

## Wisconsin's Honey Production Slips to Ninth Place in U.S.

Honey production from producers with 5 or more colonies in Wisconsin totaled 4.64 million pounds in 2008, a decrease of 8 percent from 2007. The number of honey producing colonies in the state dropped from 60,000 colonies in 2007 to 58,000 colonies in 2008. This number does not include those producers with less than 5 colonies or those who did not harvest honey. Yield per colony averaged 80 pounds, a decrease of 4 pounds per colony from the previous year. The state's rank in honey production for 2008 was ninth, one spot lower than last year.

On December 15, 2008, producer honey stocks in Wisconsin were 2.37 million pounds, a decrease of 22 percent from 2007. Wisconsin's 2008 honey crop was valued at \$6.50 million, up 6 percent from last year's \$6.15 million. The average price for a pound of honey in Wisconsin was \$1.40, up 18 cents from the previous year. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op, and private channels.

National honey production in 2008 was 161 million pounds, an increase of 8 percent from 2007. There were 2.30 million honey producing colonies in the U.S., down 6 percent from 2.44 million last year. The average yield jumped 15 percent to 69.9 pounds per colony. On December 15, 2008, honey producers held 50.4 million pounds in stock, down 4 percent from last year.

Honey prices in the U.S. averaged \$1.41 per pound in 2008, which is a record high. This is up 33 cents from the previous year. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

## Honey Production

State	No of Colonies		Production		Average Price		Honey Stocks Dec. 15 1/	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousands		1,000 lbs.		Cents per lb.		1,000 lbs.	
WI	60	58	5,040	4,640	122	140	3,024	2,366
CA	340	360	13,600	18,360	104	141	3,672	4,039
FL	160	150	11,360	11,850	99	130	1,363	1,304
GA	60	55	3,480	3,905	119	149	522	312
MI	72	71	4,608	5,183	119	143	2,350	2,021
MN	130	122	8,840	9,516	104	139	2,564	2,569
MT	135	134	9,180	9,380	99	137	2,479	4,596
ND	420	390	31,080	35,100	96	135	9,013	8,424
SD	255	225	13,260	21,375	102	134	10,608	11,970
TX	105	77	8,610	4,928	96	134	1,550	1,380
US	2,443	2,301	148,341	160,861	107.7	141.0	52,635	50,445

1/Stocks held by producers do not include stocks under loan.

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

## **Wisconsin 2007 Honey Yield and Production Slips**

Honey production from producers with 5 or more colonies in Wisconsin totaled 5.04 million pounds in 2007, a decrease of 15 percent from 2006. The number of honey producing colonies in the state dropped from 64,000 colonies last year to 60,000 colonies this year. This number does not include those producers with less than 5 colonies or those who did not harvest honey. Yield per colony averaged 84 pounds, a decrease of 9 pounds per colony from the previous year. The state's rank in honey production for 2007 was eighth, one spot lower than last

On December 15, 2007, producer honey stocks in Wisconsin were 3.02 million pounds, an increase of 21 percent from 2006. Wisconsin's 2007 honey crop was valued at \$5.80 million, down 15 percent from last year's \$6.79 million. The average price for a pound of honey in Wisconsin was \$1.15, up 1 cent from the previous year. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op, and private channels.

National honey production in 2007 was 148 million pounds, a decrease of 4 percent from 2006. There were 2.44 million honey producing colonies in the U.S., up 2 percent from 2.39 million last year. The average yield fell 6 percent to 60.8 pounds per colony. On December 15, 2007, honey producers held 52.5 million pounds in stock, down 13 percent from last year.

Honey prices in the U.S. averaged \$1.03 per pound in 2007. This is down slightly from a year ago. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.  
st year.