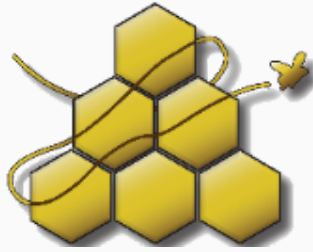


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American Honey Producers Association

The word "NEWS!" is rendered in a 3D, blocky font. The letters are white with a red outline and a slight shadow. Below the text is a white reflection on a light surface.

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LATEST NEWS
on our website:
AHPAnet.com

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American Honey
Producers Association

Annual Conference & Trade Show

San Diego



December 4 - 7, 2023

Monday - Thursday

Marriott Mission Valley Hotel

CDSOA/Byrd Amendment Information

Opportunity for AHPA Members to Receive Dumping and Countervailing Duties Collected on Honey Imports from China and Argentina

In the fall of each year, the federal government distributes to eligible domestic producers the duties the government has assessed and collected on certain imports that are subject to antidumping ("AD") and countervailing duty ("CVD") orders. For purposes relevant to

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China and Argentina that was imported into the United States between December 2001 and September 2007, the period during which the so-called "Byrd Amendment" was in effect.

We do not yet know how much money will be distributed this year under the China and Argentina Honey Orders. U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") recently stated in its annual "preliminary amounts available" report that it did not collect any duties or related interest under those Orders for the first seven months of FY 2023 (Oct. 2022 - Apr. 2023). Nevertheless, CBP may well collect some small or large amount of duties and interest under the Orders during the last five months of FY 2023 (May – Sept. 2023). If it does, the agency will include those funds in this year's distribution in November.

Each AHPA member that meets all four of the following requirements is eligible to apply for a "distribution" of the duties collected during FY 2023:

- (1) The member was an AHPA member in good standing (including having fully paid its dues) in 2000, when the Petition requesting the AD/CVD honey trade investigations was filed;
- (2) The member has fully paid all of its membership dues for each year from 2000 to 2023;
- (3) The member has continuously produced and sold raw honey from 2000 to 2023; and
- (4) The member is not a member of Sioux Honey Association ("SHA") or, if it is an SHA member, the member will not receive any part of distributions SHA will receive for FY 2023.

The AHPA will soon submit to the federal government an updated AHPA membership list that will include only those members that meet the first three of these four requirements. Any AHPA member that has not paid its dues through 2023 will not be included on the list the AHPA provides to the government and thus will not be eligible to receive a distribution of the duties collected during FY 2023.

In order to receive a distribution of the collected duties, qualifying AHPA members (i.e., those that meet the four requirements above) must submit to CBP a certification making claims for a distribution under the three AD and CVD trade orders on honey imports from China and Argentina.

Any certification received by CBP after that date will not be considered. In addition, to the extent you submit your certification to CBP in hard copy, you need to submit three copies of the certification.

Please note: if you are a member of the Sioux Honey Association ("SHA"), you do not need to file - and you should not file - any Byrd Amendment application, because SHA, as a cooperative, is filing on behalf of all of its members.

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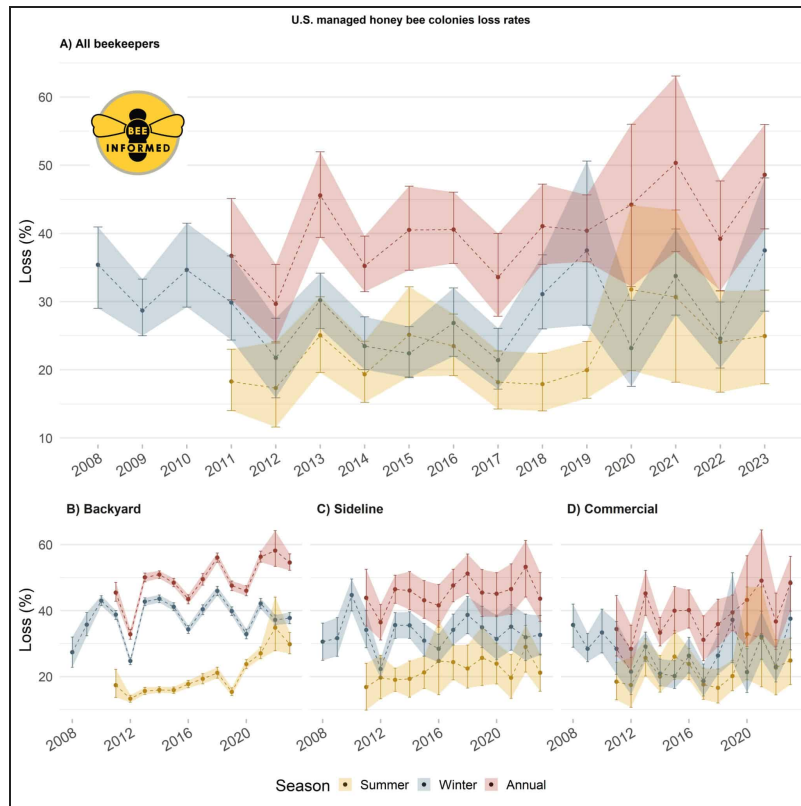
More information about filing and forms:
<https://www.ahpanet.com/byrd-amendment>

