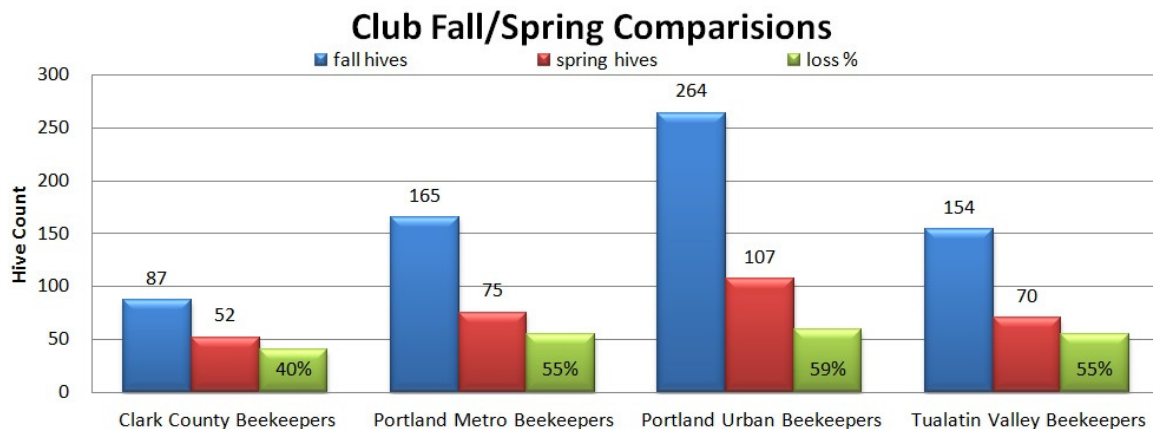


2014 Portland Metro Area Bee Losses by Dewey M. Caron

For unknown reasons the Portland-area beekeepers experienced heavier losses than all the other regions of the state this past winter. This information summarized below was collected at various spring Portland Metro area beekeeper association meetings through the distribution of traditional paper surveys and introduced as an online survey created by the Portland Urban Beekeepers (PUB) as part of their education and outreach goals for the beekeeping community.

Overall, weighted average was 48% overwinter loss, double the level of larger-scale beekeepers



Details

CLARK CO: 17 total surveys. Four of the 17 individuals (24%) had total survival (10 colonies total) while the remaining 13 individuals reported lost of 1 to 8 colonies – total 35 colonies. The median loss of colonies was 2. Fifty-nine percent lost 50% or more of their colonies. 4 individuals (23.5%) lost all their colonies. **Weighted loss = 40%**, the best report of the 4 Portland local associations. The median number of years of experience of survey respondents was 4 years (range of 1 to 30.)

PORTLAND METRO: 32 total surveys. None of the 32 individuals had total survival. The 32 individuals reported loss of of 1 to 8 colonies – total 51 colonies. Median loss was 3 colonies (average=2.4). 70 percent lost 50% or more of their colonies. 10 individuals lost all their colonies. **Weighted loss was 55%** (previous season weighted loss rate was 42%). The median years of experience was 3 years (1 to 40 years.)

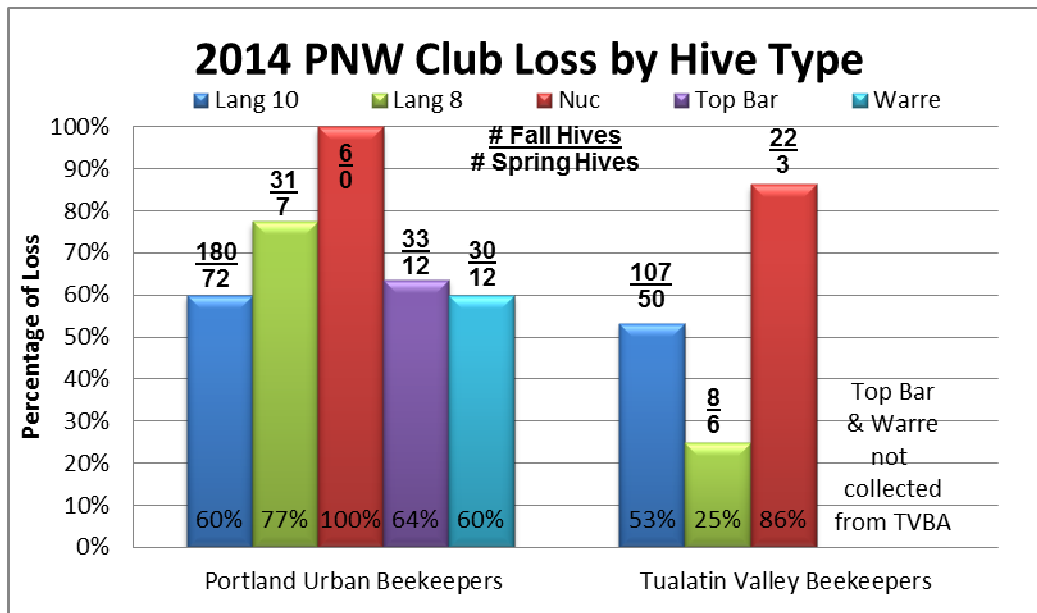
PORTLAND URBAN: 79 total surveys. Nineteen of the 79 individuals had total survival (46 colonies total) while remaining individuals reported loss of 1 to 20 colonies – total 131 colonies. The median loss of colonies was 2. 19 individuals lost all their colonies. **Weighted loss was 59%**

