



The PSBA Waggle

Occasional Cyber Postings from the
Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association

4/20/16

Please Participate in Loss Surveys

DearBeekeeper,

We need you! We know it is one of the busiest times of the year for beekeepers and we thank you for taking valuable time from your colonies to participate in the National Colony Loss and Management Survey created by the Bee Informed Partnership and sponsored by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Please go to our online survey at <http://10.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2016> and complete the survey there. It will be live on April 1st and close on April 30th. Please do not complete the survey more than once. Information about past Winter Loss and National Management Surveys and the annual reports can be found online at <http://beeinformed.org/>. The Colony Loss Survey has evolved from our winter loss survey conducted 10 years ago. Now we monitor summer losses as well. Last year, **for the first time in the history of this survey**, beekeepers reported **higher losses in the summer than in the winter**. The National Management Survey is conducted annually in conjunction with the Colony Loss Survey. The two surveys are aimed at looking for relationships between colony losses and colony management (including disease treatment strategies, supplemental feeding, etc.) and/or other factors that may influence colony health (such as colony location, honey production, and forage type). Your participation in this research is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential. In any publication or presentation resulting from this research, no personally identifiable information will be disclosed. **We are also thrilled to release our Best Management Practices in the next few months. Please check back on our website soon for those exciting results!**

Some of you may be contacted independently by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the USDA to participate in their first quarterly colony loss survey. We encourage all beekeepers contacted by NASS to answer **both** BIP and NASS surveys. **But we need your responses!**

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at askbeeinformed@gmail.com. Once again thank you for your participation.

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Pennsylvania Loss Survey



Please participate in this year's [Winter Loss Survey](http://pastatebeekeepers.org/survey2016.htm).
<http://pastatebeekeepers.org/survey2016.htm> Results will be made available here once the survey is complete.

We have included some questions about whether you sold nucs or packages in Pennsylvania. The reason for this is to get some grasp of the economic impact of beekeepers on the state economy and what it costs to replace the our honeybees from winter losses each year. This is information we can use in lobbying with state and local government.

This survey helps us tabulate our state in a more timely manner and answer questions of colony loss with some degree of accuracy.

PSBA at Cornucopia

PSBA representatives were in attendance at the Capitol on April 12th in conjunction with the PSCFO (Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations). Each year PSCFO brings the many commodities of agricultural production to the legislators at the state capitol. This is an opportunity to meet and speak with legislators on issues relevant to beekeeping in

PSBA at PSATS

Once again, the PSBA will be attending the PSATS (Pa State Association of Township Supervisors) convention at Hershey Lodge, April 17-20. A PSBA team will be engaging with local officials on ideas and choices about local beekeeping. We want to educate and answer questions before a problem rises. This event has proven to help get ahead of local beekeeping regulations.

The Waggle is not intended to be used for editorials, but rather specific activities or information that may be of interest or value to

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