

BEES AND HONEY

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Kentucky during 2004 totaled 280,000 pounds, up 17 percent from 2003. Producers harvested honey from 5,000 colonies in 2004, unchanged from a year earlier. Each colony produced an average of 56 pounds of honey during 2004, compared to 48 pounds in 2003. Prices for the 2004 honey crop averaged \$1.96 per pound, up 29 cents from the 2003 average of \$1.67. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Kentucky producers had 34,000 pounds of honey for sale on December 15, 2004, compared with 14,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

United States honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003.

KENTUCKY NUMBER OF COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE 1986 - 2004 ^{1/}

Year	Number of Colonies (1,000)	Yield per Colony (Pounds)	Production (1,000 Pounds)	Stocks Dec. 15 (1,000 Pounds)	Avg. Price Per Pound (Cents)	Value of Production (1,000 Dollars)
1986	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	4	48	192	54	135.0	259
2001	4	78	312	125	141.0	440
2002	5	54	270	78	163.0	440
2003 ^{2/}	5	48	240	14	167.0	401
2004	5	56	280	34	196.0	549

^{1/}Estimates are for beekeepers with 5 or more hives. ^{2/}Revised.