Apiary program

2014 SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) coordinates a statewide Apiary 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 2014:

Honey Bee Health

- 8 cases of American foulbrood (AFB) were discovered in 4 counties.
- All hives diagnosed with AFB were properly treated or destroyed.
- Registered beekeepers within a 4 mile area of AFB outbreaks were alerted by phone, mail and email.
- UDAF verified health certificates for all bees imported into the state by major suppliers—ensuring that diseased bees were not transported into Utah.

Honey Bee Health Survey

UDAF began a 2-year health survey of honey bees to determine the baseline levels of diseases and pests in areas of the state that grow specialty crops

- Approximately 200 beeyards were inspected for the survey.
- At least 3 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. *2 cases of AFB, 4 cases of European foulbrood, 18 cases of Nosema spp., 19 cases of Parasitic Mite Syndrome and 3 cases of chalkbrood*

USDA Pest & Disease Survey

UDAF gathered samples for the 2014/2015 APHIS Honey Bee Pest and Disease Survey

- The primary objective of this survey is to confirm the absence of exotic honey bee pests in the U.S.
- The secondary objective is to evaluate the heath of honey bees nationwide.
- Sampled bees undergo genetic and disease testing and participating beekeepers receive a full report.

*For details about this survey visit: http://beeinformed.org/aphis/

The combined efforts of UDAF Apiary Specialists and the County Bee Inspectors resulted in 8 cases of AFB detected and contained

Photo by Clint Burfitt, UDAF

Outreach & Education

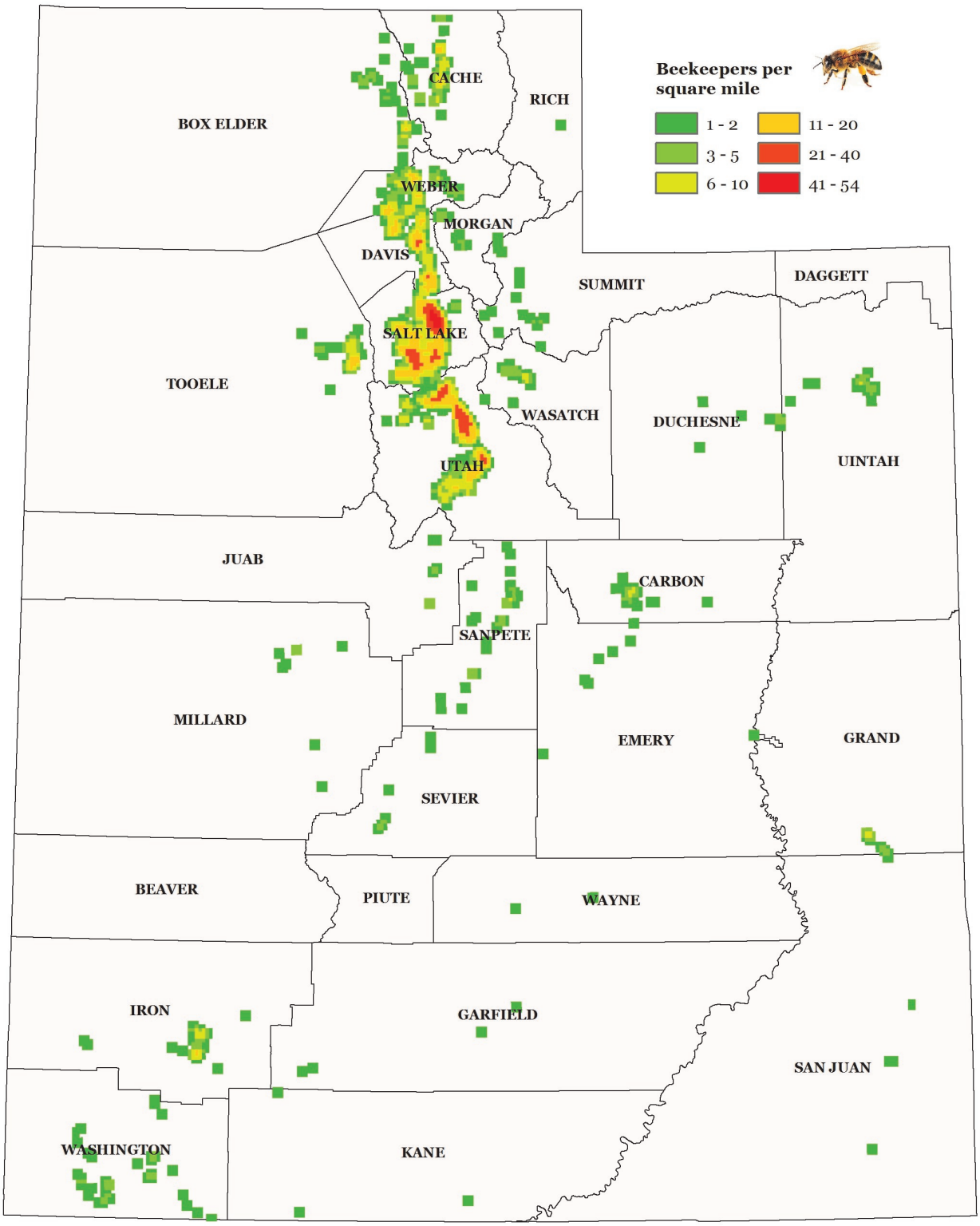
- Conducted a full-day training for the state's County Bee Inspectors.
- Provided on-site registration services at all major bee distribution events.
- Published the 1st statewide overwintering loss report based on a survey of Utah beekeepers.
- Presented information about honey bee health, best management practices and Apiary Program efforts at multiple beekeeping club meetings.
- Furnished literature and resources to pesticide applicators on how to protect honey bees from pesticide exposure.
- Participated in Salt Lake County's "Farm to School" events, which promotes agriculture in the classroom.
- Fielded hundreds of phone calls and emails related to beekeeping problems.

2015 Apiary Program

In 2015, the program will continue to conduct inspections, register new beekeepers, raise awareness about disease and pest issues and emphasize best management practices. UDAF will also begin a two-year study on the health of honeybees in proximity to berry growers in Utah. For more information about this program, please visit: **http://ag.utah.gov/plants-pests/beekeeping.html**

UDAF Apiary Program
Clint Burfitt
Phone: (801) 538-7184
Email: cburfitt@utah.gov

UDAF Plant Industry
350 North Redwood Road
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
http://ag.utah.gov/plants-pests.html

UDAF Pesticide Program
Scott Oldham
Phone: (801) 538-7183
Email: soldham@utah.gov

UTAH'S REGISTERED BEEKEEPERS