

Why did US beekeepers lose almost half of all honeybee colonies in 2015?

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

“Beekeepers lost 44 percent of honeybee colonies last year.”

The headline, based on a new U.S. Department of Agriculture Report, is meant to make you think that there's a shortage of bees, which are about to vanish from the face of the earth. Nothing could be further from the truth.

All we need to do is take a look at another recent USDA report which says there are almost 2.7 million honey-producing honeybee colonies in the United States. That's up 10 percent from a decade ago

[...]

...the 44 percent figure doesn't take into account the fact that some loss is inevitable and that beehives rapidly regenerate in the warmer months, as a happy queen can lay over a thousand eggs every day. And beekeepers can accelerate the process with techniques like splitting hives.

So what is making overwinter losses so high? The USDA report explained: “Honey beekeepers with five or more colonies reported Varroa mites as the leading stressor affecting colonies.” ...

But what about neonics? According to their survey, pesticides only accounted for 10.5 percent of the stressors on honeybee colonies.

Read full, original post: [A 44 Percent Bee Decline?](#)