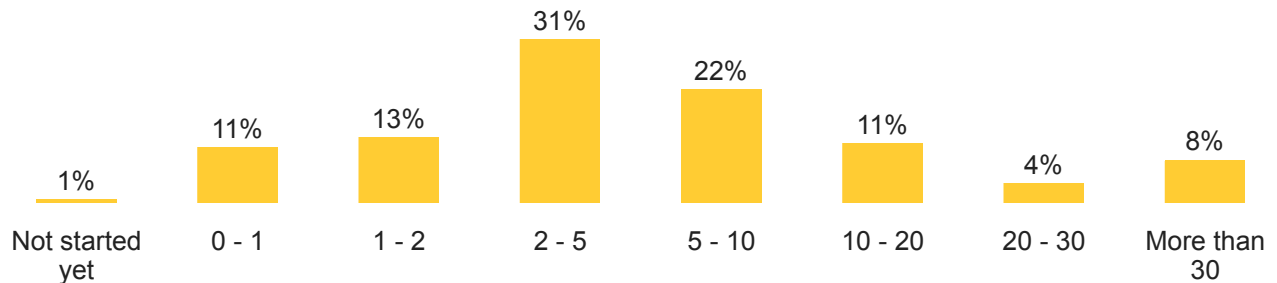


Results of the 2020 Survey of Minnesota Beekeepers

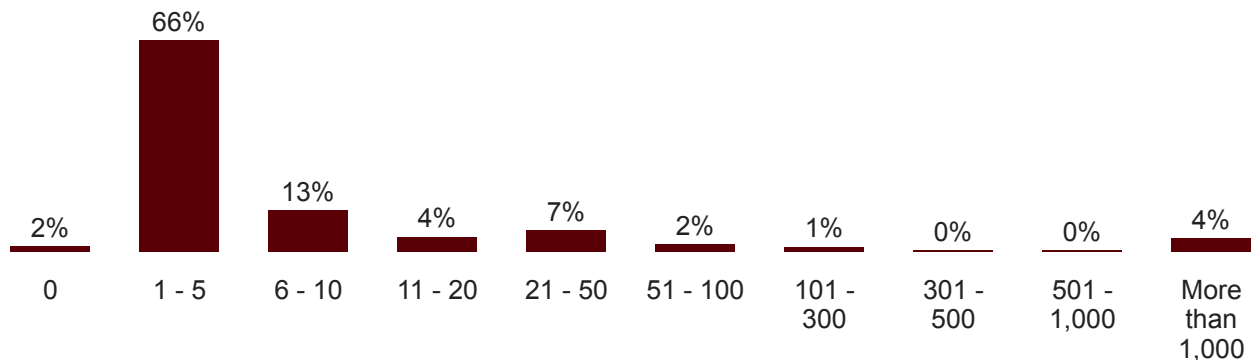
This survey was conducted by University of Minnesota Extension to identify the interests of Minnesota beekeepers to better direct future Extension programming. 272 beekeepers responded from June 24, 2020 to October 1, 2020. The survey was distributed via UMN Bee Lab & Bee Squad Facebook pages and by Minnesota beekeeping clubs. The results for each question are summarized below. Thank you to all the beekeepers that took the time to take the survey.

SURVEY RESULTS:

