

**2014 Marin Bee Census Survey
(4/1/13 - 3/31/14)**

	2014 responses	2014	2013 responses	2013	2012 responses	2012	2011 responses	2011	2010 responses	2010
1 # Participants responding to minimum required questions	123		138		92		76		87	
Of these:										
# of participants who are members of Marin Beekeepers	106	86.2%	118	85.5%	84	91.3%	69	90.8%	76	87.4%
# of participants who keep bees in Marin County	113	91.9%	125	90.6%	87	94.6%	72	94.7%	81	93.1%
Participants who keep bees in other counties:										0.0%
- Alameda	2	1.6%	3	2.2%	1	1.1%			1	1.1%
- Contra Costa			2	1.4%	2	2.2%	1		1	1.1%
- Mt. Diablo	1	0.8%								
- Napa	2	1.6%							0	0.0%
- San Joaquin									1	1.1%
- San Francisco	2	1.6%	2	1.4%	2	2.2%			2	2.3%
- Santa Cruz	1	0.8%								
- Sonoma	1	0.8%	5	3.6%	1	1.1%	2		1	1.1%
- Santa Clara							1			
- Solano			2	1.4%						
Participants with colonies (hives) in one location	98	79.7%	103	74.6%	71	77.2%	63	82.9%	73	83.9%
Participants with colonies in two locations	13	10.6%	21	15.2%	10	10.9%	7	9.2%	10	11.5%
Participants with colonies in three or more locations	12	9.8%	14	10.1%	11	12.0%	6	7.9%	3	3.4%
Interested observers (observing feral colonies)	3	2.4%	3	2.2%	1	1.1%	1	1.3%	1	1.1%
Participants with colonies cared for by another	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%
Professional beekeepers	2	1.6%	2	1.4%	3	3.3%	1	1.3%	2	2.3%
2 Experience Level:										
Started keeping bees in 1940's	1	0.8%	1	0.7%	1	1.1%	0		1	1.1%
Started keeping bees in 1960's	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0		1	1.1%
Started keeping bees in 1970's	3	2.4%	3	2.2%	3	3.3%	0		3	3.4%
Started keeping bees in 1980's	4	3.3%	5	3.6%	2	2.2%	4	5.3%	6	6.9%
Started keeping bees in 1990's	4	3.3%	5	3.6%	3	3.3%	2	2.6%	3	3.4%
Started keeping bees between 2000-2007	17	13.8%	22	15.9%	19	20.7%	18	23.7%	23	26.4%
Started keeping bees 2008 or later	92	74.8%	98	71.0%	63	68.5%	52	68.4%	49	56.3%
Started keeping bees 2008	9	7.3%	9	6.5%	8	8.7%	13	17.1%		
Started keeping bees 2009	11	8.9%	22	15.9%	20	21.7%	17	22.4%		
Started keeping bees 2010 or later	72	58.5%	67	48.6%	35	38.0%	22	28.9%		
Started keeping bees 2010	13	10.6%	18	13.0%	20	21.7%	22	28.9%		
Started keeping bees in 2011	19	15.4%	24	17.4%	15	16.3%				
Started keeping bees in 2012	21	17.1%	25	18.1%						
Started keeping bees in 2013	19	15.4%								
3 The numbers:										
# colonies participants had as of 4/1/11	375	TOTAL	418	TOTAL	206	TOTAL	99	TOTAL	140	TOTAL
# colonies acquired after 4/1/11 and 3/31/12	442	81700.0%	434	852	345	551	194	293	192	332
Type of colonies acquired: (note: in 2014 only 442 were reported acquired, but below totals #447. % based on 447 #)	447		total below = 449				(total below = 213)			
- Package	40	8.9%	51	11.4%	101	27.3%	51	23.9%	70	21.1%
- Swarm (May-June)	121	27.1%	129	28.7%	97	26.2%	50	23.5%	62	18.7%
