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MINNESOTA HONEY PRODUCTION UP 17%; U.S. UP 5%

Minnesota honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 9.96 million pounds, up 17% from the previous year, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of honey-producing colonies in Minnesota increased to 120,000 from 117,000 the previous year. The U.S. production rose 5% to 181.1 million pounds while the number of colonies was up 1% to 2.59 million.

Yield per colony for Minnesota averaged 83 pounds compared with 73 pounds for the previous year. Nationally, yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up from 66.7 pounds in 2002.

Minnesota producers received an average of \$1.46 per pound for honey sold in 2003, resulting in an estimated value of production of \$14.5 million. The U.S. value of production is estimated at \$255.8 million, with an average price of \$1.40 per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops.

Minnesota held 1.9 million pounds of honey stocks as of December 15, 2003. The U.S. held 40.7 million pounds, up 3% from a year earlier.

The U.S. average 2003 honey prices per pound by color class are: Water White, Extra White, and White - \$1.46; Extra Light Amber - \$1.38; Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber - \$1.34; All Other Honey - \$1.30.

**HONEY PRODUCTION
MINNESOTA AND
SURROUNDING STATES**

MILLION LBS.

