

NY Bee Wellness Workshops, NYBeeWellness.org, an independent grassroots 501c3 charitable educational nonprofit program to teach beekeepers honey bee disease recognition & to promote honey bee health.

Spring Survey 2019 NY Bee Wellness Results!

Thank you to all who have completed the survey!

The survey represents a sample of non-migratory beekeepers from across New York State. The results may also assist other beekeepers across the state to see trends and adjust their management practices. Please [send](#) any comments, suggestions, or questions. The survey can be further refined on request.

Please watch for the NY Bee Wellness Fall Survey this year.

NOTE: If the data does not display properly, please view the email in your browser by clicking the link in the upper right corner of this page.

Links to the state regional survey results are at the bottom of the page.



In many ways the Winter of 2018-2019 was typical; many hives did fail in mid-winter due to starvation, reduced cluster size/ illness. Some areas or yards were hit harder than others.

Whereas the Spring of 2018 had a cold March and April, Spring 2019 brings prolonged cool and rainy weather well into the beginning of Summer.

324 Non-migratory beekeepers reported, from 54 of 62 counties in New York State (1-275 colonies)

2625- Total number of bee colonies in December 2018; average of 8 hives per beekeeper

1565- Total number of bee colonies in April 2019; average of 5 hives per beekeeper

40%- Average loss of colonies during the winter of 2018-2019 (total 1060 hives lost).

The loss for the Winter of 2017-2018 was 35%

2016-2017 was 48%

2015-2016 was 24%

2014-2015 was 28%

2013-2014 was 48%.

26% of 2019 respondents had zero winter loss.

For the Winter of 2017-2018, 27% of respondents had zero loss.

For the Winter of 2016-2017, 32% of respondents had zero loss.

For the Winter of 2014-2015, 15.7% of respondents had zero loss.

Beekeepers overwintering nucleus colonies- (23% of respondents) had 53% Loss of overwintered nucs

Region	NYS West		N Central	S Central	Central North	East	S E	NYC Metro	
% loss	40	44	27	52	48	49	29	26	52
Av # hives Dec	8	7	5	8	22	8	6	9	4
Av # Hives April	5	4	4	4	11	4	4	7	2
Total	324	73	35	40	47	22	48	30	29

Q5: What Fall and Winter treatments, supplemental feeds did you use?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
wrapping	45.37%	147
Oxalic- vapor or trickle/dribble	32.41%	105
granulated sugar- sugar bricks	31.79%	103
Formic acid- Mite Away QS	31.17%	101
Sugar Syrup	29.63%	96
windbreak	23.15%	75
protein patties	20.37%	66
candy board or patties	20.06%	65
Other (please specify)	14.20%	46
fondant	9.26%	30
none	8.02%	26
Amitraz- Apivar	5.86%	19
Thymol- Apiguard, Api-Life Var	4.63%	15
Fumagillin	3.09%	10
Hopguard II	2.47%	8
Apistan (fluvalinate)	1.54%	5
Antibiotics- Tylosin, Terramycin	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 324		

