Overwinter Analysis

MOEBA

28 May 2026

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Survey questions

1. Name (anonymous)
2. Number of colonies that went into Winter 2025
3. Number of colonies present in Spring 2026
4. What did you *feed* your colonies this fall? (select all that may apply)
5. How did you *monitor* your hives for varroa mites, and *how often* did you monitor?
6. What did you use to *treat* your hives for varroa mites, and *how often* did you treat?
7. What was the *size* of the majority of your overwintered hives?
8. What effect do you believe the cold and snow had on your colonies' overwinter survival?
9. Which of the following factors contributed to your overwinter losses? (select all that may apply)

Summary

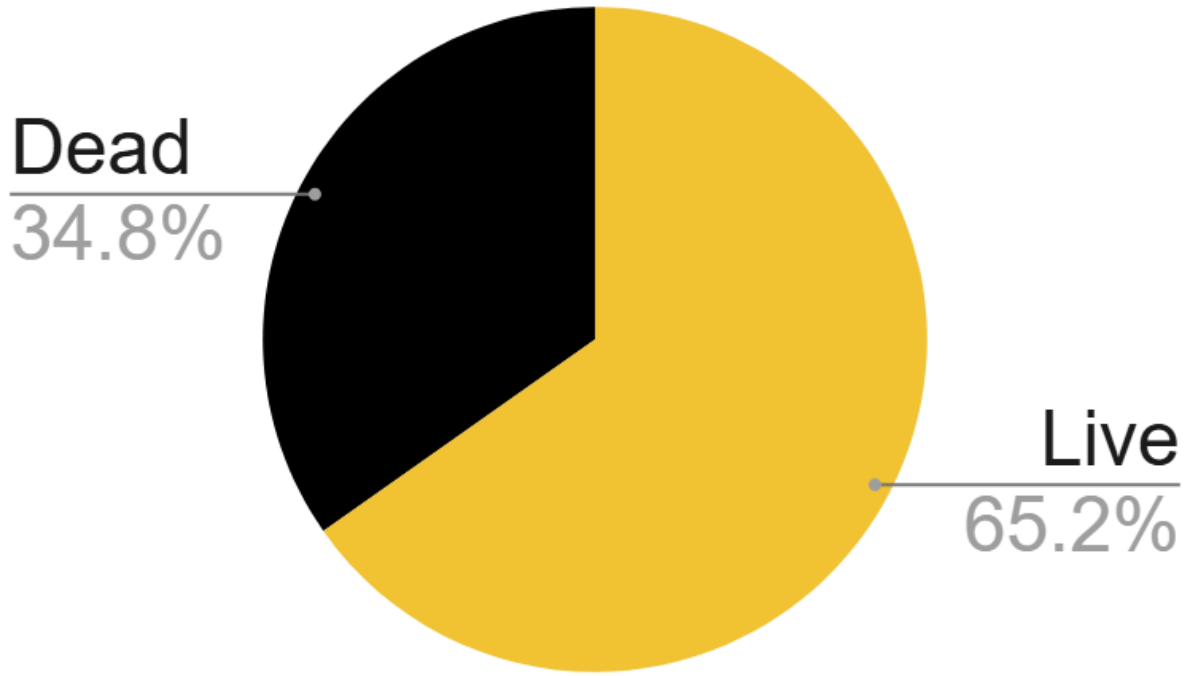
Beekeepers: 31

Winter hives: 420

Spring hives: 274

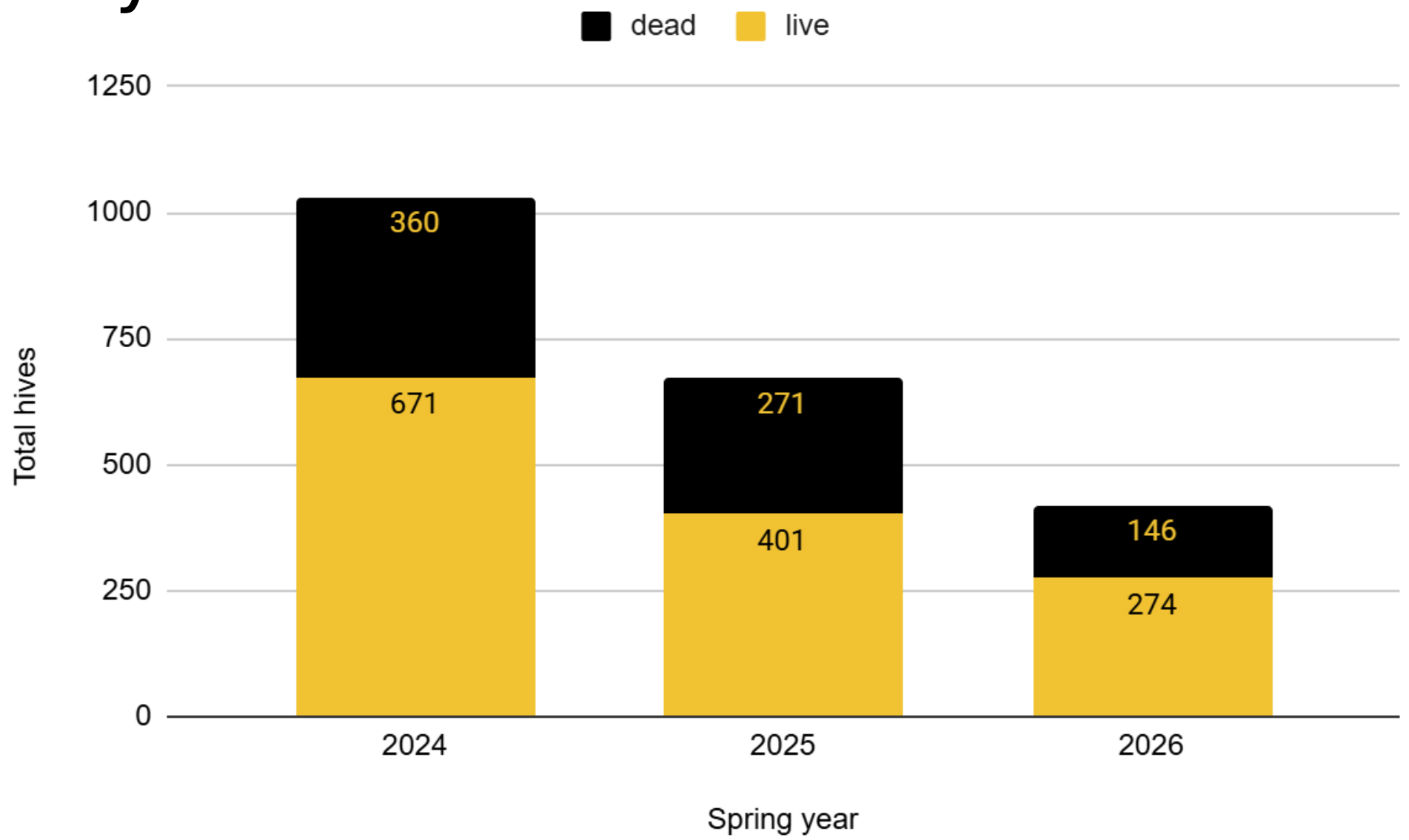
Hives lost: 146

Percent losses: 34.8%



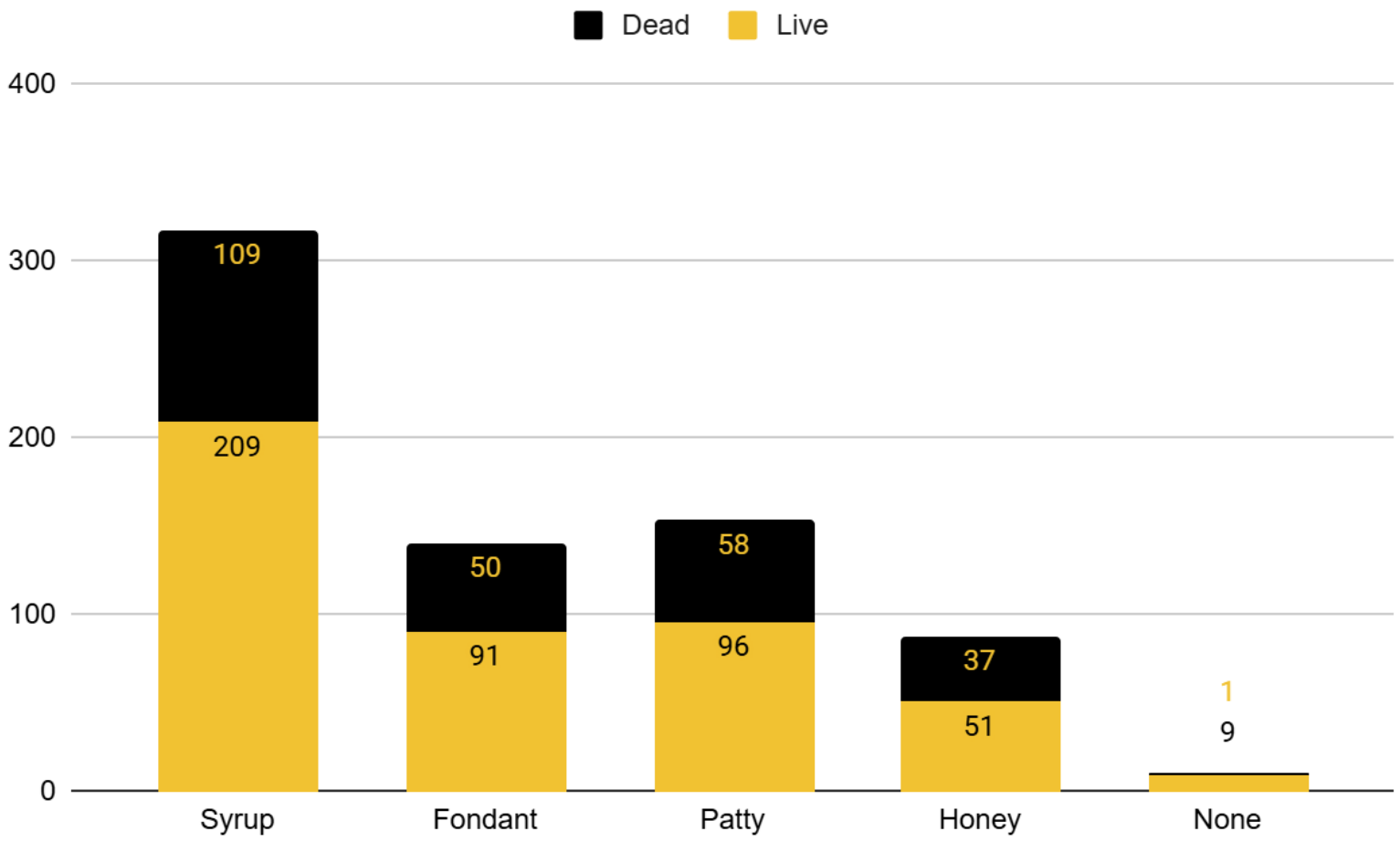
Survey → Discussion → Association programming

History


dead
live
1250
1000
750
500
250
0
Total hives
360
671
271
401
146
274
2024
2025
2026
Spring year

Feed

	Beekeepers	Total hives fed
Syrup	18	318
Fondant	11	141
Patty	2	154
Honey	6	88
None	5	10



Varroa monitoring and treatment

How did you *monitor* your hives for varroa mites, and *how often* did you monitor? *

	Never	Once or twice	Monthly	Weekly
No monitoring				
Visual or drone bro...				
Sticky board				
Alcohol wash or su...				

	Beekeepers	Total hives monitored
Visual/drone	22	367
Sticky board	8	172
Alcohol/sugar	21	378

