



Minnesota Ag News – Honey

Upper Midwest Region - Minnesota Field Office · 375 Jackson St, Ste 610 · St. Paul, MN 55107 (651) 728-3113
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

March 20, 2015

Media Contact: Dan Lofithus

Honey production from producers with 5 or more colonies in Minnesota totaled 7.92 million pounds in 2014 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Honey Report*. This was a 5 percent increase from the 7.54 million pounds produced in 2013. The number of honey producing colonies in the state rose from 130,000 colonies last year to 132,000 colonies in 2014. 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 Minnesota averaged 60 pounds, up from 58 pounds per colony in 2013. Minnesota moved to seventh place nationally in honey production, down from sixth place last year.

On December 15, 2014, producer honey stocks in Minnesota, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 1.43 million pounds, an 11 percent increase from 2013. The state’s 2014 honey crop was valued at \$16.3 million, up 9 percent from the previous year’s \$15.0 million. This is the highest value of honey production for Minnesota on record. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Minnesota was \$2.06, up 7 cents from 2013.

Honey – Selected States and United States: 2013 & 2014

State	Producing Colonies		Yield		Production		Honey Stocks Dec 15 ²		Average Price per Pound ³		Value of Production ⁴	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(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	330	320	33	39	10,890	12,480	2,505	2,995	211	203	22,978	25,334
Florida	220	245	61	60	13,420	14,700	1,074	1,029	203	208	27,243	30,576
Georgia	67	73	50	62	3,350	4,526	637	362	226	219	7,571	9,912
Iowa	39	35	48	43	1,872	1,505	1,217	933	245	251	4,586	3,778
Louisiana	50	48	98	84	4,900	4,032	490	524	189	226	9,261	9,112
Michigan	85	91	55	63	4,675	5,733	982	1,835	216	250	10,098	14,333
Minnesota	130	132	58	60	7,540	7,920	1,282	1,426	199	206	15,005	16,315
Montana	159	162	94	88	14,946	14,256	5,231	5,132	209	205	31,237	29,225
New York	55	60	48	55	2,640	3,300	1,030	1,518	212	272	5,597	8,976
North Dakota	480	490	69	86	33,120	42,140	6,955	9,271	204	200	67,565	84,280
South Dakota	265	280	56	87	14,840	24,360	6,381	5,846	207	209	30,719	50,912
Texas	106	116	59	78	6,254	9,048	1,689	2,081	210	223	13,133	20,177
Wisconsin	59	53	60	54	3,540	2,862	1,558	1,030	238	232	8,425	6,640
United States	2640	2,740	56.6	65.1	149,499	178,270	38,160	41,192	214.1	216.1	320,077	385,241

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

Honey production in 2014 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 178 million pounds, up 19 percent from 2013. There were 2.74 million colonies producing honey in 2014, up 4 percent from 2013. Yield per colony averaged 65.1 pounds, up 15 percent from the 56.6 pounds in 2013. 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 41.2 million pounds on December 15, 2014, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2014 to 216.1 cents per pound, up 1 percent from 214.1 cents per pound in 2013. 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 2013 crop reflect honey sold in 2013 and 2014. Some 2013 crop honey was sold in 2014, which caused some revisions to the 2013 crop prices.