* Which, if any, of the following did you apply to any of your colonies between April 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017?

- None of the following
- High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS)
- Bee Pro
- Honey -B-Healthy
- Candy (i.e., Fondant)
- MegaBee
- Vitafeed Gold
- Protein patties
- LaFore patties
- Vitafeed Green
- Sugar (Sucrose) syrup
- Other, please specify:

35 Please specify how and when you used the products selected in Q34 during the last year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product (specify brand or recipe)</th>
<th>Specify Months used</th>
<th>% of colonies fed [1-100%]</th>
<th>Concentration (if mixed) (eg. 1 part water: 2 part sugar)</th>
<th>Dose (per colony) (eg. # of patties)</th>
<th>Frequency (doses per month)</th>
<th>Was this amount (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

(1) Was this amount: A: on par with what I usually feed this month of the year; B: above what I usually feed this month of the year; C: below what I usually feed this month of the year; D: not applicable (first year beekeepers).

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

37 How old on average, were the queens that headed a majority (>50%) of your colonies on 1 October 2016? (choose one)

- Less than 6 months
- 6 months – 1 year
- 1 – 2 years
- Older than 2 years
- I don’t know

38 Generally, how often do you replace the queens in your colonies? (choose one)

- Never (let them re-queen on their own)
- Only to correct behavior / disease susceptibility
- Every 2 to 3 years
- Every year
- Twice a year
- More than twice a year

39* Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017) did you replace the queen of any of your colonies? (Say yes also if natural requeening)  ○ Yes  ○ No (skip Q37-39)

40 In what percentage of your colonies did you replace queens over the last year?

- Between 0-100%
- None

41 How did you re-queen the colonies that you re-queened last year? (select all that apply)

- Introduced mated queens
- Introduced virgin queens
- Introduced queen right nucs
- Permitted colony or split to rear a new replacement queen on its own
- Other, please specify:

42 If introduced, where did you get the majority (>50%) of the queens? (select all that apply)

- From commercial producers
- If known, which suppliers and states?
- From beekeeper (noncommercial)
- I reared them myself
- I don’t know
- Other, please specify:

43 What hive type do you use to keep your colonies? (select all that apply)

- Langstroth 10 frame hive bodies (even if use less than 10 frames in it)
- Langstroth 8 frame hive bodies (even if use less than 8 frames in it)
- Home-made (NOT Langstroth dimensions)
- Other, please specify:

44 When adding new frames, what type of foundation do you use? (select all that apply)

- Foundation-less
- Wax foundation
- Plastic foundation
- Other, please specify:
45 Which of the following (other than feeding), did you use to prepare for last winter (2016-2017)? (select ALL that apply)

- □ I did not prepare my colonies for winter
- □ I created or engaged an upper entrance
- □ I used an entrance reducer
- □ I equalized colony strength
- □ I moved my colonies to a southern location
- □ Other (but NOT feeding), please specify:

□ I wrapped my colonies with insulation
□ I wrapped my colonies with tar paper or wintering sleeve
□ I placed extra insulation on top of the colonies
□ I used mouse guards
□ I moved my colonies to inside wintering buildings

46 On October 1 2016, what was the most common configuration of the brood chambers in your colonies? (please enter number of hive boxes for your configuration)

- □ Equivalent to ~ [ ] deeps AND [ ] mediums
- □ Nucs of ~ [ ] deep frames
- □ Other: ___________________________

□ I did not keep bees on that date
□ I don’t know

47 On average, how old is the brood comb in your colonies? (choose one)

- □ Less than 1 year old
- □ 1 – 2 years
- □ 2 – 3 years
- □ 3 – 4 years
- □ 4 – 5 years
- □ More than 5 years old
- □ I don’t know

48 Last year how many frames from the brood nest of your colonies did you replace on average? (choose one)

- □ I did not replace any frames
- □ I only replaced broken frames
- □ ~10% (eg. 1 frame per brood box)
- □ ~20% (eg. 2 frames per brood box)
- □ 25 – 50% (eg. between 3 to 5 frames per brood box)
- □ More than 50% of frames (>5 frames per brood box)
- □ I don’t know

49 Last year, what did you do before you re-used brood comb that you had taken out of production or purchased?

- □ I did not reuse any old brood comb
- □ I did not treat the comb in any particular way
- □ I froze the comb
- □ I irradiated the comb
- □ Other, please specify:

□ I culled any particularly old or bad comb and replaced it
□ I fumigated the comb with acetic acid
□ I stored the comb with paradichlorobenzene crystals (moth crystals)
□ I stored the comb with napthalene (moth balls)

50 Generally, when you found a dead or weak colony in your operation over the last year you would: (choose one)

Note: Excluding colonies killed by AFB

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

51* Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017)...

