



**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION**
Since 1881

Survey Updates. May 15, 2018

In this edition: Ontario Beekeepers Experience Overwhelming Losses -
OMAFRA's Annual Ontario Apiculture Winter Loss Survey Underway



Ontario Beekeepers Experience Overwhelming Losses

When Ontario's beekeepers opened their hives this spring, they found nothing but bad news for beekeepers, as well as for the vegetable and fruit growers who depend on bees for pollination. The recent Ontario Beekeepers' Association survey of almost 900 beekeepers indicated that seven out of 10 Ontario beekeepers suffered unsustainable losses. Most worrisome, almost one in three (32%) beekeepers reported colony losses of 70% or more. This could be the worst winter losses on record.

The OBA posted a [media release](#) yesterday, highlighting survey results. There has been significant media interest. OBA president, Jim Coneybeare, and other board members have been responding to media calls, as have individual beekeepers across the province.

Concerns about high winter losses extend beyond Ontario. There was [a story in yesterday's La Presse](#) highlighting heartbreaking winter losses in



OMAFRA's Annual Ontario Apiculture Winter Loss Survey Underway

The Ontario Apiculture Winter Loss Survey is conducted annually by the [Apiary Program at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#) to collect valuable data about the health of the honey bee industry, estimate winter colony loss and track management practices used by beekeepers in Ontario.

On May 2, 2018, the survey was distributed to all registered beekeepers reporting more than 50 colonies and to a group of randomly selected beekeepers reporting 49 or fewer colonies. Beekeepers who received the survey via mail or email are encouraged to complete and submit the survey no later than June 1, 2018.

If you are a registered beekeeper with more than 50 colonies and have not yet received the survey, please contact the Apiary Program by phone at (519) 826-3534 or by [email](#).

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