



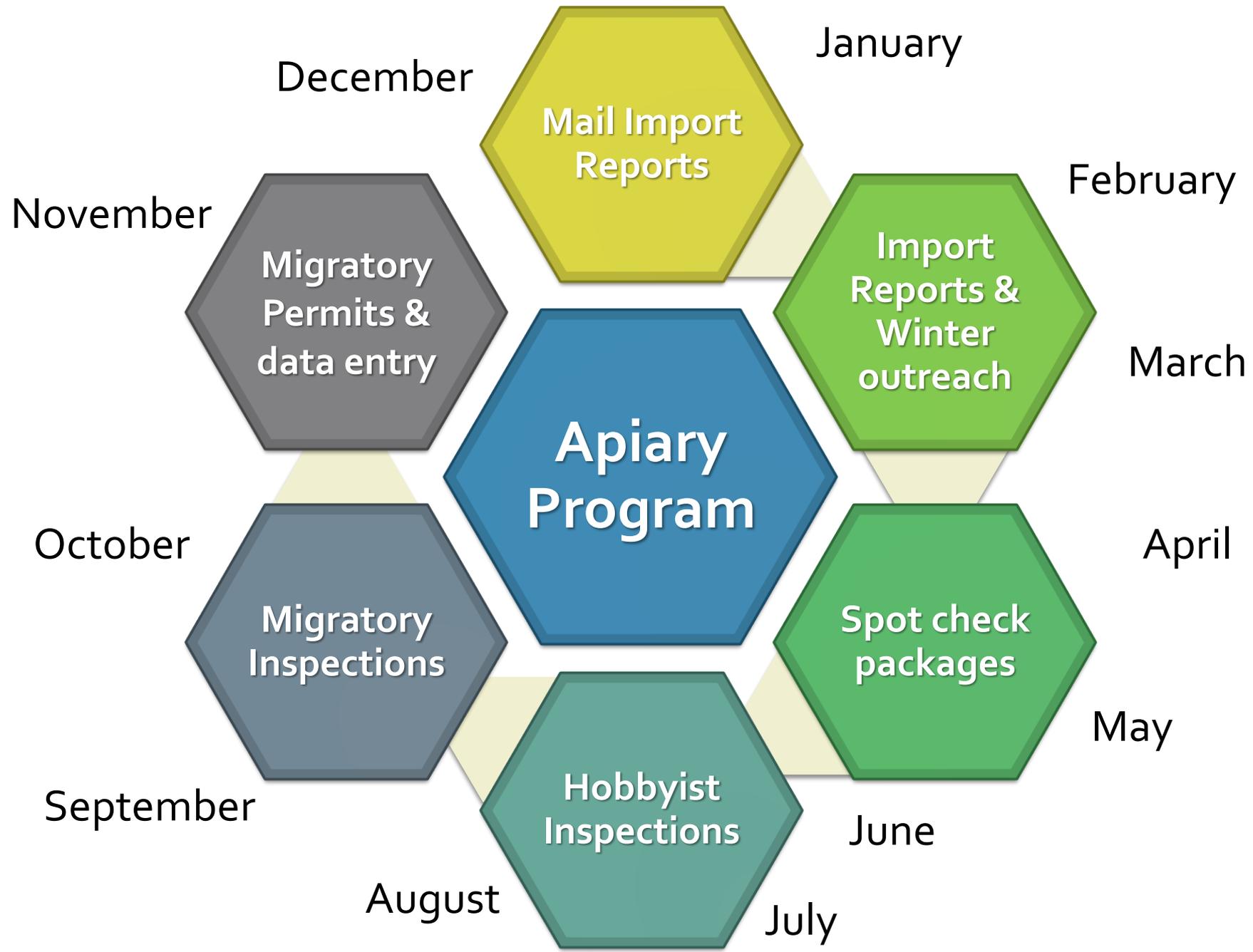
**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**WHPA – November 2018**

