

BEES AND HONEY

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Kentucky during 2007 totaled 244,000 pounds, down 13 percent from 2006. Producers harvested honey from 4,000 colonies in 2007, down 1,000 from a year earlier. Each colony produced an average of 61 pounds of honey during 2007, compared to 56 pounds in 2006. Prices for the 2007 honey crop averaged \$2.08 per pound, down 12 cents from the 2006 average of \$2.20. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Kentucky producers had 54,000 pounds of honey for sale on December 15, 2007, compared with 70,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

United States honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. There were 2.44 million colonies producing honey in 2007, up 2 percent from 2006. Yield per colony averaged 60.8 pounds, down 6 percent from the 64.7 pounds in 2006. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields 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 52.5 million pounds on December 15, 2007, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. The 2007 all honey price was 103.2 cents, down slightly from 103.6 cents in 2006.

KENTUCKY NUMBER OF COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE 1988 - 2007 ^{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)
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	208.0	520
2006	5	56	280	70	220.0	616
2007	4	61	244	54	208.0	508

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