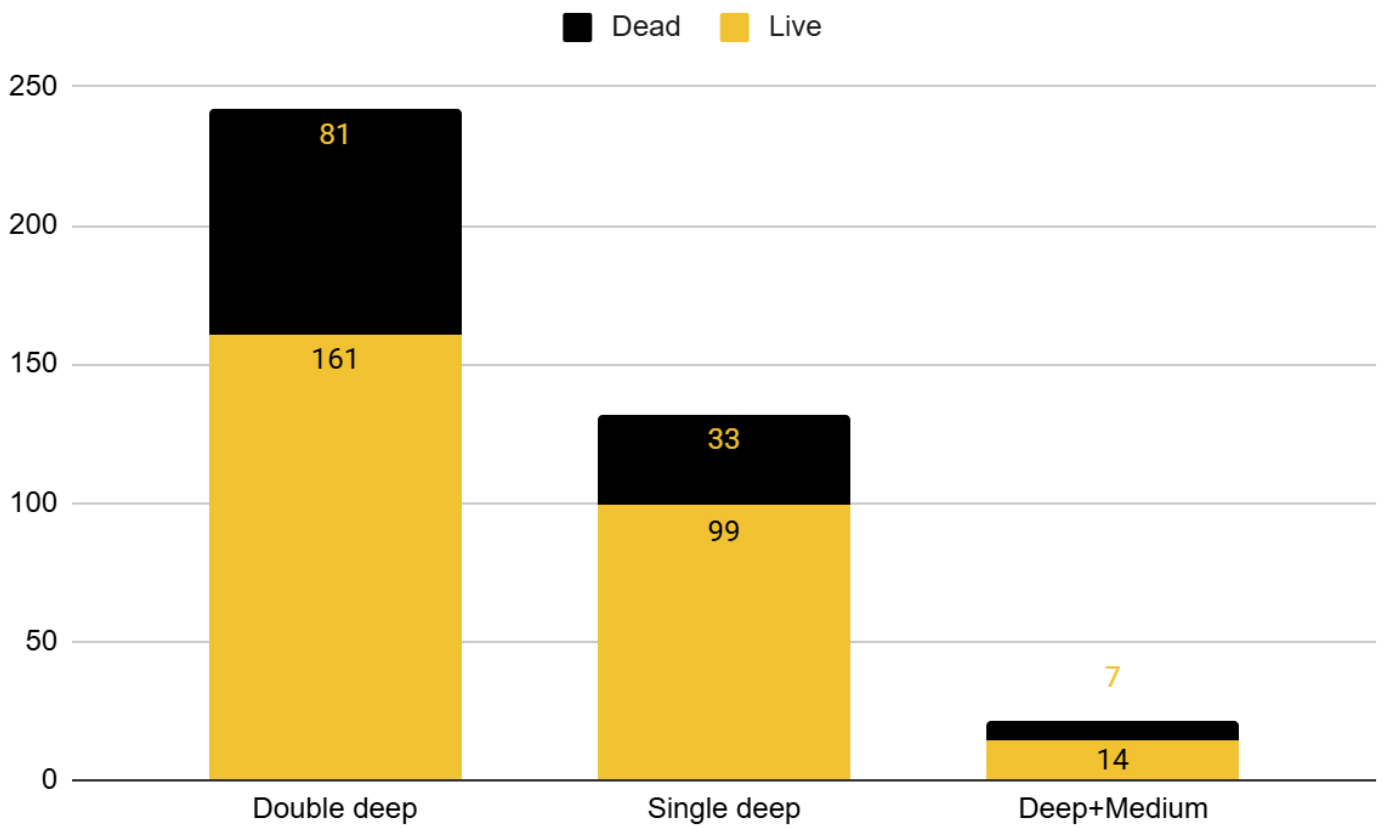
What did you use to *treat* your hives for varroa mites, and *how often* did you treat? *

	Never	Once or twice	Monthly	Weekly
No treatment				
Oxalic acid				
Formic acid				
Apivar				
Apistan				
Thymol				
Brood break				

	Beekeepers	Total hives treated
Oxalic acid	24	389
Formic acid	23	354
Apivar	22	330
Apistan	2	3
Thymol	4	75
Brood break	9	301