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United States Honey Bee Colony Losses 2022–23: Preliminary Results From the Bee Informed Partnership

June 22, 2023 by [Nathalie Steinhauer](#)



Note: This is a preliminary analysis. Sample sizes and estimates are likely to change. A more detailed final report is being prepared for publication in a peer-reviewed journal at a later date.

The survey is a retrospective online questionnaire, which relies on voluntary participation of beekeepers across the country during the month of April. The 2023 survey covered the one year period between April 2022 and April 2023. Small scale beekeepers (1-50 colonies) and large-scale beekeepers (>50 colonies) took slightly different versions of the survey (survey question previews can be found at <https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/loss-and-management-survey/>).

This year, 3,006 beekeepers from across the United States provided valid survey responses. These beekeepers collectively managed 314,360 colonies on 1 October 2022, representing 12% of the estimated 2.70 million managed honey-producing colonies in the country in 2022 (USDA NASS, 2023).

Colony loss rates were calculated as the ratio of the number of colonies lost to the number of colonies managed over a defined period. Loss rates should not be interpreted as a change in population size, but are best interpreted as a mortality rate. High levels of losses do not necessarily result in a decrease in the total number of colonies managed in the United States because beekeepers can replace lost colonies throughout the year.

During summer 2022 (1 April 2022 – 1 October 2022), an estimated 24.9% [18.0 – 31.7, 95% bootstrapped confidence interval (CI)[1]] of managed colonies were lost in the United States (Fig. 1). This was on par with recent years. The summer loss rate was just 1.1 percentage point (pp) higher than last year's estimated summer colony loss (23.8% [16.7 – 31.5 CI]), and 2.2 pp higher than the average summer loss reported by beekeepers since the summer of 2010 (22.6%, 12-year average), when summer losses were first monitored.

During winter 2022-2023 (1 October 2022 – 1 April 2023), an estimated 37.4% [28.6 – 48.1 CI] of managed colonies in the United States were lost (Fig. 1). This winter loss rate was 13.2 pp in excess of the previous winter loss rate (24.2% [20.3 – 29.9 CI]), and 9.1 pp higher than the average winter loss (28.2%, 15-year average) reported by beekeepers since the start of the survey in 2008, making 2022-2023 the second highest year of winter loss after 2018-2019 (37.7% [26.5 – 50.6 CI]). The percentage of colony loss over the winter deemed "acceptable" by beekeepers was on average 21.3% in 2022-2023, which was on par with the previous nine years during which the acceptable loss has hovered around 20%. In 2022-2023, over 60% of the surveyed beekeepers reported winter loss above this threshold.

Over the entire year (1 April 2022 – 1 April 2023), beekeepers in the United States lost an estimated 48.2% [40.7 – 56.0 CI] of their managed honey bee colonies (Fig. 1). This was 9.2 pp higher than last year's estimated annual loss (39.0% [31.6 – 47.7 CI]), nearly as high as (2.6 pp

lower than the highest annual loss on record (2020-2021, 50.8% [37.4 – 63.1 CI]), and 3.5% higher than the average loss rate (39.6%, 12-year average) over the last 12 years

