

BEES AND HONEY

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Kentucky during 2002 totaled 162,000 pounds, down 31 percent from 2001. Producers harvested honey from 3,000 colonies in 2002, unchanged from a year earlier. Each colony produced an average of 54 pounds of honey during 2002, compared to 78 pounds in 2001. Prices for the 2002 honey crop averaged \$1.65 per pound, up 24 cents from the 2001 average of \$1.41. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Kentucky producers had 47,000 pounds of honey for sale on December 15, 2002, compared with 94,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

United States honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Prices for the 2002 crop averaged 128.6 cents per pound, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001.

KENTUCKY NUMBER OF COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE 1979 - 2002 ^{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)
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/}	3	78	234	94	141.0	330
2002	3	54	162	47	165.0	267

^{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. ^{3/}Revised.