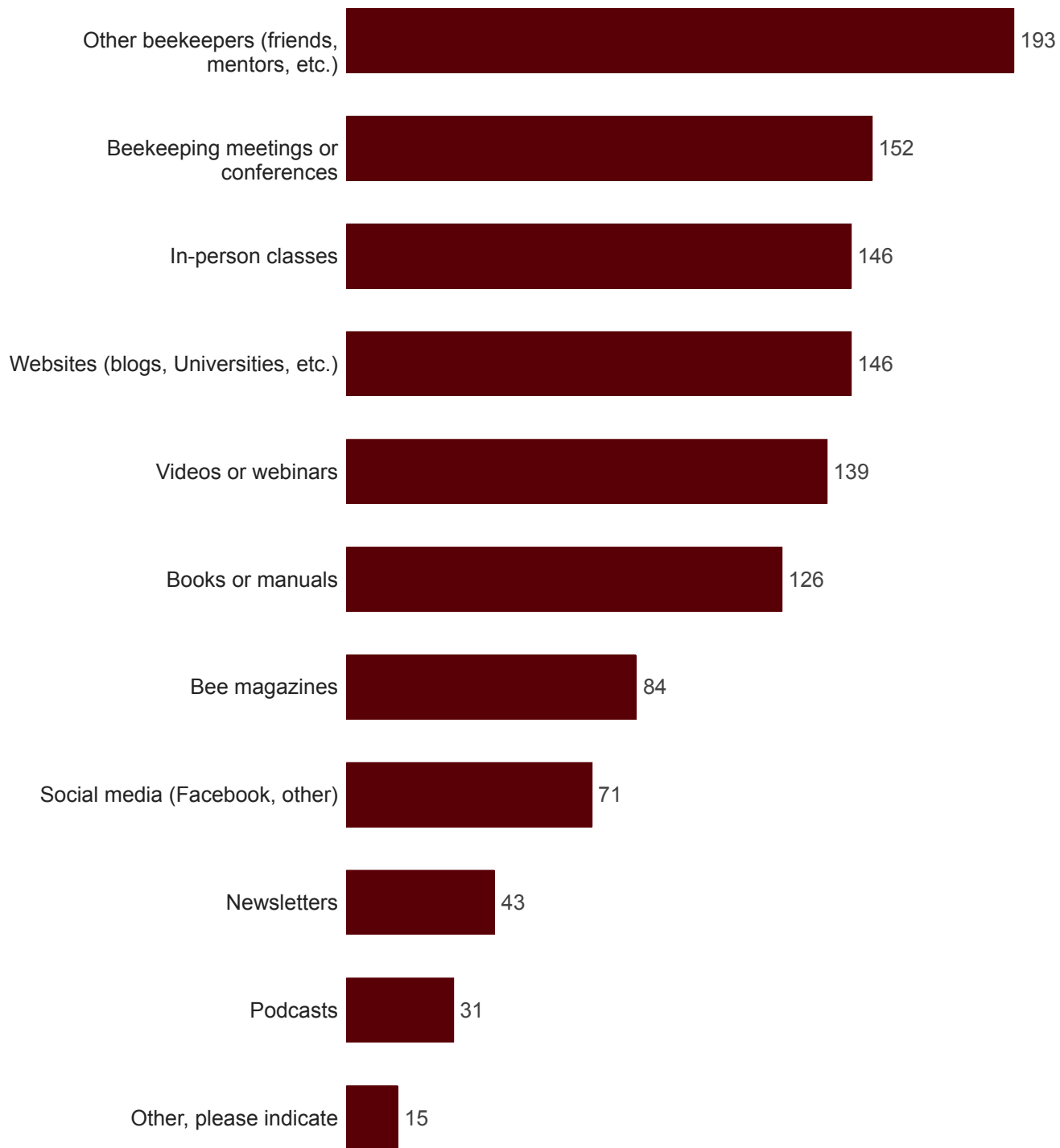
Number of years respondents kept honey bee colonies.



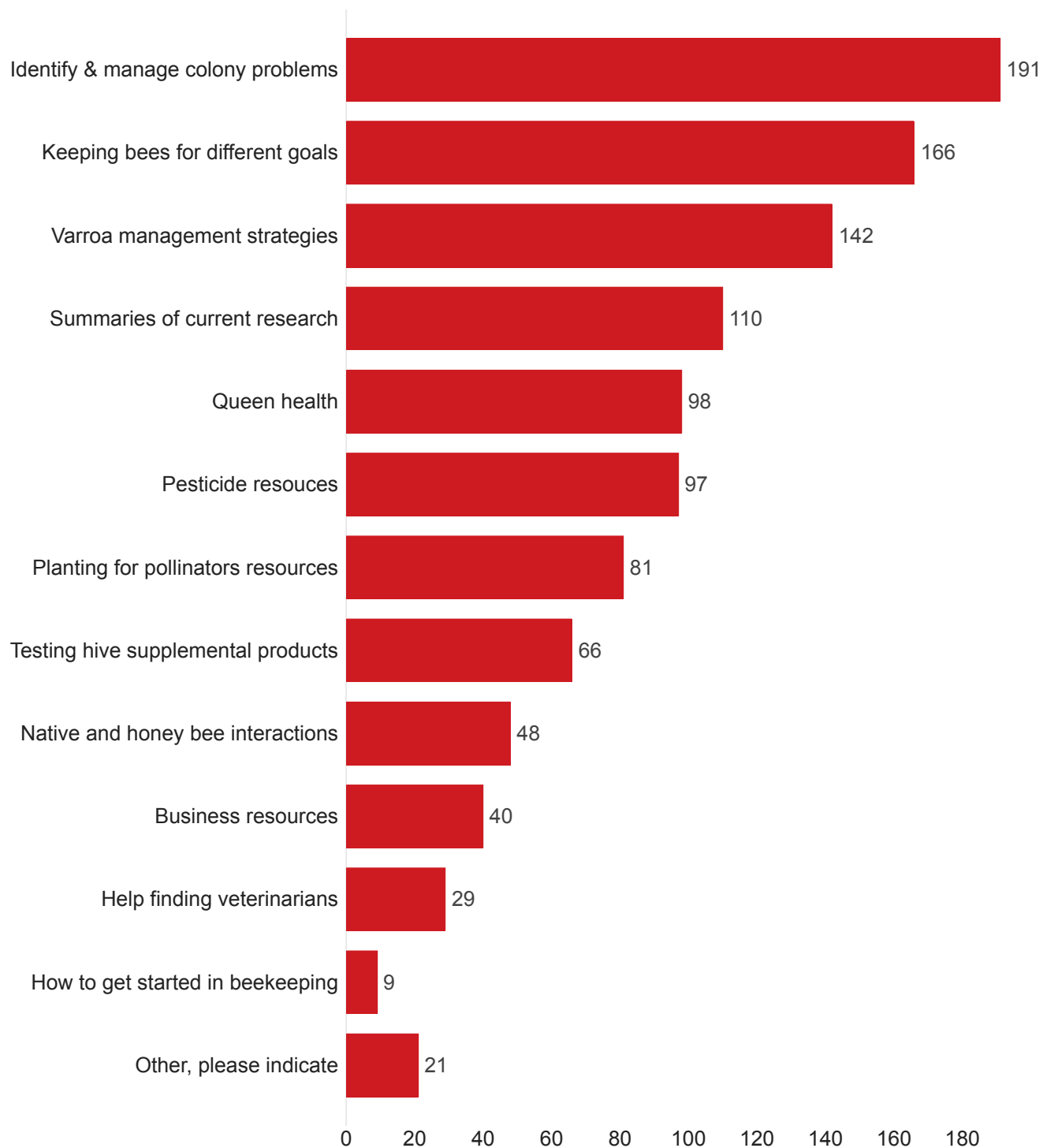
Number of colonies kept by the respondents.