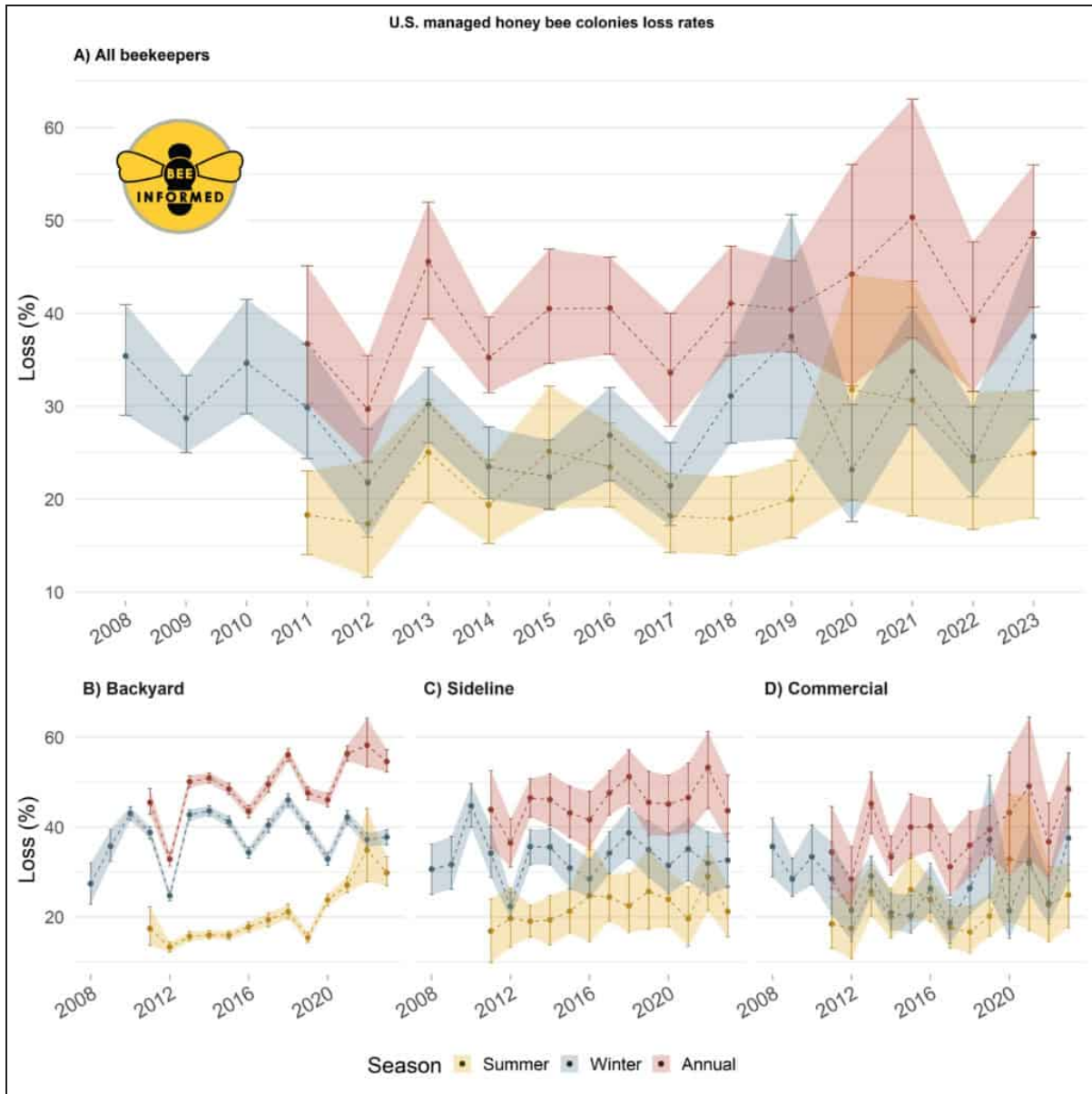


Figure 1. Seasonal managed honey bee colony loss rates in the United States across years (A), and by operation type (B-D): backyard (managing up to 50 colonies), sideline (managing 51-500), and commercial (managing >500 colonies) beekeepers. The loss rate was calculated as the total number of colonies lost divided by the number of colonies at risk during the season. Colonies at risk were composed of living colonies at the start of a period, as well as new colonies made or acquired, while excluding colonies sold or parted with. Annual loss covers the whole period from one 1 April to the next 1 April (in red); summer (1 April – 1 October, in yellow); winter (1 October – 1 April, in blue). Error bars represent the 95% confidence interval obtained from a bootstrap resampling of the data (n-out-of-n, 1000 rep).