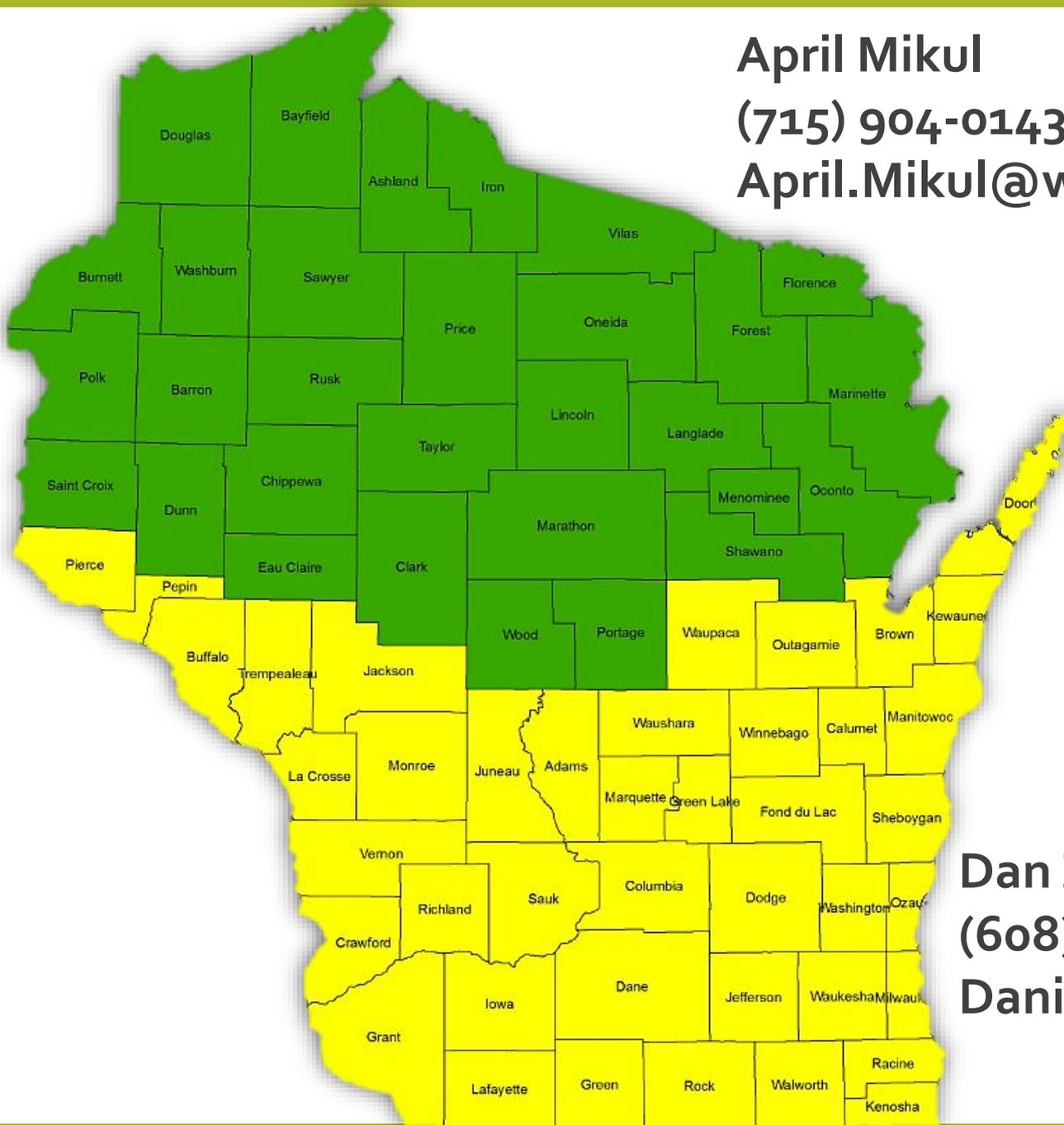
# Apiary Program Mission Statement

- Maintain surveillance of the beekeeping industry for the detection and prevention of honey bee pests and diseases, and prevent, suppress or control the introduction, spread, or dissemination of honey bee pests and diseases.





