

Honeybee Husbandry Survey Winter 12/13

Summary

This is the fifth consecutive survey of beekeeping husbandry issues in Northern Ireland. A questionnaire survey was sent out hardcopy to beekeeping associations and an online copy made available on the AFBI website. 97 beekeepers responded.

Overwintering colony losses averaged 43%. Previous losses ranged from 13-23%. Comparable surveys from ROI and Scotland gave 37% and 31 % losses, respectively. Only 27% of beekeepers reported no losses. In 2012, 52% of beekeepers reported no losses.

Table 1. Regional overwintering colony losses in Northern Ireland for 2013

<i>Region</i>	<i>Live before winter</i>	<i>Colonies lost</i>	<i>% loss</i>
Antrim	92	40	43
Armagh	52	14	27
Down	281	143	51
Fermanagh	26	12	46
Londonderry	44	13	29
Tyrone	46	11	24
Total	541	233	43

Table 2. Annual overwintering losses in Northern Ireland for the past 5 years

<i>Year</i>	<i>Colony loss</i>
2009	23%
2010	13%
2011	16%
2012	19%
2013	43%

