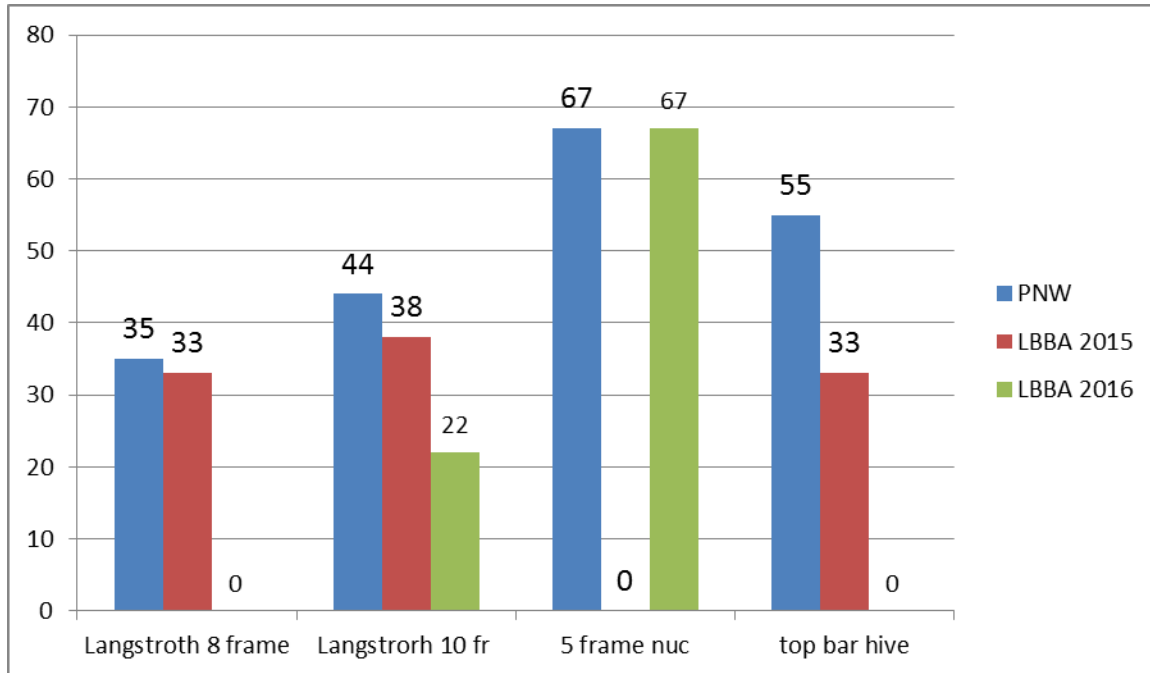


## LBBA Bee Loss report 2016 by Dewey M. Caron & Jenai Fitzpatrick

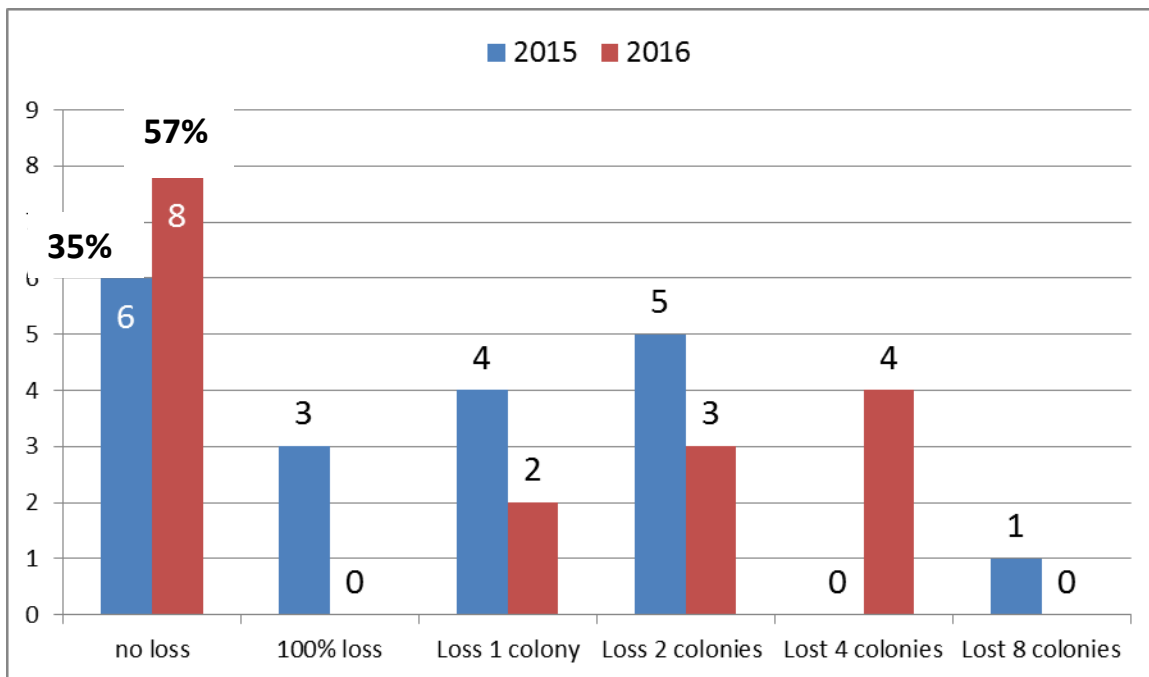
I received 14 bee loss surveys from LBBA members, 3 fewer than last year, as part of the 219 Oregon beekeeper returns (same number as last year). LBBA respondents entered winter with 5 Langstroth 8 frame hives (all 5 survived), 46 Langstroth 10 frame hives (lost 11), plus 1 nuc and 2 top bar hives (all survived).

