

# BEEKEEPING IN VERMONT: 2014 OVERVIEW

Stephen G. Parise

Agricultural Production Specialist, Vermont Agency of Agriculture

Approximate number of Registered Beekeepers .....	2,200
Approximate number of Registered Hives .....	12,200
Approximate number of Registered Locations .....	2,800
Of the 12,200 hives, 16 beekeepers own 5,000 or 41% (average 313 hives/owner)	
2,184 of the remaining number of registered beekeepers own 7,200 (average 3.3 hives/owner)	
Approximate number of hives rented for pollination(mostly apples) .....	1,500
Historical annual Honey production/hive .....	70 lbs
Production has ranged from 20 lbs/hive in poor years, to 120 lbs+ in good years	
Major honey producing plants: alfalfa, basswood trees, brambles, clovers, goldenrod, milkweed, trefoil and hairy vetch.	
Largest number of hives and production by county: Addison, Rutland, Franklin, Chittenden, Grand Isle	
Approximate number of hives moved out of state for wintering/pollination purposes (SC, GA, CA) .....	2,000

## PROBLEMS: NOW AND THE FUTURE

Varroa mites, related diseases

Loss of foraging habitat due to loss of dairy farms, housing development, urban sprawl, change in agricultural practices (alfalfa to corn)

Impact of agricultural chemicals, both short and long term

Increased production costs for fuel, labor, equipment, insurance, etc.