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Special Note

NASS is in the process of modifying report layouts in order to improve readability. This report issue is published using both layouts but all future issues will only be produced with the new layout, which is available on the NASS website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. This is the last issue using this layout.

United States Honey Production Up 20 Percent

Honey production in 2010 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 176 million pounds, up 20 percent from 2009. There were 2.68 million colonies producing honey in 2010, up 7 percent from 2009. Yield per colony averaged 65.5 pounds, up 12 percent from the 58.6 pounds in 2009. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 45.3 million pounds on December 15, 2010, up 21 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Record High Honey Prices

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2010 to 160.3 cents, up 9 percent from 147.3 cents in 2009. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private channels, and retail. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2009 crop reflect honey sold in 2009 and 2010. Some 2009 crop honey was sold in 2010, which caused some revisions to the 2009 crop prices.

Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2009-2010

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>					
Water White, Extra White, White	142.6	156.2	252.6	293.7	144.0	158.3
Extra Light Amber	144.5	151.4	252.5	251.6	150.4	156.6
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	135.1	148.2	291.4	329.2	148.2	164.1
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	179.8	171.7	414.3	433.5	247.9	205.0
All Honey	141.5	153.1	283.7	305.4	147.3	160.3

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 2009^{1 2}**

State	Honey Producing Colonies ³	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ⁴	Average Price per Pound ⁵	Value of Production ⁶
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Cents</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL	9	50	450	68	186	837
AZ	20	52	1,040	562	145	1,508
AR	24	57	1,368	301	142	1,943
CA	355	33	11,715	2,109	139	16,284
CO	28	53	1,484	326	143	2,122
FL	170	68	11,560	1,618	142	16,415
GA	65	41	2,665	346	147	3,918
HI	10	95	950	323	176	1,672
ID	103	46	4,738	1,706	152	7,202
IL	8	34	272	57	255	694
IN	9	32	288	101	202	582
IA	26	42	1,092	339	160	1,747
KS	9	63	567	164	185	1,049
KY	5	35	175	25	271	474
LA	37	103	3,811	610	136	5,183
ME	6	50	300	51	195	585
MI	66	60	3,960	1,505	155	6,138
MN	122	65	7,930	1,427	144	11,419
MS	14	104	1,456	87	132	1,922
MO	11	47	517	57	199	1,029
MT	146	70	10,220	3,577	146	14,921
NE	48	56	2,688	1,102	146	3,924
NJ	11	32	352	70	236	831
NM	7	60	420	143	159	668
NY	45	65	2,925	936	193	5,645
NC	11	45	495	84	257	1,272
ND	450	77	34,650	7,623	138	47,817
OH	11	50	550	132	281	1,546
OR	55	34	1,870	767	154	2,880
PA	21	40	840	319	203	1,705
SD	270	66	17,820	6,237	142	25,304
TN	7	51	357	86	237	846
TX	89	63	5,607	1,065	139	7,794
UT	26	38	988	198	146	1,442
VT	5	49	245	69	201	492
VA	6	39	234	56	345	807
WA	62	44	2,728	1,064	158	4,310
WV	5	37	185	33	260	481
WI	63	60	3,780	1,588	158	5,972
WY	37	48	1,776	391	143	2,540
Oth Sts ^{7 8}	26	52	1,348	194	237	3,195
US ^{8 9}	2,498	58.6	146,416	37,516	147.3	215,671

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

² Revised.

³ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

⁴ Stocks held by producers.

⁵ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁶ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

⁷ CT, DE, MD, MA, NV, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

⁸ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁹ United States value of production will not equal summation of States.

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 2010¹**

State	Honey Producing Colonies ²	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ³	Average Price per Pound ⁴	Value of Production ⁵
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Cents</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL	9	54	486	73	222	1,079
AZ	24	77	1,848	665	143	2,643
AR	25	60	1,500	360	147	2,205
CA	410	67	27,470	6,318	156	42,853
CO	34	56	1,904	533	150	2,856
FL	200	69	13,800	1,794	157	21,666
GA	55	46	2,530	152	167	4,225
HI	10	77	770	239	227	1,748
ID	98	27	2,646	1,191	150	3,969
IL	9	41	369	92	305	1,125
IN	10	43	430	151	226	972
IA	27	49	1,323	463	189	2,500
KS	9	52	468	103	229	1,072
KY	5	67	335	67	264	884
LA	21	80	1,680	269	148	2,486
ME	6	41	246	39	211	519
MI	70	58	4,060	1,502	164	6,658
MN	126	66	8,316	1,746	154	12,807
MS	16	98	1,568	78	147	2,305
MO	11	52	572	92	180	1,030
MT	157	74	11,618	2,905	155	18,008
NE	44	55	2,420	1,041	149	3,606
NJ	13	35	455	73	175	796
NM	7	66	462	157	158	730
NY	47	64	3,008	1,173	178	5,354
NC	13	46	598	138	273	1,633
ND	510	91	46,410	12,995	151	70,079
OH	17	62	1,054	327	223	2,350
OR	59	39	2,301	874	162	3,728
PA	30	37	1,110	377	205	2,276
SD	265	59	15,635	4,847	154	24,078
TN	8	63	504	106	245	1,235
TX	100	72	7,200	792	153	11,016
UT	26	30	780	195	152	1,186
VT	4	65	260	73	221	575
VA	5	37	185	37	331	612
WA	71	37	2,627	1,077	152	3,993
WV	5	38	190	38	239	454
WI	68	64	4,352	1,654	167	7,268
WY	34	36	1,224	282	160	1,958
Oth Sts ^{6,7}	26	46	1,190	219	256	3,046
US ^{7,8}	2,684	65.5	175,904	45,307	160.3	281,974

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

² Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

³ Stocks held by producers.

⁴ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁵ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

⁶ AK, CT, DE, MD, MA, NV, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

⁷ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁸ United States value of production will not equal summation of States.

Reliability Statement

Survey Procedures: Data for honey producing operations are collected from a stratified sample of all known producers with five or more colonies. Individual NASS Field Offices maintain a list of all known honey producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. All sampled honey producers with five or more colonies are mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail or electronic data reporting (EDR). Those that do not respond by mail or EDR are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person. Prices are collected by color class and marketing channel.

Estimation Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. State offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: The previous year's estimates are subject to revision when current year's estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late reports or corrected data. Price revisions can be the result of additional sales reported the following year.

Reliability: Since all honey producing operations are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for honey producing colonies over the past 10 years is 1.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.68 million colonies by more than 1.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.0 percent.

Reliability of Honey Estimates ¹

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 Percent Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Honey Producing Colonies	1.1	2.0	53	20	1	50	3	7
Honey Production	0.8	1.4	2,541	800	64	2,928	4	6

¹ Based on data for the past 10 years.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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 Doug Bounds – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised.....(202) 720-3106

 David Colwell – Cold Storage.....(202) 720-8784

 Chris Hawthorn – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,
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 Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs.....(202) 690-8632

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