**Total overwinter loss was 11 hives or 20%.**

This was the best survivorship among all OR and WA associations and was 17 percentage points better than the OR statewide loss rate of 40%.



Eight of the 14 Linn Benton respondents had zero loss. Two individuals lost 1 colony, three lost two colonies and one lost 4 colonies. Most individuals (64%) maintained 1, 2 or 3 colonies with one having 8 and another 12 colonies the largest number of colonies. Seven of the 14 respondents (50%) indicated one or two year's beekeeping experience with 9 the largest number of years. Eleven individuals (79%) said they had a mentor/experienced beekeeper available as they were learning beekeeping which was 14 percentage points better than Oregon beekeepers statewide.



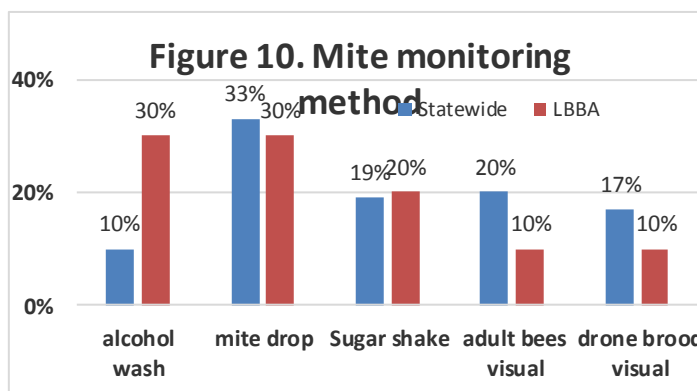
Queen failure (83%), starvation (50%) and poor wintering (40%) were the most common reasons cited for losses. Three individuals said zero loss was an acceptable loss level, 5 indicated 5-10% loss, another 5 said 20-25% loss and one said 33% loss level was an acceptable loss.

All LBBA did some colony feeding. Eleven of 14 LBBA members said they fed sugar syrup, 7 fed pollen patties, 7 also used hard sugar/candy and 6 fed frames of honey, 2 used dry sugar and one divert. Multiple choices could be selected. The four top choices followed statewide responses. Analysis of the 219 Oregon beekeeper responses did not reveal a better survival with any of the feeding managements. This does not mean feeding is not a useful management only that it did not with this data improve survival.

Six individuals (42%) said they did not use any of the 6 wintering practices from 8 alternatives offered; they had 20% loss, same as overall for LBBA respondents. Of those utilizing a practice, 6 used a ventilating box and 3 of these same individuals also used an upper entrance; the loss of these beekeepers was 28%, 8 percentage points higher than the overall loss. I have no explanation why these two wintering managements did not improve survival, except we are dealing with small numbers.

Twelve of 14 LBBA individuals used Screen bottom boards on 100% of their hives, with all but one leaving them open during winter. Overall, Oregon beekeepers using SBB had a slight 5 percentage point improvement in winter survival.