- Swarm (July & After)	24	5.4%	21	4.7%	31	8.4%	26	12.2%	12	3.6%
- colony splits	146	32.7%	119	26.5%	81	21.9%	27	12.7%	21	6.3%
- Nuc (all types, including Bonnie Bee & Co.)	71	15.9%	66	14.7%	46	12.4%	34	16.0%	25	7.5%
- Nuc - Bonnie Bee & Co. (in 2012 column, refers to Old Sol Nucs, in 2011: Zia nucs)	49	11.0%	35	7.8%	29	7.8%	25	11.7%		
- Colony from another beekeeper	17	3.8%	11	2.4%	6	1.6%	14	6.6%	9	2.7%
- Feral colony under observation	2	0.4%	16	3.6%	7	1.9%	3	1.4%	6	1.8%
- Other	26	5.8%	36	8.0%	1	0.3%	8	3.8%	6	1.8%
			449		370		213		211	
# of colonies Lost between 4/1/11 - 3/31/12 (includes sold & given away noted below)	332	40.6%	343	40.3%	253	45.9%	138	52.7%	173	52.1%
# of colonies remaining on 3/31/12	463	56.7%	494	58.0%	298	54.1%	124	47.3%	161	48.5%
# of colonies sold locally 4/1/11 - 3/31/12	2	0.2%	3	0.4%	10	1.8%	8			
# of colonies given away 4/1/11 - 3/31/12	3	0.4%	4	0.5%	15	2.7%	19			
# Total dead out colonies (after lost # adjusted for sold & given away locally)	327	40.0%	336	39.4%	228	41.4%				
# Colonies lost by "Professionals"	34	32.7%	25	19.4%	3	3.4%				
# of Colonies lost by "Hobbyists"	298	40.1%	318	44.9%	240	53.1%				
Colonies Lost by 2012 Pollen Project Mapping Location										
1 (Southern Marin) (56/158)	28	35.4%	40	31.3%						
2 (San Anselmo west to Inverness) (51/143)	35	35.7%	43	42.7%						
3 (101 Central Marin Corridor) (164/362)	32	45.3%	29	41.6%						
4 (Novato) (29/57)	17	50.9%	12	30.6%						
0 (outside Marin) (32/75)	11	42.7%	14	47.6%						
NOTE: Remaining Questions were optional and may not reflect responses of all participants.										
When Lost:										
April - June	15	5.4%	13	4.4%	19	9.1%	3	2.2%	3	1.7%
July - September	39	13.3%	42	14.1%	23	11.1%	18	13.0%	18	10.4%
October - December	144	49.0%	131	44.0%	92	44.2%	66	47.8%	91	52.6%
January - March	76	25.9%	102	34.2%	71	34.1%	49	35.5%	54	31.2%
Unknown when	20	6.8%	10	3.4%	3	1.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Source of Lost colonies:						% by source				
2013 Package:	19	47.5%								
2013 Swarm (May/June)	70	57.9%								
2013 Swarm (July & After)	8	33.3%								

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2013 colony Splits/Division ()	59	40.4%									
2013 Bonnie Bee & Co. Nuc	16	32.7%									
2013 Nuc (except Bonnie Bee & Co.)	11	50.0%									
2013 colony from local beekeeper	3	17.6%									
2013 Colonies sold to a local beekeeper	2										
2013 colonies given away to local beekeepers	3										
2013 Combined colonies	28										
2013 other	13	50.0%									
2012 Package:	5		35	68.6%							
2012 Swarm (May/June)	10		59	45.7%							
2012 Swarm (July & After)	3		8	38.1%							
2012 colony Splits/Division ()	25		34	28.6%							
2012 Bonnie Bee & Co. Nuc	3		11	31.4%							
2012 Nuc (except Bonnie Bee & Co.)	1		12	38.7%							
2012 colony from local beekeeper	1		3	27.3%							
