



Iowa Ag News – Honey

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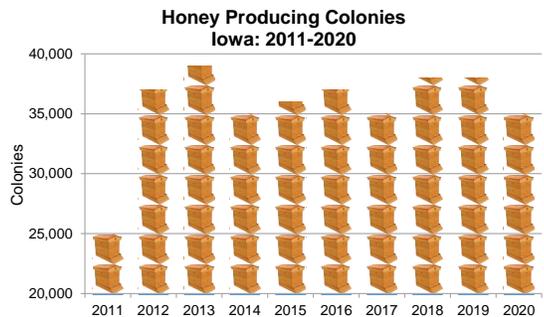
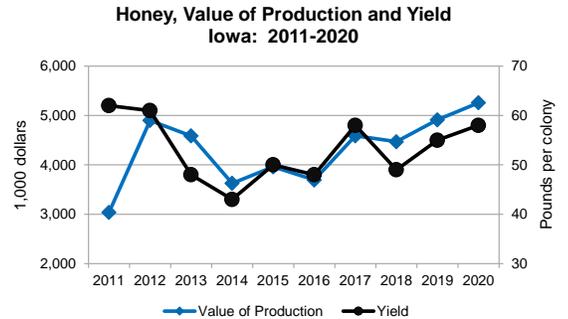
Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Iowa totaled 2.03 million pounds in 2020 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Honey* report. This was a 3% decrease from the 2.09 million pounds produced in 2019. The number of honey producing colonies in the state at 35,000 is down 3,000 from 2019. This number does not include producers with fewer than five colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Yield per colony in Iowa averaged 58 pounds, up from 55 pounds per colony in 2019. Iowa ranked sixteenth nationally in honey production, up from seventeenth place in 2019. 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, 2020, producer honey stocks in Iowa, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 1.26 million pounds, an 8% increase from 2019. The state's 2020 honey crop was valued at \$5.26 million, up 7% from the previous year's \$4.91 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Iowa was \$2.59, up 24 cents from 2019.



Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – Selected States and United States: 2019 and 2020

[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	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	(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	320	48	43	16,080	13,760	3,216	2,752	1.60	1.78	25,728	24,493
Florida	205	192	45	46	9,225	8,832	830	883	2.46	2.28	22,694	20,137
Georgia	102	101	33	34	3,366	3,434	370	412	2.67	2.36	8,987	8,104
Idaho	92	107	32	35	2,944	3,745	677	637	1.62	1.75	4,769	6,554
Iowa	38	35	55	58	2,090	2,030	1,170	1,259	2.35	2.59	4,912	5,258
Louisiana	54	33	72	69	3,888	2,277	428	228	2.15	2.42	8,359	5,510
Michigan	94	95	50	47	4,700	4,465	1,363	1,384	2.56	2.70	12,032	12,056
Minnesota	118	108	59	55	6,962	5,940	3,063	2,495	1.83	1.75	12,740	10,395
Montana	173	110	86	81	14,878	8,910	5,802	3,208	1.49	1.57	22,168	13,989
New York	59	58	58	56	3,422	3,248	1,027	844	4.00	3.39	13,688	11,011
North Dakota	520	495	65	78	33,800	38,610	6,422	8,108	1.43	1.60	48,334	61,776
South Dakota	270	245	72	61	19,440	14,945	7,582	8,668	1.56	1.60	30,326	23,912
Texas	126	157	60	57	7,560	8,949	1,663	1,253	2.32	1.90	17,539	17,003
Wisconsin	46	45	47	50	2,162	2,250	692	855	3.00	3.26	6,486	7,335
United States ^{5,6} ..	2,812	2,706	55.8	54.5	156,922	147,594	40,861	39,715	1.99	2.03	312,275	299,616

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

United States honey production in 2020 totaled 148 million pounds, down 6% from 2019. There were 2.71 million colonies producing honey in 2020, down 4% from 2019. Yield per colony averaged 54.5 pounds, down 2% from the 55.8 pounds in 2019. 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 39.7 million pounds on December 15, 2020, down 3% from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

United States honey prices increased 2% during 2020 to \$2.03 per pound, compared to \$1.99 per pound in 2019. 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 2019 crop reflect honey sold in 2019 and 2020. Some 2019 crop honey was sold in 2020, which caused some revisions to the 2019 crop prices.

The average prices paid in 2020 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$84, and \$105 respectively. Pollination income for 2020 was \$254 million, down 18% from 2019. Other income from honey bees in 2020 was \$55.8 million, down 28% from 2019.