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United States Honey Production Down 16 Percent

Honey production in 2011 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2010. There were 2.49 million colonies producing honey in 2011, down 7 percent from 2010. Yield per colony averaged 59.6 pounds, down 9 percent from the 65.6 pounds in 2010. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 36.8 million pounds on December 15, 2011, down 18 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Record High Honey Prices

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2011 to 172.9 cents per pound, up 7 percent from 161.9 cents per pound in 2010. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2010 crop reflect honey sold in 2010 and 2011. Some 2010 crop honey was sold in 2011, which caused some revisions to the 2010 crop prices.

Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2010 and 2011

| Color class | Price | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Co-op and private | | Retail | | All | |
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 |
| | (cents per pound) |
| Water white, extra white, white | 157.5 | 165.9 | 297.1 | 281.0 | 159.8 | 169.1 |
| Extra light amber | 151.1 | 161.3 | 266.3 | 307.6 | 157.6 | 168.3 |
| Light amber, amber, dark amber | 148.9 | 163.9 | 330.5 | 340.7 | 167.0 | 178.8 |
| All other honey, area specialties | 172.1 | 180.5 | 471.4 | 511.9 | 208.1 | 217.1 |
| All honey | 154.1 | 164.3 | 311.6 | 328.4 | 161.9 | 172.9 |

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2010

[Producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State]

| State | Honey producing colonies ¹ | Yield per colony | Production | Stocks December 15 ² | Average price per pound ³ | Value of production ⁴ |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | (1,000) | (pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (cents) | (1,000 dollars) |
| Alabama | 9 | 54 | 486 | 73 | 240 | 1,166 |
| Arizona | 24 | 77 | 1,848 | 665 | 152 | 2,809 |
| Arkansas | 25 | 60 | 1,500 | 360 | 147 | 2,205 |
| California | 410 | 67 | 27,470 | 6,318 | 155 | 42,579 |
| Colorado | 34 | 56 | 1,904 | 533 | 152 | 2,894 |
| Florida | 200 | 69 | 13,800 | 1,794 | 156 | 21,528 |
| Georgia | 55 | 46 | 2,530 | 152 | 167 | 4,225 |
| Hawaii | 10 | 77 | 770 | 239 | 275 | 2,118 |
| Idaho | 97 | 27 | 2,619 | 1,179 | 161 | 4,217 |
| Illinois | 9 | 41 | 369 | 92 | 278 | 1,026 |
| Indiana | 10 | 43 | 430 | 151 | 223 | 959 |
| Iowa | 27 | 49 | 1,323 | 463 | 192 | 2,540 |
| Kansas | 9 | 52 | 468 | 103 | 202 | 945 |
| Kentucky | 5 | 67 | 335 | 67 | 272 | 911 |
| Louisiana | 36 | 80 | 2,880 | 288 | 150 | 4,320 |
| Maine | 5 | 41 | 205 | 33 | 205 | 420 |
| Michigan | 71 | 58 | 4,118 | 1,524 | 167 | 6,877 |
| Minnesota | 128 | 66 | 8,448 | 1,774 | 155 | 13,094 |
| Mississippi | 16 | 98 | 1,568 | 78 | 144 | 2,258 |
| Missouri | 11 | 52 | 572 | 92 | 180 | 1,030 |
| Montana | 157 | 74 | 11,618 | 2,905 | 158 | 18,356 |
| Nebraska | 41 | 55 | 2,255 | 902 | 151 | 3,405 |
| New Jersey | 13 | 35 | 455 | 73 | 190 | 865 |
| New Mexico | 7 | 66 | 462 | 157 | 158 | 730 |
| New York | 45 | 64 | 2,880 | 1,123 | 196 | 5,645 |
| North Carolina | 13 | 46 | 598 | 144 | 266 | 1,591 |
| North Dakota | 510 | 91 | 46,410 | 12,995 | 150 | 69,615 |
| Ohio | 18 | 62 | 1,116 | 346 | 228 | 2,544 |
| Oregon | 59 | 39 | 2,301 | 874 | 163 | 3,751 |
| Pennsylvania | 30 | 37 | 1,110 | 377 | 213 | 2,364 |
| South Dakota | 265 | 58 | 15,370 | 4,765 | 151 | 23,209 |
| Tennessee | 8 | 63 | 504 | 106 | 250 | 1,260 |
| Texas | 100 | 72 | 7,200 | 792 | 151 | 10,872 |
| Utah | 26 | 30 | 780 | 195 | 153 | 1,193 |
| Vermont | 4 | 65 | 260 | 73 | 310 | 806 |
| Virginia | 5 | 37 | 185 | 37 | 332 | 614 |
| Washington | 71 | 37 | 2,627 | 1,077 | 157 | 4,124 |
| West Virginia | 5 | 40 | 200 | 40 | 239 | 478 |
| Wisconsin | 64 | 64 | 4,096 | 1,556 | 168 | 6,881 |
| Wyoming | 34 | 36 | 1,224 | 282 | 159 | 1,946 |
| Other States ^{5 6} | 26 | 45 | 1,168 | 221 | 281 | 3,282 |
| United States ^{6 7} | 2,692 | 65.6 | 176,462 | 45,018 | 161.9 | 285,692 |

¹ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁴ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

⁵ Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and South Carolina not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

⁶ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁷ United States value of production will not equal summation of States.

