

INDUSTRY SUMMARY · 2026

Beekeeping in Newfoundland and Labrador

AT A GLANCE

~130
beekeepers (2021)

990
colonies operated (2025)

12%
hive losses, winter 2025-26 (Canada 34%)

Varroa-free
the island of Newfoundland

Free of the worst bee pests

Honey bees on the island of Newfoundland are free of four pests found elsewhere in Canada.

- **Varroa mite** — *Varroa destructor*
- **Small hive beetle** — *Aethina tumida*
- **Tracheal mite** — *Acarapis woodi*
- **Greater wax moth** — *Galleria mellonella*

With no varroa, island beekeepers have no need for miticides.

Strict controls on imported bees

Bringing honey bees into the province without a permit is prohibited under the *Animal Health and Protection Act*. Permits are granted only in rare or exceptional circumstances, and Western Australia is the only region that can meet the requirements.

Approved imports go through a 12-month quarantine with inspections. Bees brought in without a permit can be sent back at the owner's expense or destroyed without compensation.

Registering colonies with the provincial apiarist is voluntary but strongly encouraged; it is not yet mandatory.

A small industry

About 130 beekeepers keep bees in the province. Nineteen operations with 20 or more colonies were surveyed for winter losses in 2026. All surveyed colonies are wintered outdoors.

Statistics Canada's honey tables do not include Newfoundland and Labrador, so no official honey production figure exists.

Hive losses



Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest winter loss in Canada in 2024-25. Starvation and weak colonies in the fall were the top reported causes.


Bees bearding on a hive


A marked queen among her workers



Local honey from varroa-free bees

NL BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

The province's beekeeping association supports education and outreach for island beekeepers. nlbeekeeping.com

Sources: Government of NL, Apiculture in Newfoundland and Labrador (pest status, import rules) · Government of NL news release, June 10, 2021 (beekeeper count) · Government of NL, Statement on the Importation of Honeybees, June 18, 2020 (quarantine) · CAPA final report 2025 and preliminary report 2026 (colonies, hive losses, wintering). Registration status: Troy Coombs, Newfoundland beekeeper, email of October 20, 2026. Photos: Troy Coombs.

Prepared by the Canadian Beekeepers Federation · canadianbeekeepers.ca