



Local ordinances banning beekeeping are one of the most significant threats to the industry.

This series of events has had a significant negative impact on the Pennsylvania beekeeping industry. The number of managed honey bee colonies in PA dropped from over 80,000 in 1982 to below 30,000 in 2002. This reduced the honey produced in the state by more than 2 million pounds annually, representing a reduction of some 1.5 million dollars in farm receipts annually. The loss of both managed and wild honey bee colonies continues to pose a serious threat to the state's bee pollinated crops including apples, peaches, cherries, cucurbits and pumpkins. In recent years, concern about lack of honey bees, coupled with improved mite management techniques, have led to a small revival in beekeeping.

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Varroa mites have devastated honey bee colonies since their introduction into the state.

To learn more about bees and beekeeping visit the following web site and/or contact these organizations.

The Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium; WWW.maarec.org

PDA Apiary Registration <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=128082>

PA State Beekeepers' Assoc. (PSBA)

Yvonne Crimbring, Sec/Treasurer
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The Pennsylvania State
Beekeepers Association

PENNSTATE



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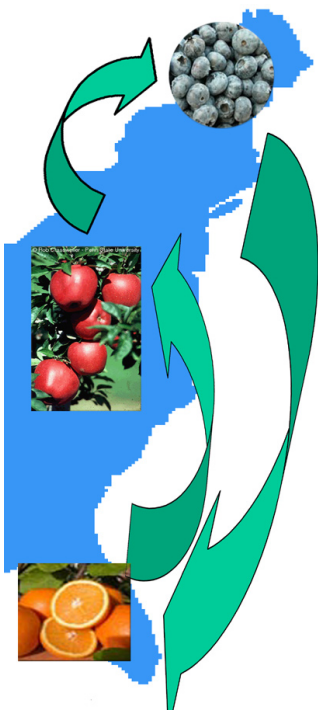


The Value of Honey Bees in Pennsylvania



Two thousand Pennsylvania beekeepers produce about 600 tons of honey each year. Honey bee pollination in the state is valued at approximately \$60,000,000 annually!

Keeping bees is an art practiced by some two thousand Pennsylvanians. The



vast majority of whom keep their colonies in the State year round, capitalizing on the rich assortment of nectar producing plants that contribute to more than 700 tons of "liquid gold" produced in the Commonwealth annually. An important minority, however, move their colonies in and out of the state yearly. Over

a quarter of the forty thousand colonies registered in the state are moved south in the fall where they spend the winter making a honey crop and pollinating the citrus orchards of Florida. In the spring these colonies are moved north to pollinate a variety of fruit and vegetable crops including cranberries New Jersey, low bush blueberries in Maine and apples, melons and pumpkins in Pennsylvania. In fact honey bee pollination can be directly attributed to the production of about 60 million dollars of agricultural produce in the state annually!

Important Pennsylvania Crops Indicating the Value Attributable to Honey Bee Pollination of Raw Product Only.

Crop	2005 Value \$	Dependence of Insect Pollination X	Proportion Attributed to Honey Bees X	Value Attributable to Honey Bees =
Apples	50,928,000	1.0	0.9	45,835,000
Peaches	19,011,000	0.6	0.8	9,125,280
Soybeans	95,571,000	0.1	0.5	4,778,550
Pears	1,254,000	0.7	0.9	790,020
Pumpkins	16,150,000	0.9	0.1	1,453,500
Tart Cherries	819,000	0.9	0.9	663,390
Grapes	19,608,000	0.1	0.1	196,080
Strawberries	12,810,000	0.2	0.1	256,200
Total	216,151,000			63,098,020

state. This parasite of the bee causes wide spread winter mortality in Pennsylvania in subsequent years.

- 1987 – Varroa mite, a large parasitic mite is found and spreads throughout the continental USA. Populations of these mites quickly increase and cause total colony collapse when untreated. Their widespread presence devastates the wild honey bee population and causes the loss of many beekeeping operations.
- 1994 – Africanized bees became established in the southern states. While no colonies have become established in the Commonwealth, the nature of interstate movement of bees for sale and pollination is a serious concern to the Pennsylvanian industry.
- 1998 – Small Hive Beetle, a new honey bee pest, is found in Florida and soon afterwards in Pennsylvania. High populations are reported in some Pennsylvanian counties.
- 2000 – Varroa mites become resistant to the only miticide registered for their control at the time, forcing an emergency use registration of an organo-phosphate-based pesticide.
- 2002 – Strains of the bacterial disease, American Foulbrood, develop resistance to the only antibiotic treatment approved at the time.

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Challenges Facing the Industry

During the past 20 years beekeepers in Pennsylvania and across the country have faced a series of difficult challenges.

- 1985 - A microscopic mite, honey bee tracheal mite, is found in the

Apiaries and Colonies in PA

