

BEES AND HONEY

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Kentucky during 2005 totaled 250,000 pounds, down 11 percent from 2004. Producers harvested honey from 5,000 colonies in 2005, unchanged from a year earlier. Each colony produced an average of 50 pounds of honey during 2005, compared to 56 pounds in 2004. Prices for the 2005 honey crop averaged \$2.12 per pound, up 16 cents from the 2004 average of \$1.96. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Kentucky producers had 40,000 pounds of honey for sale on December 15, 2005, compared with 34,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

United States honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.41 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. Yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. Producer honey stocks were 62.4 million pounds on December 15, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Honey prices decreased during 2005 to 90.4 cents, down 15 percent from 106.9 cents in 2004.

KENTUCKY NUMBER OF COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE 1986 - 2005 ^{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	5	48	240	14	167.0	401
2004	5	56	280	34	196.0	549
2005	5	50	250	40	212.0	530

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