



Honey Bee Husbandry Survey 2016 – 2017

This is an annual survey to obtain information on current honey bee husbandry practices. The questionnaire is used to provide baseline data on bee health in Northern Ireland and is in conjunction with a similar national survey conducted by the National Bee Unit in York, England (Web address <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com>) and CoLoss, a Europe-wide research group (Web address <http://www.coloss.org>).

The survey takes approximately 5 minutes to complete.

All your answers are strictly confidential and will only be used for the purposes of this study.

Privacy notice

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By participating in the following Bee Husbandry Survey, you give consent to AFBI processing the data/answers according to the AFBI Privacy Notice.

1. In which county do you keep your bees in the majority of the season? (please select from the map below)



Please Specify

2. How many years have you kept bees?

3. To describe the location of your main apiary or operation, please state:

The name of the town/village near to your apiary?

If you have one Apiary, what is the postal code? (or nearby postcode)

4. How many apiaries do you have?

5. Are all your apiaries within a distance of 15km (9miles) of each other? (If you have only one apiary, please answer Yes)

Yes

No

Dont know

In the following questions you will be asked about the number of colonies lost post-winter.

In the next questions you are asked about numbers of colonies lost post-winter.

Please consider winter as the period between the time that you finished the pre-winter preparations for your colonies and the start of the new foraging season.

Please consider a colony as lost if it is dead (or reduced to a few hundred bees) or is alive but with queen problems, like drone-laying queens or no queens at all, which you couldn't solve.

Production colonies are considered to be queenright and strong enough to provide a honey harvest.

6. How many production colonies did you have before winter 2016-2017?

7. How many of the {Q6} colonies did you lose because:

they were alive but had unsolvable queen problems?

of a natural hazard? (e.g. storm/wind damage, flooding)

they were dead?

8. How many of the {Q7.c} dead colonies...

had many dead bees in or in front of the hive ?

had no or only a few dead bees in or in front of hive ?

had dead workers in cells and no food present in the hive (signs of starvation) ?

had dead workers in cells while food was present in the hive ?

had none of the above or unknown symptoms ?

had dwindled away?

9. How many of the wintered colonies were weak but queenright after winter 2016-2017 ?

We would like to calculate increases and decreases in the number of colonies, so if you had colonies in spring 2016 (the start of the new foraging season) and remember how many you had, please answer the following two questions:

10. How many production colonies did you have in;

Spring 2016
(last year) ?

Spring 2017 ?

The next questions are related to conditions in the colonies, the environment around the apiary and management.

11.a Do you know many of your wintered colonies had a new queen in 2016?

Yes

No

11.b Please give the number of new queens your wintered colonies had in 2016.

12. What are the origins of your queens?

Reared by the colony itself

Reared by one of your own selected queens

Acquired from local beekeepers

Imported

12.a From which country/s did you Import your colonies?

Republic Of Ireland

GB

EU Countries

Non-EU Countries

12.b How many colonies did you Import form Republic of Ireland?

12.c How many colonies did you Import form GB?

12.d How many colonies did you Import from EU Countries?

12.e Please specify which country:

12.f How many colonies did you Import from Non-EU Countries?

12.g Please specify which country:

13. To what extent did you observe queen problems in your colonies during the foraging season of 2016 compared to what you usually have?

- More*
- Normal*
- Less*
- Dont know*

14. Compared with your old colonies with old queens, have your colonies with young queens survived winter?

- Better*
- No differently*
- Worse*
- Dont know*

15. Did any of the surviving colonies that have a large amount of faeces inside the hive?

- Yes*
- No*
- Dont Know*

15.a Please enter below the number of surviving colonies that had a large amount of faeces inside the hive?

16. Did you migrate any of your colonies at least once for honey production or pollination in 2016?

- Yes*
- No*
- Dont Know*

17. Approximately what percentage of brood combs did you replace per colony in 2016?

- 0%*
- 1-30%*
- 31-50%*
- More than 50%*

18. Did the majority of your bee colonies have a significant flow on one or more of the following plants in 2016?

	Yes	No	<i>Don't know</i>
Orchards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Oil seed rape	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maize	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. What particular measures apply for the majority of your beekeeping?

	Yes	No	<i>Don't know</i>
Screened bottom board in Winter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insulated hives in Winter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plastic hives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Certified organic beekeeping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Varroa tolerant stock	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small brood cell size (5.1 mm or less)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural comb (without foundation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchase wax from outside own operation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Have you treated your colonies against Varroa during the period April 2016 - April 2017?

Yes

No

Dont Know/Not Applicable

If other please specify

21. Have you noticed bees with crippled /deformed wings in your colonies during the 2016 summer season?
(These are signs of the presence of Deformed Wing Virus, which is spread by Varroa mites)
- Not at all
 - To a limited extent
 - To a large extent
 - Don't Know

22. Did you feed your colonies between April 2016 and April 2017?
- Yes
 - No

If Yes, tick below to indicate feeding time and product choice. If a feed type is not used please click in the 'not used' column to indicate this.

Feed Type 2017	2016												
	Not Used	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Ambrosia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pollen/Patty feed product	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candy/Fondant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed supplement (eg. Vita feed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sugar Syrup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beet Sugar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inverted Beet Sugar Syrup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please specify the other feed type used.

Please specify the feed supplement used e.g. Vita Feed.

23. If you gave your colonies a supplemental sugar feed (sugar solution or inverted sugar) last year to prepare for winter, how many kg of sugar (dry matter) did you give on average per production colony?

 Kg

24. Please select the diseases and pests below which you know any information about and would be also able to recognize.

- Acarine
- Nosema
- Chalkbrood
- Sacbrood
- American Foulbrood (AFB)
- European Foulbrood (EFB)
- Varroa
- Wax moth
- Asian Hornet

If you found it difficult to answer any part of the questionnaire, please indicate which question(s) you found difficult to answer and say why they were difficult to answer.

left characters left

Provision of your name and address is voluntary.

If you do not wish to provide any of your personal details, please leave blank.

Name

Address

**This information is especially useful to us, in gaining an understanding of any geographical trends.

Post code:

Phone number

Email address

Please return this questionnaire via e-mail to: Ivan.Forsythe@afbini.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Without your input we would have little knowledge of Northern Ireland beekeeping practices and the challenges beekeepers face.