Preferred method of learning (could select multiple methods). The primary written response for the "Other" category was "Youtube." Additional written responses included: hands-on, face-to-face, Zoom meetings, watching the bees, peer reviewed scientific articles, and questioning the local bee/equipment supplier.



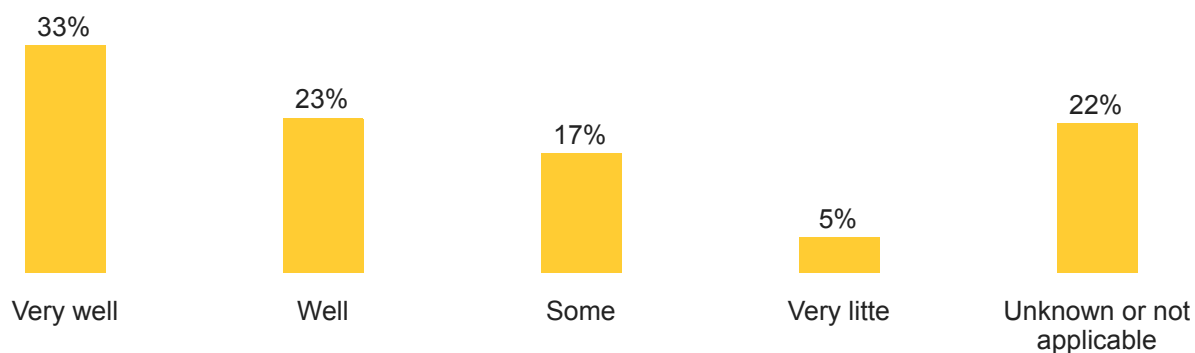
Beekeeping or biology topics respondents would like more information about (could select multiple topics). The primary written responses for the "Other" category were requests for more information on successful overwintering. Additional written responses included: a timeline of management and biology for the first year, how to find a mentor, experimental ways to keep bees, different hive styles, land management, medicinal honey, queen production, queen production with swarm cells, and how to support research.



Rank of the factor(s) that have the biggest impact on the health of the respondents' colonies from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important). Respondents could rank any number of the factors and a factor could be chosen only once. Varroa mites were ranked first the most frequently, followed by queens. The primary written responses for the "Other" category were "winter" and "weather." Additional written responses included: error, inexperience, cold snaps, robbing, small hive beetle, non-stop pesticide sprays, starvation, personal stress, territorial beekeepers, and viruses.

Field	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Queens	73	47	36	13	8	3	2	0	0	0
Varroa mites	116	64	17	10	2	4	0	1	0	0
Lack of nectar sources	14	19	25	14	5	10	5	5	0	0
Lack of pollen sources	1	18	14	11	17	7	8	5	1	0
Pesticides	14	35	40	20	16	8	4	3	0	0
Brood disease	4	16	22	21	11	9	10	1	0	0
Nosema	1	5	8	11	10	9	15	7	1	0
Predator (e.g. bear, yellow jackets)	9	9	8	11	7	6	5	20	5	1
Don't know	14	9	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Other, please indicate	16	11	4	3	0	1	0	0	1	0

University of Minnesota support. How well the respondents reported that the University of Minnesota supports beekeepers in their county. No trends were found for different counties or regions.



Additional comments. At the end of the survey, there was an option to write in any additional comments. Here are some of the most common requests: help with assessments and management through a place to ask questions, hive inspection services, and tips & tricks of successful beekeepers; facilitate a broader reach by sharing materials and continuing the use of Zoom; and more information on how to successfully overwinter colonies.

Contact Katie Lee at katielee@umn.edu with any questions about the survey.

Thank you!