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## MINNESOTA AND U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

Minnesota honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 8.88 million pounds, down 12 percent from the previous year, according to the USDA-NASS Minnesota Field Office. The number of honey-producing colonies in Minnesota decreased to 120,000 from 135,000 the previous year. The U.S. production declined from 2004 by 5 percent to 175 million pounds while the number of colonies was down 6 percent to 2.41 million.

Yield per colony for Minnesota averaged 74 pounds, down 1 pound from the previous year. Nationally, yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 0.7 pound from 2004.

Minnesota producers received an average of \$0.83 per pound for honey sold in 2005, resulting in an estimated value of production of \$7.37 million. The U.S. value of production in 2005 is estimated at \$157.8 million, with an average price of \$0.90 per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops.

Producers held 1.6 million pounds of honey stocks in Minnesota as of December 15, 2005, down 17 percent from a year ago. U.S. producers held 62.4 million pounds, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

The U.S. average 2005 honey prices per pound by color class are: Water White, Extra White, and White - \$0.86; Extra Light Amber - \$0.88; Light Amber, Amber Dark Amber - \$0.99; All Other Honey - \$1.08.

## HONEY PRODUCTION MINNESOTA AND SURROUNDING AREAS

