

Office of the Director

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June 27, 2024

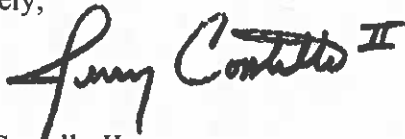
The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706-1150

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 2024 Apiary Inspection Annual Report. Do not hesitate to contact Brian Rennecker, 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 2024 Apiary Inspection Annual Report
Illinois Department of Agriculture
(July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024)

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). 35 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 2024, 5,434 beekeepers were managing 36,839 colonies in 7,056 apiaries in Illinois (Table 2). The number of registered beekeepers has again increased. 387 beekeepers were newly registered during the fiscal year. The total number of registered beekeepers statewide has gradually increased each year since 2003. Table 3 lists the number of colonies and apiaries registered in each county in Illinois. Will County had the highest number of colonies with 2,959. Lake County and Cook County placed second and third with 2,904 and 2,239 colonies, respectively.

Colony inspection statistics for Fiscal Year 2024 and several previous years are included in Table 4. From July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 380 apiaries containing 3,230 colonies were visited. Of these colonies, 2,372 were actually opened and inspected. American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) was detected in only 20 colonies. The number of colonies infected with European Foulbrood (EFB) decreased and Chalkbrood increased from Fiscal Year 2023.

Varroa mites continue to be found throughout the state. Inspection reports during the fiscal year indicated a 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 2024.

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 2023 the IDOA found 633 colonies that contained the SHB, while in Fiscal Year 2024 614 colonies had SHB. Based upon our inspections in Fiscal Year 2024, we expected these numbers to be lower than reported. 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

| Number of Colonies | Number of Beekeepers | Percentage of Beekeepers |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0 | 353 | 6.49 |
| 1-5 | 3,725 | 68.50 |
| 6-10 | 738 | 13.57 |
| 11-20 | 337 | 6.20 |
| 21-50 | 212 | 3.90 |
| 51-100 | 38 | 0.70 |
| 101-200 | 20 | 0.37 |
| 201-300 | 7 | 0.13 |
| 301-400 | 3 | 0.06 |
| 401-500 | 2 | 0.04 |
| >500 | 3 | 0.06 |

These counts are based on the current Active status and not a specific State Fiscal Year due to the issue of renewals that can take place from Jan 1 through October 1. Also, because newly registered Owners are not required to renew following their first year, the inaccuracy would be compounded.

TABLE 2
Illinois Beekeeper and Colony Statistics

| Number of Registered Beekeepers | Number of Apiaries | Number of Colonies | Colonies/Beekeepers | Colonies/Apiaries |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5,434 | 7,056 | 36,839 | 6.78 | 5.22 |

These counts are based on the current Active status and not a specific State Fiscal Year due to the issue of renewals that can take place from Jan 1 through October 1. Also, because newly registered Owners are not required to renew following their first year, the inaccuracy would be compounded.



TABLE 3
Number of Registered Apiaries and Colonies in Illinois Counties

| County | # of Apiaries | # of Colonies |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Adams | 75 | 350 |
| Alexander | 4 | 26 |
| Bond | 61 | 279 |
| Boone | 39 | 242 |
| Brown | 12 | 67 |
| Bureau | 66 | 505 |
| Calhoun | 13 | 60 |
| Carroll | 32 | 401 |
| Cass | 17 | 72 |
| Champaign | 143 | 437 |
| Christian | 44 | 162 |
| Clark | 50 | 348 |
| Clay | 15 | 340 |
| Clinton | 103 | 530 |
| Coles | 61 | 203 |
| Cook | 761 | 2239 |
| Crawford | 35 | 154 |
| Cumberland | 22 | 78 |
| DeKalb | 44 | 180 |
| De Witt | 38 | 301 |
| Douglas | 24 | 79 |
| DuPage | 282 | 1096 |
| Edgar | 40 | 118 |
| Edwards | 5 | 20 |
| Effingham | 29 | 171 |
| Fayette | 41 | 251 |
| Ford | 29 | 76 |
| Franklin | 48 | 301 |
| Fulton | 49 | 337 |
| Gallatin | 3 | 7 |
| Greene | 25 | 91 |
| Grundy | 33 | 220 |
| Hamilton | 16 | 113 |
| Hancock | 41 | 183 |
| Hardin | 5 | 37 |
| Henderson | 19 | 95 |
| Henry | 56 | 179 |
| Iroquois | 52 | 261 |
| Jackson | 73 | 384 |
| Jasper | 46 | 532 |
| Jefferson | 39 | 162 |

