



Iowa Ag News – Honey

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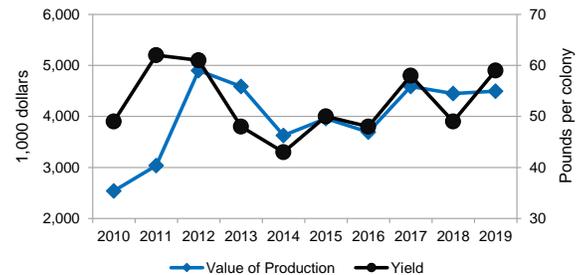
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Media Contact: Greg Thessen

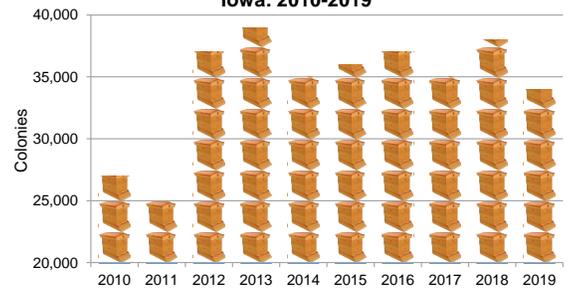
Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Iowa totaled 2.09 million pounds in 2019 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Honey* report. This was a 12 percent increase from the 1.86 million pounds produced in 2018. The number of honey producing colonies in the state at 38,000 is unchanged from 2018. This number does not include producers with fewer than five colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Yield per colony in Iowa averaged 55 pounds, up from 49 pounds per colony in 2018. Iowa ranked seventeenth nationally in honey production, up from eighteenth place in 2018. 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.

On December 15, 2019, producer honey stocks in Iowa, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 1.17 million pounds, a 16 percent increase from 2018. The state's 2019 honey crop was valued at \$4.68 million, up 5 percent from the previous year's \$4.47 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Iowa was \$2.24, down 16 cents from 2018.

Honey, Value of Production and Yield
Iowa: 2010-2019



Honey Producing Colonies
Iowa: 2010-2019



Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – Selected States and United States: 2018 and 2019

[Operations with five or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state.]

State	Producing Colonies ¹		Yield		Production		Honey Stocks Dec 15 ²		Average Price per Pound ³		Value of Production ⁴	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 lbs)	(1,000 lbs)	(1,000 lbs)	(1,000 lbs)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
California	335	335	41	48	13,735	16,080	3,022	3,216	2.11	1.56	28,981	25,085
Florida	215	205	49	45	10,535	9,225	737	830	2.40	2.48	25,284	22,878
Georgia	98	102	34	33	3,332	3,366	200	370	2.76	2.61	9,196	8,785
Idaho	96	92	31	32	2,976	2,944	655	677	1.96	1.67	5,833	4,916
Iowa	38	38	49	55	1,862	2,090	1,005	1,170	2.40	2.24	4,469	4,682
Louisiana	45	54	83	72	3,735	3,888	261	428	1.91	2.04	7,134	7,932
Michigan	97	94	44	50	4,268	4,700	768	1,363	2.49	2.36	10,627	11,092
Minnesota	119	118	61	59	7,259	6,962	1,161	3,063	1.94	1.63	14,082	11,348
Montana	160	173	92	86	14,720	14,878	3,680	5,802	1.90	1.48	27,968	22,019
New York	56	59	48	58	2,688	3,422	833	1,027	3.24	4.49	8,709	15,365
North Dakota	550	520	72	65	39,600	33,800	4,752	6,422	1.87	1.40	74,052	47,320
South Dakota	255	270	47	72	11,985	19,440	5,154	7,582	1.91	1.53	22,891	29,743
Texas	132	126	56	60	7,392	7,560	1,035	1,814	2.12	2.30	15,671	17,388
Wisconsin	51	46	45	47	2,295	2,162	711	692	2.95	2.99	6,770	6,464
United States ^{5,6} ..	2,828	2,812	55	56	154,008	156,922	29,303	41,022	2.21	1.97	340,358	309,136

¹ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was harvested during the year. It is possible to harvest honey from colonies which did not survive the entire 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.

⁵ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁶ United States value of production will not equal summation of states.

UNITED STATES BEE & HONEY

Honey price per pound data have been updated to dollars per pound from cents per pound. Before deciding to update this data, NASS reviewed our estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria requirements to maintain the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture. Information about all NASS surveys and reports is available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

United States honey production in 2019 totaled 157 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2018. There were 2.81 million colonies producing honey in 2019, down 1 percent from 2018. Yield per colony averaged 55.8 pounds, up 2 percent from the 54.5 pounds in 2018. 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 41.0 million pounds on December 15, 2019, up 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

United States honey prices decreased 11 percent during 2019 to 1.97 cents per pound, compared to 2.21 cents per pound in 2018. 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 2018 crop reflect honey sold in 2018 and 2019. Some 2018 crop honey was sold in 2019, which caused some revisions to the 2018 crop prices.

The average prices paid in 2019 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$85, and \$100 respectively. Pollination income for 2019 was \$310 million, up 3 percent from 2018. Other income from honey bees in 2019 was \$77.7 million, down 18 percent from 2018.