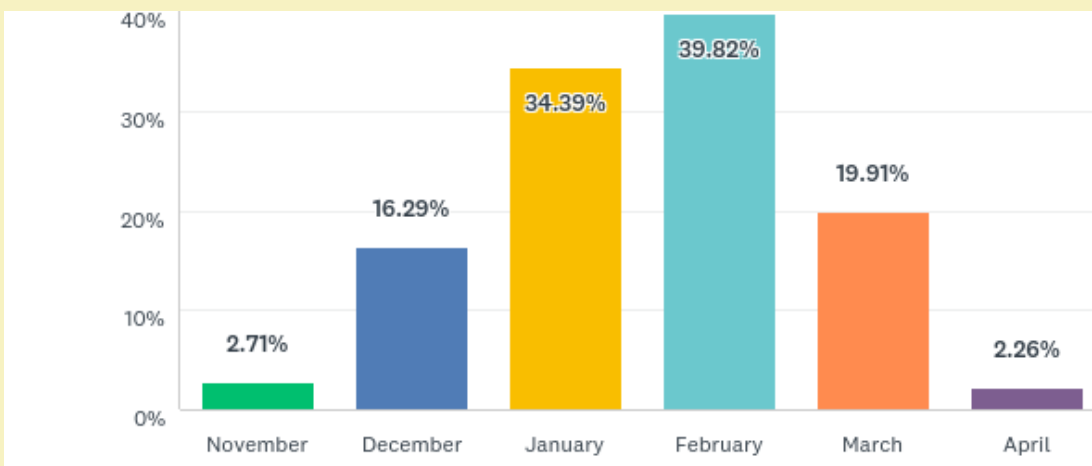
Q6: What SYMPTOMS did you observe in dead hives?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
large number of dead bees at floor of hive	47.22%	153
Bees with heads in cells	34.57%	112
no loss	26.54%	86
small or weak cluster (handful of bees with few on bottom board)	23.77%	77
few or no bees in hive	10.19%	33
moldy comb	8.64%	28
capped brood	7.72%	25
Nuisance animals (mice, raccoon, bear)	7.10%	23
hive empty of honey, cells torn open (robbed)	6.79%	22
dysentery (excessive fecal material on front of hive and inside hive)	6.79%	22
queen cells/queen cups	4.32%	14
Accident (hive blew over etc)	4.32%	14
unknown	4.01%	13
other (comment below)	3.40%	11
difference in survival of yards (if you have several apiary locations)	2.16%	7
capped brood with perforations	1.85%	6
"K"wings	0.31%	1
deformed wings	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 324		

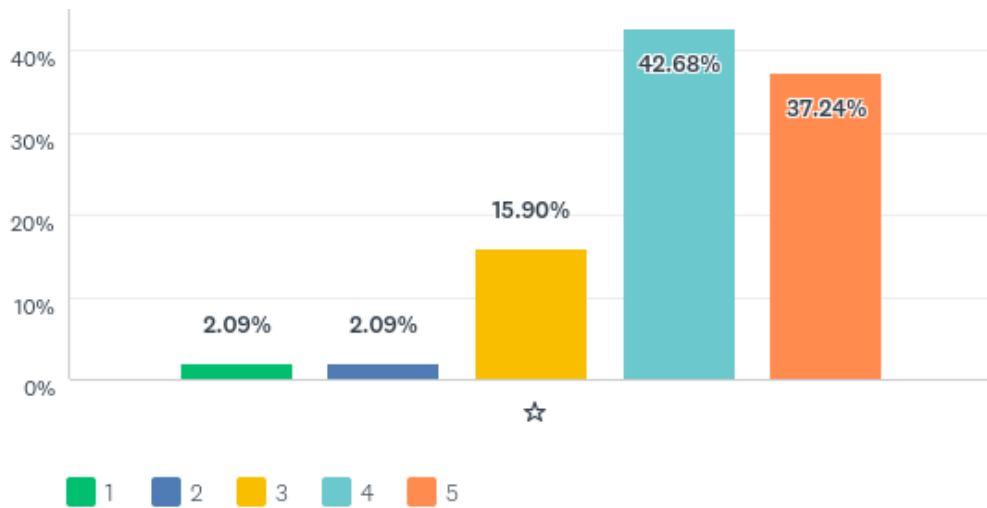
Q7: What do you assess to be the MAIN CAUSE of hive death?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No loss	26.23%	85
1) Starvation (no honey stores)	25.62%	83
8) Cold (adequate number of bees, honey stores)	21.30%	69
4) virus/mites	20.37%	66
Other (please specify)	19.14%	62
2) small or weak cluster (handful of bees with few on bottom board)	18.83%	61
6) possible queen failure (lack of brood, queen cells/queen cups)	12.65%	41
12) unknown	8.33%	27
5) poor ventilation (mold and/or soggy bees)	8.02%	26
10) Nuisance animals (mice, raccoon, bear)	6.79%	22
9) Accident (hive blew over etc)	2.47%	8
11)other (comment below)	1.85%	6
13) brood disease	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 324		

Q8: In which month did you lose most of your bees?



