

1998 HONEY PRODUCTION SUMMARY

VIRGINIA

Virginia's honey production (from producers with at least 5 colonies) totaled 296,000 pounds in 1998, down 128,000 pounds from the previous year. The large drop in production was due primarily to dry conditions which persisted across the Commonwealth throughout the growing season last year. The decline in honey production was also due in part to recurring mite and other parasitic infestations, which have reduced the state's overall honey bee population in recent years. Yield per colony was 37 pounds, down 16 pounds from the 1997 estimate of 53 pounds per colony. Stocks in 1998 were 29 percent of production, compared with 37percent last year.

UNITED STATES

United States honey production for 1998 (from producers with at least 5 colonies) totaled 220 million pounds, up 12 percent from 1997. The number of honey producing colonies remained steady at 2.63 million in both 1998 and 1997. Yield per colony averaged 83.7 pounds, up 12 percent from the 74.7 pounds in 1997. Stocks were 37 percent of production compared with 36 percent in 1997. Colonies that produced in more than one state were counted in each state and yields may be understated. ❖

**Colonies, Production, Stocks and Value, 1997 - 1998
Virginia, Selected States and U.S.**

1997 1/						
State	Number of Colonies	Yield Per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec. 15 2/	Average Price Per Pound	Value of Production
	-Thousand-	-Pounds.-	-Thousand Pounds-		-Cents-	-Thousand Dollars-
Maryland	6	40	240	65	159	382
North Carolina	8	58	464	139	119	552
VIRGINIA	8	53	424	157	145	615
West Virginia	8	70	560	280	111	622
United States 3/	2,631	74.7	196,536	70,696	75.2	147,795

1998						
State	Number of Colonies	Yield Per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec. 15 2/	Average Price Per Pound	Value of Production
	-Thousand-	-Pounds-	-Thousand Pounds-	-Thousand Pounds-	-Cents-	-Thousand Dollars-
Maryland	7	44	308	92	110	339
North Carolina	8	59	472	151	138	651
VIRGINIA	8	37	296	86	133	394
West Virginia	6	55	330	155	114	376
United States 3/	2,633	83.7	220,311	80,808	65.5	144,304

1/ Revised. 2/ Does not include Stocks under loan. 3/ Weighted by sales.