

For further information contact West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, or call 1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at nass-wv@nass.usda.gov.

March 1, 2005

2004 WEST VIRGINIA HONEY PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 495,000 pounds, up 119,000 pounds from 2003. There were 9,000 producing colonies in 2004, up 1,000 colonies from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 55 pounds, up 8 pounds from 47 in 2003. Honey stocks on December 15, 2004, were reported at 183,000 pounds, down 11,000 pounds from the amount reported in 2003.

Prices for the 2004 crop averaged 142 cents per pound, compared to 189 cents per pound in 2003. Value of production totaled 703,000 dollars, down 8,000 dollars from 2003.

UNITED STATES -- Honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced; therefore, yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Down 22 Percent

Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2004 were lower than the previous year for all color classes except the All Other Honey, Area Specialties class. Honey prices for 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

INTERNET ACCESS: All NASS reports are now available free of charge on the worldwide web. For access, connect to the Internet and select: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>