

The background features a stylized landscape. The top half consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent green mountain peaks of varying heights and shades. Below the mountains is a wide, textured yellow field that resembles a field of wildflowers or a meadow. The bottom edge of the yellow field is irregular and jagged, suggesting a horizon line or a field of tall grass. The overall color palette is natural and earthy.

Beekeeping Experiences Survey – Preliminary Results

Informal survey of OCBA list serve participants
9/15/2012 - 9/16/2012

Survey Background

This simple, informal survey was conducted on September 15 & 16, 2012. It was an open, opt-in survey of anyone who chose to participate based on an email to the OCBA list serve.

The survey employed 8 questions which covered 4 topical areas: 1) background as a beekeeper, 2) opinions about Bees & useful characteristics, 3) beekeeping activities, and 4) hive management practices.

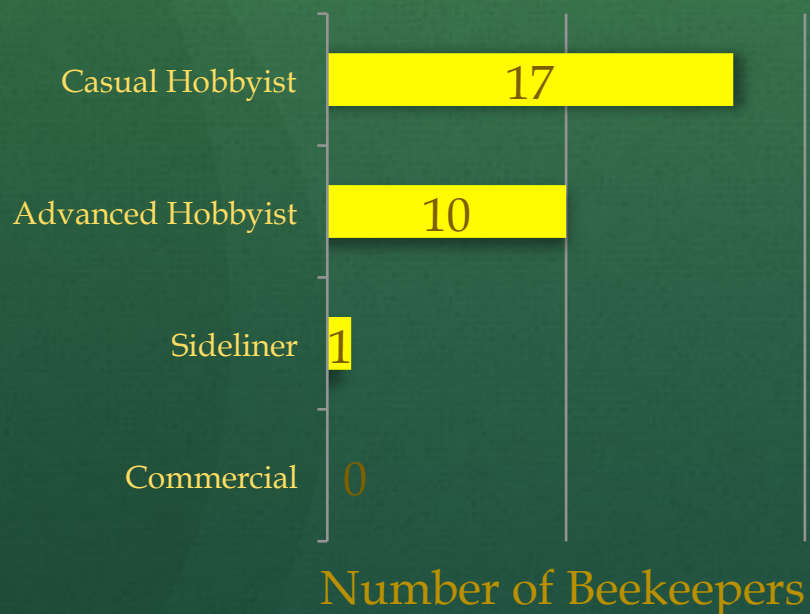
This preliminary report was generated at 4:30pm 9/16/2012 based on 28 individuals who had participated in the survey. The survey is still open. A future update of this report based on additional inputs is likely.

For questions, you can contact Vic Nyman at nyman@mindspring.com

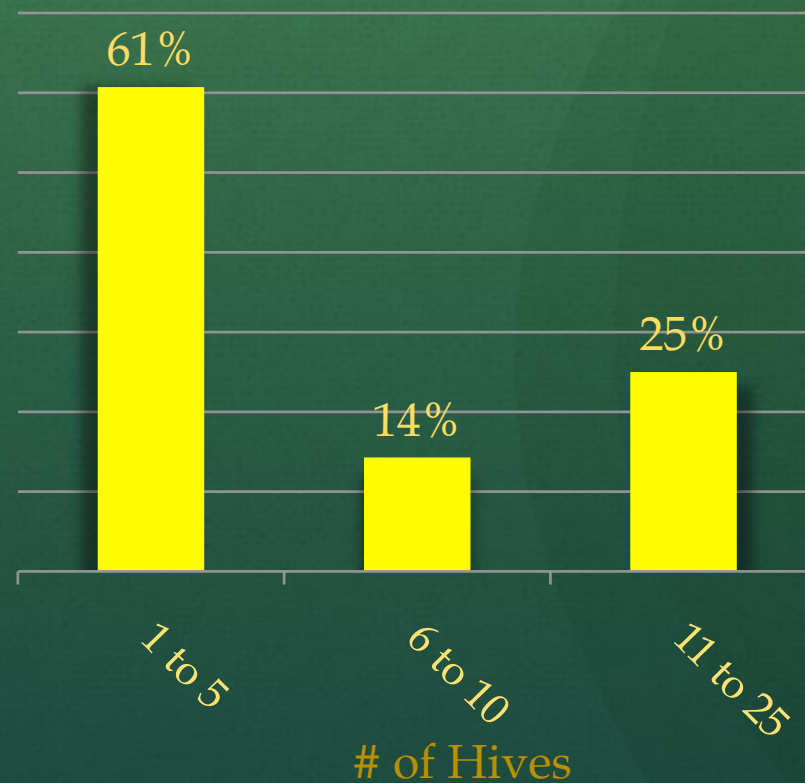
Warning – this informal survey is neither scientific nor rigorous. It should be viewed only as a useful collection of experiences and opinions of those kind individuals on the OCBA list serve who chose to share their views.

Beekeeping Experience

How would you characterize your Beekeeping?

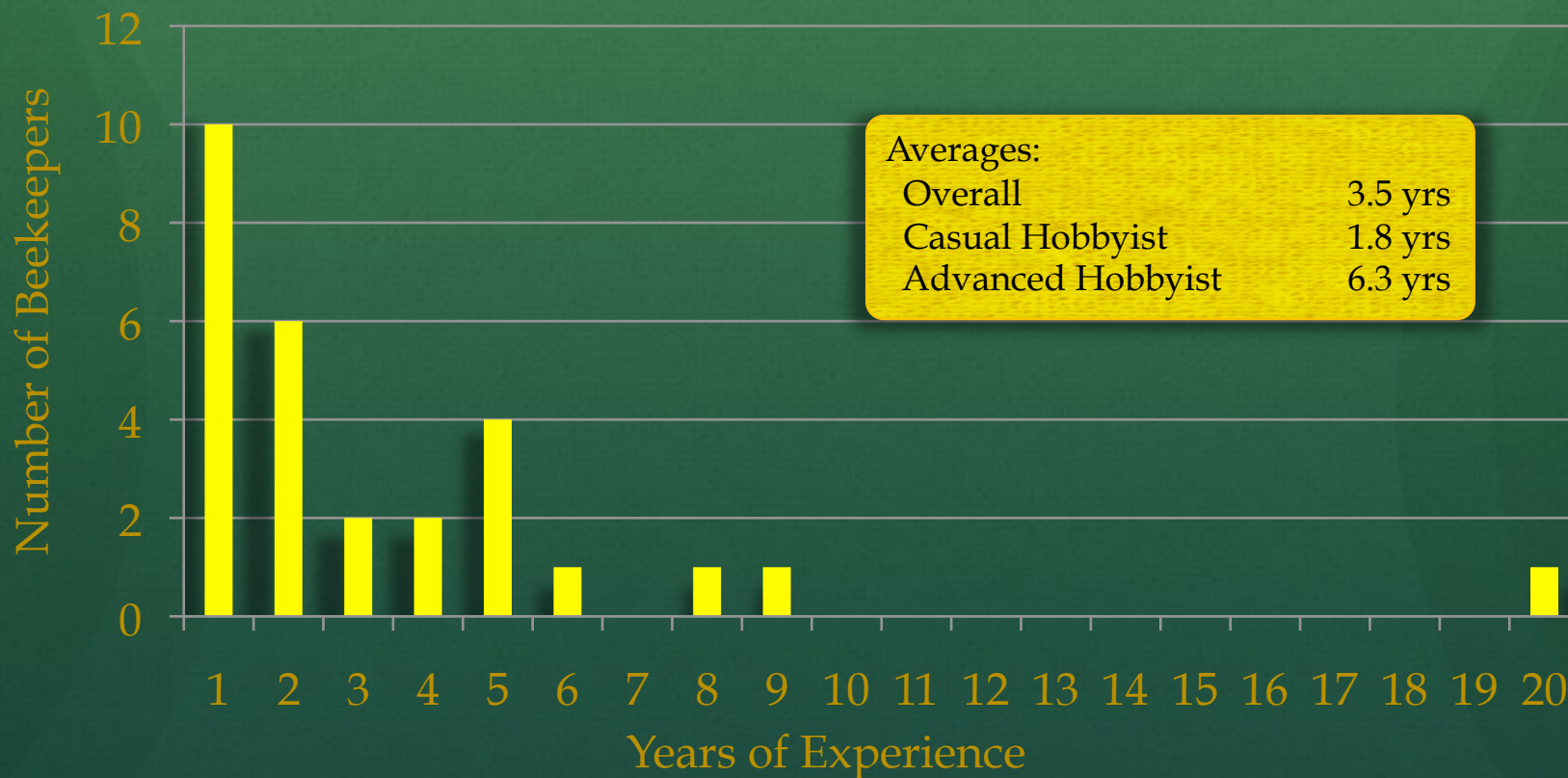


Approximately, how many hives do you manage?



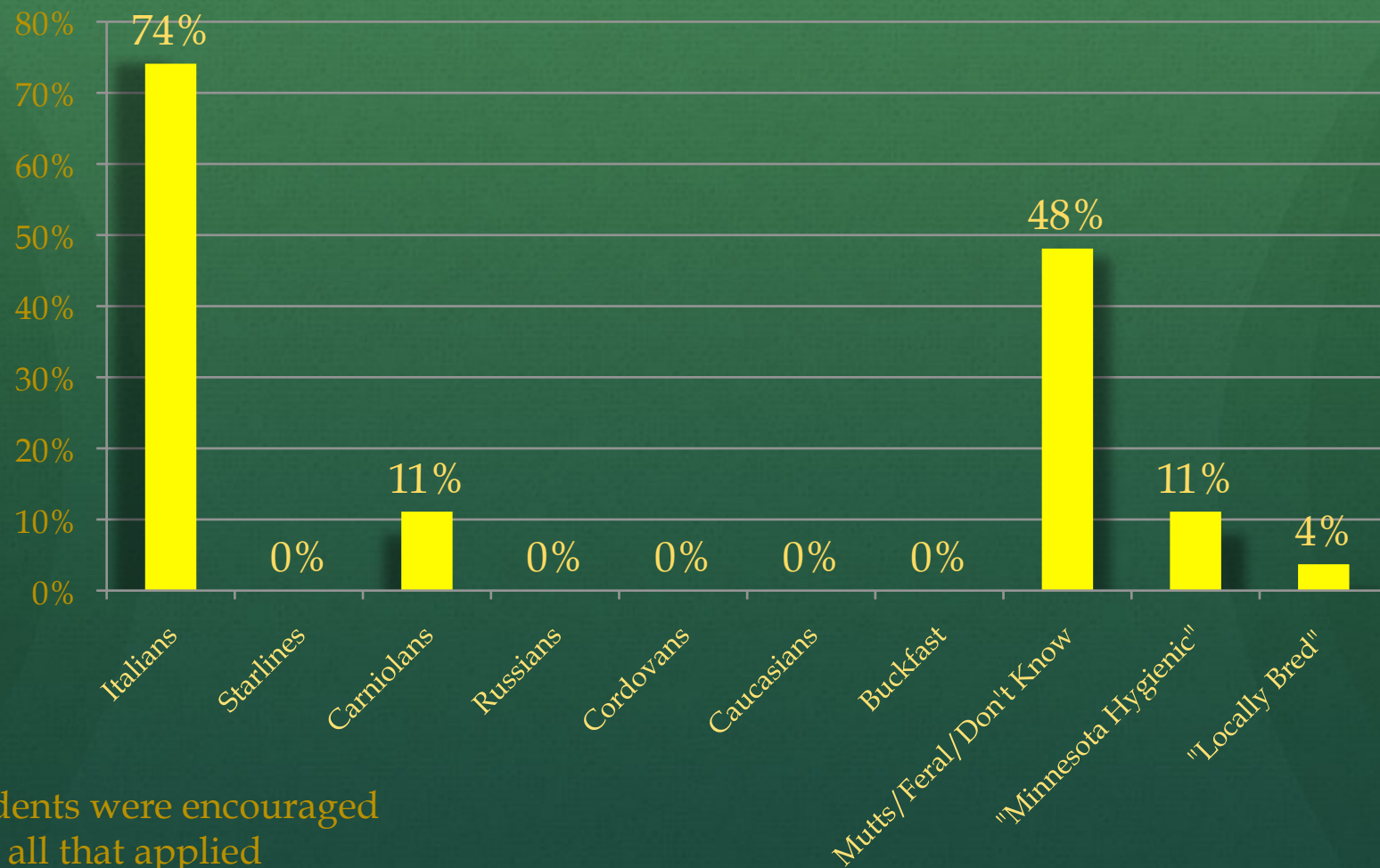
Beekeeping Experience

Distribution by Years of Experience



Your Bees

What kind of Bees do you keep?



Respondents were encouraged to select all that applied

Your Bees

Characteristics of “Good” Bees

Answer Options	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral / Not Important
Gentleness / Temperament	78%	22%	0%
Honey gathering productivity	44%	44%	11%
Wax / Comb Building Productivity	26%	48%	26%
Low propolis	11%	11%	78%
Hygienic traits	74%	22%	4%
Varroa resistance	78%	19%	4%
Small cell size (i.e. 4.9 mm cell)	4%	19%	78%
Early spring build-up	33%	33%	33%
Good brood patterns	67%	30%	4%
Color	0%	7%	93%

3 Write-in entries: “Healthy”, “Survival!”, and “Overwintering Survival”

Why Do You Keep Bees?

What kinds of hobby activities, products & services do you engage in?

Answer Options	Income source / High Interest	Moderate Interest	N/A - No Interest
Honey production for personal use	81%	19%	0%
Honey production for income	12%	35%	54%
Classroom education about Beekeeping	15%	35%	50%
Public education about Beekeeping	31%	58%	12%
Pollination services	19%	31%	50%
Enjoyment of keeping & managing Bees	96%	4%	0%
Wax crafts & products	8%	46%	46%
Swarm catching	4%	50%	46%
Selling bees (packages & nucs)	0%	15%	85%
Queen rearing	8%	38%	54%
Helping bees survive	69%	27%	4%

1 Write-in entry: "Hive products for medicinal use"

Hive Management Practices

Which Bee management practices & activities do you employ?

Answer Options	Always / Every Time	Often / Regularly	Occasionally	Never / Against Practice
Small cell foundation (i.e. 4.9mm)	0%	8%	8%	84%
Raise your own queens	8%	36%	20%	36%
Screened Bottom Boards	80%	8%	8%	4%
Pollen patties / supplements	0%	0%	40%	60%
Feeding stimulants (i.e. Honey Bee Healthy)	8%	24%	16%	52%
Re-Queen yearly	12%	4%	16%	68%
Powdered sugar dusting for Varroa	12%	24%	40%	24%
'Hard chemicals' for Varroa (i.e. Apistan, Checkmite, etc.)	0%	0%	16%	84%
'Soft chemicals' for Varroa (i.e. Formic, Thymol, Oxalic, etc.)	4%	20%	44%	32%
Drone brood trapping for Varroa	4%	12%	32%	52%
Wrapping/Insulating hives for Winter	0%	4%	16%	80%
Top Bar Hives	8%	0%	8%	84%
8 Frame Hives (Langstroth)	24%	0%	12%	64%

Large differences in answers were observed from those with 4 or more years of experience versus those with 3 or less. The next page contrasts the two.

Hive Management Practices

Which Bee management practices & activities do you employ?

FILTERED FOR RESPONDENTS WITH 4 OR MORE YRS EXPERIENCE

Answer Options	Always / Every Time	Often / Regularly	Occasionally	Never / Against Practice
Small cell foundation (i.e. 4.9mm)	0%	0%	0%	100%
Raise your own queens	13%	50%	25%	13%
Screened Bottom Boards	75%	13%	13%	0%
Pollen patties / supplements	0%	0%	38%	63%
Feeding stimulants (i.e. Honey Bee Healthy)	0%	25%	0%	75%
Re-Queen yearly	0%	13%	13%	75%
Powdered sugar dusting for Varroa	25%	13%	25%	38%
'Hard chemicals' for Varroa (i.e. Apistan, Checkmite, etc.)	0%	0%	25%	75%
'Soft chemicals' for Varroa (i.e. Formic, Thymol, Oxalic, etc.)	0%	38%	38%	25%
Drone brood trapping for Varroa	13%	0%	38%	50%
Wrapping/Insulating hives for Winter	0%	13%	25%	63%
Top Bar Hives	0%	0%	13%	88%
8 Frame Hives (Langstroth)	0%	0%	13%	88%

NOTE: The above table is filtered to show responses only from those who had 4 or more years of beekeeping experience.

Suggested topics for future surveys?

The following are the write-in suggestions for future survey topic areas:

- “What was your biggest challenge this season? Etc. mites, SHB, swarms...”
- “How do you manage SHB?”
- “How often do you check your hives per month? How often do you take honey and when? Do you feed you bees sugar water? which months?”
- “small hive beetle management with frame traps, bottom board traps, nematodes, etc”
- “1) Annual losses, 2) where queens/packages/nucs are purchased (locally grown versus imports), 3) locale (urban, suburban, rural)”
- “your questions have flaws - you need to have an option for does not apply”