- □ Yes
- □ No (skip Q 52 & 53)

52 How did you start or obtain new colonies last year? (select all that apply)

- □ I made increases by splitting strong colonies
- □ I bought and installed packages
- □ I bought and installed nucs
- □ I bought (or received) hives from another beekeeper
- □ I caught and installed swarms

From what state? ___________________________

53 What percentage of the colonies in your operation that were alive on October 1, 2016 came from splits, increases, or packages established or made the previous spring and summer, after April 1, 2016? (In other words, what % of your colonies experienced their first winter)

Between 0-100%

54 What best describes the environment around your apiary(ies)? (Consider ~3 miles radius)

(select all that apply, specify the % in total area; the total should add up to 100%)

- □ Natural [ ]
- □ Agricultural [ ]
- □ Urban [ ]
- □ Suburban [ ]

□ Other [ ]
Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017)...
55* ... did you harvest or remove honey from your colonies?  ○ Yes  ○ Not last year  ○ I never attempt to (skip Q56-59)
56 If yes, how much honey did your average colony produce?  

   in lbs per colony

57 If yes, during which months did you harvest honey?
58 How was it compared to previous years?  ○ No harvest ○ Above average ○ Average ○ Below average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>No harvest</th>
<th>Above average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Honey</td>
<td>○</td>
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<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Honey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Honey</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Honey</td>
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<td>○</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

59 If yes, which crops were in proximity of the majority (>50%) of your colonies when they were producing honey?
○ I don’t know  ○ Please specify the crops:

Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017)...
60* ... did you use any of your colonies for pollination of agricultural crops?  ○ Yes  ○ No (skip Q 61 & 62)
61 If yes, did you derive an income by renting your colonies for pollination?  ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Prefer not to say
62 If yes, how many colonies did you rent for each crop last year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th># of colonies rented</th>
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</table>

Last year (April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017)...
63 ... what were your management goals for beekeeping?  (briefly explain)

64 ... why did you keep bees?  (select all that apply)

- For pollination
- For Queen production
- For Package production
- For Nuc production
- For research

- For honey/ pollen/ wax production for sale
- For honey/ pollen/ wax production for personal use only
- For enjoyment/ hobby
- For teaching/ education

65 ... were you expecting to derive an income from your beekeeping activities?  (choose one)
○ No, beekeeping is a hobby
○ No, but I occasionally derive an unpredictable income (occasional honey, wax, package...)
○ Yes, I was expecting my beekeeping activities to supplement my income
○ Yes, I was expecting my beekeeping activities to provide me a majority or all of my income

66 ... what percentage of your annual income was derived from your beekeeping activities?  (choose one)
○ None
○ I lost money
○ I prefer not to say
○ I don’t know

- Less than 5%
- Between 5 to 50%
- Between 51 to 90%
- Over 90%

67 Approximately how many years have you been keeping bees?  
in years

68 How did you first learn beekeeping?  (select all that apply)

- From a mentor beekeeper (friend or family)
- From a Beekeeping Class (bee group/club/master class...)
- On my own (books, internet...)

69 Are you a member of a beekeeping organization?  (select all that apply)

- Local beekeeping group
- State beekeeping organization
- National beekeeping organization
- No, I’m not a member of any beekeeping organization
- I prefer not to say
70 Did you take part in any of the following monitoring efforts? *(select all that apply)*
- [ ] APHIS National Honey Bee Survey *(1)*
  NHBS sampling code
- [ ] Bee Informed Tech Transfer Teams *(1)*
  BIP Tech Team participant code
- [ ] Bee Informed Sentinel Apiary (real time disease monitoring) *(1)*
  Sentinel Apiary participant code
- [ ] None of the above
- [ ] I prefer not to say
- [ ] I'm unsure

*(1)* If you participated in any of the BIP sampling programs, or the APHIS NHBS survey, would you be willing to provide your participant code (here above) and/or contact information so we can link your survey responses with your bee health measures?