**April Mikul**  
**(715) 904-0143**  
**April.Mikul@wi.gov**



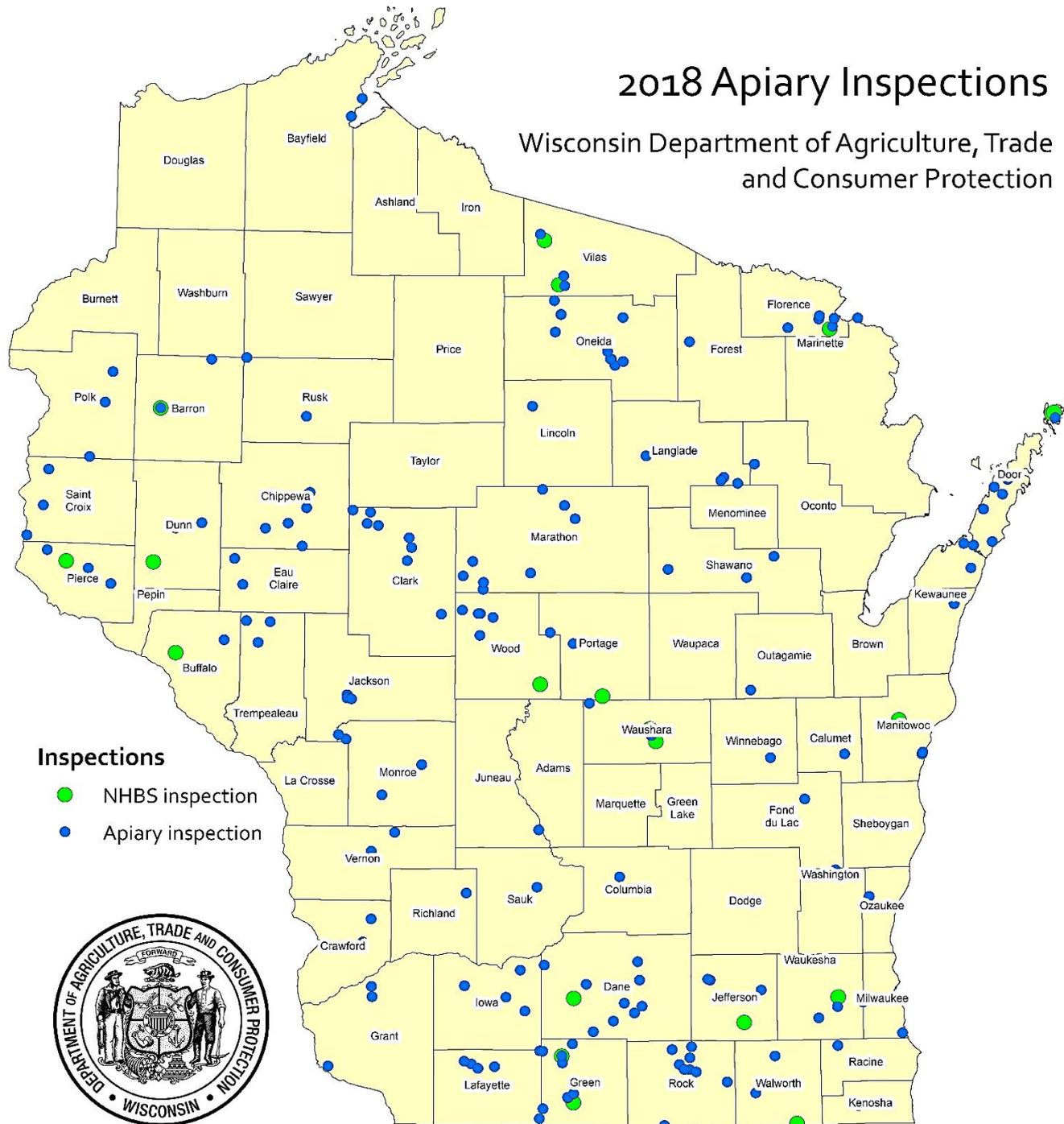
**Dan Ziehli**  
**(608) 444-3209**  
**Daniel.Ziehli@wi.gov**

