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On: TEXAS HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN FROM A YEAR AGO

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AUSTIN . . . Texas beekeepers produced 5.7 million pounds of honey during 2006, down 4 percent from 2005.

According to the annual report released by the Texas Field Office, the total value of Texas honey production was \$5.0 million, down 4 percent from the previous year. Producers received an average of 87 cents per pound for honey, unchanged from 2005.

The total number of bee colonies producing honey in Texas, at 82,000, was down 2 percent from a year ago; production per colony averaged 70 pounds, compared with 71 pounds a year ago.

Nationally, honey production totaled 155 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2005. During 2006 there were 2.39 million colonies producing honey, down 1 percent from 2005. Production per colony averaged 64.7 pounds, compared with 72.4 pounds a year ago.

Total value of United States honey production was \$161.3 million, a 1 percent increase from 2005. The average value was 104.2 cents per pound.

North Dakota was the leading honey producing state in 2006 with 25.9 million pounds. California came in second with 19.8 million pounds followed by Florida with 13.8 million pounds and South Dakota with 10.6 million pounds. Texas ranked eighth in honey production.