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Special Note

Beginning with this publication, a new table has been added with estimates for operations with less than five colonies. Estimates published for these operations are: number of honey producing colonies, yield per colony, and production. This is new data, and does not alter any of the *Honey* report's existing data series. Please contact the Livestock Branch at (202) 720-3570 or email at HQ_SD_LB@nass.usda.gov with any questions or concerns.

United States Honey Production Down 12 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies

United States honey production in 2015 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 157 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2014. There were 2.66 million colonies from which honey was harvested in 2015, down 3 percent from 2014. Yield of honey harvested per colony averaged 58.9 pounds, down 10 percent from the 65.1 pounds in 2014. 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 42.2 million pounds on December 15, 2015, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Operations with Less than Five Colonies Produced 720 Thousand Pounds of Honey in 2015

United States honey production in 2015 from producers with less than five colonies totaled 720 thousand pounds. There were 23 thousand colonies from which honey was harvested in 2015, with an average yield of 31.3 pounds harvested per colony. This yield is 27.6 pounds less than what was pulled per colony on operations with five or more colonies. Comparisons to 2014 are unavailable because no data prior to 2015 was collected for operations with less than five colonies.

Honey Prices Down 4 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies

United States honey prices decreased during 2015 to 209.0 cents per pound, down 4 percent from a record high of 217.3 cents per pound in 2014. 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 2014 crop reflect honey sold in 2014 and 2015. Some 2014 honey was sold in 2015, which caused some revisions to the 2014 honey prices. Price data was not collected for operations with less than five colonies.

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2014

[Producers with 5 or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. 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	7	53	371	26	353	1,310
Arizona	26	39	1,014	193	192	1,947
Arkansas	21	65	1,365	137	204	2,785
California	320	39	12,480	2,995	206	25,709
Colorado	27	37	999	200	211	2,108
Florida	245	60	14,700	1,029	208	30,576
Georgia	73	62	4,526	362	219	9,912
Hawaii	15	93	1,395	140	229	3,195
Idaho	100	34	3,400	850	203	6,902
Illinois	8	49	392	94	411	1,611
Indiana	5	62	310	115	319	989
Iowa	35	43	1,505	933	241	3,627
Kansas	7	75	525	84	238	1,250
Kentucky	5	47	235	56	396	931
Louisiana	48	84	4,032	524	218	8,790
Maine	8	47	376	41	499	1,876
Michigan	91	63	5,733	1,835	249	14,275
Minnesota	132	60	7,920	1,426	206	16,315
Mississippi	20	112	2,240	45	201	4,502
Missouri	12	47	564	96	363	2,047
Montana	162	88	14,256	5,132	209	29,795
Nebraska	50	75	3,750	1,688	204	7,650
New Jersey	12	30	360	119	313	1,127
New York	60	55	3,300	1,518	283	9,339
North Carolina	12	43	516	88	349	1,801
North Dakota	490	86	42,140	9,271	199	83,859
Ohio	15	61	915	256	358	3,276
Oregon	71	40	2,840	767	220	6,248
Pennsylvania	17	46	782	203	291	2,276
South Carolina	9	54	486	19	397	1,929
South Dakota	280	87	24,360	5,846	208	50,669
Tennessee	7	63	441	88	376	1,658
Texas	116	78	9,048	2,081	224	20,268
Utah	29	28	812	130	213	1,730
Vermont	3	58	174	61	489	851
Virginia	6	41	246	57	468	1,151
Washington	68	44	2,992	1,167	261	7,809
West Virginia	6	31	186	33	407	757
Wisconsin	53	54	2,862	1,030	238	6,812
Wyoming	38	61	2,318	255	208	4,821
Other States ^{5 6}	31	45	1,404	202	367	5,153
United States ^{6 7}	2,740	65.1	178,270	41,192	217.3	387,381

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, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island 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: 2015

[Producers with 5 or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. 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	7	47	329	13	383	1,260
Arizona	26	49	1,274	306	217	2,765
Arkansas	24	72	1,728	121	202	3,491
California	275	30	8,250	1,485	204	16,830
Colorado	29	51	1,479	399	218	3,224
Florida	220	54	11,880	832	197	23,404
Georgia	69	40	2,760	221	242	6,679
Hawaii	14	102	1,428	71	195	2,785
Idaho	89	32	2,848	1,082	192	5,468
Illinois	8	51	408	155	432	1,763
Indiana	6	53	318	165	338	1,075
Iowa	36	50	1,800	990	233	4,194
Kansas	8	36	288	107	352	1,014
Kentucky	5	46	230	55	386	888
Louisiana	44	99	4,356	348	193	8,407
Maine	10	47	470	47	551	2,590
Michigan	90	58	5,220	1,984	243	12,685
Minnesota	122	68	8,296	2,157	183	15,182
Mississippi	15	83	1,245	87	264	3,287
Missouri	10	52	520	52	350	1,820
Montana	146	83	12,118	3,757	194	23,509
Nebraska	57	48	2,736	1,450	202	5,527
New Jersey	12	27	324	207	420	1,361
New York	58	62	3,596	899	294	10,572
North Carolina	12	45	540	103	452	2,441
North Dakota	490	74	36,260	9,428	180	65,268
Ohio	17	50	850	357	408	3,468
Oregon	71	38	2,698	809	252	6,799
Pennsylvania	17	53	901	225	363	3,271
South Carolina	14	67	938	38	409	3,836
South Dakota	290	66	19,140	9,379	179	34,261
Tennessee	7	59	413	78	407	1,681
Texas	126	66	8,316	1,164	209	17,380
Utah	27	42	1,134	147	193	2,189
Vermont	5	52	260	62	423	1,100
Virginia	6	38	228	50	567	1,293
Washington	73	44	3,212	1,221	164	5,268
West Virginia	5	35	175	32	444	777
Wisconsin	52	67	3,484	1,603	241	8,396
Wyoming	38	77	2,926	146	190	5,559
Other States ^{5 6}	30	39	1,168	371	503	5,875
United States ^{6 7}	2,660	58.9	156,544	42,203	209.0	327,177

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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, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island 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, and Production – United States: 2015

[Producers with less than 5 colonies that also qualify as a farm]

State	Honey producing colonies ¹	Yield per colony	Production
	(1,000)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
United States ²	23	31.3	720

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

Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2014 and 2015

[Producers with 5 or more colonies that also qualify as a farm]

Color class	Price					
	Co-op and private		Retail		All	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(cents per pound)					
Water white, extra white, white	204.6	189.0	328.5	354.2	206.2	191.0
Extra light amber	209.6	204.0	392.2	411.8	218.3	215.4
Light amber, amber, dark amber	208.8	198.8	417.1	398.4	234.2	230.5
All other honey, area specialties	255.4	238.3	535.2	647.0	317.2	330.3
All honey	207.1	195.5	405.4	409.6	217.3	209.0

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for honey producing operations are collected from a stratified sample of all known producers that also meet USDA’s definition of a farm. To qualify as a farm, an operation must be any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year. NASS Regional Field Offices maintain a list of all known honey producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. All sampled honey producers 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 from operations with five or more colonies.

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 1.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.66 million colonies by more than 1.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.4 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	1.3	2.4	18	-	85	5	2
Honey production	1.3	2.4	1,086	-	4,796	4	3

- Represents zero.

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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Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Sammy Neal – Catfish Production, Mink, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Joshua O’Rear – Honey	(202) 690-3676

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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