



Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Raymond Poe, Director

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**Office of the Director**

State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/782-2172 • TDD 217/524-6858 • Fax 217/785-4505

October 30, 2017

The Honorable Bruce Rauner  
Governor of Illinois  
Capitol Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62706-1150

Dear Governor Rauner:

In accordance with Section 3 of the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act [510 ILCS 20/3], the Illinois Department of Agriculture is directed to submit an annual apiary inspection report to the Governor and the Illinois State Beekeepers Association. The report contains the findings of the Department's inspections of apiaries across Illinois on a fiscal year basis.

Please find enclosed the fiscal year 2017 Apiary Inspection Annual Report. Do not hesitate to contact Steve Chard, Apiary Inspection Supervisor, if there are questions regarding the contents of the report.

Sincerely,

Raymond Poe  
Director

Copy: Laura Sinclair, IDOA  
Morgan Booth, IDOA  
IDOA Apiary Inspectors  
Dale Hill, ISBA  
Rich Ramsey, ISBA  
Steve Petrilli, ISBA

Enclosure

**Fiscal Year 2016 Apiary Inspection Annual Report**  
**Illinois Department of Agriculture**  
**(July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017)**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture administers the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act (Act). Department Apiary Inspectors examine honeybee colonies around the state for the issuance of moving permits, to monitor the health of the bee population, to help prevent the spread of diseases and pests of the honeybee and to provide advice on general honeybee management.

Beekeeping in Illinois continues to be a hobbyist endeavor with almost 89% of the beekeepers managing 10 colonies or less (Table 1). 27 beekeepers maintain 100 or more colonies in the state.

Beekeepers are required to register with the Department of Agriculture. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2017, 4009 beekeepers were managing 28,864 colonies in 5,652 apiaries in Illinois (Table 2). The number of registered beekeepers has again increased significantly. 576 beekeepers were registered during the fiscal year. The total number of registered beekeepers statewide has increased each year since 2002 and is the most registered since 1990. Table 3 lists the number of colonies and apiaries registered in each county in Illinois. Will County had the highest number of colonies with 2,523. Lake County and Cook County placed second and third, with 2,093 and 1,803 colonies, respectively.

Colony inspection statistics for Fiscal Year 2017 and several previous years are included in Table 4. From July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, 632 apiaries containing 11,423 colonies were visited. Of these colonies, 5,472 were actually opened and inspected. American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) was detected in 14 colonies, or 0.3% of the colonies actually opened. This shows a significant decrease in the number of colonies infected with AFB as compared to 2016. In accordance with the Act, the diseased colonies were destroyed. The number of colonies infected with European Foulbrood (EFB) decreased while the number of colonies with Chalkbrood also decreased from Fiscal Year 2016.

Varroa mites continue to be found throughout the state. Inspection reports during the fiscal year indicated a large decrease in varroa mite levels as compared to last year. This may be due in part to the randomness of inspections, the time of year inspections were made, environmental conditions, more effective treatments for varroa mite control and rotating miticides.

Reports from around the state indicated colony losses following the severe winter affected all beekeepers to some degree. Many lost most or all of their colonies. Some beekeepers had a minor loss. Also, interest in colonies for pollination continues to increase due to the lack of feral colonies and the realization of the importance of honeybee pollination.

Tracheal mites are not listed as a regulated parasite in the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act and rules. However, examinations for tracheal mites can still be performed when requested. Tracheal mites were not discovered in any colonies in conjunction with Department apiary inspections for Fiscal Year 2017, as determined by laboratory tests.

The small hive beetle (SHB) continues to be a growing problem in Illinois. Based upon the Department's inspections, the SHB has spread to most Illinois counties in isolated locations. Other counties may have SHB populations as well. Beekeepers are using various control methods (e.g., traps, other non-chemical control methods) to manage the beetle. The Department continues to closely monitor the movement of the SHB across Illinois.

The USDA-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APIDS) invited the Department to participate in another national honeybee survey in Fiscal Year 2017. The survey was designed to document which bee diseases/pests of honeybees are and are not present in the U.S. The Department collected samples at different apiaries across the State and the samples were processed by APIDS. APHIS will share the results of the survey with the cooperating beekeepers and the Department. Thanks to all the beekeepers who granted permission for their colonies to be surveyed.

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has affected many honeybee colonies across the United States. The Department continued to monitor colonies closely for CCD-like symptoms and investigated as appropriate. There were no confirmed cases of CCD found through inspections in Fiscal Year 2017. Federal research continues to determine the cause(s) of and cure for CCD. The CCD issue has greatly increased public awareness on the importance of honeybees to humankind.

The Department and the Illinois State Beekeepers Association continue to encourage active communication between beekeepers and licensed pesticide applicators to accomplish the reduction of honeybee exposure to various pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.). There have been some instances where honeybees have been exposed to these materials, at times with catastrophic impacts. Progress is being made with the needed communication.

Licensed pesticide applicators can continue to gain contact and locational information related to Illinois beekeepers on the Department's website through the FieldWatch™ internet site. In addition, beekeepers can register their colonies on the FieldWatch™ site. The Department encourages pesticide applicators to contact beekeepers well in advance of an application to allow them to take needed steps to protect his or her honeybee colonies. This is a voluntary process that does not guarantee the complete elimination of potential pesticide exposures to honeybee colonies. However, if the pesticide user community and beekeepers work together, these potential exposures can be greatly reduced.

**TABLE 1**

**Distribution of Beekeeper Size in Illinois as of July 1, 2017**

<b>Number of Colonies</b>	<b>Number of Beekeepers</b>	<b>Percentage of Beekeepers</b>
0	158	3.94
1-5	2,883	73.11
6-10	522	13.02
11-20	230	5.74
21-50	150	3.74
51-100	39	.97
101-200	18	.45
201-300	3	.07
301-400	0	0
401-500	0	0
>500	6	.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4009</b>	<b>100.0*</b>

\* May not total 100% due to rounding.

