



Wisconsin Ag News – Honey Bee Colonies

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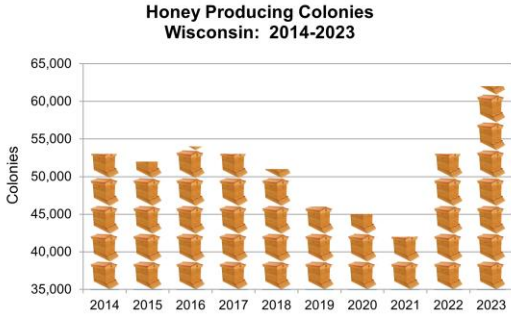
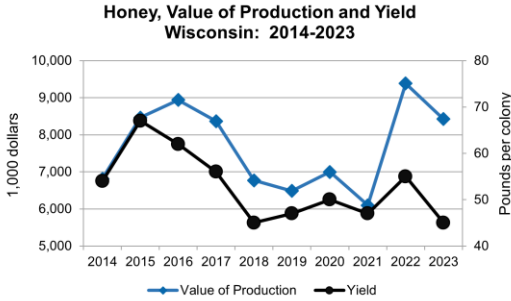
Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

March 15, 2024 - For Immediate Release

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Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Wisconsin totaled 2.79 million pounds in 2023 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Honey* report. This was 4 percent lower than the 2.92 million pounds produced in 2022. The number of honey producing colonies in the state, at 62,000, was up 9,000 from 2022. This number does not include producers with fewer than five colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Yield per colony in Wisconsin averaged 45 pounds, compared to 55 pounds per colony in 2022. Wisconsin ranked 11th nationally in honey production, equal to 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.

On December 15, 2023, producer honey stocks in Wisconsin, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 1,004 thousand pounds, 23 percent higher than 2022. The state's 2023 honey crop was valued at \$8.43 million, down 10 percent from the previous year's \$9.39 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Wisconsin was \$3.02, down 20 cents from 2022.



Honey – Selected States and United States: 2022 and 2023

Crop	Producing Colonies ¹		Yield		Production		Honey Stocks Dec 15 ²		Average Price per Pound ³		Value of Production ⁴	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000) (lbs)	(1,000) (lbs)	(1,000) (lbs)	(1,000) (lbs)	(cents)	(cents)	(1,000) (dollars)	(1,000) (dollars)
California	305	324	38	42	11,590	13,608	811	5,035	2.69	2.27	31,177	30,890
Florida	210	147	35	32	7,350	4,704	368	706	3.27	2.95	24,035	13,877
Georgia	103	77	32	33	3,296	2,541	99	152	3.08	3.43	10,152	8,716
Idaho	94	92	29	32	2,726	2,944	627	442	2.73	1.63	7,442	4,799
Iowa	48	40	51	66	2,448	2,640	710	739	3.06	2.99	7,491	7,894
Louisiana	42	32	61	45	2,562	1,440	359	101	2.96	3.90	7,584	5,616
Michigan	82	70	41	55	3,362	3,850	706	924	3.04	2.84	10,220	10,934
Minnesota	102	106	51	58	5,202	6,148	728	861	2.79	1.99	14,514	12,235
Montana	123	114	61	85	7,503	9,690	2,176	3,392	2.64	2.00	19,808	19,380
New York	54	41	53	58	2,862	2,378	916	761	3.82	4.59	10,933	10,915
North Dakota	520	511	60	75	31,200	38,325	4,680	9,198	2.60	1.77	81,120	67,835
South Dakota	185	212	39	87	7,215	18,444	2,814	12,542	2.57	2.02	18,543	37,257
Texas	157	111	53	35	8,321	3,885	166	505	3.27	3.01	27,210	11,694
Wisconsin	53	62	55	45	2,915	2,790	816	1,004	3.22	3.02	9,386	8,426
United States^{5 6}	2,667	2,509	47	55	125,331	138,571	23,181	44,016	3.01	2.52	377,246	349,199

¹ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the year.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁴ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

⁵ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁶ United States value of production will not equal summation of states.

UNITED STATES HONEY

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.

United States 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.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.