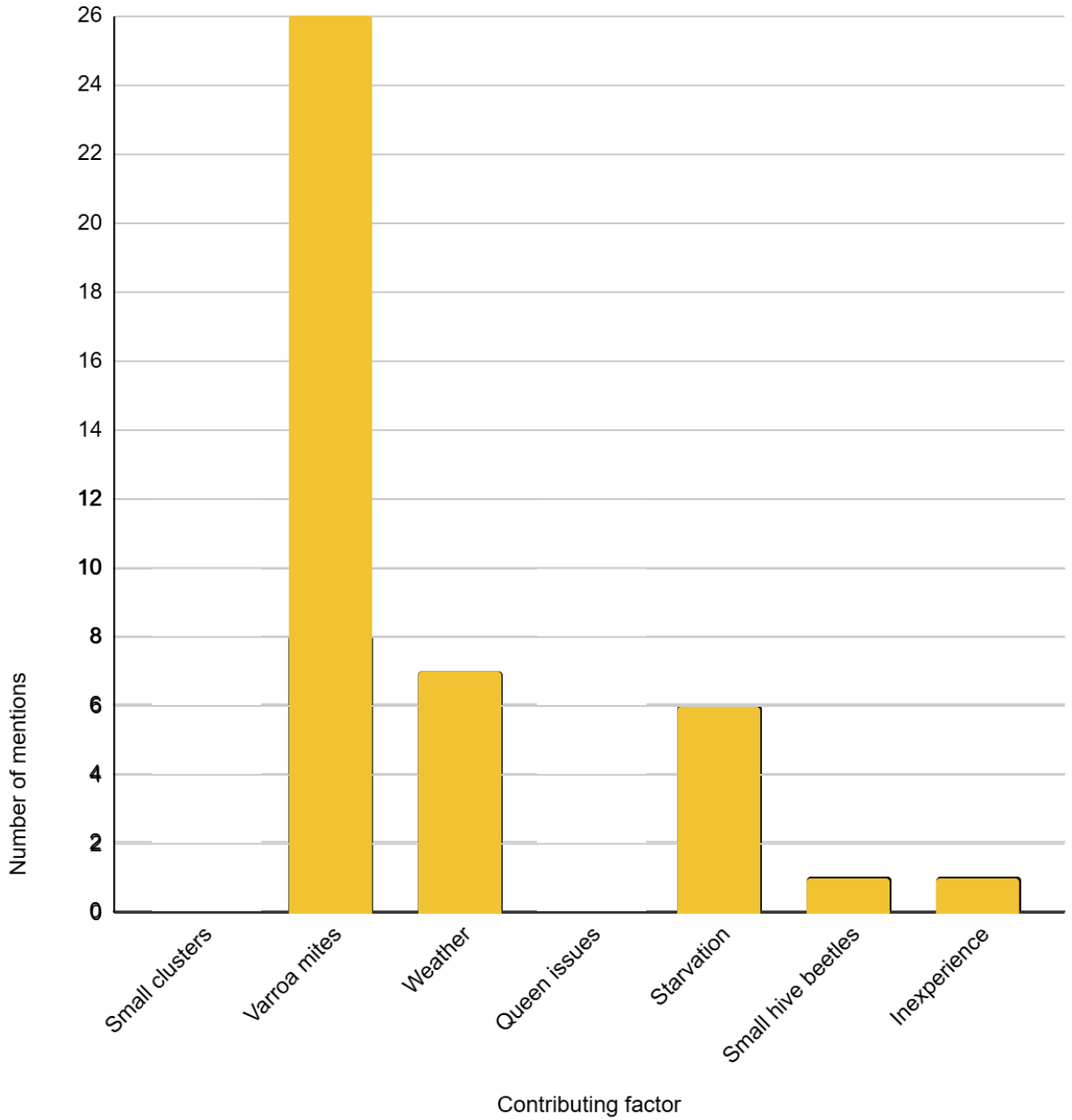
Colony size

	Beekeepers	Total hives
Double deep	12	242
Single deep	11	132
Deep+Medium	8	21



Loss factors

Winter effect	Beekeepers
Very Negative	2
Negative	9
None	17
Positive	3
Very Positive	0



Overwinter survival factors

Strong positive association with survival

- Frequent monitoring with alcohol washes or sugar shakes
- Combined treatments of oxalic acid, formic acid, and Apivar
- Supplemental feeding (context-dependent)

Strong negative association with survival

- Winter weather*
- Visual or drone brood monitoring only
- No-treatment strategies

No or weak association with survival

- Hive size and configuration
- Operation scale

Additional conclusions

- Overall survival is up 5%
- Varroa monitoring and treatment are up
- Supplemental feeding is up
- Consistent conclusions year-to-year