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HONEY CROP REPORT

Ottawa, July 11, 1944. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in cooperation with the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture issues today revised estimates of honey production in Canada in 1942 and 1943, and honey crop prospects for 1944.

SUMMARY

According to the revised estimates, honey production in 1943 totalled 39,492,100 pounds, which represents an increase of 11,443,400 pounds or 40.8 per cent over the 1942 crop of 28,048,700 pounds. The increase was due to a record number of colonies in 1943 combined with a higher average yield which, in spite of adverse weather conditions, was 88 pounds per colony as compared with 66 pounds per colony in 1942.

The 1943 crop sold at prices generally higher than were paid to producers for the 1942 crop, the average price for all Canada being 15.4 cents per pound as compared with 13.7 cents for the previous year's crop. The gross value of the 1943 crop of honey and beeswax is estimated at \$6,371,200, an increase of \$2,342,200 or 58.1 per cent over the 1942 production which was valued at \$4,029,000.

Prospects at the present time are reasonably satisfactory for the current honey crop. Winter-killing on the whole was not serious and losses have been made up by replacements of package bees and a further expansion in the numbers of beekeepers and colonies. Indications are that the numbers of colonies have been increased by about 7 per cent. Weather conditions to date have been generally satisfactory and, therefore, an average or better-than-average crop can be expected.

Production

Revised estimates of the 1943 honey crop show a total production of 39,492,100 pounds as compared with the 1942 crop of 28,048,700 pounds. The increase of 11,443,400 pounds or 40.8 per cent was due to higher average yields per colony combined with record numbers of colonies. The average yield per colony for all Canada was 88 pounds as compared with 66 pounds in the previous year. Numbers of beekeepers increased by 5,820 or 20.5 per cent from 28,430 in 1942 to 34,250 in 1943 and numbers of colonies expanded from 427,050 in 1942 to 449,650 in 1943, an increase of 22,600 or 5.3 per cent. The greatest expansion took place in the Prairie Provinces, especially in Alberta where there were almost twice as many beekeepers in 1943 as in the previous year and producing colonies numbered 42,800 as compared with 27,500 in 1942. Crops were larger than in 1942 in Ontario, Quebec and the three Prairie Provinces, the biggest increase being in Ontario where the 1943 crop of 19,212,000 pounds was 48.7 per cent of the total Canadian production. Production estimates for Ontario have been calculated on a new basis for the past two years. These estimates are, therefore, not strictly comparable with estimates for the earlier years, which will be revised at a later date.

Beeswax - The quantity of beeswax produced in 1943 is estimated at 592,400 pounds as compared with 420,700 pounds produced in 1942.

Gross Value of Production

The total value of the 1943 crop of honey and beeswax is estimated at \$6,371,200 as compared with \$4,029,000, the revised value of the 1942 crop. This represents an increase of \$2,342,200 or 58.1 per cent.

Average prices paid to the producer for the 1943 honey crop were higher in most provinces than prices paid for the 1942 crop, the average for all provinces being 15.4 cents per pound which is an increase of 1.7 cents over the 1942 average of 13.7 cents.

Beeswax prices were also higher in 1943 averaging 46.6 cents per pound as compared with 44.3 cents in the previous year.

Table 1

**Production and Value of Honey and Beeswax in Canada
By Provinces, 1942 and 1943**

Province	Bee- Keepers	Colonies	Honey -				Value of Honey and Wax
			Average Production per Hive	Total Production	Average Price Paid Producers	Total Value	
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	¢ per lb.	\$	\$
<u>1942</u>							
P. E. Island	50	290	115	33,500	16.0	5,400	5,650
Nova Scotia	290	1,190	68	80,600	18.0	14,500	15,100
New Brunswick	700	2,700	83	225,000	16.0	36,000	37,600
Quebec	5,400	79,270	51	4,026,900	16.8	676,700	704,500
Ontario ^{1/}	6,800	210,000	56	11,760,000	12.5	1,470,000	1,552,900
Manitoba	2,250	39,150	80	3,142,000	12.0	377,000	398,200
Saskatchewan	5,760	44,170	112	4,947,100	12.5	620,400	647,850
Alberta	3,820	27,500	91	2,500,000	14.5	362,500	377,500
Br. Columbia	3,360	22,780	59	1,333,600	21.0	280,100	289,700
CANADA	28,430	427,050	66	28,048,700	13.7	3,842,600	4,029,000
<u>1943</u>							
P. E. Island	80	480	74	32,000	17.0	5,400	5,600
Nova Scotia	330	1,340	54	72,500	18.0	13,000	13,400
New Brunswick	570	2,850	85	232,250	17.0	39,500	41,000
Quebec ^{2/}	5,400	79,380	63	5,000,000	15.5	775,000	810,200
Ontario	6,000	195,000	97	19,212,000	15.5	2,977,900	3,116,200
Manitoba	3,100	47,400	95	4,503,000	15.0	675,400	707,800
Saskatchewan	7,250	54,260	99	5,364,600	15.2	815,400	851,600
Alberta	7,500	42,800	89	3,800,000	14.5	551,000	573,800
Br. Columbia	4,020	26,140	49	1,275,750	19.0	242,400	251,600
CANADA	34,250	449,650	88	39,492,100	15.4	6,095,000	6,371,200

^{1/} Ontario estimate of production in 1942 revised upward. Previous years will also be revised at a later date.

^{2/} Tentative.

