



# 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  
March 18, 2024

Contact: Alissa Cowell-Mytar  
(304) 357-5126

## 2023 WEST VIRGINIA HONEY PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia – Honey production** in 2023 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 306,000 pounds, up 12 percent from 273,000 pounds in 2022. There were 6,000 producing colonies in 2023, down 14 percent from 7,000 in 2022. Yield per colony averaged 51 pounds, up 31 percent from the yield per colony of 39 pounds in 2022. Honey stocks on December 15, 2023, were reported at 177,000 pounds, up 81 percent from 98,000 pounds in 2022.

**Prices** for the 2023 crop averaged \$6.35 per pound, up 7 percent from the price of \$5.91 per pound in 2022. Value of production totaled \$1,943,000, up \$330,000, or 20 percent, from \$1,613,000 in 2022.

**United States – Honey production** in 2023 totaled 139 million pounds, up 11 percent from 2022. There were 2.51 million colonies producing honey in 2023, down 6 percent from 2022. Yield per colony averaged 55.2 pounds, up 17 percent from 2022. 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 44.0 million pounds on December 15, 2023, up 90 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

**Honey prices** decreased 16 percent during 2023 to \$2.52 per pound, compared to \$3.01 per pound in 2022. 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 2022 crop reflect honey sold in 2022 and 2023. Some 2022 crop honey was sold in 2023, which caused some revisions to the 2022 crop prices.

The average prices paid in 2023 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$19, \$91, and \$120, respectively. Pollination income for 2023 was \$255 million, up 6 percent from 2022. Other income from honey bees in 2023 was \$57.7 million, up 5 percent from 2022.