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Special Note

NASS is in the process of modifying report layouts in order to improve readability. This is the first issue produced using the new layout. This report issue is published using both layouts but future issues will only be produced using this layout. The previous layout is available on the NASS website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.

United States Honey Production Up 20 Percent

Honey production in 2010 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 176 million pounds, up 20 percent from 2009. There were 2.68 million colonies producing honey in 2010, up 7 percent from 2009. Yield per colony averaged 65.5 pounds, up 12 percent from the 58.6 pounds in 2009. 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 45.3 million pounds on December 15, 2010, up 21 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 2010 to 160.3 cents per pound, up 9 percent from 147.3 cents per pound in 2009. 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 2009 crop reflect honey sold in 2009 and 2010. Some 2009 crop honey was sold in 2010, which caused some revisions to the 2009 crop prices.

Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2009 and 2010

Color class	Price					
	Co-op and private		Retail		All	
	2009 (cents per pound)	2010 (cents per pound)	2009 (cents per pound)	2010 (cents per pound)	2009 (cents per pound)	2010 (cents per pound)
Water white, extra white, white	142.6	156.2	252.6	293.7	144.0	158.3
Extra light amber	144.5	151.4	252.5	251.6	150.4	156.6
Light amber, amber, dark amber	135.1	148.2	291.4	329.2	148.2	164.1
All other honey, area specialties	179.8	171.7	414.3	433.5	247.9	205.0
All honey	141.5	153.1	283.7	305.4	147.3	160.3

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2009

[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	68	186	837
Arizona	20	52	1,040	562	145	1,508
Arkansas	24	57	1,368	301	142	1,943
California	355	33	11,715	2,109	139	16,284
Colorado	28	53	1,484	326	143	2,122
Florida	170	68	11,560	1,618	142	16,415
Georgia	65	41	2,665	346	147	3,918
Hawaii	10	95	950	323	176	1,672
Idaho	103	46	4,738	1,706	152	7,202
Illinois	8	34	272	57	255	694
Indiana	9	32	288	101	202	582
Iowa	26	42	1,092	339	160	1,747
Kansas	9	63	567	164	185	1,049
Kentucky	5	35	175	25	271	474
Louisiana	37	103	3,811	610	136	5,183
Maine	6	50	300	51	195	585
Michigan	66	60	3,960	1,505	155	6,138
Minnesota	122	65	7,930	1,427	144	11,419
Mississippi	14	104	1,456	87	132	1,922
Missouri	11	47	517	57	199	1,029
Montana	146	70	10,220	3,577	146	14,921
Nebraska	48	56	2,688	1,102	146	3,924
New Jersey	11	32	352	70	236	831
New Mexico	7	60	420	143	159	668
New York	45	65	2,925	936	193	5,645
North Carolina	11	45	495	84	257	1,272
North Dakota	450	77	34,650	7,623	138	47,817
Ohio	11	50	550	132	281	1,546
Oregon	55	34	1,870	767	154	2,880
Pennsylvania	21	40	840	319	203	1,705
South Dakota	270	66	17,820	6,237	142	25,304
Tennessee	7	51	357	86	237	846
Texas	89	63	5,607	1,065	139	7,794
Utah	26	38	988	198	146	1,442
Vermont	5	49	245	69	201	492
Virginia	6	39	234	56	345	807
Washington	62	44	2,728	1,064	158	4,310
West Virginia	5	37	185	33	260	481
Wisconsin	63	60	3,780	1,588	158	5,972
Wyoming	37	48	1,776	391	143	2,540
Other States ^{5 6}	26	52	1,348	194	237	3,195
United States ^{6 7}	2,498	58.6	146,416	37,516	147.3	215,671

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 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: 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	222	1,079
Arizona	24	77	1,848	665	143	2,643
Arkansas	25	60	1,500	360	147	2,205
California	410	67	27,470	6,318	156	42,853
Colorado	34	56	1,904	533	150	2,856
Florida	200	69	13,800	1,794	157	21,666
Georgia	55	46	2,530	152	167	4,225
Hawaii	10	77	770	239	227	1,748
Idaho	98	27	2,646	1,191	150	3,969
Illinois	9	41	369	92	305	1,125
Indiana	10	43	430	151	226	972
Iowa	27	49	1,323	463	189	2,500
Kansas	9	52	468	103	229	1,072
Kentucky	5	67	335	67	264	884
Louisiana	21	80	1,680	269	148	2,486
Maine	6	41	246	39	211	519
Michigan	70	58	4,060	1,502	164	6,658
Minnesota	126	66	8,316	1,746	154	12,807
Mississippi	16	98	1,568	78	147	2,305
Missouri	11	52	572	92	180	1,030
Montana	157	74	11,618	2,905	155	18,008
Nebraska	44	55	2,420	1,041	149	3,606
New Jersey	13	35	455	73	175	796
New Mexico	7	66	462	157	158	730
New York	47	64	3,008	1,173	178	5,354
North Carolina	13	46	598	138	273	1,633
North Dakota	510	91	46,410	12,995	151	70,079
Ohio	17	62	1,054	327	223	2,350
Oregon	59	39	2,301	874	162	3,728
Pennsylvania	30	37	1,110	377	205	2,276
South Dakota	265	59	15,635	4,847	154	24,078
Tennessee	8	63	504	106	245	1,235
Texas	100	72	7,200	792	153	11,016
Utah	26	30	780	195	152	1,186
Vermont	4	65	260	73	221	575
Virginia	5	37	185	37	331	612
Washington	71	37	2,627	1,077	152	3,993
West Virginia	5	38	190	38	239	454
Wisconsin	68	64	4,352	1,654	167	7,268
Wyoming	34	36	1,224	282	160	1,958
Other States ^{5 6}	26	46	1,190	219	256	3,046
United States ^{6 7}	2,684	65.5	175,904	45,307	160.3	281,974

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 2.68 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	20	1	50	7	3
Honey production	0.8	1.4	800	64	2,928	6	4

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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- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

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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