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2011

[Producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State]

| State | Honey producing colonies ¹ | Yield per colony | Production | Stocks December 15 ² | Average price per pound ³ | Value of production ⁴ |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | (1,000) | (pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (cents) | (1,000 dollars) |
| Alabama | 9 | 50 | 450 | 63 | 250 | 1,125 |
| Arizona | 23 | 53 | 1,219 | 427 | 150 | 1,829 |
| Arkansas | 22 | 64 | 1,408 | 239 | 161 | 2,267 |
| California | 370 | 48 | 17,760 | 3,730 | 161 | 28,594 |
| Colorado | 31 | 55 | 1,705 | 443 | 168 | 2,864 |
| Florida | 180 | 61 | 10,980 | 988 | 165 | 18,117 |
| Georgia | 65 | 43 | 2,795 | 196 | 161 | 4,500 |
| Hawaii | 9 | 74 | 666 | 246 | 471 | 3,137 |
| Idaho | 87 | 36 | 3,132 | 1,879 | 178 | 5,575 |
| Illinois | 7 | 50 | 350 | 98 | 398 | 1,393 |
| Indiana | 8 | 51 | 408 | 147 | 206 | 840 |
| Iowa | 25 | 62 | 1,550 | 961 | 195 | 3,023 |
| Kansas | 7 | 44 | 308 | 117 | 215 | 662 |
| Kentucky | 4 | 39 | 156 | 12 | 280 | 437 |
| Louisiana | 36 | 77 | 2,772 | 471 | 167 | 4,629 |
| Maine | 4 | 30 | 120 | 17 | 191 | 229 |
| Michigan | 74 | 64 | 4,736 | 2,084 | 176 | 8,335 |
| Minnesota | 120 | 53 | 6,360 | 2,099 | 159 | 10,112 |
| Mississippi | 18 | 115 | 2,070 | 104 | 153 | 3,167 |
| Missouri | 8 | 43 | 344 | 76 | 209 | 719 |
| Montana | 145 | 92 | 13,340 | 3,202 | 164 | 21,878 |
| Nebraska | 41 | 59 | 2,419 | 653 | 173 | 4,185 |
| New Jersey | 11 | 41 | 451 | 135 | 376 | 1,696 |
| New Mexico | 7 | 56 | 392 | 153 | 166 | 651 |
| New York | 49 | 56 | 2,744 | 1,235 | 193 | 5,296 |
| North Carolina | 14 | 62 | 868 | 95 | 282 | 2,448 |
| North Dakota | 460 | 71 | 32,660 | 7,512 | 166 | 54,216 |
| Ohio | 15 | 66 | 990 | 228 | 226 | 2,237 |
| Oregon | 60 | 34 | 2,040 | 755 | 174 | 3,550 |
| Pennsylvania | 24 | 44 | 1,056 | 306 | 242 | 2,556 |
| South Dakota | 250 | 66 | 16,500 | 4,290 | 165 | 27,225 |
| Tennessee | 7 | 44 | 308 | 68 | 298 | 918 |
| Texas | 78 | 58 | 4,524 | 633 | 177 | 8,007 |
| Utah | 23 | 39 | 897 | 170 | 175 | 1,570 |
| Vermont | 4 | 43 | 172 | 43 | 230 | 396 |
| Virginia | 4 | 40 | 160 | 21 | 400 | 640 |
| Washington | 71 | 38 | 2,698 | 836 | 176 | 4,748 |
| West Virginia | 4 | 53 | 212 | 45 | 242 | 513 |
| Wisconsin | 57 | 63 | 3,591 | 1,508 | 180 | 6,464 |
| Wyoming | 35 | 54 | 1,890 | 265 | 176 | 3,326 |
| Other States ^{5 6} | 25 | 46 | 1,156 | 211 | 286 | 3,306 |
| United States ^{6 7} | 2,491 | 59.6 | 148,357 | 36,761 | 172.9 | 256,509 |

¹ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁴ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

⁵ Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and South Carolina not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

⁶ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁷ United States value of production will not equal summation of States.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for honey producing operations are collected from a stratified sample of all known producers with five or more colonies. Individual NASS Field Offices maintain a list of all known honey producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. All sampled honey producers with five or more colonies are mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail or electronic data reporting (EDR). Those that do not respond by mail or EDR are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person. Prices are collected by color class and marketing channel.

Estimation Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. State offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: The previous year's estimates are subject to revision when current year's estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late reports or corrected data. Price revisions can be the result of additional sales reported the following year. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the 5-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Since all honey producing operations are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for honey producing colonies over the past 10 years is 1.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.49 million colonies by more than 1.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.0 percent.

Reliability of Honey Estimates

[Based on data for the past 10 years]

| Item | Root mean square error | 90 percent confidence level | Difference between first and latest estimate | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | Average | Smallest | Largest | Years | |
| | | | | | | Below latest | Above latest |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (number) | (number) |
| Honey producing colonies | 1.1 | 2.0 | 19 | 1 | 50 | 8 | 2 |
| Honey production | 0.8 | 1.5 | 784 | 64 | 2,928 | 7 | 3 |

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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|--|----------------|
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