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MINNESOTA HONEY PRODUCTION UP 13 PERCENT FROM 2005

Minnesota honey production in 2006 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 10.0 million pounds, up 13 percent from the previous year, according to the USDA-NASS Minnesota Field Office. The number of honey-producing colonies in Minnesota increased to 125,000 from 120,000 the previous year. By contrast, U.S. production declined from 2005 by 11 percent to 155 million pounds while the number of colonies was down 1 percent to 2.39 million.

Yield per colony for Minnesota averaged 80 pounds, up 6 pounds from the previous year. Nationally, yield per colony averaged 64.7 pounds, down 7.7 pounds from 2005.

Minnesota producers received an average of \$0.89 per pound for honey sold in 2006, resulting in an estimated value of production of \$8.90 million. The U.S. value of production in 2006 is estimated at \$161.3 million, with an average price of \$1.04 per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops.

Producers held 3.30 million pounds of honey stocks in Minnesota as of December 15, 2006, up by 107 percent from a year ago. U.S. producers held 60.5 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier.

The U.S. average 2006 honey prices per pound by color class are: Water White, Extra White, and White - \$0.97; Extra Light Amber - \$1.04; Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber - \$1.08; All Other Honey - \$1.76.

**HONEY PRODUCTION
MINNESOTA AND SURROUNDING STATES**