2012 Colonies sold to a local beekeeper	0		3	100.0%							
2012 colonies given away to local beekeepers	1		4	100.0%							
2012 Combined colonies	2		12								
2012 other	3		36	100.0%							
Feral colony under observation ()	0		6	37.5%	0	0.0%	6		2		
2011 Package (Hobbyists):	5		7		34	57.6%					
2011 Package (Professional) ()					2	4.8%					
2011 Swarm (Hobbyists) (May/June)	7		21		40	42.3%					
2011 Swarm (Professional -May/June)					1	25.0%					
2011 Swarm (Hobbyist - July & After)			0		8	30.8%					
2011 Swarm (Professional - July & After)					0	0.0%					
2011 colony Splits/Division (Hobbyist)			5		36	50.0%					
2011 colony Splits/ Division (Professional)					0	0.0%					
2011 Old Sol Nuc (Hobbyist)			2		21	80.8%					
2011 Old Sol Nuc (Professional)					2	66.7%					
2011 Nuc (except Old Sols - hobbyists)	2		1		7	53.8%					
2011 Nuc (except Old Sols - professionals)					1	25.0%					
2011 colony from local beekeeper			0		3	50.0%					
2011 Colonies sold to a local beekeeper			0		10	N/A					
2011 colonies given away to local beekeepers			0		15	N/A					
2011 Combined colonies	2		4		8						
2011 other	2		0		8						
2010 Package			2		2		44	86.3%	55	78.6%	
2010 Swarm (May/June)			2		7		13	26.0%			
2010 Swarm (July & After)					3		17	65.4%	41	55.41%	
2010 Nuc (except Zias)			1		2		5	55.6%	9	36.0%	
2010 Zia Nuc					4		15	60.0%	9	100.0%	
2010 colony from local beekeeper			2		2		4	28.6%			
2010 colony Splits/Division			0		3		5	18.5%	7	33.3%	
2010 Combined colonies			1		0		5				
2010 other			8		1		5	62.5%	18	300.0%	
2009 or prior Package					0		7				
2009 or prior Swarm (May-June)					5		3				
2009 or prior Swarm (July or after)					(see above)		1			See above	
2009 or prior Combined colonies					0		1				
2009 or prior Nuc					0		0				
2009 or prior colony from local beekeeper					0		1				
2009 or prior colony Splits/Division					0		2				
2008 or prior package							2		6		
2008 or prior swarm							1		5		
2009 Other									4		
2008 or prior nuc									2		
2008 or prior from local beekeeper							2		2		
2009 Combined colonies									1		
2008 or prior combined with another colony									1		
2008 or prior colony split/division									1		
Other					2		1				
# Beekeepers who planned on acquiring more bees in 2014	72	58.5%	85	69.1%	65	71.4%	53	69.7%	60	69.8%	
# Beekeepers not planning on acquiring more bees in 2014	44	35.8%	24	19.5%	23	25.3%	17	22.4%	21	24.4%	
# beekeepers who did not respond	7	5.7%	14	11.4%	3	3.3%	6	7.9%	5	5.8%	
% Loss by experience level:	# respondents	% losses	# respondents	% losses	responden ts	% losses	responden ts	% losses	responden ts	% losses	
1 year (16/54)	21	29.6%	29	29.0%	15	27.5%	22	56.6%	34	51.6%	
2-9 years (259/617)	84	42.0%	89	42.8%	78	49.6%	46	48.6%	34	50.0%	
10+ years (57/124)	18	46.0%	20	40.0%	12	33.7%	8	60.0%	18	54.7%	
4 Age of hive equipment for lost colonies:			# respondents	% losses					responden ts	% losses	
