

The state of beekeeping in Kwidzyn County with respect to the entire country

Summary

An analysis of beekeeping in Kwidzyn County was performed on the basis of questionnaires. The 51 surveys obtained show that the majority of apiaries in Kwidzyn County have from 21 to 50 bee colonies and are mainly backyard apiaries. Beekeeping in Kwidzyn County is focused mainly on honey production (100% of beekeepers). The apiary is the main source of income for 5% of respondents. A substantial majority (67.8%) are more than 50 years of age and have been involved in beekeeping for many years. Respondents with a family tradition of beekeeping accounted for 68%. The tradition of apiaries is dying out, as only 6.8% of the beekeepers surveyed are under 35 years of age. In Kwidzyn County 83% of beekeepers conduct private sale of honey. Moreover, beekeepers are reluctant to expand their apiaries; this was expressed by over 76% of respondents. Lack of prospects for the development of apiaries can have many causes, including the age of the beekeeper, the lack of someone to take over, low profitability despite a great deal of work, and a small number of bee colonies.

KEY WORDS: bee colonies, Kwidzyn Country, honey production