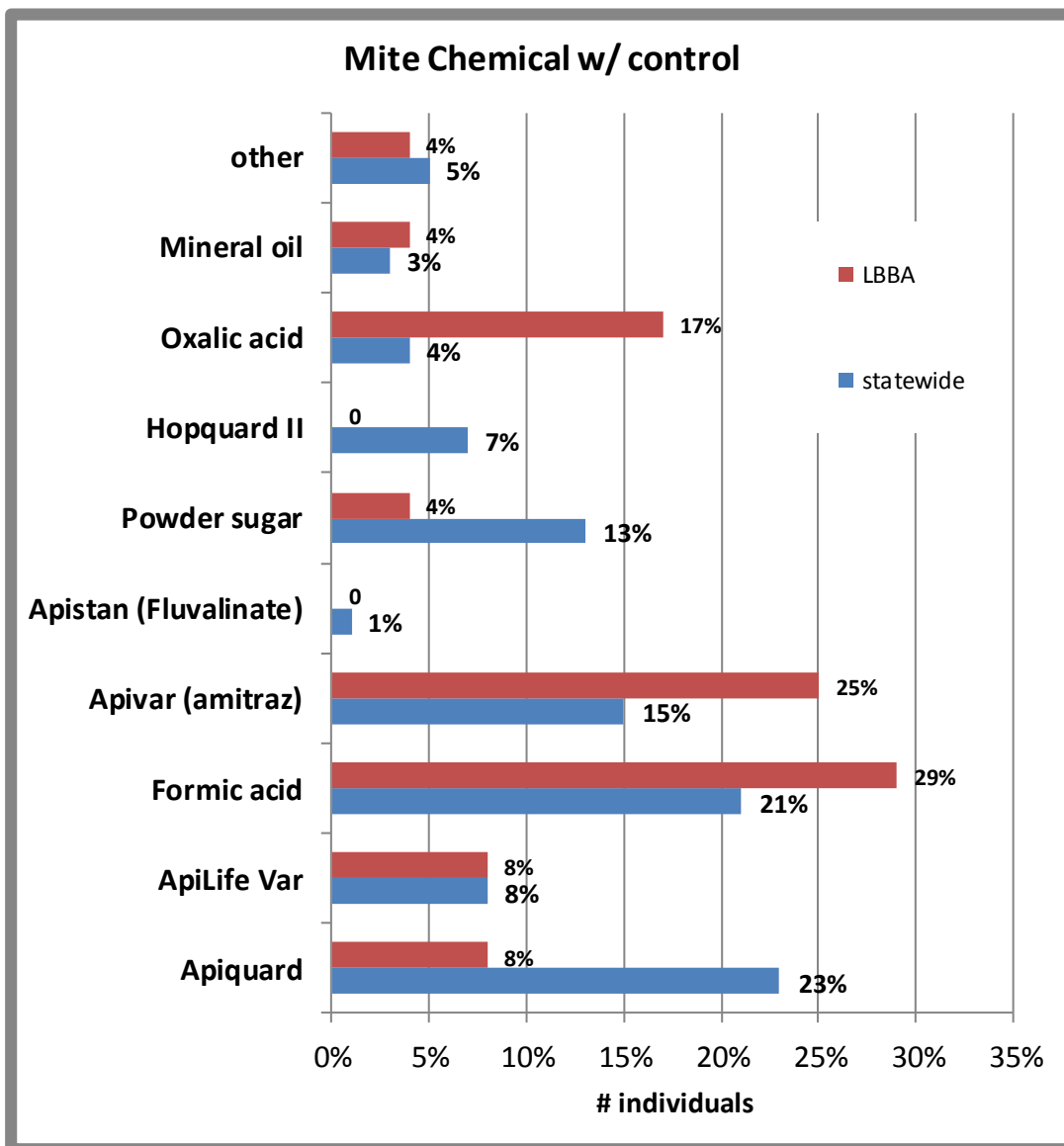
Four individuals said they did not monitor for mites. Multiple choices were possible with survey question of how colonies were monitored - 6 each said alcohol wash and mite drop (sticky board) and 4 sugar shake. Two said they visually looked for mites on adults and in brood. Alcohol and sugar shake are the most effective sample techniques.



All fourteen LBBA members said they treated their hives, while only 57% said they treated statewide. For alternative treatments, 12 used Screen bottom boards, 3 minimal hive inspection. Three LBBA beekeepers indicated use of drone brood removal and 2 used hygienic queens. Use of an alternative provided a slight advantage for the Oregon beekeepers with the highly interventive managements of drone brood removal, brood break and use of hygienic queen stock yielding a slightly improved survival. Nine of the 14 did more than one alternative.

For chemical treatment, 7 treated with Formic acid (MAQS), 6 with Apivar and 4 used Oxalic acid. Comparison of uses of LBBA and Oregon beekeepers shown below. Use of a chemical improves survival with Apivar and MAQS reducing statewide losses by almost 50%. See website for this information:

<http://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/survey-results/2015-16-survey-reports/>



Thanks to all LBBA members who completed a survey.