

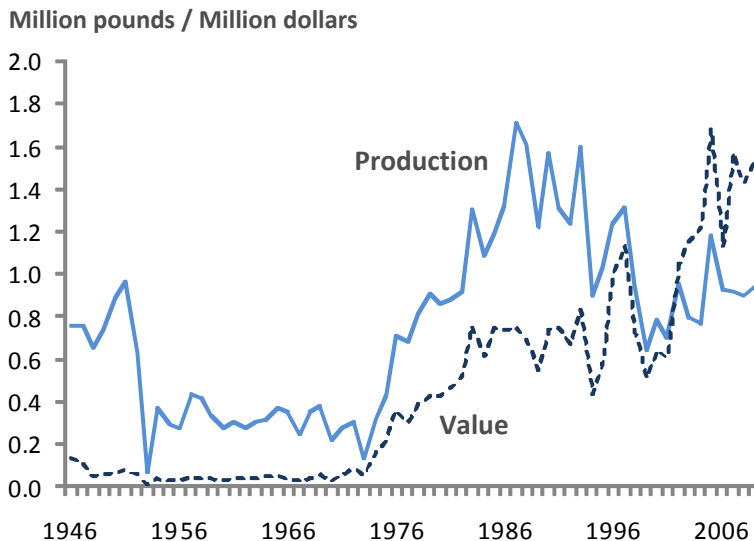
Honey: 2009 Production Up 6 Percent

Hawaii honey production for 2009 is estimated at 950,000 pounds, 6 percent more than 2008. The number of honey producing colonies totaled 10,000, unchanged from the previous year. Honey yield per colony averaged 95 pounds, up 6 percent from 2008.

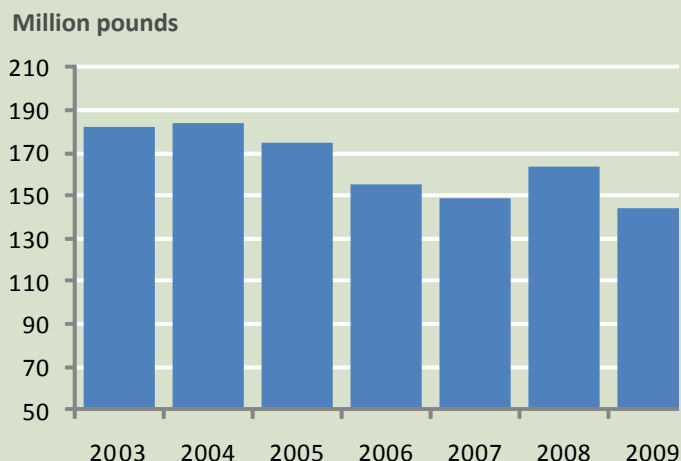
Beekeepers continued to battle the Varroa mite since its detection in April 2007. Working with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture’s Plant Pest Control Branch, beekeepers are gaining momentum in fighting off the infestation by using formic acid. The pesticide gained EPA approval for use in late 2009. The acid, when vaporized in the colony, kills off a large percentage of mites allowing for beekeepers to control infestation levels. Although bees are affected by the treatment, recovery is very quick and little to no long-term damage is done to the colonies or honey production.

Honey producers received an average \$1.63 per pound in 2009, which was 3 percent greater than the 2008 price. Farm value totaled \$1.5 million, 8 percent greater than last year’s revised value. ■

HONEY: Production and Value, State of Hawaii, 1946-2009



HONEY: Production, United States, 2003-2009



U.S. Honey Production Down 12 Percent

Honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 144 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2008. There were 2.46 million colonies producing honey in 2009, up 5 percent from 2008. Yield per colony averaged 58.5 pounds, down 16 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2008, and is the lowest yield since 1989. 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, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 37.2 million pounds on December 15, 2009, down 27 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

**Honey: Number of colonies, yield, production, stocks, price, and value,
by State and United States, 2009 ¹**

State	Honey Producing Colonies ²	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ³	Average Price per Pound ⁴	Value of Production ⁵
	1,000	Pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars
AL	9	49	441	66	182	803
AZ	20	52	1,040	562	153	1,591
AR	24	57	1,368	301	139	1,902
CA	355	33	11,715	2,109	139	16,284
CO	28	53	1,484	326	140	2,078
FL	150	68	10,200	1,428	138	14,076
GA	65	41	2,665	346	147	3,918
HI	10	95	950	323	163	1,549
ID	103	46	4,738	1,706	145	6,870
IL	8	34	272	57	226	615
IN	9	32	288	101	198	570
IA	26	42	1,092	339	151	1,649
KS	9	63	567	164	189	1,072
KY	5	35	175	25	273	478
LA	37	103	3,811	610	132	5,031
ME	6	50	300	51	186	558
MI	66	60	3,960	1,505	151	5,980
MN	122	65	7,930	1,427	140	11,102
MS	14	104	1,456	87	132	1,922
MO	11	47	517	57	198	1,024
MT	146	70	10,220	3,577	145	14,819
NE	48	56	2,688	1,102	144	3,871
NV	10	52	520	57	129	671
NJ	9	32	288	46	193	556
NM	7	60	420	143	163	685
NY	47	65	3,055	978	183	5,591
NC	11	45	495	84	252	1,247
ND	450	77	34,650	7,623	137	47,471
OH	11	50	550	132	275	1,513
OR	55	34	1,870	767	149	2,786
PA	21	40	840	319	199	1,672
SD	270	66	17,820	6,237	139	24,770
TN	7	51	357	86	235	839
TX	74	63	4,662	886	138	6,434
UT	26	38	988	198	147	1,452
VT	5	49	245	69	236	578
VA	6	39	234	56	328	768
WA	62	44	2,728	1,064	149	4,065
WV	5	37	185	33	267	494
WI	63	60	3,780	1,588	151	5,708
WY	37	48	1,776	391	143	2,540
Other States ^{6,7}	15	51	768	127	280	2,150
U.S. ^{7,8}	2,462	58.5	144,108	37,153	144.5	208,236

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 CT, DE, MD, MA, 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 Summation of States will not equal U.S. level value of production.