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Idaho Honey Production Increased 19 Percent

Idaho honey production in 2006 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 4.18 million pounds, a 19 percent increase from 2005, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Honey producing colonies are estimated at 95,000 colonies, unchanged from last year. Yield per colony averaged 44 pounds, up 7 pounds from the 37 pounds in 2005. Producer honey stocks were 2.59 million pounds on December 15, 2006, an increase of 45 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is 86.0 cents, up 6 cents from a year ago.

Honey production in 2006 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 155 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2005. There were 2.39 million colonies producing honey in 2006, down 1 percent from 2005. Yield per colony averaged 64.7 pounds, down 11 percent from the 72.4 pounds in 2005. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 60.5 million pounds on December 15, 2006, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey 2006 prices increased to 104.2 cents, up 14 percent from 91.8 cents in 2005. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op, and private channels. Honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2006 were up from the previous year for all color class totals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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