# 2018 Survey Results

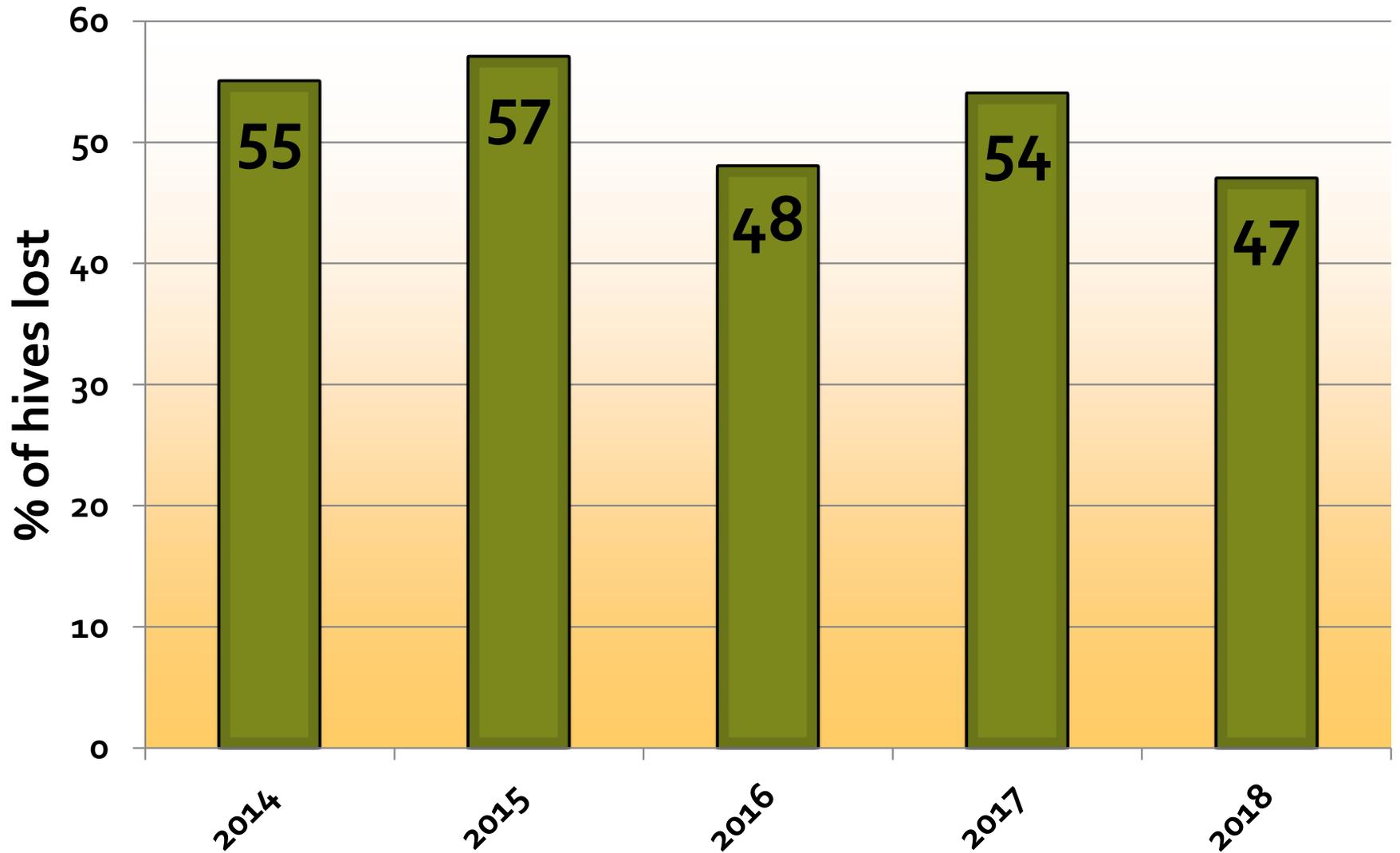


# 2018 Apiary Inspections

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection



# Winter Mortality



# Honey Bee Pests & Diseases

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total hives Opened	1190	2208	4214	3342
Varroa mite	71%	68%	64%	58%
Sm Hive Beetle	3.1%	7.5%	10.2%	1.65%
Am Foulbrood	1.1%	1.2%	0.1%	.1% (?)
Euro Foulbrood	3.6%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Chalkbrood	3.1%	2.8%	4.2%	1.1%
Sacbrood	0.1%	0.4%	5.8%	1.4%
Deformed wing virus	6.8%	7.3%	19.8%	1.2%

# Does my hive have AFB?

- DATCP inspection
- Test kits
- USDA Bee Lab Services (Beltsville, MD)
  - No charge for service
  - Samples examined for diseases, mites and other pests
- When requested, AFB samples screened for sensitivity to Terramycin (oxytetracycline) and Tylan (tylosin)



# Know what to look for



- 2017 Outreach Grant
- 2019 Outreach Grant??

