

HONEY AND HONEY BEE SURVEYS

OMB No. 0535-0153

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

- 1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.**

Annually, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) administers a Bee and Honey Survey and four Quarterly Colony Loss panel surveys. The Bee and Honey sampling frame comprises all active operations on NASS's List Frame with five or more colonies. The Quarterly Colony Loss Survey sampling frame comprises operations that report positive data on the Bee and Honey Survey. In addition to these surveys, control data on NASS's List Frame are updated from other sources, including the Office of the State Apiarist, Industry and Trade Groups, Government Agencies, and Census of Agriculture.

The Bee and Honey Sampling Frame is categorized into one of two distinct groups by state (single state operation (Group 1) or multi-state operation (Group 2)) before stratifying each group using total colonies as a measure of size. The number of strata in Group 1 and Group 2 range from two to five strata and one to two strata, respectively.

The Bee and Honey sample sizes are derived by targeting the price by type of honey and then adjusted for items of interest and response rates. The Quarterly Colony Loss panel survey sample sizes are derived by targeting on total colonies.

Survey	Month & Year	
Bee & Honey	Dec-22	

2. **Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:**
 - **statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,**
 - **estimation procedure,**
 - **degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,**
 - **unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures**

Bee and Honey Survey questionnaires are mailed in December and data collection is completed by mid-February to reflect the December 15 honey stocks. Beekeepers not responding by both mail attempts or internet will be attempted by telephone or in person. In-person contacts are used if requested by the operator or if there are reporting difficulties such as with cross-State producers. NASS Headquarters acts as the clearinghouse for multi-State data between the different field offices.

Survey summary programs are executed after data collection and analysis are complete. State and National estimates of Honey bee colonies, yield, production, price, and stocks will be published in March. Survey estimates are based on direct expansions and ratio estimates from matched reports to the previous year's survey. The Census of Agriculture (OMB no. 0535-0226) provides a benchmark every five years to evaluate survey performance.

3. **Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.**

NASS headquarters and state staff, who work with the bee and honey industry, interact with national and state representatives to stay apprised of any changes or developments that may occur with pollinators. When possible, they will attend industry meetings to answer any questions relating to our surveys and the importance of the data. Producers who do not respond by mail or internet, will be attempted by telephone follow-up. NASS employs a staff of experienced phone enumerators in five centralized data collection centers. Telephone follow-up is performed by a core set of enumerators who are trained to administer this survey by phone and are monitored by supervisors for quality control. Non-respondents are attempted up to 10 times.

After the data collection period closes, data for operations that were pre-selected for the survey sample with 100 percent probability (because they are too large or dissimilar to be represented by other operations) are manually

imputed and the remaining strata are reweighted. NASS typically designs surveys to produce CVs under 5% for larger states and under 10% for smaller producing states. Data from states that fail to meet the requirements for disclosure are collapsed and published as “Other States”. With non-response follow-ups, the resulting estimates provide reliable and usable measures of this industry.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

In this renewal, NASS has included respondent burden for conducting up to 25 cognitive and usability interviews per year, if needed.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Sample sizes for each state, are determined by the agency’s Sampling, Editing, and Imputation Methodology Branch, headed by Acting Branch Chief Peter Quan, (202) 720-5269.

Data collection is carried out by NASS Regional and State Field Offices, the Director of Western Field Operations is Troy Joshua (202)720-8220. The Director of Eastern Field Operations is Jody McDaniel (202)720-3638.

The NASS commodity statistician in Headquarters for the bee and honey survey is in the Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section of the Livestock Branch, Statistics Division. The Livestock Branch Chief is Travis Averill (202) 692-0069. Commodity statisticians are responsible for national and regional summaries, analysis, presentations to the Agricultural Statistics Board for final estimates, publication, and the Estimation Manual.

The NASS survey administrator in Headquarters for the Honey and Honey Bees Surveys are in the Census and Survey Division’s Survey Administration Branch; Acting Branch Chief is Amy Bailey, (202) 720-2778. The Survey Administrator is responsible for coordination of sampling, questionnaires, data collection, training, Interviewers Manual, Survey Administration Manual, data processing, and other Field Office support.

The national summary is the responsibility of the Summary, Estimation, and Disclosure Methodology Branch in the Methodology Division. Branch Chief is Jeff Bailey, (202) 690-8141.

October 2023