

BEES AND HONEY

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Kentucky during 2001 totaled 234,000 pounds, up 63 percent from 2000. Producers harvested honey from 3,000 colonies in 2001, unchanged from a year earlier. Each colony produced an average of 78 pounds of honey during 2001, compared to 48 pounds in 2000.

Prices for the 2001 honey crop averaged \$1.31 per pound, down 4 cents from the 2000 average of \$1.35. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Kentucky producers had 94,000 pounds of honey for sale on December 15, 2001, compared with 40,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

United States honey production in 2001 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 186 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2000. Honey production in 2001 was the lowest since 1989, when 181 million pounds was produced with a yield per colony of only 51.2 pounds. There were 2.51 million colonies producing honey in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000. Yield per colony averaged 74.0 pounds, down 10.1 pounds from the 84.1 pounds in 2000. Producer honey stocks were 64.8 million pounds on December 15, 2001, down 24 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Prices for the 2001 crop averaged 66.9 cents per pound, up 12 percent from 59.7 cents in 2000.

KENTUCKY NUMBER OF COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE 1978 - 2001 ^{1/}

Year	Number of Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec. 15	Average Price Per Pound	Value of Production
	(1,000)	(Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	(Cents)	(1,000 Dollars)
1978	46	23	1,058	169	89.1	943
1979	52	33	1,716	257	91.5	1,570
1980	52	27	1,404	216	95.3	1,338
1981	56	21	1,176	200	110.0	1,294
1986 ^{2/}	15	15	225	86	98.0	221
1987	14	25	350	147	96.0	336
1988	12	40	480	202	106.0	509
1989	12	29	348	132	108.0	376
1990	8	44	352	127	92.0	324
1991	7	25	175	88	96.0	168
1992	4	30	120	54	74.0	89
1993	4	60	240	89	84.0	202
1994	3	54	162	57	98.0	159
1995	3	44	132	30	102.0	135
1996	3	60	180	23	127.0	229
1997	3	60	180	54	148.0	266
1998	3	50	150	51	140.0	210
1999	3	50	150	12	124.0	186
2000	3	48	144	40	135.0	194
2001	3	78	234	94	131.0	307

^{1/}Estimates discontinued 1982-1985. ^{2/}Beginning in 1986, estimates are for beekeepers with 5 or more hives; prior to 1986, estimates covered all beekeepers.