# Honey Bee Health Coalition

- <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/>
- Download Varroa Management Guide
- BMPs for hive management available in 2019

The screenshot displays the Honey Bee Health Coalition website's 'Tools for Varroa Management' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the coalition's logo and links for 'The Situation', 'About the Coalition', 'How We Help Bees', 'How You Can Help Bees', and 'Coalition Updates'. Below the navigation bar is a yellow banner with the text 'TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT'. The main content area is titled 'ESSENTIAL RESOURCES' and features three columns of resources, each with a checkmark icon:

- Watch Demonstration Videos on Varroa Management:** Includes a video thumbnail of two people and a description: 'This set of videos from the Honey Bee Health Coalition provides practical step-by-step demonstrations on monitoring and controlling varroa mites in your hives.' A 'VIEW MORE VIDEOS' link is provided.
- View Our Free Guide for Varroa Management:** Includes a circular icon with red mites and a description: 'Practical, effective methods that beekeepers can use to measure Varroa mite infestations in their hives and select appropriate control methods.' A 'DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE & VIDEOS' link is provided.
- Download Our Varroa Sampling and Control Tracking Spreadsheet:** Includes a circular icon with a green tree and a description: 'Use this spreadsheet to track integrated pest management (IPM) activities for control of Varroa mite.' A 'DOWNLOAD THE SPREADSHEET' link is provided.

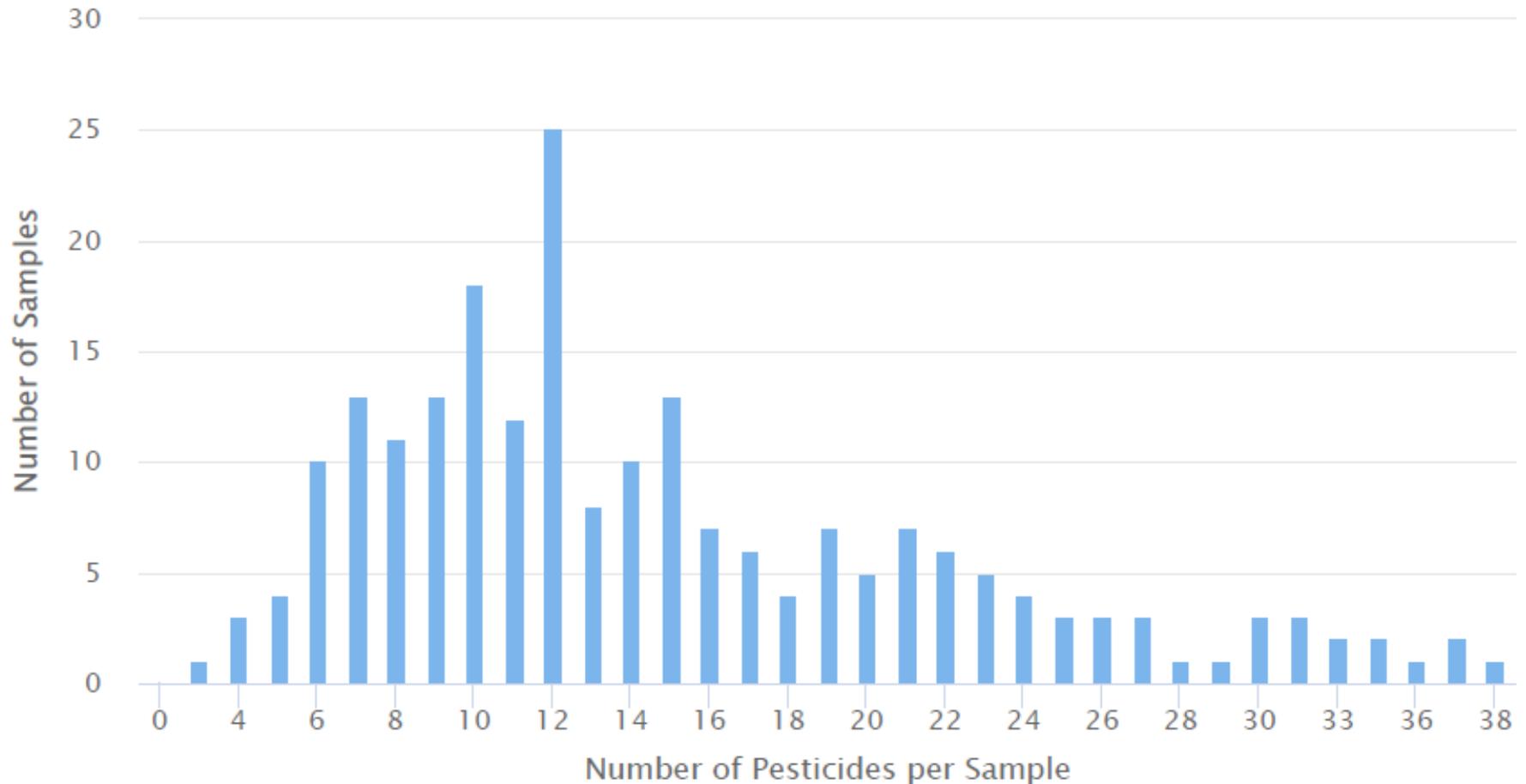
Below the essential resources is a section titled 'VARROA VIDEOS' with the text: 'The following videos demonstrate techniques for combatting Varroa mites'. This section contains a grid of 12 video thumbnails with captions: 'Will Varroa kill my bees?', 'IPM', 'Sampling Methods', 'Essential oils', 'Apivar', 'Apistan or Checkmite+', 'Formic acid', 'HopGuard', 'Oxalic Acid', 'Sanitation, screen bottoms', 'Drone brood removal', and 'Requeening'.