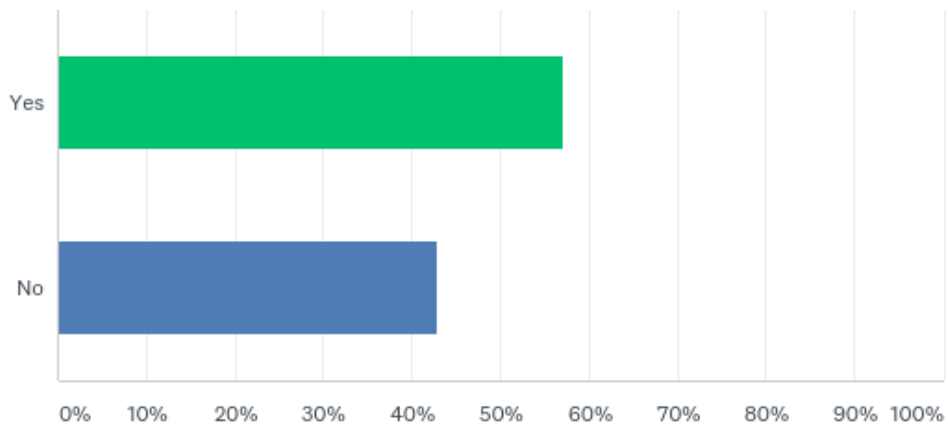
Q9: How would you rate the strength of your surviving hives on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being strong?



**Q10: Have you had any testing done to confirm diagnosis for disease?
ex: Samples to Beltsville, microscopy, other testing, etc.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	95.16%	295
Yes- please describe below	4.84%	15
TOTAL		310

Q11: Do you plan to change your management practices this year?



Q12: For the 2019 season how do you intend to obtain new colonies or increase?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
make splits	64.81%	210
swarms and cut-outs	34.57%	112
buy Northern nucs (New York, Vermont, Ohio, etc)	28.40%	92
raise queens	16.36%	53
buy queens	15.12%	49
buy southern packages (Georgia, Florida, S. Carolina, etc)	12.65%	41
buy southern nucs (Georgia, Florida, S. Carolina, etc)	8.02%	26
no plans to increase	6.17%	20
Other (please specify)	5.86%	19
buy western packages (California)	3.09%	10
buy packages and replace queen in summer	1.54%	5
no longer beekeeping	0.93%	3
Total Respondents: 324		

Some survey respondent comments:

“Not a lot of dead bees. Some capped brood. Some clustered and some at the bottom of hive box. 4 of the 5 hives were very strong going into winter. All hives had plenty of honey and pollen stores. Possible abscond ? Sent samples of dead bees, brood and comb to Beltsville Md. for analyses and no foul brood was detected. No other information given”

“weak goldenrod crop?”

“Fall mite treatment with Formic Acid appears to have been too late to sufficiently impact mite load going into Winter. Formic treatment may have damaged queens in two hives (no capped brood). Small amount of perforated capped brood in some dead hives. Skunk depleted hive

population in one hive in early Fall leaving insufficient numbers to survive Winter.”

“It appeared to be end of February beginning of March. A neighbor within 1 mile also lost 10 hives the same time frame. So we also wondered if there was something Environmental “

“Most of the hives I lost were all splits that I made and I feel I did not send them into winter in the best shape possible, so it is fair to say that my lack of experience contributed to the losses.”

MORE Comments- Regrets [\(PDF\) link](#)



Continue this beneficial program,

Please consider donating to continue more surveys, educational programs and outreach.

Your donation supports our work. Please consider making a donation to NY Bee Wellness or

mail your donation to:

NY Bee Wellness, Inc POB 25291 Rochester NY 14625.

THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

- Pat Bono, Project Director, NY Bee Wellness

info@nybeewellness.org

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Please click on links below for regional survey data.

Western Region: Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Allegheny Counties. (Albany, Jamestown)

North Central: Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Yates, Wayne, Seneca, Yates Counties. (Rochester, Canandaigua)

South Central Region: Schuyler, Cayuga, Tompkins, Chemung, Steuben, Tioga, Cortland Counties. (Ithaca)

Central Region: Oneida, Onondaga, Madison, Chenango, Broome, Delaware, Otsego, Herkimer Counties. (Syracuse, Utica, Binghamton)

Northern Region: Jefferson, Oswego, Lewis, St Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren Counties. (Watertown)

Eastern Region: Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, Washington, Schoharie, Albany, Rensselaer Counties. (Albany)

South East Region: Greene, Columbia, Ulster, Dutchess, Sullivan, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester Counties. (Poughkeepsie, Kingston)

NYC Metro Region: Bronx, Richmond, Kings, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk

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