

honey production



Commercial
September 1, 1974

Release:
September 25, 1974
3:00 P.M. ET

Apiaries with 300 or more colonies

- number of colonies
- average yield per colony
- honey production

Commercial apiaries with 300 or more colonies in the 20 major honey producing States expect to produce nearly 100 million pounds of honey in 1974. This is 24 percent less than the commercial honey production in 1973 and 17 percent below 1972.

Commercial apiaries had 1,671,000 colonies of bees in 1974 compared with 1,640,000 a year ago and 1,630,000 in 1972. Yield per colony is expected to average 59.7 pounds, down 25 percent from 1973 and 19 percent below 1972.

Commercial production in California is expected to be 17,860 million pounds, down 29 percent from last year. Fewer colonies and a lower average yield both contribute to the decline.

In four of the twenty States -- Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska and Texas -- commercial production is expected to be above last year. Increases range from 2 percent in Idaho to 41 percent in Colorado.

Summer drouth-conditions have been the major factor causing decreased yields in most midwest States.

This preliminary report contains estimates of expected 1974 honey production in 20 major States from commercial apiaries with 300 or more colonies. Commercial apiaries produced about 55 percent of all honey in 1973.

Commercial Production-Apiaries with 300 or more colonies: Colonies of bees and commercial honey production in 20 major producing States, 1972-1974

State	Colonies of bees				Yield per colony			Honey production			
	1972	1973	1974	1974 as % of 1973	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974	1974 as % of 1973
	1,000 colonies			Percent	Pounds			1,000 pounds			Percent
ARIZ	43	47	41	87	52	77	54	2,236	3,619	2,214	61
CALIF	418	385	380	99	50	65	47	20,900	25,025	17,860	71
COLO	32	31	32	103	71	54	74	2,272	1,674	2,368	141
FLA	130	136	131	96	97	106	65	12,610	14,416	8,515	59
GA	69	70	70	100	38	49	25	2,622	3,430	1,750	51
IDAHO	86	91	93	102	47	60	60	4,042	5,460	5,580	102
ILL	11	10	10	100	63	70	70	693	700	700	100
IOWA	42	36	34	94	80	112	92	3,360	4,032	3,128	78
MICH	61	54	56	104	55	85	50	3,355	4,590	2,800	61
MINN	91	98	105	107	98	117	75	8,918	11,466	7,875	69
MONT	72	75	76	101	110	102	85	7,920	7,650	6,460	84
NEBR	104	110	123	112	80	75	75	8,320	8,250	9,225	112
N Y	53	54	54	100	59	61	60	3,127	3,294	3,240	98
N C	6	6	7	117	60	70	52	360	420	364	87
N DAK	59	68	74	109	142	100	75	8,378	6,800	5,550	82
OREG	25	25	21	84	41	55	51	1,025	1,375	1,071	78
S DAK	115	125	137	110	124	110	60	14,260	13,750	8,220	60
TEX	81	93	100	108	96	61	65	7,776	5,673	6,500	115
WASH	77	76	75	99	43	47	39	3,311	3,572	2,925	82
WIS	55	50	52	104	72	120	65	3,960	6,000	3,380	56
20 STATES	1,630	1,640	1,671	102	73.3	80.0	59.7	119,445	131,196	99,725	76