71 What are your primary sources of bee health information? *(select all that apply)*
- [ ] Other beekeepers (Mentor, Friends, Family, Neighbors...)
- [ ] Beekeeping Class
- [ ] Beekeeping Club / Association meetings
- [ ] Online (blogs, videos, media...)
- [ ] Books
- [ ] Bee Journals or Magazines
- [ ] Scientific publications
- [ ] Beekeeping Association Newsletters
- [ ] Beekeeping Conventions
- [ ] Suppliers (of beekeeping equipment)
- [ ] Apiary inspector (or any state officials)
- [ ] University Extension / Outreach
- [ ] Bee Informed Partnership
- [ ] Other, please specify:

72 In the past year, list (up to) five people who were influential in your management of the colonies and how you interacted with these people:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (or initials)</th>
<th>What is their relationship to you? (e.g. family, friend, etc.) OR Organization (e.g. Beekeeper Association, Local Extension)</th>
<th>How often do you communicate? (weekly/monthly/a few times a year/once a year)</th>
<th>In general, is the exchange with this person one-way or two-way? (One-way = they provide something to you; Two-way = both people provide resources to each other)</th>
<th>What is exchanged? List all that apply (e.g. information, equipment, labor, money, other: )</th>
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</table>

73 What were the top three barriers that hindered your management of your honey bee colonies? *(Briefly explain)*

74 What do you believe are the advantages of managing for varroa mites? *(Please list)*

75 What do you believe are the disadvantages of managing for varroa mites? *(Please list)*

76 In general, what are the expectations of people whose opinion you value regarding management for varroa mites?

77 How much are you inclined to agree with those expectations? *(Please rate from 1 to 5)*
- [ ] Not at all inclined
- [ ] Slightly inclined
- [ ] Moderately inclined
- [ ] Very strongly inclined

78 How much control do you believe you have over managing your colonies for varroa mites? *(Please rate from 1 to 5)*
- [ ] No control
- [ ] Slightly in control
- [ ] Moderately in control
- [ ] Very strongly in control
- [ ] Complete control
79 For you, what does it mean to be a good steward of your colonies and beekeeping in general? *(Briefly explain)*

80 When choosing treatment or feeding strategies for your colonies, would you say that you: *(choose one)*
- Not willing to use any non-bee produced products in the hive
- Are only willing to use natural or organic products in the hive
- Prefer to use natural or organic products in the hive but will use synthetic products if needed
- Will use synthetic products if needed
- Have no preference
- Other, please specify:

81 How much time over the course of the entire year would you estimate that you and/or others spend caring for all of your colonies?

82 Of the time spent caring for your colonies, what percentage of time was spent on the following activities?

- Travel (time spent to and from your apiary(ies))
- Feeding (or adding food substitute or stimulant)
- Honey (harvest and production)
- Normal Seasonal Management (visit to the hives, prevention of swarming...)
- Pest monitoring (checking for Varroa, Nosema...)
- Applying chemical treatments (as selected earlier in the survey)
- Displaying other pest control techniques (drone brood removal, SHB traps...)
- Other

83 How much (in $) would you value your average colony if you were forced to sell it at the following times of year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Value (in $)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

84 How much money over the last year did you spend on feed (protein and/or carbohydrates)?

85 How much money over the last year did you spend on equipment?

86 How much money over the last year did you spend on treatments/controls?

87 Do you believe that you are using Best Management Practices in your colonies? *(choose one)*
- Yes, always
- Sometimes
- In some hives and not others
- With some aspects of beekeeping and not others
- I don’t know
- I don’t know what best practices are
- I don’t think best management practices work

88 If not always, what is stopping you from adopting best management strategies? *(select all that apply)*
- Not enough information about those practices
- Practices too costly
- Practices too labor-intensive
- Other, please specify:

CONGRATULATIONS! You’re almost there!!
Thank you for participating in this survey!

Results will be posted at the beeinformed.org web site as they become available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89  We may wish to contact you if we have questions about your responses. Is this OK?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90  Would you be willing to participate in future beekeeping surveys?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91  If you agree to be contacted, please enter your email address here:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bee Informed Partnership does not share any email addresses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92  Did you complete this survey on behalf of someone else?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93  Is this the first year you are participating in our survey?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94  Where did you hear about this survey? (select all that apply)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Organization newsletter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Bee meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Website</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ State apiarist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ BIP (we emailed you)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Paper survey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Other, please specify:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95  Any comments?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank You!

Thank you for your time in answering our Colony Loss and Management Survey!

The Bee Informed Partnership is an extension project that endeavors to decrease managed honey bee colonies losses.

By answering those questions on colony loss and management, you are helping us describe a realistic picture of the losses in the US and better understand factors that contribute to reducing colony losses.

Come visit beeinformed.org for some insights on how the survey results can benefit the decisions in your colony management!

**DO NOT SEND US THIS PAPER SURVEY! WE WILL NOT ENTER ANY RESPONSES PROVIDED ON THIS PREVIEW.**

This preview of the survey is intended to allow you to look through the questions, or print a hard copy, as an aid before taking the survey online (at http://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=2017)