



JB Pritzker, Governor
Jerry Costello II, Acting Director

Office of the Director

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June 30, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706-1150

Dear Governor Pritzker:

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 2020 Apiary Inspection Annual Report. Do not hesitate to contact Brian Rennecker, Acting Apiary Inspection Supervisor, if there are questions regarding the contents of the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerry Costello II'.

Jerry Costello II
Acting Director

Copy: Kristi Jones, IDOA
Jeremy Flynn, IDOA
Rob Baren, IDOA
Krista Lisser, IDOA
IDOA Apiary Inspectors
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Enclosure

Fiscal Year 2020 Apiary Inspection Annual Report
Illinois Department of Agriculture
(July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020)

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 84% of the beekeepers managing 10 colonies or less (Table 1). 32 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 2020, 4,800 beekeepers were managing 32,878 colonies in 6,429 apiaries in Illinois (Table 2). The number of registered beekeepers has again increased. 604 beekeepers were newly registered during the fiscal year. The total number of registered beekeepers statewide has increased each year since 2003 and is the most registered since 1990. Table 3 lists the number of colonies and apiaries registered in each county in Illinois. Lake County had the highest number of colonies with 2,589. Will County and Cook County placed second and third, with 2,573 and 2,014 colonies, respectively.

Colony inspection statistics for Fiscal Year 2020 and several previous years are included in Table 4. From July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, 669 apiaries containing 12,162 colonies were visited. Of these colonies, 6,351 were actually opened and inspected. American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) was detected in only **one** colony. The number of colonies infected with European Foulbrood (EFB) and Chalkbrood decreased from Fiscal Year 2019.

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 winter weather affected most beekeepers to some degree. Some lost most or all of their colonies, while 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 2020.

The small hive beetle (SHB) continues to be a problem in Illinois. Given the Department's inspections and input from the Industry, the SHB has spread most likely to all Illinois counties. In Fiscal year 2019, the IDOA found 1,710 colonies that contained the SHB, while in Fiscal Year 2020, only 27 colonies had SHB. Based upon our Inspections to date in Fiscal Year 2020, we expect these numbers to be lower than expected. 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.

Department Apiary Inspectors encountered a few cases of overly aggressive bees during their inspections. Samples were collected and sent to the USDA laboratory in Tucson, Arizona for testing. All tests were negative for the presence of Africanized genes in those samples.

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, 2020

Number of Colonies	Number of Beekeepers	Percentage of Beekeepers
0	263	5.49
1-5	3,440	71.77
6-10	576	12.02
11-20	266	5.55
21-50	170	3.55
51-100	46	0.96
101-200	18	0.38
201-300	6	0.13
301-400	2	0.04
401-500	1	0.02
>500	5	0.10
TOTAL	4,793	100.0*

* May not total 100% due to rounding.

TABLE 2
Illinois Beekeeper and Colony Statistics from 2001 through 2020
as of July 1 of each year.

Year	Number of Registered Beekeepers	Number of Apiaries	Number of Colonies	Colonies/ Beekeeper	Colonies/ Apiary
2020	4,799	6,429	32,877	6.85	5.1
2019	4,551	6,202	32,877	6.85	5.1
2018	4,308	6,000	30,017	7.0	5.0
2017	4,009	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

TABLE 3

Number of Registered Apiaries and Colonies in Illinois Counties as of July 1, 2020

COUNTY	# OF APIARIES	# OF COLONIES	COUNTY	# OF APIARIES	# OF COLONIES
Adams	84	408	Jefferson	28	142
Alexander	2	16	Jersey	51	226
Bond	70	332	JoDavie	57	959
Boone	34	258	Johnson	19	70
Brown	5	33	Kane	211	1577
Bureau	58	367	Kankakee	77	408
Calhoun	10	44	Kendall	41	178
Carroll	38	594	Knox	45	159
Cass	12	61	LaSalle	111	459
Champaign	127	398	Lake	460	2855
Christian	49	180	Lawrence	14	141
Clark	56	283	Lee	37	137
Clay	12	168	Livingston	34	85
Clinton	107	436	Logan	33	135
Coles	72	399	Macon	57	146
Cook	655	2074	Macoupin	112	351
Crawford	36	143	Madison	238	973
Cumberland	25	73	Marion	62	191
DeKalb	38	172	Marshall	13	105
DeWitt	38	229	Mason	25	92
Douglas	30	89	Massac	12	49
DuPage	288	1066	McDonough	31	143
Edgar	49	165	McHenry	239	1700
Edwards	9	21	McLean	122	427
Effingham	35	150	Menard	43	242
Fayette	52	393	Mercer	39	102
Ford	24	56	Monroe	64	256
Franklin	52	347	Montgomery	63	242
Fulton	45	324	Morgan	56	172
Gallatin	3	12	Moultrie	40	151
Greene	27	98	Ogle	66	778
Grundy	28	194	Peoria	111	338
Hamilton	12	56	Perry	44	250
Hancock	43	190	Piatt	35	68
Hardin	2	39	Pike	25	146
Henderson	22	102	Pope	4	14
Henry	58	149	Pulaski	2	4
Iroquois	57	297	Putnam	14	60
Jackson	64	426	Randolph	42	239
Jasper	45	267	Richland	26	80

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COUNTY	# OF APIARIES	# OF COLONIES
Rock Island	47	177
Saline	16	158
Sangamon	221	762
Schuyler	13	45
Scott	6	32
Shelby	54	172
St. Clair	154	651
Stark	7	16
Stephenson	26	92
Tazewell	75	232
Union	25	1064
Vermilion	64	226
Wabash	7	16
Warren	28	108
Washington	33	109
Wayne	51	377
White	13	79
Whiteside	49	276
Will	216	3995
Williamson	62	326
Winnebago	84	665
Woodford	82	293
TOTAL	6609	35,829

TABLE 4

Illinois Apiary Inspection Statistics – 2006 through June 30, 2020

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	
FY20	669	12,162	6,351	1	0.02	90	15	236	3.72	-
FY19	816	15,313	7,412	0	0	110	18	540	7.29	-
FY18	862	11,576	5,469	7	.1	74	32	578	10.57	-
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	-

AFB = American Foulbrood Disease
 EFB = European Foulbrood Disease