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 1/2

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Number of Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec. 15	Avg. Price Per Pound	Value of Production
(1,000)	(Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	(Cents)	(1,000 Dollars)
	40	480	202	106.0	509
12	29	348	132	108.0	376
8	44	352	127	92.0	324
7	25	175	88	96.0	168
4	30	120	54	74.0	89
4	60	240	89	84.0	202
3	54	162	57	98.0	159
3	44	132	30	102.0	135
3	60	180	23	127.0	229
3	60	180	54	148.0	266
3	50	150	51	140.0	210
3	50	150	12	124.0	186
4	48	192	54	135.0	259
4	78	312	125	141.0	440
5	54	270	78	163.0	440
5	48	240	14	167.0	401
5	56	280	34	196.0	549
5	50	250	40	208.0	520
5	56	280	70	220.0	616
4	61	244	54	208.0	508
	(1,000) 12 12 8 7 4 4 3 3 3 3 4 4 5 5 5 5 5	Colonies Colony (1,000) (Pounds) 12 40 12 29 8 44 7 25 4 30 4 60 3 54 3 44 3 60 3 50 3 50 4 48 4 78 5 54 5 48 5 56 5 50 5 56	Colonies Colony Production (1,000) (Pounds) (1,000 Pounds) 12 40 480 12 29 348 8 44 352 7 25 175 4 30 120 4 60 240 3 54 162 3 44 132 3 60 180 3 50 150 3 50 150 4 48 192 4 78 312 5 54 270 5 48 240 5 56 280 5 50 250 5 56 280	Colonies Colony Production Dec. 15 (1,000) (Pounds) (1,000 Pounds) (1,000 Pounds) 12 40 480 202 12 29 348 132 8 44 352 127 7 25 175 88 4 30 120 54 4 60 240 89 3 54 162 57 3 44 132 30 3 60 180 23 3 60 180 54 3 50 150 51 3 50 150 12 4 48 192 54 4 78 312 125 5 54 270 78 5 48 240 14 5 56 280 34 5 56 280 70	Colonies Colony Production (1,000 Pounds) Dec. 15 Per Pound Per Pounds) (1,000) (Pounds) (1,000 Pounds) (1,000 Pounds) (Cents) 12 40 480 202 106.0 12 29 348 132 108.0 8 44 352 127 92.0 7 25 175 88 96.0 4 30 120 54 74.0 4 60 240 89 84.0 3 54 162 57 98.0 3 44 132 30 102.0 3 60 180 23 127.0 3 60 180 54 148.0 3 50 150 51 140.0 3 50 150 12 124.0 4 48 192 54 135.0 4 78 312 125 141.0

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