

BEES AND HONEY

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Kentucky during 2006 totaled 280,000 pounds, up 12 percent from 2005. Producers harvested honey from 5,000 colonies in 2006, unchanged from a year earlier. Each colony produced an average of 56 pounds of honey during 2006, compared to 50 pounds in 2005. Prices for the 2006 honey crop averaged \$2.20 per pound, up 12 cents from the 2005 average of \$2.08. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Kentucky producers had 70,000 pounds of honey for sale on December 15, 2006, compared with 40,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

United States honey production in 2006 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 155 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2005. There were 2.39 million colonies producing honey in 2006, down 1 percent from 2005. Yield per colony averaged 64.7 pounds, down 11 percent from the 72.4 pounds in 2005. 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 60.5 million pounds on December 15, 2006, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Honey prices increased during 2006 to 104.2 cents, up 14 percent from 91.8 cents in 2005.

KENTUCKY NUMBER OF COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE 1987 - 2006 ^{1/}

Year	Number of Colonies (1,000)	Yield per Colony (Pounds)	Production (1,000 Pounds)	Stocks Dec. 15 (1,000 Pounds)	Avg. Price Per Pound (Cents)	Value of Production (1,000 Dollars)
1987	14	25	350	147	96.0	336
1988	12	40	480	202	106.0	509
1989	12	29	348	132	108.0	376
1990	8	44	352	127	92.0	324
1991	7	25	175	88	96.0	168
1992	4	30	120	54	74.0	89
1993	4	60	240	89	84.0	202
1994	3	54	162	57	98.0	159
1995	3	44	132	30	102.0	135
1996	3	60	180	23	127.0	229
1997	3	60	180	54	148.0	266
1998	3	50	150	51	140.0	210
1999	3	50	150	12	124.0	186
2000	4	48	192	54	135.0	259
2001	4	78	312	125	141.0	440
2002	5	54	270	78	163.0	440
2003	5	48	240	14	167.0	401
2004	5	56	280	34	196.0	549
2005 ^{2/}	5	50	250	40	208.0	520
2006	5	56	280	70	220.0	616

^{1/}Estimates are for beekeepers with 5 or more hives. ^{2/}Revised.