

**Office of the Director**

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June 30, 2021

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 2021 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,



Jerry Costello II  
Director

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Enclosure

**Fiscal Year 2021 Apiary Inspection Annual Report**  
**Illinois Department of Agriculture**  
**(July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)**

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.

Beekeepers are required to register with the Department of Agriculture. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2021, 5,116 beekeepers were managing 35,853 colonies in 6,770 apiaries in Illinois (Table 2). The number of registered beekeepers has again increased. 661 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. Will County had the highest number of colonies with 3,420. Lake County and Cook County placed second and third, with 2,920 and 2,179 colonies, respectively.

Colony inspection statistics for Fiscal Year 2021 and several previous years are included in Table 4. From July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 657 apiaries containing 8,428 colonies were visited. Of these colonies, 4,048 were actually opened and inspected. American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) was detected in only 2 colonies. The number of colonies infected with European Foulbrood (EFB) and Chalkbrood decreased from Fiscal Year 2020.

Varroa mites continue to be found throughout the state. Inspection reports during the fiscal year indicated a 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, 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 2021.

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 2020, the IDOA found only 27 colonies that contained the SHB, while in Fiscal Year 2021, 369 colonies had SHB. Based upon our Inspections to date in Fiscal Year 2021, we expected 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 2**  
**Illinois Beekeeper and Colony Statistics**

<b>Number of Registered Beekeepers</b>	<b>Number of Apiaries</b>	<b>Number of Colonies</b>	<b>Colonies/Beekeepers</b>	<b>Colonies/Apiaries</b>
5,116	6,770	35,853	7.01	5.30

**TABLE 3**  
**Number of Registered Apiaries and Colonies in Illinois**  
**Counties**

<u>County</u>	<u># of Apiaries</u>	<u># of Colonies</u>
Adams	84	415
Alexander	5	27
Bond	71	317
Boone	34	260
Brown	6	36
Bureau	65	439
Calhoun	13	76
Carroll	37	600
Cass	12	65
Champaign	144	463
Christian	46	177
Clark	47	306
Clay	11	143
Clinton	107	416
Coles	64	258
Cook	675	2179
Crawford	37	152
Cumberland	21	54
DeKalb	42	205
De Witt	38	262
Douglas	27	89
DuPage	301	1112
Edgar	41	141
Edwards	5	13
Effingham	29	147
Fayette	47	365
Ford	26	54
Franklin	52	337
Fulton	49	371
Gallatin	3	13
Greene	28	100
Grundy	32	206
Hamilton	11	51
Hancock	44	206
Hardin	3	18
Henderson	21	101
Henry	56	155
Iroquois	56	326

<u>County</u>	<u># of Apiaries</u>	<u># of Colonies</u>
Jackson	65	439
Jasper	41	393
Jefferson	31	151
Jersey	52	221
Jo Daviess	62	968
Johnson	16	69
Kane	211	1583
Kankakee	78	456
Kendall	47	201
Knox	51	173
Lake	466	2920
LaSalle	116	432
Lawrence	19	202
Lee	34	141
Livingston	35	93
Logan	32	143
McDonough	30	137
McHenry	247	1732
McLean	134	532
Macon	56	158
Macoupin	116	376
Madison	247	894
Marion	60	180
Marshall	17	117
Mason	28	110
Massac	12	50
Menard	41	260
Mercer	37	85
Monroe	64	248
Montgomery	65	261
Morgan	67	212
Moultrie	31	116
Ogle	65	358
Peoria	119	385
Perry	46	257
Piatt	37	87
Pike	25	140
Pope	7	18
Pulaski	3	5
Putnam	16	82
Randolph	46	261
Richland	27	108
Rock Island	56	244
St. Clair	162	585
Saline	16	193
Sangamon	234	786

<u>County</u>	<u># of Apiaries</u>	<u># of Colonies</u>
Schuyler	14	52
Scott	7	35
Shelby	55	201
Stark	8	24
Stephenson	29	97
Tazewell	82	302
Union	28	1057
Vermilion	67	245
Wabash	7	38
Warren	29	105
Washington	37	136
Wayne	43	303
White	13	77
Whiteside	44	259
Will	214	3420
Williamson	62	309
Winnebago	85	689
Woodford	79	260

**TABLE 4**  
**Illinois Apiary Inspection Statistics**

SFY	# of Apiaries Inspected	Colonies in Apiaries Inspected	# of Colonies Examined	AFB		# of Colonies with # of Colonies w/Chalk Brood	Varroa Mite		# of Colonies w/Tracheal Mites	
				# of Colonies	% of Colonies Examined		# of Colonies	% of Colonies Examined		
2021	657	8,428	4,048	2	0.05	100	3	271	6.69	0
2020	874	14,596	7,847	1	0.01	118	20	293	3.73	0
2019	817	15,314	7,413	0	0.00	110	18	540	7.28	0
2018	864	12,178	5,669	7	0.12	74	32	585	10.32	0
2017	633	11,430	5,479	14	0.26	81	4	398	7.26	0