



Released: February 29, 2008

MINNESOTA HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 12 PERCENT FROM 2006

Minnesota honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 8.84 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 increased to 130,000 from 125,000 the previous year. U.S. production declined 4 percent to 148 million pounds while the number of colonies increased 2 percent to 2.44 million during the same period.

Yield per colony for Minnesota averaged 68 pounds, down 12 pounds from the previous year. Nationally, yield per colony averaged 60.8 pounds, down 3.9 pounds from 2006.

Minnesota producers received an average of \$0.99 per pound of honey sold in 2007, resulting in an estimated value of production of \$8.75 million. The U.S. value of production in 2007 is estimated at \$153 million, with an average price of \$1.03 per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops.

Producers held 2.56 million pounds of honey stocks in Minnesota as of December 15, 2007, down from 3.3 million pounds in 2006. U.S. producers held 52.5 million pounds, down 13 percent from a year earlier.

The U.S. average 2007 honey prices per pound by color class are: Water White, Extra White, and White - \$0.98; Extra Light Amber - \$1.02; Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber - \$1.09; All Other Honey - \$1.74.

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production and Price
 Minnesota and the United States 2007 ^{1/}**

	Honey Producing Colonies ^{3/}	Yield per Colony	Production	Average Price per Pound
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Cents</i>
MN 2007	130	68.0	8,840	99.0
MN 2006 ^{2/}	125	80.0	10,000	96.0
US 2007	2,442	60.8	148,482	103.2
US 2006 ^{2/}	2,393	64.7	154,907	103.6

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produce honey in more than one state were counted in each state.

2/ Revised.

3/ 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 that did not survive the entire year.

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