At the bottom of the page, the text 'TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT' is repeated in a large, bold font.



# 2017 National Honey Bee Survey Results

Chart 3: Histogram of Number of Pesticide Samples Detected per Wax Sample (n=217) Collected in 2017





Home

Food

Drugs

Medical Devices

Radiation-Emitting Products

Vaccines, Blood & Biologics

Animal & Veterinary

Cosmetics

Tobacco Products

## Animal & Veterinary

# Finding a Veterinarian for your bees

- VFD Order or Prescription is required to purchase/feed antibiotics to bees (as of January 1, 2017).
- Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium
  - <https://hbvc.org>
- For more information about the VFD Rule:
  - <https://www.fda.gov/> Keyword search: VFD





## Farm Service Agency

### ELAP

# Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

- ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, **honeybees** and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary.
- ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.
- Available to **commercial beekeepers**
  - *commercial defined as:* the operation of a business activity engaged in as a means of livelihood for profit by the eligible producer.



United States Department of Agriculture

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Farm Service Agency

**ELAP**

## Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

- **What makes a complete ELAP application?**
  - Colony Report
  - Notice of Loss
  - Application for payment



## Farm Service Agency

### ELAP

# Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

- **2017/2018 ELAP Applications:** The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 re-opened the 2017 application period for ELAP and extended the date for the 2018 application period. The final date to submit Program Year 2017 and/or 2018 Notices of Loss, Applications for Payment, and supporting documentation is **December 3, 2018**.
- **Colony Reports:** The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a **Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> colony reporting date** each year by which honey producers should be reporting their colonies for the upcoming year. Producers should also be updating their colony reports **within 30 calendar days of when the total number of hives change and/or colonies are moved to different counties**. Reporting colonies is a critical first step for maintaining eligibility for the ELAP Program. **Deadline for filing a Colony Report for 2019 is Jan. 2, 2019**.
- **Colony Management:** When beekeepers submit Notices of Loss and Applications for Payment, the ELAP Program local County Committees are charged with determining if the beekeeper is following BMPs. Beekeepers should be maintaining good records, photos, documentation, and receipts to prove: proper nutrition for honeybee colonies; preventative treatment for mites and disease; maintenance and hygiene of hive equipment; and proper colony management. Without documentation it's very difficult for CC's to determine eligibility.

