

**Office of the Director**

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July 1, 2025

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 2025 Apiary Inspection Annual Report. Do not hesitate to contact Michelle Curby, 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 2025 Apiary Inspection Annual Report**  
**Illinois Department of Agriculture**  
**(July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)**

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). Twenty-nine (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 2025, 5,423 beekeepers were managing 38,243 colonies in 7,004 apiaries in Illinois (Table 2). The number of registered beekeepers has decreased from last year's total at 5,434. Three hundred sixty-two (362) beekeepers were newly registered during the fiscal year. Table 3 lists the number of colonies and apiaries registered in each county in Illinois. Lake County had the highest number of colonies with 3,031. Will County and Clay County placed second and third with 2,764 and 2,374 colonies, respectively.

Colony inspection statistics for Fiscal Year 2025 and several previous years are included in Table 4. From July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, 380 apiaries containing 4,002 colonies were visited. Of these colonies, 2,946 were actually opened and inspected. American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) was detected in 0 colonies. The number of colonies infected with European Foulbrood (EFB) was 79 which was a decrease from 85 in Fiscal Year 2024 and Chalkbrood also decreased from 4 colonies in Fiscal Year 2024 to 1 colony in Fiscal Year 2025.

Varroa mites continue to be found throughout the state. Inspection reports during the fiscal year indicated an increase in varroa mite levels as compared to last fiscal year. This may be due in part to the randomness of inspections, the time of year inspections were made, or environmental conditions.

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 2025.

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 2024, of the colonies inspected, 614 colonies contained the SHB, while in Fiscal Year 2025, 696 colonies had SHB. Beekeepers are using various control methods (e.g., traps, other non-chemical control methods) to manage the beetle.

Samples were collected and sent to the Purdue Bee Lab, the Bee Research Lab in Beltsville, MD, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services laboratory for testing depending on suspected disease, pest or nuisance. Abatement of one nuisance hive was coordinated with the beekeeper.

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**

<b>Number of Colonies</b>	<b>Number of Beekeepers</b>	<b>Percentage of Beekeepers</b>
0	418	7.69
1-5	3,647	67.08
6-10	741	13.63
11-20	354	6.51
21-50	209	3.84
51-100	39	0.72
101-200	17	0.31
201-300	5	0.09
301-400	3	0.06
401-500	0	0.00
>500	4	0.07

These counts are based on the current Active status and not a specific State Fiscal Year. New beekeepers can register at any time during the year; renewals are issued twice a year in October & the following January.

**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>
5,423	7,004	38,243	7.05	5.46

These counts are based on the current Active status and not a specific State Fiscal Year. New beekeepers can register at any time during the year; renewals are issued twice a year in October & the following January.

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

<b>County</b>	<b># of Apiaries</b>	<b># of Colonies</b>
Adams	74	346
Alexander	3	16
Bond	61	250
Boone	39	189
Brown	13	77
Bureau	63	514
Calhoun	12	53
Carroll	22	100
Cass	14	53
Champaign	142	474
Christian	45	198
Clark	51	366
Clay	15	2374
Clinton	98	561
Coles	61	212
Cook	751	2212
Crawford	39	162
Cumberland	22	90
DeKalb	41	164
De Witt	38	232
Douglas	25	92
DuPage	270	975
Edgar	39	125
Edwards	5	18
Effingham	32	183
Fayette	35	233
Ford	31	81
Franklin	44	230
Fulton	49	479
Gallatin	3	9
Greene	23	95

<b>County</b>	<b># of Apiaries</b>	<b># of Colonies</b>
Grundy	34	252
Hamilton	16	130
Hancock	35	128
Hardin	5	35
Henderson	21	74
Henry	56	203
Iroquois	50	317
Jackson	78	391
Jasper	24	182
Jefferson	38	214
Jersey	58	239
Jo Daviess	37	186
Johnson	12	47
Kane	205	1432
Kankakee	74	461
Kendall	55	217
Knox	44	192
Lake	494	3031
LaSalle	108	470
Lawrence	21	91
Lee	39	173
Livingston	36	114
Logan	31	116
McDonough	32	133
McHenry	295	1897
McLean	154	700
Macon	66	241
Macoupin	115	366
Madison	266	945
Marion	60	672
Marshall	21	135
Mason	26	119
Massac	12	60
Menard	56	331

<b>County</b>	<b># of Apiaries</b>	<b># of Colonies</b>
Mercer	31	201
Monroe	54	238
Montgomery	68	292
Morgan	97	381
Moultrie	23	116
Ogle	59	399
Peoria	149	562
Perry	34	257
Piatt	30	95
Pike	21	73
Pope	11	45
Pulaski	1	2
Putnam	25	156
Randolph	40	218
Richland	27	315
Rock Island	55	247
St. Clair	195	653
Saline	20	189
Sangamon	241	838
Schuyler	15	71
Scott	9	32
Shelby	55	226
Stark	12	31
Stephenson	40	217
Tazewell	84	313
Union	19	123
Vermilion	78	425
Wabash	10	270
Warren	21	43
Washington	34	125
Wayne	37	1010
White	12	133
Whiteside	51	340
Will	239	2764



<b>County</b>	<b># of Apiaries</b>	<b># of Colonies</b>
Williamson	74	342
Winnebago	118	789
Woodford	80	255

These counts are based on the current Active status and not a specific State Fiscal Year. New beekeepers can register at any time during the year; renewals are issued twice a year in October & the following January.

**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	
2025	489	4,002	2,946	5	0.17	79	1	100	3.39	0
2024	449	3,753	2,774	10	0.36	85	4	43	1.55	0
2023	781	8,094	3,650	3	0.08	117	2	113	3.10	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
2016	897	13,611	5,301	33	0.62	131	13	546	10.30	0
2015	724	8,164	4,904	24	0.49	82	12	348	7.10	0
2014	565	6,546	3,496	15	0.43	91	16	362	10.35	0
2013	485	3,880	2,469	2	0.08	113	5	554	22.44	0
2012	404	2,923	2,082	17	0.82	45	5	394	18.92	2
2011	323	2,251	1,617	3	0.19	17	6	270	16.70	2