



**NEWS RELEASE**

**Honey Production  
February 27, 2004**

**NORTH DAKOTA HONEY PRODUCTION**

**North Dakota**

Honey production in 2003 from North Dakota producers with five or more colonies totaled 29.58 million pounds, up 23 percent from 2002. This is according to a survey of the State's beekeepers by the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. North Dakota dropped to second place position in total honey production, just behind California, which produced 32.16 million pounds.

There were 340,000 honey producing colonies in North Dakota during 2003, up 20,000 from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 87 pounds, up from 75 pounds in 2002. The highest yield on record was 142 pounds in 1972.

Producer honey stocks were 6.80 million pounds on December 15, 2003, down from 8.16 million pounds a year earlier. Prices for the 2003 crop averaged 136 cents per pound, down 10 cents from 2002. Prices were based on sales to private processors and cooperatives and retail sales by producers.

**United States**

Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to the 2002 crop prices.

**HONEY PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON HAND**

State <sup>1/</sup>	Producing Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks on Hand Dec. 15 <sup>2/</sup>		Average Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-- 1,000 --		-- Pounds --		-- 1,000 Pounds --				-- Cents --		- 1,000 Dollars -	
NORTH DAKOTA	320	340	75	87	24,000	29,580	8,160	6,803	146	136	35,040	40,229
California	470	480	50	67	23,500	32,160	3,525	6,432	132	142	31,020	45,667
Florida	220	210	93	71	20,460	14,910	2,026	1,491	114	135	23,324	20,129
Minnesota	117	120	73	83	8,541	9,960	1,110	1,892	147	146	12,555	14,542
Montana	134	145	63	66	8,442	9,570	1,097	1,914	138	148	11,650	14,164
South Dakota	225	200	51	70	11,475	14,000	2,410	2,520	142	146	16,295	20,440
UNITED STATES	2,574	2,590	66.7	69.9	171,718	181,096	39,393	40,735	132.7	140.4	228,338	255,791

<sup>1/</sup> Published are a few selected states from the National release. <sup>2/</sup> Held by producers.

**For More Information Contact:**