

APIARY NEWS IN ILLINOIS
COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER

January 2015

“Colony Collapse Disorder” (CCD) has been identified as a new ailment affecting honeybee colonies in many areas of the United States. The disorder can cause a sudden, large-scale die-off of the colonies’ adult bees. To date, commercial apiary operations have sustained the bulk of the damage from CCD, with some commercial migratory beekeepers reporting losses as much as 50-90% of their colonies. Little impact has been reported in terms of CCD on hobbyists’ and sideliners’ apiaries.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and the Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA) have been working cooperatively to gain more information on CCD and to closely monitor conditions throughout the state’s Apiary Industry. Thus far, only 1 case of CCD has been confirmed in the State of Illinois through the IDOA’s Apiary Inspection Program. While there have been a few reports of CCD-like symptoms in some colonies, further investigation has revealed other traditional problems, such as varroa mites, were major contributors to the demise of the colonies. However, there certainly may have been other incidents of CCD that were not seen or substantiated. In addition, the scientific community is continuing their research to identify the cause or causes of CCD.

IDOA and ISBA want to provide the most current information to Illinois’ beekeepers. We have found that the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) offers some of the most comprehensive information on CCD. In addition, the Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Consortium (MAAREC), also has a great deal of information on CCD. If you are interested in accessing the ARS or MAAREC website, their address is <http://ars.usda.gov/news/docs.htm?docid=15572> and <http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/ColonyCollapseDisorder.html>, respectively.

CCD can emerge at any time. If you believe your colonies are showing symptoms of CCD, please contact Steve Chard at IDOA (217/782-6297) or Mike Mason at ISBA (217/494-0431) as soon as possible. Arrangements can be made to conduct a thorough inspection of your colonies to determine if CCD may be present.

IDOA and ISBA officials ask for your cooperation in monitoring for CCD and reporting CCD-like conditions in your apiary. It is imperative we work together to minimize the impacts of this disorder and to help find a solution for this problem as soon as possible.