% Median number of colonies was 3 (average 2.3) with median of 2.5 years beekeeping experience (range 1-30 years).

TUALATIN VALLEY: 43 total surveys. Ten of the 43 individuals (%) had total survival (19 colonies total) while remaining 33 individuals reported loss of 1 to 8 colonies – total 84 colonies. The median loss of colonies was 2. Eight two percent lost 50% or more of their colonies. 15 individuals lost all their colonies. **Weighted loss was 54.5%** (previous season weighted loss rate was 42%). TVBA survey-respondents managed an average of 3 colonies with median 3 years of experience (range 1-40 years).

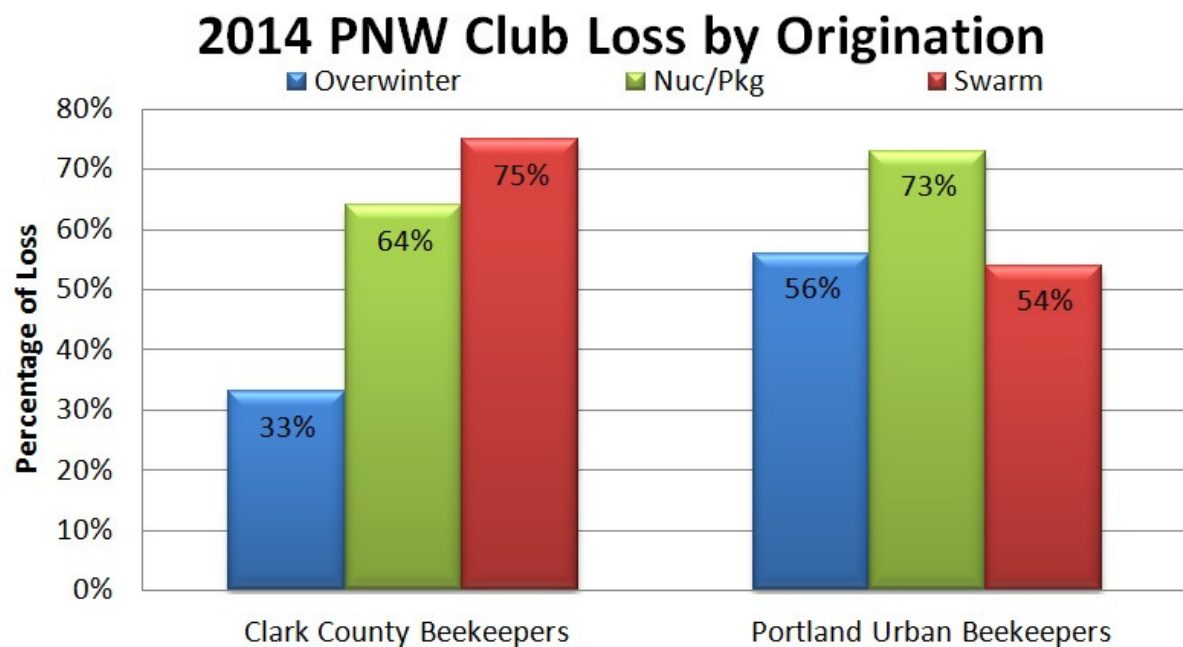
Loss by hive type

The graph below illustrates overwintered colony loss by hive type for Portland Urban and Tualatin Valley beekeepers association members (3 hive types only for Tualatin Valley members). Langstroth 10 frame hives had essentially similar losses levels (60% for PUB and 53% for TV members) but Langstroth 8 frame hives had triple the lost rate for PUB (77%) compared to TV (25%); number of 8 frame hives was 4 times higher within PUB. Nucs had heaviest losses (100% for PUB, 86% for TV). For PUB members losses of Top bar and Warre hives was nearly the same (64% and 60%).



Loss by Origination

The graph below for two of the four groups shows survival by origination. For Clark County one-third of overwintered colonies were lost while 75% of swarms did not survive. Heaviest losses for Portland Metro (73%) was of nuc and packages.



With the 2015 survey we will have graphics to present for all the groups