The honey bee industry in the United States can be loosely divided into three groups of beekeepers – backyard (managing up to 50 colonies), sideline (managing 51-500), and commercial (managing >500 colonies), with the majority of colonies being managed by

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As in previous years, backyard beekeepers experienced a higher annual rate of loss than commercial beekeepers in 2022-2023 (54.6% [52.2 – 57.2 CI] for backyard vs 47.9% [39.9 – 56.4 CI] for commercial). This represented a higher loss year than average for both backyard beekeepers (5.8 pp more than their 12-year average of 48.8%) and commercial beekeepers (9.7 pp more than their 12-year average of 38.2%), but it seems issues occurred at different times of the year for the two groups.

Backyard beekeepers again experienced one of their highest summer losses on record (the last 4 years classified as the top 4, 3, 1 and 2, respectively, in the 13-year record), with 29.8% summer 2022 loss [26.9 – 33.4 CI], this was 10.0 pp over the previous 12-year average of 19.8%. Commercial beekeepers reported summer losses (24.7% [17.6 – 31.7 CI]) on par (1.8 pp over) with their average over the previous 12 years (22.8%).

Though the loss rates of both groups were comparable for the winter season (37.8% [36.0 – 39.4 CI] for backyard beekeepers, and 37.6% [28.1 – 49.1 CI] for commercial beekeepers), this represented a high loss season for the commercial group (10.7 pp over their 27.0% 15-year average), but an average season for backyard beekeepers (0.2 pp lower than their 38.0% 15-year average). Such high winter loss rates for commercial beekeepers have only been reported once before in this survey, in 2018-2019.

The most prominent cause of colony death reported by beekeepers over the winter 2022-23 was “varroa” (*Varroa destructor*, and its associated viruses), for all three operation types (Fig. 2). Backyard beekeepers then tended to cite “adverse weather” and “starvation” (meaning lack of honey, nectar, or sugar water) as the second and third most prominent causes of winter colony loss in their operations. Sideline beekeepers equally cited “queen issues” and “starvation” as their second most prominent cause of winter loss. Commercial beekeepers cited equally “queen issues” and “adverse weather”.

In the summer of 2022, the most prominent cause of colony death reported by beekeepers of all operation types was “queen issues” (Fig. 2). Both backyard and sideline beekeepers then listed “varroa” and “adverse weather”. Commercial beekeepers cited “varroa” as frequently as “queen issues” as their most prominent causes of loss over the summer, followed by “adverse weather”.

