

## **The state of beekeeping in Piła County with respect to the entire country**

### **Summary**

An analysis of beekeeping in Piła County was performed on the basis of questionnaires. The 69 surveys obtained show that the majority of apiaries in Piła County have from 21 to 50 bee colonies and are mainly backyard apiaries. Beekeeping in Piła County is focused mainly on honey production (61% of beekeepers). The apiary is the main source of income for 10% of respondents. A substantial majority (74%) 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 61%. Unfortunately, the tradition of apiaries is dying out, as only 11% of the beekeepers surveyed are under 35 years of age. More than 90% of beekeepers in Piła County conduct private sales of honey. An additional cause for pessimism is the reluctance of beekeepers to expand their apiaries, expressed by nearly 60% 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 colony, Piła County, honey production**