



Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Philip Nelson, 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

September \_\_, 2015

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 2015 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,

Philip Nelson, Director  
Illinois Department of Agriculture

Copy: **Jim Belli, ISBA**  
**Richard Ramsey, IDA**  
**Jared Thornley, IDA**  
**Larry O'Brien, IDA**  
**Warren Goetsch, IDA**  
**IDA Apiary Inspectors**

Enclosure

**Fiscal Year 2015 Apiary Inspection Annual Report**  
**Illinois Department of Agriculture**  
**(July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015)**

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 almost 90% of the beekeepers managing 10 colonies or less (Table 1). 23 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 2015, 3,114 beekeepers were managing 24,690 colonies in 4,517 apiaries in Illinois (Table 2). The number of registered beekeepers has again increased significantly. 348 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. Will County had the highest number of colonies with 2,221. Lake County and McHenry County placed second and third, with 1,725 and 1,268 colonies, respectively.

Colony inspection statistics for Fiscal Year 2015 and several previous years are included in Table 4. From July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, 724 apiaries containing 8,164 colonies were visited. Of these colonies, 4,904 were actually opened and inspected. American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) was detected in 24 colonies, or .5% of the colonies actually opened. This shows an increase in the number of colonies infected with AFB as compared to 2014. In accordance with the Act, the diseased colonies were destroyed. The number of colonies infected with European Foulbrood (EFB) or Chalkbrood decreased from Fiscal Year 2014. While the total number of EFB cases decreased in FY15, 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 slight 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. 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 2015, 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. 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 (APHIS) invited the Department to participate in another national honeybee survey in Fiscal Year 2015. 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 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 2015. 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 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, 2018**

<b>Number of Colonies</b>	<b>Number of Beekeepers</b>	<b>Percentage of Beekeepers</b>
0	186	4.30
1-5	3,071	71.07
6-10	574	13.28
11-20	269	6.23
21-50	150	3.47
51-100	42	0.97
101-200	21	0.49
201-300	1	0.02
301-400	0	0
401-500	2	0.05
>500	5	0.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>100.0*</b>

\* May not total 100% due to rounding.

**TABLE 2****Illinois Beekeeper and Colony Statistics from 1990 through 2015  
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>
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
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

**TABLE 3****Number of Registered Apiaries and Colonies in Illinois Counties as of July 1, 2015**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b># OF APIARIES</b>	<b># OF COLONIES</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b># OF APIARIES</b>	<b># OF COLONIES</b>
Adams	49	256	Jefferson	22	104
Alexander	1	1	Jersey	26	97
Bond	53	181	JoDaviess	61	1,263
Boone	31	463	Johnson	11	68
Brown	12	19	Kane	143	690
Bureau	44	390	Kankakee	75	307
Calhoun	5	12	Kendall	65	346
Carroll	33	424	Knox	27	95
Cass	9	21	LaSalle	86	408
Champaign	113	402	Lake	283	1,725
Christian	34	87	Lawrence	11	49
Clark	40	126	Lee	29	111
Clay	6	70	Livingston	30	81
Clinton	50	142	Logan	25	145
Coles	56	328	Macon	42	120
Cook	369	1,250	Macoupin	66	200
Crawford	27	96	Madison	137	408
Cumberland	23	78	Marion	36	95
DeKalb	40	154	Marshall	11	65
DeWitt	16	36	Mason	14	43
Douglas	29	87	Massac	5	13
DuPage	211	563	McDonough	19	52
Edgar	30	72	McHenry	149	1,268
Edwards	8	24	McLean	54	254
Effingham	26	91	Menard	27	108
Fayette	45	229	Mercer	25	73
Ford	9	24	Monroe	34	202
Franklin	21	188	Montgomery	38	141
Fulton	46	238	Morgan	29	76
Gallatin	5	15	Moultrie	29	131
Greene	6	12	Ogle	67	235
Grundy	20	200	Peoria	74	238
Hamilton	10	20	Perry	26	179
Hancock	29	185	Piatt	22	53
Hardin	2	18	Pike	18	48
Henderson	10	42	Pope	3	15
Henry	27	80	Pulaski	3	1
Iroquois	27	1,034	Putnam	13	47
Jackson	49	328	Randolph	22	86
Jasper	45	194	Richland	21	50

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b># OF APIARIES</b>	<b># OF COLONIES</b>
Rock Island	30	120
Saline	5	10
Sangamon	182	524
Schuyler	6	11
Scott	4	7
Shelby	40	204
St. Clair	108	353
Stark	8	13
Stephenson	29	182
Tazewell	53	192
Union	23	1,042
Vermilion	33	102
Wabash	10	33
Warren	22	115
Washington	22	122
Wayne	41	244
White	6	30
Whiteside	34	257
Will	167	2,221
Williamson	40	625
Winnebago	56	272
Woodford	54	141
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,517</b>	<b>24,690</b>

**TABLE 4**

**Illinois Apiary Inspection Statistics - 1990 through June 30, 2015**

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	
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	-
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