



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Raymond Poe, Director

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, 2018

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 2018 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 2018 Apiary Inspection Annual Report
Illinois Department of Agriculture
(July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018)

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). 29 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 2018, 4308 beekeepers were managing 30,017 colonies in 6,000 apiaries in Illinois (Table 2). The number of registered beekeepers has again increased significantly. 572 beekeepers were newly 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 2,307. Lake County and Cook County placed second and third, with 2,213 and 1,810 colonies, respectively.

Colony inspection statistics for Fiscal Year 2018 and several previous years are included in Table 4. From July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, 862 apiaries containing 11,576 colonies were visited. Of these colonies, 5,469 were actually opened and inspected. American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) was detected in 7 colonies, or 0.13% of the colonies actually opened. This shows a significant decrease in the number of colonies infected with AFB as compared to 2017. 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 increased from Fiscal Year 2017.

Varroa mites continue to be found throughout the state. Inspection reports during the fiscal year indicated a large increase 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. 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 2018.

The small hive beetle (SHB) continues to be a growing problem in Illinois. Based upon the Department's inspections and input from the Industry, the SHB has spread most likely to all Illinois counties. 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 several 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, 2018

Number of Colonies	Number of Beekeepers	Percentage of Beekeepers
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
TOTAL	4,321	100.0*

* May not total 100% due to rounding.

TABLE 2**Illinois Beekeeper and Colony Statistics from 2000 through 2018
as of July 1 of each year.**

Year	Number of Registered Beekeepers	Number of Apiaries	Number of Colonies	Colonies/ Beekeeper	Colonies/ Apiary
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
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, 2018**

COUNTY	# OF APIARIES	# OF COLONIES	COUNTY	# OF APIARIES	# OF COLONIES
Adams	82	406	Jefferson	28	141
Alexander	2	14	Jersey	43	155
Bond	70	269	JoDaviess	59	1,071
Boone	36	488	Johnson	11	86
Brown	8	26	Kane	187	823
Bureau	52	415	Kankakee	74	362
Calhoun	14	66	Kendall	47	236
Carroll	32	366	Knox	34	135
Cass	11	36	LaSalle	115	469
Champaign	127	431	Lake	388	2,213
Christian	42	164	Lawrence	13	69
Clark	52	208	Lee	31	92
Clay	6	103	Livingston	35	113
Clinton	98	312	Logan	43	135
Coles	81	424	Macon	48	129
Cook	517	1,810	Macoupin	96	325
Crawford	37	146	Madison	224	750
Cumberland	28	101	Marion	54	175
DeKalb	43	246	Marshall	15	114
DeWitt	30	108	Mason	26	70
Douglas	24	82	Massac	9	29
DuPage	261	844	McDonough	27	139
Edgar	51	165	McHenry	192	1,420
Edwards	8	25	McLean	97	405
Effingham	23	127	Menard	37	142
Fayette	45	241	Mercer	33	87
Ford	10	26	Monroe	57	312
Franklin	45	273	Montgomery	71	268
Fulton	35	192	Morgan	43	124
Gallatin	5	15	Moultrie	39	165
Greene	20	70	Ogle	68	308
Grundy	25	195	Peoria	108	330
Hamilton	10	47	Perry	24	182
Hancock	43	199	Piatt	31	95
Hardin	2	18	Pike	30	139
Henderson	18	91	Pope	6	19
Henry	58	155	Pulaski	3	2
Iroquois	52	535	Putnam	17	86
Jackson	62	468	Randolph	28	171
Jasper	42	172	Richland	28	103

COUNTY	# OF APIARIES	# OF COLONIES
Rock Island	39	143
Saline	13	91
Sangamon	201	700
Schuyler	10	19
Scott	5	24
Shelby	46	185
St. Clair	147	580
Stark	7	23
Stephenson	28	110
Tazewell	69	175
Union	32	863
Vermilion	55	173
Wabash	8	20
Warren	24	110
Washington	35	274
Wayne	56	757
White	8	64
Whiteside	40	263
Will	224	2,307
Williamson	67	267
Winnebago	70	321
Woodford	89	280
TOTAL	5,999	30,017

TABLE 4

Illinois Apiary Inspection Statistics – 2005 through June 30, 2018

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	
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	-
FY 05	296	4,695	2,603	50	1.9	10	69	171	3.6	-

AFB = American Foulbrood Disease
 EFB = European Foulbrood Disease