



Pat Quinn, Governor  
Robert F. Flider, Director

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**Office of the Director**

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October 11, 2013

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Governor of Illinois  
Capitol Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62706-1150

Dear Governor Quinn:

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 2012 Apiary Inspection Annual Report. Do not hesitate to contact Steve Chard, Apiary Inspection Supervisor, at 217-785-2661 if there are questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Flider, Acting Director  
Illinois Department of Agriculture

Copy: Jim Belli, ISBA  
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Enclosure

**Fiscal Year 2014 Apiary Inspection Report**  
**Illinois Department of Agriculture**  
**(July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014)**

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 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 slightly more than 88% of the beekeepers managing 10 colonies or less (Table 1). 21 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 2014, 2,766 beekeepers were managing 26,004 colonies in 4,023 apiaries in Illinois (Table 2). The number of registered beekeepers has again increased significantly. 247 new 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. Union County had the highest number of colonies with 2,071. Will County and Iroquois County placed second and third, with 1,731 and 1,574 colonies, respectively.

Colony inspection statistics for Fiscal Year 2014 and several previous years are included in Table 4. From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, 565 apiaries containing 6,553 colonies were visited. Of these colonies, 3,504 were actually opened and inspected. American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) was detected in 15 colonies, or .4% of the colonies actually opened. This shows an increase in the number of colonies infected with AFB as compared to 2013. In accordance with the Act, the diseased colonies were destroyed. The number of colonies infected with European Foulbrood (EFB) decreased from Fiscal Year 2013 and the number of colonies infected with Chalkbrood more than tripled in Fiscal Year 2014. While the total number of EFB cases decreased in FY14, there are still areas with a heavy concentration of EFB that appears to be a stronger strain. The Department continues to investigate and confer with experts.

Varroa mites continue to be found throughout the state. Inspection reports during the fiscal year indicated a significant 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. The Department also received approval by the USEPA for the use of Hop Guard II in Illinois for varroa mite control. This gives beekeepers another good option for combating this major pest.

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. The average winter loss in Illinois was 50%. 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 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 2014, 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 a total of 64 counties in isolated locations. 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 (APHIS) invited the Department to participate in another national honeybee survey in Fiscal Year 2014. 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 24 different apiaries across the State and the samples were processed by APHIS. 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 2014. Federal research continues to determine the cause(s) of 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 DriftWatch™ internet site. In addition, beekeepers can register their colonies on the DriftWatch 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, 2014**

| <b>Number of Colonies</b> | <b>Number of Beekeepers</b> | <b>Percentage of Beekeepers</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0                         | 81                          | 2.92                            |
| 1-5                       | 1,967                       | 71.01                           |
| 6-10                      | 399                         | 14.40                           |
| 11-20                     | 172                         | 6.21                            |
| 21-50                     | 93                          | 3.36                            |
| 51-100                    | 33                          | 1.19                            |
| 101-200                   | 13                          | 0.47                            |
| 201-300                   | 2                           | 0.07                            |
| 301-400                   | 0                           | 0                               |
| 401-500                   | 0                           | 0                               |
| >500                      | 6                           | 0.22                            |
| TOTAL                     | 2,766                       | 100.0*                          |

\* May not total 100% due to rounding.

**TABLE 2****Illinois Beekeeper and Colony Statistics from 1988 through 2014  
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> |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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                     |
| 1999        | 1,208                                  | 2,025                     | 16,939                    | 14.0                       | 8.4                     |
| 1998        | 1,295                                  | 2,136                     | 18,129                    | 14.0                       | 8.5                     |
| 1997        | 1,521                                  | 2,464                     | 17,276                    | 11.4                       | 7.0                     |
| 1996        | 1,515                                  | 2,506                     | 16,896                    | 11.2                       | 6.7                     |
| 1995        | 1,782                                  | 2,879                     | 19,037                    | 10.7                       | 6.6                     |
| 1994        | 1,999                                  | 3,252                     | 21,872                    | 10.9                       | 6.7                     |
| 1993        | 2,021                                  | 3,350                     | 24,240                    | 12.0                       | 7.2                     |
| 1992        | 2,249                                  | 3,668                     | 26,405                    | 11.7                       | 7.2                     |
| 1991        | 2,329                                  | 3,758                     | 27,693                    | 11.9                       | 7.4                     |
| 1990        | 2,705                                  | 4,336                     | 33,800                    | 12.5                       | 7.8                     |
| 1989        | 2,783                                  | 4,413                     | 34,966                    | 12.6                       | 7.9                     |
| 1988        | 2,966                                  | 4,649                     | 37,025                    | 12.5                       | 8.0                     |