| County | # of Apiaries | # of Colonies |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Jersey | 57 | 253 |
| Jo Daviess | 33 | 161 |
| Johnson | 12 | 38 |
| Kane | 198 | 1338 |
| Kankakee | 75 | 542 |
| Kendall | 54 | 230 |
| Knox | 48 | 255 |
| Lake | 480 | 2904 |
| LaSalle | 113 | 491 |
| Lawrence | 20 | 94 |
| Lee | 36 | 168 |
| Livingston | 34 | 109 |
| Logan | 33 | 163 |
| McDonough | 35 | 151 |
| McHenry | 279 | 1843 |
| McLean | 151 | 588 |
| Macon | 59 | 204 |
| Macoupin | 116 | 366 |
| Madison | 267 | 978 |
| Marion | 65 | 390 |
| Marshall | 21 | 140 |
| Mason | 27 | 141 |
| Massac | 13 | 81 |
| Menard | 57 | 319 |
| Mercer | 34 | 142 |
| Monroe | 53 | 223 |
| Montgomery | 68 | 284 |
| Morgan | 97 | 372 |
| Moultrie | 27 | 124 |
| Ogle | 58 | 355 |
| Peoria | 140 | 455 |
| Perry | 41 | 273 |
| Piatt | 31 | 101 |
| Pike | 23 | 84 |
| Pope | 12 | 75 |
| Pulaski | 1 | 2 |
| Putnam | 24 | 151 |
| Randolph | 45 | 239 |
| Richland | 25 | 159 |
| Rock Island | 54 | 245 |
| St. Clair | 198 | 644 |
| Saline | 22 | 219 |
| Sangamon | 244 | 857 |
| Schuyler | 15 | 76 |
| Scott | 9 | 33 |

| County | # of Apiaries | # of Colonies |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Shelby | 57 | 211 |
| Stark | 12 | 28 |
| Stephenson | 39 | 207 |
| Tazewell | 81 | 300 |
| Union | 30 | 1061 |
| Vermilion | 76 | 369 |
| Wabash | 10 | 267 |
| Warren | 23 | 50 |
| Washington | 37 | 134 |
| Wayne | 40 | 408 |
| White | 13 | 124 |
| Whiteside | 54 | 336 |
| Will | 231 | 2959 |
| Williamson | 76 | 399 |
| Winnebago | 102 | 948 |
| Woodford | 80 | 291 |

These counts are based on the current Active status and not a specific State Fiscal Year due to the issue of renewals that can take place from Jan 1 through October 1. Also, because newly registered Owners are not required to renew following their first year, the inaccuracy would be compounded.

TABLE 4
Illinois Apiary Inspection Statistics

| SFY | # of Apiaries Inspected | Colonies in Apiaries Inspected | # of Colonies Examined | AFB | | # of Colonies with EFB | # of Colonies w/Chalk Brood | Varroa Mite | | # of Colonies w/Tracheal Mites |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | # of Colonies | % of Colonies Examined | | | # of Colonies | % of Colonies Examined | |
| 2024 | 380 | 3,230 | 2,372 | 20 | 0.84 | 77 | 4 | 33 | 1.39 | 0 |
| 2023 | 780 | 8,083 | 3,639 | 3 | 0.08 | 117 | 2 | 113 | 3.11 | 0 |
| 2022 | 786 | 8,153 | 4,162 | 10 | 0.24 | 80 | 2 | 222 | 5.33 | 0 |
| 2021 | 762 | 9,280 | 4,622 | 2 | 0.04 | 101 | 3 | 276 | 5.97 | 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 |