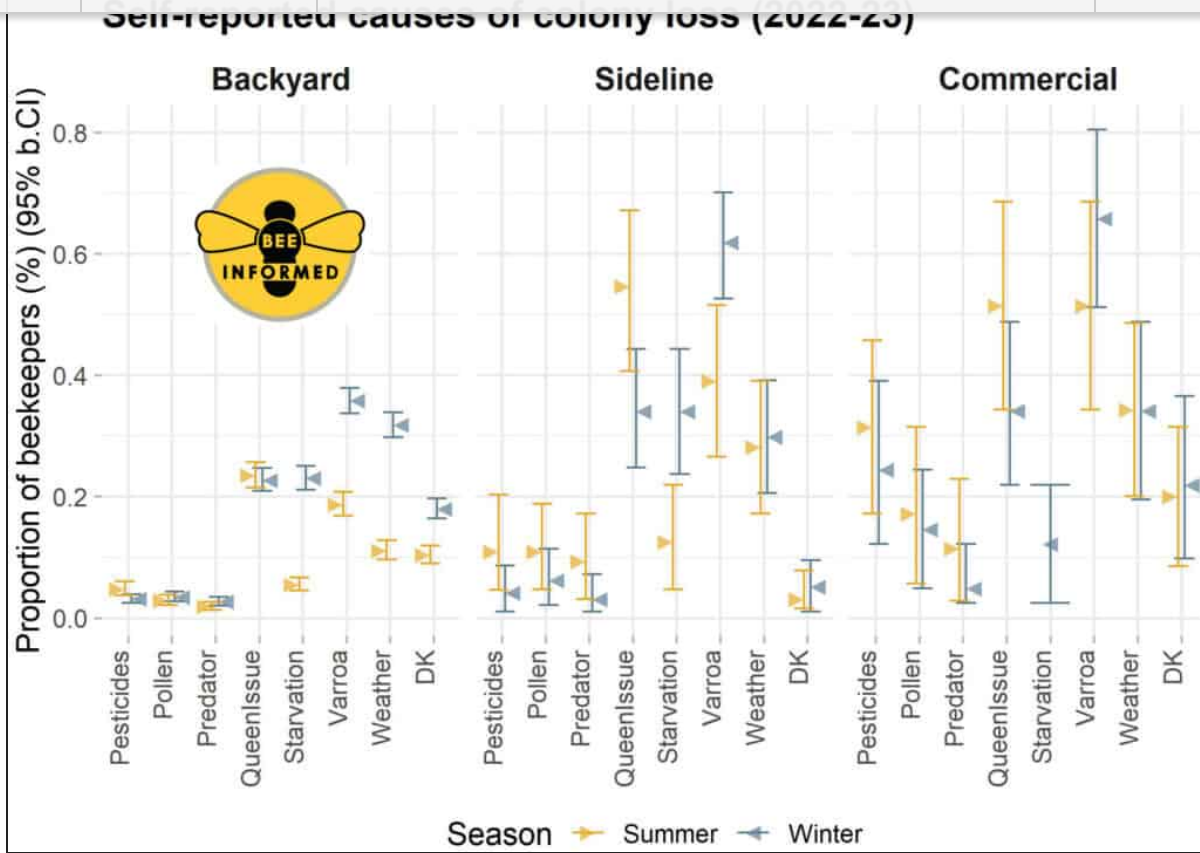


Figure 2. Self-reported causes of colony loss over summer 2022 (1 April – 1 October, in yellow) and winter 2022-23 (1 October – 1 April, in blue), as reported by US beekeepers grouped by operation type: backyard (managing up to 50 colonies), sideline (managing 51-500), and commercial (managing >500 colonies). Number of respondents: backyard (summer: 1,495, winter: 2,070), sideline (summer: 64, winter: 97) and commercial (summer: 35, winter: 41) beekeepers. The arrow represents the proportion of beekeepers having selected the specific cause of loss in a list of multiple choices associated with the question: “What factors do you think were the most prominent cause(s) of colony death in your operation in [season]?”. Error bars represent the 95% confidence interval obtained from a bootstrap resampling of the data (n-out-of-n, 1000 rep). Legend: Pesticides (Non-apicultural pesticides); Pollen (Nutritional stress (pollen deprivation)); Predators (e.g. bears); Queen issues; Starvation (honey/nectar/sugar water); Varroa (varroa mites and associated viruses); Weather (adverse weather (e.g. drought, cold snap)); DK (Don’t know). Answers selected by less than 10% of respondents in all three groups are not shown. Other multiple choices options not listed in the figure: Brood diseases (e.g. AFB, EFB), Natural disaster (e.g. hurricane, flood), Apicultural treatments (e.g. formic acid, amitraz), Shipping stress (e.g. overheating, truck issues), Equipment failure (e.g. moisture, ventilation), Failure of environmental controls in sheds, Scavenger pests (e.g. small hive beetle, wax moth).

Although the total number of honey bee colonies in the country has remained relatively stable over the last 20 years (~2.6 million colonies according to the USDA NASS Honey Reports), loss rates remain high, indicating that beekeepers are under substantial pressure to recover from losses by creating new colonies every year. The Bee Informed Partnership’s annual Colony Loss

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was no rigorous record of loss rates of managed honey bee colonies, making it difficult to compare losses against historic levels.

To obtain more information about Bee Informed Partnership's annual national Colony Loss and Management Survey, visit: <https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/loss-and-management-survey/>.

State level estimates, including estimates for single-state and multi-state operations, will be published on <https://research.beeinformed.org/loss-map/>.

[1] Confidence intervals were obtained from the distribution of bootstrapped estimates for each group of respondents (n-out-of-n method, 1000 rep). Due to the stochastic nature of bootstrap analyses, 95% CI are expected to vary slightly at each computation.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and share the survey!

View the PDF version of the abstract here: [BIP 2022-23 Loss Abstract](#)

To hear more about the results from BIP Science Coordinator Nathalie Steinhauer, watch this video interview from InsideTheHive.TV with Humberto Boncristiani: <https://youtu.be/zYyFjFLVjs>

<https://beeinformed.org/2023/06/22/united-states-honey-bee-colony-losses-2022-23-preliminary-results-from-the-bee-informed-partnership/>



Food Authenticity Podcast Ep5

Ron Phipps & Michael Roberts

Food fraud is a global issue that negatively impacts producers, manufacturers, and consumers alike. Not only does food fraud affect markets worldwide, but honey fraud in particular impacts bee populations, putting ecological stability and global food security in jeopardy.