**TABLE 3****Number of Registered Apiaries and Colonies in Illinois Counties as of July 1, 2014**

| <b>COUNTY</b> | <b># OF<br/>APIARIES</b> | <b># OF<br/>COLONIES</b> | <b>COUNTY</b> | <b># OF<br/>APIARIES</b> | <b># OF<br/>COLONIES</b> |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Adams         | 42                       | 288                      | Jefferson     | 21                       | 108                      |
| Alexander     | 1                        | 1                        | Jersey        | 18                       | 83                       |
| Bond          | 45                       | 151                      | JoDaviess     | 58                       | 1,169                    |
| Boone         | 24                       | 357                      | Johnson       | 10                       | 65                       |
| Brown         | 12                       | 34                       | Kane          | 122                      | 589                      |
| Bureau        | 47                       | 425                      | Kankakee      | 67                       | 388                      |
| Calhoun       | 5                        | 13                       | Kendall       | 53                       | 262                      |
| Carroll       | 26                       | 379                      | Knox          | 31                       | 258                      |
| Cass          | 13                       | 42                       | LaSalle       | 74                       | 456                      |
| Champaign     | 98                       | 337                      | Lake          | 263                      | 1,558                    |
| Christian     | 31                       | 93                       | Lawrence      | 11                       | 47                       |
| Clark         | 30                       | 110                      | Lee           | 21                       | 95                       |
| Clay          | 4                        | 58                       | Livingston    | 26                       | 94                       |
| Clinton       | 41                       | 119                      | Logan         | 24                       | 131                      |
| Coles         | 50                       | 343                      | Macon         | 41                       | 119                      |
| Cook          | 321                      | 1,196                    | Macoupin      | 60                       | 220                      |
| Crawford      | 25                       | 111                      | Madison       | 117                      | 395                      |
| Cumberland    | 21                       | 88                       | Marion        | 34                       | 94                       |
| DeKalb        | 35                       | 134                      | Marshall      | 11                       | 68                       |
| DeWitt        | 16                       | 42                       | Mason         | 15                       | 70                       |
| Douglas       | 27                       | 87                       | Massac        | 3                        | 402                      |
| DuPage        | 184                      | 491                      | McDonough     | 16                       | 56                       |
| Edgar         | 28                       | 130                      | McHenry       | 123                      | 874                      |
| Edwards       | 8                        | 25                       | McLean        | 43                       | 214                      |
| Effingham     | 22                       | 91                       | Menard        | 23                       | 107                      |
| Fayette       | 38                       | 163                      | Mercer        | 22                       | 74                       |
| Ford          | 10                       | 29                       | Monroe        | 27                       | 156                      |
| Franklin      | 19                       | 183                      | Montgomery    | 39                       | 179                      |
| Fulton        | 42                       | 228                      | Morgan        | 28                       | 116                      |
| Gallatin      | 3                        | 17                       | Moultrie      | 31                       | 167                      |
| Greene        | 5                        | 16                       | Ogle          | 58                       | 232                      |
| Grundy        | 21                       | 217                      | Peoria        | 60                       | 254                      |
| Hamilton      | 10                       | 28                       | Perry         | 22                       | 202                      |
| Hancock       | 28                       | 199                      | Piatt         | 18                       | 54                       |
| Hardin        | 1                        | 13                       | Pike          | 15                       | 31                       |
| Henderson     | 10                       | 40                       | Pope          | 1                        | 3                        |
| Henry         | 14                       | 47                       | Pulaski       | 3                        | 534                      |
| Iroquois      | 28                       | 1,574                    | Putnam        | 9                        | 22                       |
| Jackson       | 46                       | 294                      | Randolph      | 18                       | 83                       |
| Jasper        | 42                       | 194                      | Richland      | 17                       | 51                       |

