

# Economic Contributions of the **FLORIDA BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY IN 2020:** *Fact Sheet*

## **Honey Bee Colonies**

- Over 59% of respondents had less than 10 colonies, 24% had 10 to 99 colonies, 4.9% had 100 to 999 colonies, 2.7% had 1,000 to 9,999 colonies, and 0.2% had over 10,000 colonies
- Expanded results to the population of registered Florida beekeepers estimated that there were over 650,000 colonies during peak season and nearly 400,000 colonies during non-peak season

## **Migratory Beekeeping**

- 3.7% of beekeepers reported moving colonies between Florida and other states for honey production or pollination services
- An estimated 310,000 colonies, or 48% of all Florida colonies, were moved between Florida and other states
- Migratory beekeeping operations stayed in Florida for an average of 24 weeks during the cooler months

## **Crop Pollination Services**

- An estimated 92,000 colonies were used for crop pollination services in Florida on crops including blueberry, watermelon, and specialty citrus
- In Florida, pollination services on 36,000 acres of specialty crops generated increased production valued at \$237 million
- An estimated 217,000 colonies were used for crop pollination in other states on crops including almond, apple, cranberry, blueberry and watermelon
- In other states, pollination services by Florida beekeepers on 90,000 acres accounted for \$514 million in crop production value

## **Products**

- Beekeepers produced an estimated 15 million pounds of honey, 102,000 pounds of comb honey, and 300,000 pounds of beeswax in 2020
- Other products include packaged bees, queens, & complete hives and nucs
- Average prices received for honey, comb honey, and beeswax products were \$2.58, \$11.11, and \$4.62 per pound, respectively, and \$127 for packaged bees, \$24.61 for queens, and \$188 for complete hives and nucs

## **Employment**

- The Florida beekeeping industry in 2020 had 2,437 workers during peak season and 1,544 workers during non-peak season
- The simple average midpoint value is 1,990 workers

## **Revenues**

- Florida beekeeping operations in 2020 had an estimated \$93.36 million in revenue
- This includes \$60.35 million for honey bee product sales and \$33.29 million for crop pollination services
- \$51.63 million in revenues was from products and services produced in Florida, while \$42.01 million was revenue produced in other states

## **Expenses**

- \$17.07 million was estimated for capital investments by Florida beekeepers in hives and woodenware, equipment, buildings, and other assets

## **Threats to the Industry**

- 40% of respondents lost at least 40% of colonies 26% of respondents reported the cause of losses as queen failure, 18% reported the cause as Varroa destructor, and 24% reported the cause as other pests and parasites
- Extremely important threats to the beekeeping industry include: pests and diseases (78% of respondents), pesticide exposure and honey contamination (65%), resistance to pesticides for mite control (55%), and adulteration of honey with other sweeteners (52%)

## **Bartering**

- 17% of beekeepers reported engaging in bartering (trading of honey bee products or pollination services to others without monetary compensation)

## **Economic Contributions of Beekeeping Operations and Investment in Florida**

- 2,303 fulltime and part-time jobs
- \$24.11 million in labor income (employee wages, benefits, and proprietor income)
- \$41.86 million in value added from total personal and business income (equivalent to Gross Domestic Product or Gross State Product)
- \$80.75 million in output or industry revenues
- \$8.53 million in local, state, and federal government taxes

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