



Bees and Honey

Honey production from Louisiana producers with five or more colonies during 2002 totaled 4.34 million pounds, 9 percent below the 2001 level. Producers harvested honey from 35,000 colonies, and per colony production averaged 124 pounds.

Prices from the 2002 honey crop averaged \$1.14 per pound, up \$0.54 from 2001. Prices were based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Louisiana producers had 347,000 pounds of honey in stock on December 15, 2002, compared with 572,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

Number of Colonies, Production, Stocks and Value: Louisiana, 1999-2002

Year	Number of Colonies ---1,000---	Average Yield per Colony ---Pounds---	Production -----1,000 Pounds-----	Stocks Dec 15 th	Average Price per Pound ---Cents---	Value of Production ---\$1,000---
1999	48	114	5,472	821	49.0	2,681
2000	43	94	4,042	1,334	52.0	2,102
2001	45	106	4,770	572	60.0	2,862
2002	35	124	4,340	347	114.0	4,948



Catfish

Louisiana ranks fourth in the nation in foodsize catfish production, water surface acres, and total sales of catfish. Mississippi leads the nation in foodsize catfish production, followed by Arkansas and Alabama.

There were 57 commercial catfish operations in the state on January 1, 2003, down 13 from January 1, 2002. These farms operated 9,900 water acres, down 2,200 acres from the same time in 2002.

Total sales of catfish in Louisiana for the year 2002 were \$15.8 million, down 30 percent from sales in 2001. Roughly 98 percent of this amount (\$15.4 million) was from sales of foodsize catfish. Farmers sold 26.6 million pounds of foodsize catfish in 2002 compared to 40.0 million pounds in 2001. Sales in 2002 averaged 58 cents per pound, down 4 cents from 2001.

Catfish data come from the January 1, 2003, Catfish Grower's Survey. This survey is conducted every January; a similar survey is conducted every July.