| <b>COUNTY</b> | <b># OF<br/>APIARIES</b> | <b># OF<br/>COLONIES</b> |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rock Island   | 27                       | 110                      |
| Saline        | 1                        | 2                        |
| Sangamon      | 172                      | 624                      |
| Schuyler      | 9                        | 36                       |
| Scott         | 5                        | 7                        |
| Shelby        | 36                       | 208                      |
| St. Clair     | 91                       | 339                      |
| Stark         | 8                        | 26                       |
| Stephenson    | 32                       | 174                      |
| Tazewell      | 50                       | 229                      |
| Union         | 20                       | 2,071                    |
| Vermilion     | 31                       | 96                       |
| Wabash        | 9                        | 32                       |
| Warren        | 19                       | 117                      |
| Washington    | 21                       | 117                      |
| Wayne         | 45                       | 249                      |
| White         | 5                        | 31                       |
| Whiteside     | 36                       | 268                      |
| Will          | 137                      | 1,731                    |
| Williamson    | 35                       | 635                      |
| Winnebago     | 57                       | 294                      |
| Woodford      | 46                       | 131                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>4,023</b>             | <b>26,004</b>            |

**TABLE 4**

**Illinois Apiary Inspection Statistics - 1990 through June 30, 2014**

| 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 |                              |
| 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                     | -                            |
| FY 04 | 219                     | 4,696                          | 1,747                | 37            | 2.1                  | 1                      | 48                           | 54                 | 1.1                     | -                            |
| FY 03 | 266                     | 3,662                          | 1,915                | 89            | 4.7                  | 8                      | 109                          | 297                | 8.1                     | 8                            |
| FY02  | 196                     | 1,999                          | 1,254                | 31            | 2.5                  | 0                      | 4                            | 141                | 7.0                     | -                            |
| FY01  | 231                     | 3,228                          | 1,273                | 18            | 1.4                  | 1                      | 41                           | 217                | 6.7                     | -                            |
| FY00  | 115                     | 1,731                          | 855                  | 21            | 2.4                  | 0                      | 4                            | 407                | 23.5                    | 9                            |
| FY99  | 156                     | 4,083                          | 1,424                | 8             | 0.6                  | 0                      | 19                           | 751                | 18.4                    | -                            |
| FY98  | 199                     | 3,027                          | 1,388                | 85            | 6.1                  | 0                      | 51                           | 1,232              | 40.7                    | 5                            |
| FY97  | 277                     | 2,086                          | 1,236                | 32            | 2.6                  | 2                      | 7                            | 99                 | 4.7                     | -                            |
| FY96  | 279                     | 2,480                          | 1,349                | 156           | 11.8                 | 5                      | 54                           | 260                | 11.3                    | -                            |
| FY95  | 333                     | 2,584                          | 1,363                | 15            | 1.1                  | 3                      | 6                            | 837                | 32.4                    | 88                           |
| FY94  | 530                     | 3,809                          | 2,357                | 72            | 3.1                  | 8                      | 33                           | 1,090              | 28.6                    | 121                          |
| FY93  | 419                     | 2,366                          | 1,530                | 48            | 3.1                  | 6                      | 10                           | 672                | 28.4                    | 144                          |
| FY92  | 460                     | -                              | 2,173                | 62            | 2.8                  | 19                     | 25                           | 389                | -                       | 119                          |
| Cal92 | 474                     | -                              | 1,916                | 72            | 3.7                  | 1                      | 21                           | 618                | -                       | 120                          |
| Cal91 | 459                     | 2,944                          | 2,437                | 64            | 2.6                  | 3                      | 9                            | 392                | -                       | 286                          |
| Cal90 | 400                     | -                              | -                    | 140           | -                    | 11                     | 108                          | -                  | -                       | -                            |

AFB = American Foulbrood Disease

EFB = European Foulbrood Disease