UTAH STATE AND COUNTY COOPERATIVE

Apiary Program

ESTABLISHED 1892

2015 Summary of Accomplishments

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) coordinates a statewide honey registration and inspection program in cooperation with the state's County Bee Inspectors. The goal of this program is to protect managed honey bees from abiotic and biotic threats through inspection, education and the promotion of best management practices. Below is a summary of the accomplishments for 2015:

American foulbrood

- Three apiaries with American foulbrood (AFB) were discovered in three counties.
- Inspectors worked with beekeepers to properly treat or destroy all colonies infected with AFB.
- Registered beekeepers within a two mile area of AFB outbreaks were alerted and offered inspections.

State Inspections

UDAF conducted two statewide surveys of honey bee health in 2015. These inspection efforts targeted tree fruit, berry and melon growing areas of the state

- 175 beeyards were inspected in total.
- At least three frames of brood were inspected in each hive and mite loads were measured using the powdered sugar method.
- Many diseases were field diagnosed and lab verified: *Three cases of AFB, 7 cases of European foulbrood, 25 cases of Nosema spp., 22 cases of Parasitic Mite Syndrome and 10 cases of chalkbrood.*

USDA Health Survey

24 Utah beekeepers participated in the national USDA Bee Informed Pest and Disease Survey. Samples of bees are larvae were collected by state inspectors and sent to the Beltsville Bee Lab in Maryland. Numerous honey bee viruses and other maladies were lab diagnosed. **No new exotic honey bee pests were detected by the survey.**

Inspections detected three apiaries with American foulbrood in three counties in 2015

Photo by Jack Wilkins, UDAF

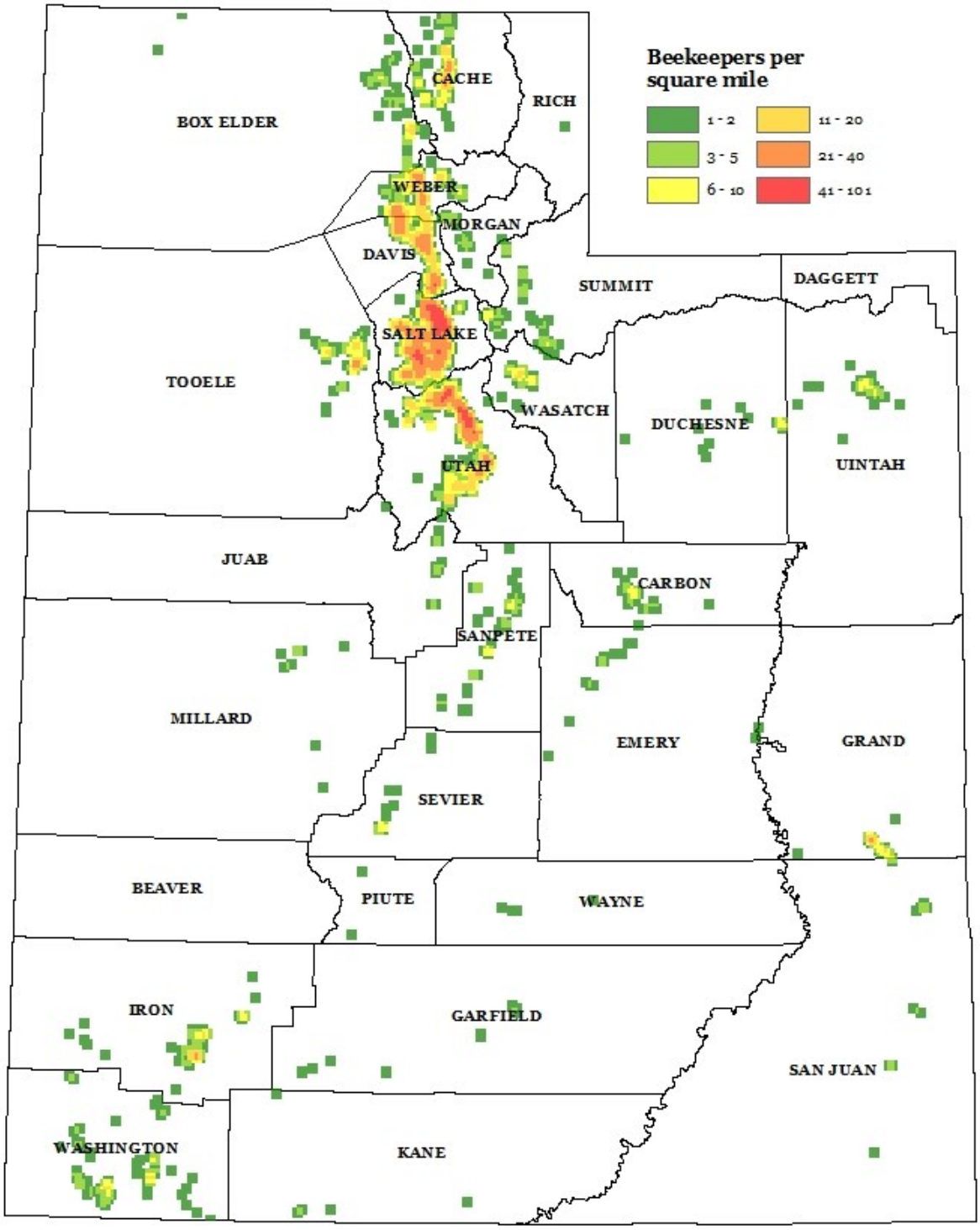
Pollinator Protection

As part of the national strategy to promote the health of honey bees, UDAF developed the state's first Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3). The plan includes:

- Best Management Practices (BMP) for pesticide applicators, beekeepers and landowners.
- Improved training of pesticide applicators.
- Partnerships with National Resources Conservation Service and Extension to promote pollinator habitat.

Outreach & Education

- Published 2nd overwintering loss report based on survey of Utah's beekeepers.
- Conducted three advanced trainings on honey bee disease and pest diagnostics across the state.
- Fielded hundreds of phone calls and emails related to beekeeping problems.

For more information about Utah's Apiary Program visit:
http://ag.utah.gov/plants-pests/beekeeping.html
To request an inspection call: (801) 538-4912

Utah's Registered Beekeepers