



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2019

Contact: Charmaine Wilson
(304) 357-5126

2018 WEST VIRGINIA HONEY PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Honey production in 2018 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 222,000 pounds, down 18,000 pounds, or 8 percent, from the 2017 total of 240,000 pounds. There were 6,000 producing colonies in 2018, unchanged from 2017. Yield per colony averaged 37 pounds, down 3 pounds from 40 pounds in 2017. Honey stocks on December 15, 2018, were reported at 38,000 pounds, down 12,000 pounds, or 24 percent, from 50,000 pounds reported in 2017.

Prices for the 2018 crop averaged 416 cents per pound, up 6 percent from the price of 393 cents per pound in 2017. Value of production totaled 924,000 dollars, down 19,000 dollars, or 2 percent, from 943,000 dollars in 2017.

United States – Honey production in 2018 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 152 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2017. There were 2.80 million colonies producing honey in 2018, up 4 percent from 2017. Yield per colony averaged 54.4 pounds, down 2 percent from the 55.5 pounds in 2017. 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 29.1 million pounds on December 15, 2018, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased 2 percent during 2018 to 216.6 cents per pound, compared to 219.9 cents per pound in 2017. 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 2017 crop reflect honey sold in 2017 and 2018. Some 2017 crop honey was sold in 2018, which caused some revisions to the 2017 crop prices.

For operations with five or more colonies, the average prices paid in 2018 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$86, and \$110 respectively. For operations with five or more colonies, pollination income for 2018 was \$302 million, up 8 percent from 2017. Other income from honey bees for operations with five or more colonies in 2018 was \$94.6 million, up 17 percent from 2017.

* *Note:* Data for Operations with Less than Five Colonies has been suspended. Before deciding to suspend this data, we reviewed our estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria as well as the amount of time remaining in the fiscal year to meet our budget and program requirements while maintaining the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture.