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September 2024

2024 Survey of beekeeping practice

Dear beekeeper,

The B-RAP (Bridging Research And Practice) group: <https://coloss.org/activities/coreprojects/brap/> of the international COLOSS (prevention of COlony LOSSes) association: <https://coloss.org/> aims to understand the sources of information used by beekeepers and find better ways of translating research results to beekeeping practice. A number of surveys of beekeepers, scientists and extension specialists have been carried out and results will shortly be published in a scientific paper and will be presented at the European Bee Research Conference (EurBee) in Estonia in September. The purpose of this current survey is to understand beekeepers' motivations for keeping bees, their practices in queen replacement, control of diseases and movement of their colonies for pollination or honey production. I would be very grateful if you could find a few minutes to complete this survey. The results will be entirely anonymous, but will greatly aid our understanding of these issues.

A little bit about me. I have been keeping bees since 1980, and for many years managed more than 100 colonies at Rothamsted Research, UK, whilst carrying out studies on bee diseases, bee behaviour and pollination ecology. I also helped to set up the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects at the University of Sussex, carrying out work on bee breeding for varroa tolerance and pesticides and bees. For ten years I was Science Director of the International Bee Research Association and Senior Editor of the *Journal of Apicultural Research*. I am a member of the Executive Committee of COLOSS and the Defra Bee Health Advisory Forum in the UK. I am currently involved in the INSIGNIA-EU project: <https://www.insignia-bee.eu/> which is using citizen scientist beekeepers across the EU to use their honey bee colonies to monitor various types of pollution. I am joint Editor of the *Beekeepers Quarterly*.

If you have any queries please contact me on: norman.carreck@btinternet.com

Thank you very much in advance for your participation.

Best wishes,

Norman Carreck.