1-2 years (135/306)	37	44.1%	37	42.9%	23	53.2%	23	53.0%	18	59.0%	
new (93/198)	18	47.0%	23	35.1%	22	52.9%	20	66.2%	20	84.2%	
Combination of new and old (159/299)	24	53.2%	30	43.1%	19	37.7%	12	48.3%	17	50.0%	
3+ years (149/280)	33	53.2%	27	32.4%	20	58.0%	9	54.2%	17	58.2%	
5 Equipment used in colonies:	# respondents	% losses	# respondents	% losses	responden ts	% losses	responden ts	% losses	responden ts	% losses	
Other (misc) (37/134)	13	27.6%	8		5		9				
Entrance feeder (76/225)	43	33.8%	34	33.1%	25	29.4%	22	57.1%	17		
Trucking of colonies/moving colonies (9/25)	7	36.0%	7		4		1	0.0%	2		
Queen excluders (90/246)	31	36.6%	29	41.1%	25	56.1%	27	40.5%	34	60.5%	
Screened bottom boards - open in winter (123/314)	49	39.2%	54	49.4%	41	42.2%	28	60.9%	43	51.9%	
Hive top feeder (129/317)	51	40.7%	50	30.1%	44	48.9%	34	59.3%	32		
Smoker (314/761)	111	41.3%	115	40.6%	78	43.1%	63	50.9%	73	54.4%	
Entrance reducer (319/768)	108	41.5%	107	40.2%	71	40.9%	59	41.9%	69	54.4%	
Follower boards (225/513)	69	43.9%	68	36.2%	49	48.9%	39	55.3%	41	51.3%	
Wax foundations (176/401)	60	43.9%	61	46.3%	33	41.8%	38	57.2%	27	63.5%	
Screened bottom boards - closed in winter (222/504)	57	44.0%	63	43.9%	40	34.1%	33	48.6%	35	53.9%	
Plastic foundation (204/457)	61	44.6%	65	44.7%	44	50.2%	40	49.7%	44	50.3%	
No foundation (and/or wax starter strips) (177/392)	38	45.2%	38	37.1%	24	38.1%	13	53.6%	17	37.0%	
Sticky boards (52/111)	25	46.8%	31	53.1%	15	53.4%	12	57.6%	27		

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No feeder (101/215)	25	47.0%	44	34.2%	16	21.7%	16	48.6%	21	
Pollen trap	0		1		2		3	68.0%	1	
Propolis trap	0		1		0		0		0	
6 Storage of supers:	# respondents	% losses	# respondents	% losses						
Freezer (3/14)	7	21.4%	6		2		2		5	
Other (in garage, in bags, on hives w/honey, in shed, in cool basement, etc.) (97/243)	35	39.9%	20	33.3%	23	57.1%	18		28	
With mothballs (54/126)	12	42.9%	14	56.8%	11	44.3%	6		6	
Outside with sufficient light and air flow to discourage wax moths (174/400)	59	43.5%	67	40.8%	42	37.1%	34		31	
Inside after freezing (52/81)	11	64.2%	12		7	45.5%	7		8	
7 Honey extracting equipment:			# respondents							
YES, share extracting equipment	52		61		48		38		42	
NO, do not share extracting equipment	62		60		37		31		34	
8 Variety of bees:			# respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses
Carniolan (64/185)	37	34.6%	39	39.3%	31	36.5%	28	61.7%	26	51.2%
Russian (72/194)	10	37.1%	10	27.0%	7	54.8%	5	51.5%	3	
Other (misc: splits, swarms, feral, bonnie bee, sonoma stock, etc) (51/126)	16	40.5%	21	54.8%	11	56.3%	10	56.5%	7	
Italians (114/258)	34	44.2%	49	43.4%	32	35.7%	35	56.8%	46	50.7%
Unknown (218/464)	63	47.0%	62	32.6%	37	52.3%	29	45.8%	30	43.3%
MN Hygenic	0		1		1		0		1	
Caucasian	0		0		N/A		0		1	
9 Requeening:			# respondents	% losses						
