



Fall Survey 2025 NY Bee Wellness

Highlights: Statewide participants generally increased their apiary size during the year by ~30% for the Winter of 2025-2026 after a 38% 2024/25 winter loss. Most hives added in 2025 were from splits, swarms, and nucs. ~15% of participants experienced a colony loss of greater than 15% or greater in the Fall, with Queen Problems/loss as a possible cause: 31%, followed by robbing, 14%, and Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS): 8%

2025 had early rain, but became dry by mid-summer, 54% of reporting beekeepers were happy with their honey crop; the Central region was 71% happy, while only ~30% were happy with the crop in the NYC Metro region.

About 47% of beekeepers do not monitor varroa mite levels, but some assume that they have varroa and proactively apply treatment. The top 2 varroa mite treatments used were Formic and Oxalic vapor.

The top 3 problems that respondents had with their bees are: small hive beetles, varroa mites, and possible queen failure.

Q1: How many live overwintered hives or nucs did you have at the start of April ?

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Number of full size hives	7	2,783	382
Number of nucs	1	324	310
Total Respondents: 384			

Q2: How many NEW hives did you add this year

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
new splits/nucs you made	5	1,408	301
swarms	2	446	273
bought local raised nucs	1	266	240
packages	1	253	229
overwintered nucs that you made in 2024	1	143	202
bought southern or California nucs	0	77	198
obtained full size hive	0	42	186
NONE added	0	12	97
other	0	8	64
None added- Enter ZERO	0	0	0
Total Respondents: 385			

Q4: How many hives and nucs are entering Winter?

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Total of hives entering winter	10	4,004	387
Total of nucs entering winter	2	570	260
Total Respondents: 387			

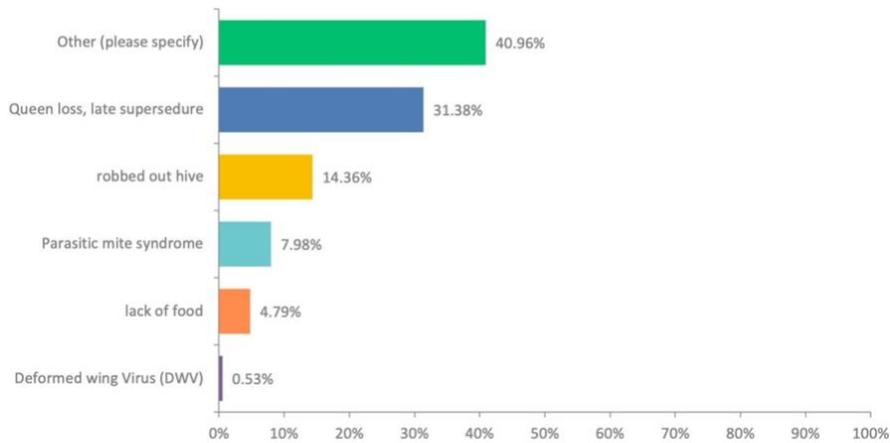
Q5: For Fall 2025 (September,October, November) approximately what % of hives were lost? This includes dead-outs, weak hives, hives that were combined with other hives.

Answered: 382 Skipped: 5

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	51.31%	196
Other (please specify)	20.42%	78
5	9.16%	35
10	4.19%	16
15	3.14%	12
20	2.88%	11
50	2.36%	9
25	2.09%	8
30	2.09%	8
60	1.05%	4
35	0.79%	3
40	0.26%	1
70	0.26%	1
80	0.00%	0
TOTAL		382

Q6: For hives lost from Question #5, what do you think was the main cause? Please see photos at the bottom of the page.

Answered: 188 Skipped: 199



Q7: Did you raise your own queens?

Answered: 384 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	21.88%	84
No	74.74%	287
attempted	3.39%	13
TOTAL		384

Q8: If you checked for varroa mite levels in September or October, Please check your preferred method.

Answered: 387 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Did not check	47.03%	182
Alcohol Wash	29.72%	115
Sticky Board	8.27%	32
Powdered Sugar Roll/shake	6.72%	26
Dish wash soap	3.88%	15
other	3.36%	13
Drone Brood Sampling	1.03%	4
TOTAL		387

Q10: For the hive(s) with the highest mite count were they:

