



Iowa Ag News – Honey

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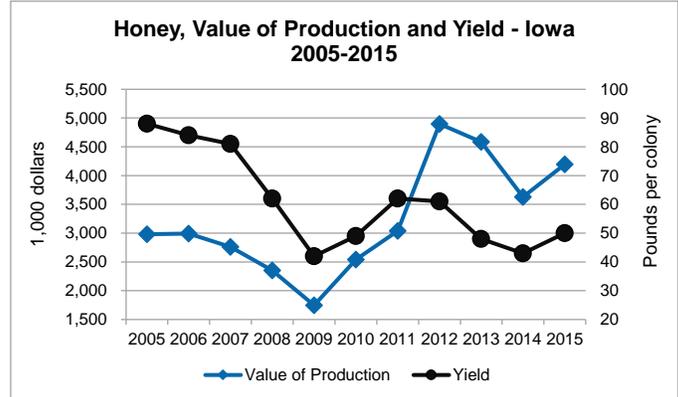
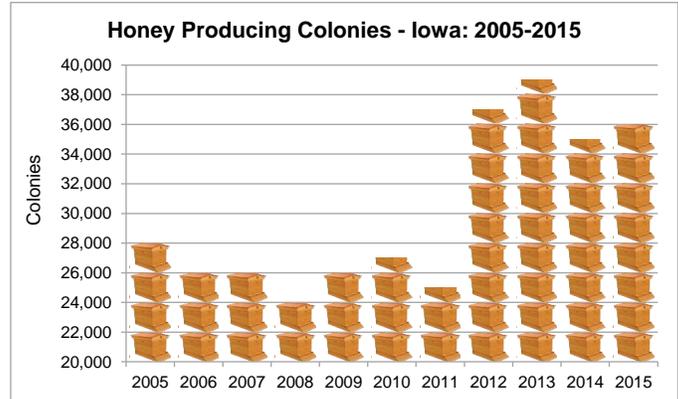
Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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Honey production from producers with 5 or more colonies in Iowa totaled 1.80 million pounds in 2015 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Honey* report. This was a 20 percent increase from the 1.51 million pounds produced in 2014. The number of honey producing colonies in the state rose from 35,000 colonies in 2014 to 36,000 colonies in 2015. This number does not include producers with fewer than 5 colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Colonies that produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where they produced honey. Yield per colony in Iowa averaged 50 pounds, up from 43 pounds per colony in 2014. Iowa moved to eighteenth place nationally in honey production, up from nineteenth place in 2014.

On December 15, 2015, producer honey stocks in Iowa, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 990 million pounds, a 6 percent increase from 2014. The state's 2015 honey crop was valued at \$4.19 million, up 16 percent from the previous year's \$3.63 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Iowa was \$2.33, down 8 cents from 2014.



Honey – Selected States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	Producing Colonies ¹		Yield		Production		Honey Stocks Dec 15 ²		Average Price per Pound ³		Value of Production ⁴	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000) (lbs)	(1,000) (lbs)	(1,000) (lbs)	(1,000) (lbs)	(cents)	(cents)	(1,000) (dollars)	(1,000) (dollars)
California	320	275	39.0	30.0	12,480	8,250	2,995	1,485	206.0	204.0	25,709	16,830
Florida	245	220	60.0	54.0	14,700	11,880	1,029	832	208.0	197.0	30,576	23,404
Georgia	73	69	62.0	40.0	4,526	2,760	362	221	219.0	242.0	9,912	6,679
Iowa	35	36	43.0	50.0	1,505	1,800	933	990	241.0	233.0	3,627	4,194
Louisiana	48	44	84.0	99.0	4,032	4,356	524	348	218.0	193.0	8,790	8,407
Michigan	91	90	63.0	58.0	5,733	5,220	1,835	1,984	249.0	243.0	14,275	12,685
Minnesota	132	122	60.0	68.0	7,920	8,296	1,426	2,157	206.0	183.0	16,315	15,182
Montana	162	146	88.0	83.0	14,256	12,118	5,132	3,757	209.0	194.0	29,795	23,509
New York	60	58	55.0	62.0	3,300	3,596	1,518	899	283.0	294.0	9,339	10,572
North Dakota	490	490	86.0	74.0	42,140	36,260	9,271	9,428	199.0	180.0	83,859	65,268
South Dakota	280	290	87.0	66.0	24,360	19,140	5,846	9,379	208.0	179.0	50,669	34,261
Texas	116	126	78.0	66.0	9,048	8,316	2,081	1,164	224.0	209.0	20,268	17,380
Wisconsin	53	52	54.0	67.0	2,862	3,484	1,030	1,603	238.0	241.0	6,812	8,396
United States	2,740	2,660	65.1	58.9	178,270	156,544	41,192	42,203	217.3	209.0	387,381	327,177

¹ 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 year.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁴ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

UNITED STATES BEE & HONEY

United States honey production in 2015 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 157 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2014. There were 2.66 million colonies from which honey was harvested in 2015, down 3 percent from 2014. Yield of honey harvested per colony averaged 58.9 pounds, down 10 percent from the 65.1 pounds in 2014. 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 42.2 million pounds on December 15, 2015, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

United States honey production in 2015 from producers with less than five colonies totaled 720 thousand pounds. There were 23 thousand colonies from which honey was harvested in 2015, with an average yield of 31.3 pounds harvested per colony. This yield is 27.6 pounds less than what was pulled per colony on operations with five or more colonies. Comparisons to 2014 are unavailable because no data prior to 2015 was collected for operations with less than five colonies.

United States honey prices decreased during 2015 to 209.0 cents per pound, down 4 percent from a record high of 217.3 cents per pound in 2014. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2014 crop reflect honey sold in 2014 and 2015. Some 2014 honey was sold in 2015, which caused some revisions to the 2014 honey prices. Price data was not collected for operations with less than five colonies.