## Farm Service Agency

# Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops (*i.e. honey*) when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters
- **2019 NAP Applications:** The application period for 2019 NAP insurance ends Nov. 20, 2018.
  - Colony Reports
  - Notice of Loss
  - Application for payment

# The Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan [datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov) keyword "pollinator protection"



15 minute recorded PowerPoint presentations on each of the 4 sections



## THE WISCONSIN POLLINATOR PROTECTION PLAN

### Prairies, Roads & Open Spaces

Best Management Practices to protect pollinators

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Restored prairies, open spaces and roadsides can provide habitat for pollinators while...



## THE WISCONSIN POLLINATOR PROTECTION PLAN

### Farmers & Growers

Best Management Practices to protect pollinators

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

For growers raising crops that rely on insect pollination, the benefit of taking steps to protect pollinators is clear. Yet all growers and farmers can benefit from pollinator-friendly practices...

#### Cropping and land management

Attracting pollinators to farms depends heavily on land management practices in cropped and fallow areas.

- Outside crop fields:
  - Leave existing nesting habitat, such as dead wood, bare soil...



## THE WISCONSIN POLLINATOR PROTECTION PLAN

### Beekeepers

Best Management Practices to protect pollinators

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Beekeeping is a rewarding venture, but all the considerations that go into keeping bees can overwhelm a newcomer. Beekeepers need to consider habitat, nutrition, and winter weather...

#### Habitat and nutrition

- Starvation is a common cause of hive loss. Bees need adequate sources of pollen, nectar and water to thrive.
- Place bee hives where at least 3 species of flowering plants are blooming from early spring through late fall.
- Use regional planting guides to decide what species to plant for your bees. These are available from the Pollinator Partnership and The Xerces Society.
- Provide a clean water source for your bees.
- Provide protein patties and sugar when there are not enough flowers blooming.
- Don't plant flower hybrids bred for size, color or extra petals. They provide little or no nectar and pollen.
- Don't place too many hives in one location. Food may be inadequate, and diseases and parasites may spread among hives.

#### Winter preparation and care

- Assess hive strength before winter.
- Combine small, healthy colonies, and replace poor queens to increase overwintering probability.
- Check for diseases and mites and take control measures if they are present above acceptable threshold levels.
- Insulate the hive, including the top. Add ventilation near the top of the hive to reduce condensation.
- Keep hives behind a windbreak or move them inside a shed or barn for the winter.
- Add an entrance reducer or mouse guard at hive entrances in the fall.
- Add an entrance board to any hive that has less than 100 pounds of honey stored in it.
- Add sugar or a candy board to any hive that has less than 100 pounds of honey stored in it.



## THE WISCONSIN POLLINATOR PROTECTION PLAN

### Gardens & Lawns

Best Management Practices to protect pollinators

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Besides honey bees, Wisconsin has hundreds of species of wild bees, including bumble bees, that pollinate our crops and gardens. Flower flies, butterflies, beetles and hummingbirds also pollinate plants. If you help these pollinators, they'll help you - with bigger yields in your home garden and less work in your yard. Bees are docile and rarely sting unless threatened, and wild bees live alone or in very small groups. You can find more details in the Wisconsin Pollinator Protection plan, available online.

#### Plantings

- Choose plants that suit your yard's soil type, drainage, slope and sunlight and aim to have at least 3 species blooming from early spring to late fall, selecting a variety of flowers, herbs, fruits, vegetables, trees and shrubs.
- Include flowering plants native to your area. Native plants tend to attract and support more pollinators, and are usually low-maintenance. Wisconsin natives include beebealm, phlox, black-eyed Susan, and many more. See plant list providers in Resources below.
- Let your herb garden flower. Pollinators love flowering herbs, including mint, lavender, basil, oregano, garlic, chives and parsley.
- Avoid flower varieties that are double-flowered or otherwise highly modified by breeding. These flowers often have little pollen or nectar. Pollinators don't often visit common

# Contact Information



- Liz Meils – State Apiarist  
608.224.4572  
[elizabeth.meils@wisconsin.gov](mailto:elizabeth.meils@wisconsin.gov)
- April Mikul – Apiary Inspector, Northern region  
715.904.0143  
[april.mikul@wisconsin.gov](mailto:april.mikul@wisconsin.gov)
- Dan Ziehli – Apiary Inspector, Southern region  
608.444.3209  
[daniel.ziehli@wisconsin.gov](mailto:daniel.ziehli@wisconsin.gov)