Answered: 268 Skipped: 119

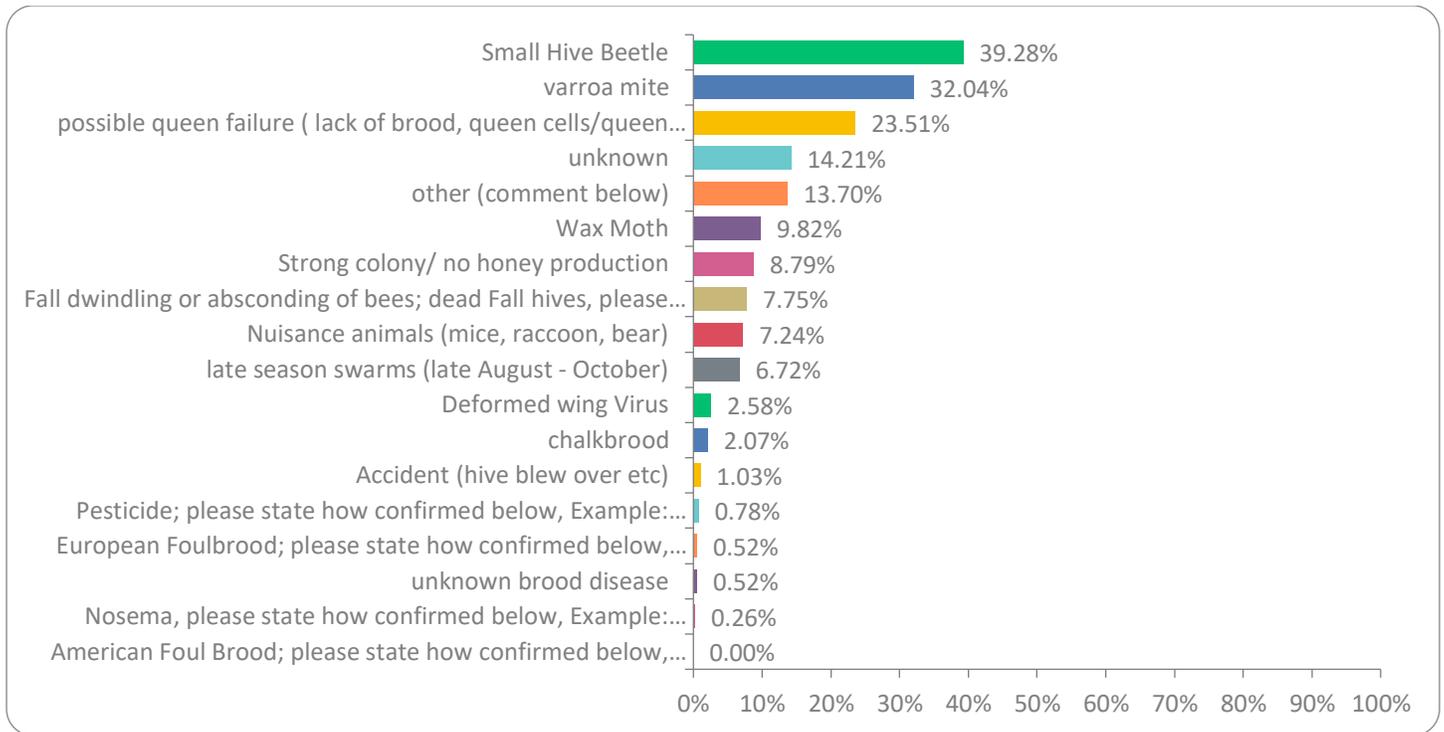
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Did not check for mites	34.70%	93
fairly strong coming out of Spring	22.76%	61
average strength coming out of Spring	22.39%	60
Other (please specify)	8.96%	24
a Nuc	6.34%	17
Package bees	5.97%	16
weak coming out of Spring	3.36%	9
a swarm	2.99%	8
TOTAL		288

Q11: If you treated for mites, what treatment did you use?

Answered: 355 Skipped: 32

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Formic Acid (Mite-Away QS, Formic Pro)	57.46%	204
Oxalic vapor	36.34%	129
Other (please specify)	28.17%	100
Oxalic, extended release	20.00%	71
Thymol (Api-Life Var, Apiguard, Thymovar, etc)	9.58%	34
Oxalic drip or dribble	8.73%	31
Amitraz (Apivar)	8.73%	31
splits	5.07%	18
brood breaks	4.51%	16
Hop-Guard	2.25%	8
drone brood removal	1.97%	7
Fluvalinate (Apistan)	0.56%	2
sugar dusting	0.00%	0
Coumaphos (Checkmite)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		651

Q12: What problems did your bees have this year?



Q14: Were you pleased with this year's honey crop? NOTE: 60# per hive is the average for NYS; You may add approximate pounds per hive produced (harvested) in the comment box.

Answered: 370 Skipped: 17

