

## BEES and HONEY

Honey bees were introduced to North America during the 1600's and became wide spread by the 1800's. Washington fruit crops that depend on honey bee pollination include apples, apricots, blackberries, blueberries, cantaloups, cherries, cranberries, pears, raspberries, strawberries and watermelons. Vegetables produced in the State of Washington that rely on honey bee pollination consist of asparagus, brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, clover, cucumbers, onions, radishes, squash, and turnips.

Honey producing colonies for human consumption increased from 58,000 colonies in 2003 to 56,000 colonies in 2004. Total pollination colonies are not estimated, and colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested for human use. Honey production in Washington State for 2004 totaled 3.53 million pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Honey yields per colony averaged 63 pounds, up 7 pounds from 2003. The price of honey dropped to \$1.03 per pound, compared with last year's price of \$1.46 per pound. December 15, 2004 honey stocks held by producers were 1,376,000 pounds, up 46 percent from the previous year.

### Bees & Honey: Production, Price and Value of Production Washington, 1995-2004 <sup>1 4</sup>

Year	Honey Producing Colonies	Stocks December 15 <sup>2</sup>	Honey			
			Production		Value	
			Yield Per Colony	Total	Price Per Pound <sup>3</sup>	Total
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>1,000 Lbs.</i>	<i>Cents</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
1995	60	637	59	3,540	57	2,018
1996	60	1,079	58	3,480	90	3,132
1997	60	1,498	52	3,120	76	2,371
1998	58	1,361	51	2,958	64	1,893
1999	52	1,170	50	2,600	60	1,560
2000	52	1,151	54	2,808	58	1,629
2001	48	1,048	52	2,496	72	1,797
2002	50	561	51	2,550	127	3,239
2003 <sup>4</sup>	58	942	56	3,248	146	4,742
<b>2004</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>3,528</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>3,634</b>

<sup>1</sup> For producers with five or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state.

<sup>2</sup> Stocks held by producers. Does not include stocks under loan.

<sup>3</sup> Prices weighted by sales.

<sup>4</sup> Revised.