

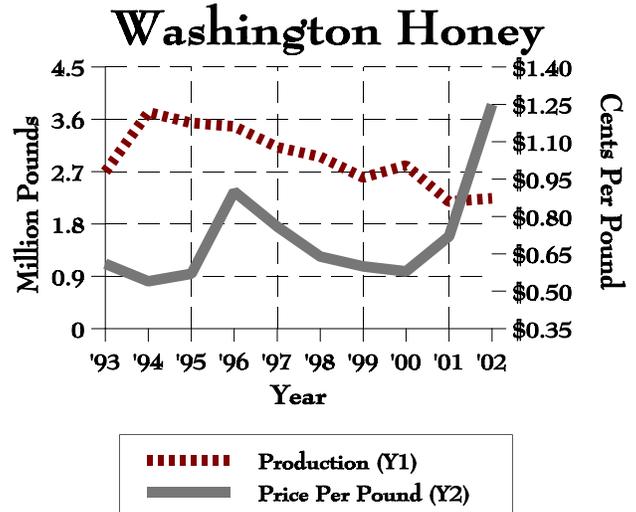
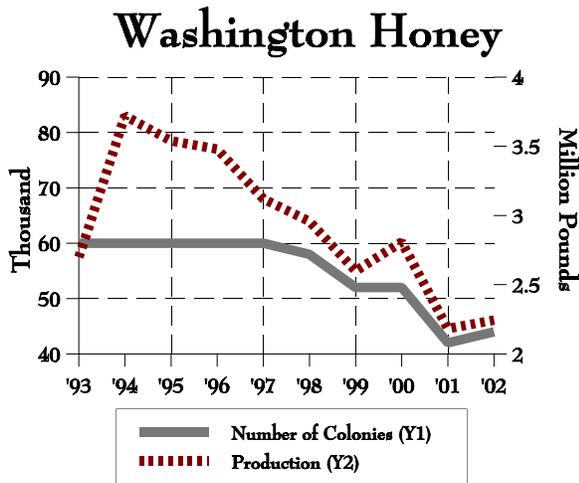
BEES AND HONEY



Honey bees were introduced to North America during the 1600's and became widely spread by the 1800's. Today honey bees pollinate about \$10 billion worth of crops in the United States.

Washington fruit crops that depend on honey bee pollination include apples, apricots, blackberries, blueberries, cantaloupes, cherries, cranberries, pears, raspberries, strawberries and watermelons. Vegetables produced in the state of Washington that rely on honey bee pollination consist of brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, onions, radishes, squash, and turnips.

Washington's honey producing colonies continue to decline due in large part to tracheal and Varroa mite infestation. Honey producing colonies for human consumption increased from 42,000 colonies in 2001 to 44,000 colonies in 2002. 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 2002 totaled 2.2 million pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Honey yields per colony averaged 51 pounds, down 1 pound from 2001. The price of honey rose to \$1.25 per pound, compared to last year's revised price of 72¢ per pound. December 15, 2002 honey stocks held by producers were 494,000 pounds, down 46 percent from the previous year.



Bees & Honey: Production, Price, & Value, Washington, 1993-2002, 1/

Year	Honey Producing Colonies	Stocks December 15 2/	Honey			
			Production		Value	
			Yield Per Colony	Total	Price Per Pound 3/	Total
	Thousands	1,000 Lbs.	Lbs.	1,000 Lbs.	Cents	\$1,000
1993	60	513	45	2,700	61	1,647
1994	60	1,265	62	3,720	54	2,009
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	42	917	52	2,184	72	1,572
2002	44	494	51	2,244	125	2,805

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

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

3/ Prices weighted by sales.