This podcast explores this pressing issue, speaking with two leading experts in the field of food fraud.

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The podcast features Professor Michael Roberts, Executive Director of the Resnick Center for

Food Law and Policy at UCLA. Michael has been at the forefront of studies into food fraud for almost 20 years, having taught the first ever Food Law and Policy class at the University of Arkansas.



The podcast features Professor Michael Roberts, Executive Director of the Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy at UCLA. Michael has been at the forefront of studies into food fraud for almost 20 years, having taught the first ever Food Law and Policy class at the University of Arkansas.

Joining Michael is Ron Phipps, Vice-President of the Apimondia Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Economy and President of CPNA International, Ltd. Both Michael and Ron have written and published extensively on the subject of food fraud.

Current issues around food fraud can be understood as two equally critical areas: general food fraud and economically motivated adulteration. The adulteration and its economic benefits are very much being the progenitors of food fraud. Our guests outline the importance of this distinction, and the work being done by a range of national and international organizations and regulators to help address this problem.

Consumer awareness and information campaigns remain at the center of ongoing work to reduce and mitigate the impact of food fraud. Ron and Michael share details of the work being done from both a legal and awareness-raising perspective.

They also explore and provide valuable insight into the technical aspects of food adulteration,

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be used alongside regulatory and control measures to address food fraud robustly.

Listen to the podcast here: <https://www.bruker.com/en/landingpages/bbio/food-authenticity-podcast-ep5.html>



Varroa Mites and Deformed Wing Virus Make Honeybees More Susceptible to Insecticides

Contact: Jessica Ryan

Email: Jessica.Ryan@usda.gov

June 21, 2023

Controlling for Varroa mites, the parasitic mites that feed on honey bees and serve as vectors for viral diseases like deformed wing virus (DWV), can help with improving honeybee populations and make bees less susceptible to harmful insecticides, according to a recent [study](#) published in Environmental Pollution.

Foraging honey bees may be directly exposed to toxic insecticide sprays in the field or exposure may come from honeybees collecting and bringing pesticide-contaminated pollen and nectar back to their hives to feed larvae and young bees. The presence of insecticides, along with other environmental stressors in agricultural areas, can be a factor leading to issues like colony loss – something beekeepers from around the world are trying to overcome.

"Previous research has shown how chemicals like pesticides make bees more susceptible to mites," said [Yu-Cheng Zhu](#), a research entomologist at ARS's [Pollinator Health in Southern Crop Ecosystems Research Unit](#) in Stoneville, Mississippi. "In our study, we wanted to see if mites and viral infestations make bees more susceptible to insecticides."

In a study, researchers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s [Agricultural Research Service](#) (ARS) applied the miticide amitraz (Apivar), a product commonly used for treating Varroa

Researchers collected bees from miticide-treated and untreated hives, and quantified gene expressions of four immune genes and two physiology-related genes. They also tested bees' sensitivity to five representative insecticides. In addition, bees' natural mortalities were recorded during three seasons.

"Miticide treatment led to minor or undetectable mite and DWV infestations during the whole bee season, while untreated colonies had substantially higher mite and DWV infestations," said Zhu.



The data analyses showed that Varroa mite population irregularly fluctuated over the bee season and mite population density was not dynamically or closely correlated with the seasonal shift of honey bee natural mortality. Unlike mites, DWV density in untreated colonies progressively increased over the bee season. The density was highly correlated with the seasonal increase in honey bee natural mortality.

"In the untreated hives, the increased DWV infestations resulted in decreased physiological and immunity-related functions in late-season honey bees, making the bees more susceptible to insecticides and increasing natural mortality rates during the season," said Zhu.

According to Zhu, Varroa mites, also known as Varroa destructor, can reduce fat body and body fluids that contain important detoxification enzymes and immune proteins in honey bees. As a

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populations.

"Having impaired immunity, especially later in the season with fewer food sources, can be challenging for honey bees," said Zhu.

Zhu, whose work focuses on the toxicological impact of pesticides on beneficial insects in the Mississippi Delta Area, said that the study's results indicated the importance of studying the "bottom-up" effects of mite infestations on the overall health of honey bees in real-world contexts.