Yes: Timing Varies (84/290)	15	29.0%	18	54.9%	12		6			
No (232/536)	98	43.3%	100	32.0%	70		56			
Yes: Annually (6/24)	2		2		3		3			
Yes: Every other year (1/11)	1		1		1		3			
10 Feeding:			# respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses
Honey B Healthy (8/33)	5	24.2%	5		3		4	43.8%	3	
Pollen Patties (114/344)	42	33.1%	40	28.3%	27	41.8%	15	56.0%	13	42.0%
Sugar (151/393)	65	37.9%	64	43.9%	63	39.4%	52	51.1%	60	48.4%
Drivert Sugar (189/498)	42	38.0%	40	31.9%	19	37.0%				
Pollen substitute (58/123)	8	47.2%	10		3		2	66.7%	1	
Honey (109/219)	20	49.8%	20	33.8%	13	53.7%	10	55.8%	16	44.4%
Other (None = 19/34)	10	55.9%	14	46.0%	2		3	40.0%		
High fructose corn syrup (1/11)	1		0		1		0		2	
11 Identifiable pests and diseases			# respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses
Deformed Wing Virus (145/388)	32	37.4%	22	43.2%	19	52.5%	12	51.7%	16	45.1%
Chalkbrood (111/268)	13	41.4%	16	36.9%	12	30.6%	1		8	
Varroa mites (293/706)	83	41.5%	92	40.8%	62	43.1%	46	53.9%	56	50.0%
Wax moths (183/409)	34	44.7%	22	32.5%	13	40.9%	12	39.7%	14	51.1%
Ants (239/520)	53	46.0%	62	41.2%	39	35.8%	42	53.7%	43	50.2%
Small Hive Beetle (21/43)	4	48.8%	6		1		3			
None (17/34)	11	50.0%	13	53.7%	N/A		9	47.1%	11	61.1%
Nosema (53/77)	3		5		3		6	50.6%	3	
Other (yellowjackets, phorid fly, blue jays, uncertain)	8		4		1		3		3	
American Foulbrood (AFB) ()	0		3		3		0		1	
European Foulbrood (EFB)	0		1							
Tracheal Mites	0		1		1		1		1	
Yellowjackets	1		1		N/A		0		3	
Stonebrood	0		0		1		0		3	
Sacbrood	0		0		0		0		1	
12 Treatments used in colonies:	# respondents	% losses	# respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses	respondents	% losses
Formic Acid (Mite Away Quick Strips) (73/239)	20	30.5%	23	27.6%	15	28.5%				
Oxalic acid (64/186) (note: prior to 2014 survey, Oxalic was included in general "other" category)	8	34.4%								
Apiquard (13/35)	5	37.1%	0		2		2		1	
Cinnamon (32/86)	8	37.2%	4		7	51.6%	3		1	
Thymol (14/37)	2	37.8%	2		1		1		3	
None (207/414)	74	50.0%	84	49.1%	60	56.0%	46	51.2%	48	51.9%
Essential oils (63/111)	5	54.8%	3		4		4		5	
Peppermint (54/85)	4	63.5%	3		2		1		3	
Grease Patties (25/39)	4	64.1%	3		1		3		4	
Other (Tanglefoot for ants, Hopguard, sprigs of thyme/lavender, citrus acid, Taktic, cinnamon around base)	8		13		4		4		3	
Powdered Sugar (6/12)	2		8	30.0%	12	13.0%	9	68.8%	17	83.7%
Formic acid (Mite Away II)	0		5	25.0%	3		1		4	
Checkmite (coumaphos)	0		1		0		1		1	
Fumigilan B	1		0		1		1		1	
Fumidil	0		0		1		0		1	
Apistan	0		0		0		1		1	
Mothballs	1		0		0		0		1	
13 Method for monitoring for varroa mites										
Sugar roll (115/315)	21	36.5%								
24 hour monitoring board counts (117/292)	34	40.1%								
Nothing (146/289)	55	50.5%								
Alcohol wash (12/45)	2									
Other (screened bottom board, sporadic inspection, not much, etc.)	12									
14 When monitoring for varroa mites occurs										