**TABLE 2**

**Illinois Beekeeper and Colony Statistics from 2000 through 2017  
as of July 1 of each year.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Registered Beekeepers</b>	<b>Number of Apiaries</b>	<b>Number of Colonies</b>	<b>Colonies/ Beekeeper</b>	<b>Colonies/ Apiary</b>
2017	4009	5,652	28,864	7.2	5.1
2016	3,522	5,136	25,339	7.2	4.9
2015	3,114	4,517	24,690	7.9	5.5
2014	2,766	4,023	26,004	9.4	6.5
2013	2,519	3,705	24,382	9.7	6.5
2012	1,825	2,849	21,231	11.6	7.5
2011	1,815	2,786	21,266	11.7	7.6
2010	1,631	2,565	20,547	12.6	8.0
2009	1,433	2,325	19,680	13.7	8.5
2008	1,366	2,303	19,556	14.3	8.5
2007	1,329	2,216	18,821	14.2	8.5
2006	1,264	2,157	20,217	16.0	9.4
2005	1,213	2,054	27,646	22.8	13.5
2004	1,141	1,940	19,572	17.2	10.1
2003	1,117	1,926	18,649	16.7	9.7
2002	1,107	1,914	17,963	16.3	9.4
2001	1,160	2,038	19,627	16.9	9.6
2000	1,142	1,975	18,504	16.2	9.4

**TABLE 3****Number of Registered Apiaries and Colonies in Illinois Counties as of July 1, 2017**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b># OF APIARIES</b>	<b># OF COLONIES</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b># OF APIARIES</b>	<b># OF COLONIES</b>
Adams	66	351	Jefferson	26	128
Alexander	1	1	Jersey	43	153
Bond	71	313	JoDaviess	58	1,138
Boone	36	470	Johnson	13	91
Brown	8	20	Kane	174	717
Bureau	41	364	Kankakee	74	315
Calhoun	11	43	Kendall	63	331
Carroll	34	430	Knox	32	167
Cass	10	28	LaSalle	112	458
Champaign	124	453	Lake	359	2,093
Christian	40	131	Lawrence	14	85
Clark	55	195	Lee	34	105
Clay	5	99	Livingston	32	107
Clinton	84	281	Logan	36	134
Coles	79	399	Macon	53	131
Cook	499	1,803	Macoupin	98	303
Crawford	39	146	Madison	199	649
Cumberland	28	99	Marion	49	142
DeKalb	44	239	Marshall	13	89
DeWitt	20	42	Mason	22	57
Douglas	28	95	Massac	7	16
DuPage	253	707	McDonough	21	151
Edgar	47	135	McHenry	169	1,379
Edwards	8	30	McLean	81	317
Effingham	27	132	Menard	35	143
Fayette	45	262	Mercer	29	84
Ford	9	28	Monroe	52	269
Franklin	38	204	Montgomery	67	272
Fulton	44	279	Morgan	42	120
Gallatin	5	17	Moultrie	42	196
Greene	12	41	Ogle	70	271
Grundy	21	189	Peoria	97	295
Hamilton	10	35	Perry	25	204
Hancock	36	197	Piatt	30	119
Hardin	2	18	Pike	23	85
Henderson	16	88	Pope	6	18
Henry	46	135	Pulaski	3	2
Iroquois	42	391	Putnam	17	86
Jackson	56	375	Randolph	27	149
Jasper	39	171	Richland	29	171

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b># OF APIARIES</b>	<b># OF COLONIES</b>
Rock Island	40	161
Saline	8	44
Sangamon	193	621
Schuyler	8	16
Scott	5	23
Shelby	48	170
St. Clair	148	532
Stark	7	23
Stephenson	30	115
Tazewell	62	153
Union	29	1,060
Vermilion	49	144
Wabash	11	33
Warren	22	101
Washington	28	138
Wayne	49	741
White	9	49
Whiteside	32	213
Will	213	2,523
Williamson	57	243
Winnebago	67	329
Woodford	81	256
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,651</b>	<b>28,864</b>

**TABLE 4**

**Illinois Apiary Inspection Statistics – 2005 through June 30, 2017**

Year	# of Apiaries Inspected	Colonies in Apiaries Inspected	# of Colonies Opened	_____AFB_____		# of Colonies with EFB	# of Colonies w/ Chalk Brood	____Varroa Mites____		# of Colonies Tracheal Mites
				# of Colonies	% of Colonies Opened			# of Colonies	% of Colonies Inspected	
FY17	632	11,423	5,472	14	.3	81	4	398	7.27	-
FY16	897	13,611	5,301	33	.6	131	13	546	10.30	-
FY15	724	8,164	4,904	24	.5	82	12	348	7.1	-
FY14	565	6,553	3,504	15	.4	91	16	364	10.4	-
FY13	485	3,880	2,469	2	.1	113	5	554	14.3	-
FY12	399	2,807	2,031	17	.8	45	5	391	13.9	2
FY11	308	2,135	1,538	1	.1	14	6	265	12.4	2
FY10	406	2,695	1,998	8	.4	35	28	483	17.9	10
FY09	344	4,027	2,947	7	.2	0	5	196	4.9	1
FY08	314	2,073	1,523	12	.8	3	10	113	5.5	1
FY07	343	2,561	1,824	23	1.3	7	24	157	6.1	1
FY06	346	2,673	1,939	36	1.9	2	17	182	6.8	-
FY 05	296	4,695	2,603	50	1.9	10	69	171	3.6	-

AFB = American Foulbrood Disease  
 EFB = European Foulbrood Disease