



COLOSS Survey on Colony Losses 2014

Please return completed questionnaires to:

Mary F Coffey, Teagasc Oakpark Research Centre, Carlow

or

Email: **Mary.Frances.Coffey@ul.ie**

Dear Beekeeper,

Your contribution to this annual survey on winter colony losses would be much appreciated. As in previous years, your privacy will be protected and the data collected will be added to the COLOSS database. The latter contains no codes or numbers. The key which connects codes and names will be preserved separately and is only accessible to the supervisor and coordinator of the dataset. Thank you for your continuous support.

Mary F

In this questionnaire we are gathering information about production colonies.

The following definitions may assist you in completing the questionnaire:

1. A **productive colony** is one which is queen-right and strong enough to produce a crop of honey during the foraging season.
2. A **lost colony** is one which is dead, reduced to a few hundred bees or alive but with queen problems (e.g. drone laying queen, no queen or a sterile queen).
3. **The winter period** is from the date you finish your pre-winter preparations to the date the new foraging season begins.

Hence, **Winter = 1st October 2013 to 1st May 2014 approx.**

Optional Beekeeper Information

| | |
|------------|--|
| First Name | |
| Last Name | |
| Address1 | |
| Address2 | |
| Town/City | |
| County | |
| Email | |

Essential Beekeeper Information

| | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Country | IRELAND |
| 2 | County where you keep you bees | |
| 3 | Town(s) nearest to your apiary (apiaries) | |

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 4 | How many production colonies did you have before winter 2013-2014? | <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/> |
| 5 | How many of the wintered colonies were LOST after winter 2013-2014? | <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/> |
| 6 | How many of the wintered colonies were WEAK after winter 2013-2014? | <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/> |
| 7 | How many of the lost colonies had queen problems, like drone laying queens or no queen at all? | <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/> |
| 8 | How many of the lost colonies had dead workers in cells and no food present in the hive? | <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/> |
| 9 | How many of the lost colonies had symptoms of starvation although there was food present in the hive? | <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/> |
| 10 | In how many of the lost colonies did you observe faeces inside the hive (i.e. on the top bars or on the comb face)? | <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/> |
| 11 | How many of the lost colonies had no dead bees in or in front of the hive? | <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/> |

We would like to calculate the increases and decreases in the number of colonies, so if you had colonies on the 1st May 2013 and remember how many you had, please answer both parts of Q12

- 12 How many production colonies did you have after
 this winter (May 1st 2014)?
 last winter (May 1st 2013)?

**Beekeeping Management Practices during
2013/2014**

The next questions are related to beekeeping management strategies, conditions in the colony and the environment around the colony.

- 13 How many of the **wintered** colonies had **NEW** queens in 2013?

- 14 How many of these **new queens** are from selected stocks?

- 15 To what extent did you observe signs of **queen problems** in your colonies during 2013 compared to other years?
- More
 Normal
 Less
 Don't know

- 16 How many of your colonies were moved at least once for honey production or pollination during 2013?

- 17 Did bees from the majority of your colonies forage on one or more of these flowering plants in 2013? Select one answer below for each crop.

| | Yes | No | Don't Know |
|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rape | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maize | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 18 Approximately what percentage of brood combs did you replace per colony during 2013? %

19 If you gave your colonies a supplement sugar feed last year to prepare for winter, how many kg of sugar (dry matter) or litres of syrup did you feed on average per colony?
Please indicate in kg OR litres

| |
|--------|
| KG |
| LITRES |

21 Have you monitored your colonies for Varroa during the period April 2013-April 2014?

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | No | N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

21 Have you treated your colonies against Varroa during the period April 2013-April 2014?

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | No | N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

To get information about Varroa monitoring and control during the period April 2013-April 2014 we would like you to answer the following question

22 Could you please indicate the MONTH and YEAR you **monitored for Varroa** and/or **started a Varroa treatment** in any of your productive colonies from April 2013-April 2014

| | 2013 | | | | | | | | | 2014 | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr |
| Monitoring for Varroa | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drone brood removal | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other biotechnical methods (comb trapping/queen confinement) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Formic acid-short term | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Formic acid-long term (e.g. MAQS) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oxalic acid/ApiBioxal trickling | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oxalic acid/ApiBioxal evaporation | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hive clean/Bienwohl/Beevital | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thymol (Apiguard, Apilife Var) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flumethrin (e.g. Bayvarol) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tau-fluvalinate (e.g. Apistan) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other chemical product | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other method (e.g. sugar dusting) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

23 If you found it difficult to answer the questionnaire please indicate the question number(s) you found difficult.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.

Please return to Mary Frances Coffey (see top of questionnaire for post or email options.)