

MINK AND HONEY

MINK: Illinois ranks tenth nationally in mink pelt production. Production of mink pelts in Illinois decreased two percent in 2003 to 52,300 pelts. Females bred to produce kits in 2004 totaled 14,800, up three percent from the number of females bred to produce kits in 2003.

MINK: Ranches, females bred and pelts produced, Illinois, 1994-2003

Year	Ranches producing pelts	Females bred 1/	Pelts produced		
			Standard	Other	Total pelts
<u>Thousand</u>					
1994	10	13.4	44.2	6.1	50.3
1995	10	14.3	43.5	4.9	48.4
1996	9	14.7	50.9	5.8	56.7
1997	9	12.2	55.5	6.5	62.0
1998	10	12.8	43.2	6.4	49.6
1999	8	12.8	42.7	6.6	49.3
2000	7	12.9	37.0	8.6	45.6
2001	7	13.8	41.1	10.5	51.6
2002	7	14.3	41.9	11.6	53.5
2003	7	14.8	41.8	10.5	52.3

1/ To produce kits the following year.

HONEY: Illinois honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 420,000 pounds, down 42 percent from 2002. Prices for 2003 Illinois honey averaged \$1.73 per pound, up 26 cents from the 2002 price. The total value of honey production was \$727,000, down 31 percent from 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

HONEY: Number of colonies of bees, production and value, Illinois, 1994-2003

Year	Number of colonies	Yield per colony	Production	Average price per pound	Value of production
	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Thousand pounds</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Thousand dollars</u>
1994	13	80	1,040	1.04	1,082
1995	11	74	814	1.13	920
1996	11	74	814	1.35	1,099
1997	7	69	483	1.27	613
1998	9	71	639	1.19	760
1999	9	66	594	1.15	683
2000	8	61	488	1.17	571
2001	6	76	456	1.58	720
2002	9	80	720	1.47	1,058
2003	7	60	420	1.73	727