"Chemical control is still a major method in preventing crop loss and controlling insect pest populations," said Zhu. "It is important to study the effects of chemical control in honey bee populations so we can find best practices for protecting the health of bees."

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2023/varroa-mites-and-deformed-wing-virus-make-honeybees-more-susceptible-to-insecticides/>



Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam Injures U.S. Industry, Says USITC

May 11, 2022

News Release 22-058

Inv. No. 731-TA-1560-1562 and 731-TA-1564 (Final)

Contact: Jennifer Andberg, 202-205-1819

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The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) today determined that a U.S. industry is materially injured by reason of imports of raw honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam that the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) has determined are sold in the United States at less than fair value.

Chair Jason E. Kearns, Vice Chair Randolph J. Stayin, and Commissioners David S. Johanson, Rhonda K. Schmidlein, and Amy A. Karpel voted in the affirmative.

As a result of the Commission's affirmative determinations, Commerce will issue antidumping duty orders on imports of this product from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam.

The Commission made a negative critical circumstances finding with regard to imports of this product from Argentina. The Commission made an affirmative critical circumstances finding with regard to imports of this product from Vietnam.

The Commission's public report *Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam* (Inv. Nos. 731-TA-1560-1562 and 731-TA-1564 (Final), USITC Publication 5327, May 2022) will contain the views of the Commission and information developed during the investigations.

The report will be available by June 20, 2022; when available, it may be accessed on the USITC website at: http://pubapps.usitc.gov/applications/publogs/qry_publication_loglist.asp.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20436

FACTUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, and Vietnam

Investigation Nos.: 731-TA-1560-1562, 1564 (Final)

Product Description: Honey is a sweet, viscous fluid produced from the nectar of plants and flowers which is collected by honeybees, transformed, and combined with substances of their own, and stored and left in honeycombs to mature and ripen. Raw honey is honey as it exists in the beehive or as obtained by extraction, settling and skimming, or straining.

Status of Proceedings:

1. Type of investigation: Final antidumping duty investigations.

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3. USITC Institution Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021.
4. USITC Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022.
5. USITC Vote Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022.
6. USITC Notification to Commerce Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

U.S. Industry in 2020:

1. Number of U.S. producers: approximately 30,000 to 60,000.
2. Location of producers' plants: North Dakota, South Dakota, California, Texas, Montana, Florida, Minnesota, and Michigan
3. Production and related workers: 1,360.
4. U.S. producers' U.S. shipments: \$302 million.
5. Apparent U.S. consumption: \$690 million.
6. Ratio of subject imports to apparent U.S. consumption: 42.8 percent.

U.S. Imports in 2020:

1. Subject imports: \$296 million.
2. Nonsubject imports: \$93 million.
3. Leading import sources: Argentina, Brazil, India, Vietnam.

https://www.usitc.gov/press_room/news_release/2022/er051111935.htm

What does this mean for beekeepers?

The decision will be transmitted to the Commerce Department, which will issue antidumping duty orders shortly. In addition, the Commission reached an affirmative critical circumstances determination against Vietnam. This means that U.S. Customs will collect antidumping duties on entries going back an additional 90 days prior to the preliminary antidumping duty determination—from August 28, 2020, forward. This is an important additional finding, and one that the Commission rarely makes.

These results should continue to ensure that the American honey producer gets the fair prices they deserve.

We truly appreciate all of the donations that we have received to cover legal fees.

The good fight isn't over yet, however, and we still need your support.

To donate to the Antidumping Fund, please contact

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Cassie Cox cassie@ahpanet.com](mailto:Cassie.Cox@cassie@ahpanet.com)
281-900-9740[Translate ▼](#)

Or donate on our secure website: <https://www.ahpanet.com/donations-1>



AHPA App

As AHPA continues to work on behalf of all beekeepers, one of our initiatives is advocating with the FDA in Washington D.C. to update honey labeling guidelines. As part of this effort, we need your help to collect pictures of honey labels from around the United States. Our goal is primarily to find honey that is mislabeled according to current FDA guidelines. Secondly, we need examples of any labels which misrepresent country of origin or are purposefully confusing to consumers so that we can advocate for positive changes and updates.

Search the App Store or Google Play for "AHPA app". We need to collect as many pictures from honey on the store shelf as possible. Please take a few minutes to help collect this data.

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