Prices and Marketing

The honey crop did not move into marketing channels as quickly in the fall of 1943 as in the previous year. While considerable amounts of new crop honey, in some provinces as much as 50 per cent of the total crop, had been sold prior to the freezing of stocks and the imposition of coupon rationing early in September 1943, only about two-thirds of the total crop was marketed at December 1, 1943 as compared with 95 per cent of the 1942 crop at the corresponding date in 1942. With the exception of small quantities of dark honey which are still in the hands of a few producers, the 1943 crop has now been disposed of. All grades of honey have sold well up to the ceiling prices established by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Honey Price Ceilings

In a new order released by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, effective June 26, 1944, ceiling prices for honey have been established for two production zones. Zone No. 2 includes the low producing provinces of British Columbia, the Maritime Provinces and the northern and eastern sections of Quebec. Zone No. 1 includes all parts of Canada not included in Zone No. 2. Slightly higher maximum prices are allowed for sales of honey in Zone No. 2 to take care of freight differentials.

A comparison of the new prices with those in effect during the previous crop year indicates that prices of honey in the smaller sizes of glass containers have been adjusted slightly downward in order to bring them in line with prices of honey packed in other containers. Prices of No. 1 white honey have been increased slightly, and prices of other honey lowered slightly in order that white honey might command a premium over the other grades. Prices of secondary honey, that is, all classes or grades other than No. 1 honey, are generally higher for 2's, 4's and 8's.

The maximum price for No. 1 white honey produced in Zone No. 1 and sold in bulk at wholesale has been increased from 12 cents to 13 cents per pound, f.o.b. the seller's shipping point. The maximum wholesale price for all other honey produced in Zone No. 1 and sold in bulk is 12 cents per pound. Maximum wholesale prices have been established for honey packed in 30 and 70 pound containers in which the cost of the container is included.

In all sales of honey direct to the consumer the producer is allowed the retail markup which amounts to 4 cents per pound for all honey packed in glass or in any other container of one pound or less; 3 cents per pound for honey packed in other containers; and 2 cents per pound for honey sold in bulk. When selling to wholesale distributors the producer must deduct from the maximum wholesale price one cent per pound for bulk honey and 1 1/2 cents for honey sold in containers.

Under the new order, processors are allowed 1 1/4 cents per pound to cover the cost of pasteurizing and granulating honey, dark honey excepted.

Maximum Prices of Canadian Honey Sold at Wholesale in Case Lots, and Retail Prices for Sales Direct to the Consumer, Effective June 26, 1944

	No. of Containers Per Case	Size of Container	No. 1 White Honey			All Other Honey				
			Wholesale		Retail	Wholesale		Retail		
			Per case 1/	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per case 1/	Per case	Per lb.		
			lb.	\$	\$	¢	\$	\$	¢	
<u>ZONE NO. 1</u>										
Glass Containers	48	1	9.72	11.64	24.25	9.00	10.92	22.75		
	24	2	9.12	11.04	23.0	8.40	10.32	21.5		
	12	4	8.74	10.66	22.2	8.02	9.94	20.7		
Other Containers	48	1	9.24	11.16	23.25	8.52	10.44	21.75		
	24	2	8.64	10.08	21.0	7.92	9.36	19.5		
	12	4	8.40	9.84	20.5	7.68	9.12	19.0		
	6	8	8.01	9.45	19.7	7.29	8.73	18.2		
	1	30	4.16	5.06	16.9	3.86	4.76	15.9		
	1	70	9.60	11.70	16.7	8.90	11.00	15.7		
<u>ZONE NO. 2</u>										
Glass Containers	48	1	10.20	12.12	25.25	9.48	11.40	23.75		
	24	2	9.60	11.52	24.0	8.88	10.80	22.5		
	12	4	9.22	11.14	23.2	8.50	10.42	21.7		
Other Containers	48	1	9.72	11.64	24.25	9.00	10.92	22.75		
	24	2	9.12	10.56	22.0	8.40	9.84	20.5		
	12	4	8.88	10.32	21.5	8.16	9.60	20.0		
	6	8	8.49	9.93	20.7	7.77	9.21	19.2		
	1	30	4.46	5.36	17.9	4.16	5.06	16.9		
	1	70	10.30	12.40	17.7	9.60	11.70	16.7		

1/ Prices are f.o.b. wholesaler's place of business, and include cost of the container.

Note: Zone No. 1 includes Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and that part of Quebec not included in Zone 2. Zone No. 2 includes British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and that part of Quebec lying to the east and north of the counties of Compton, Richmond, Drummond, Yamaska and Maskinonge and north of the southern boundary of the County of Abitibi.



Honey Crop Conditions in 1943 and Quality of the Crop

A wet, cool spring retarded beekeeping activities in all provinces. In the Maritimes, adverse weather conditions prevailed throughout almost the entire season. There was very little clover honey produced in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia where almost the entire flow was in the fall and the honey, though of very good quality, graded mostly light to dark amber. All districts in Ontario except those bordering on the eastern end of Lake Erie and Grey-Bruce Peninsula, produced normal or better than normal crops of good quality honey.

Spring and early summer weather conditions in Manitoba were the most unsatisfactory in the history of the industry. From July 10, however, the situation improved and the fall flow was excellent. In Saskatchewan the honey flow did not commence until July 15 and it was over by August 7. In spite of lower average yields and owing to the very large increase that had taken place in the number of colonies, production exceeded the 1942 crop. Cool, wet weather prevailed in Alberta as well, with the result that production varied from 140 pounds per hive in the irrigated districts to only 50 pounds in other parts of the province. In British Columbia, too, the season was one of the poorest on record but a 25 per cent increase in the number of beekeepers made up for the below average yields per colony and the crop was of normal size. The western honey crop was practically all white honey, of excellent flavour and quality, mild and heavy bodied. Approximately 87 per cent of the total Canadian crop was light honey.

Honey Crop Prospects 1944

Prospects for the current honey crop are generally reported good to excellent. Winter losses were moderate and imports of package bees have been larger than usual. Although in many cases losses of bees were heavy owing to the length of time in transit, packages for the most part arrived in reasonably good condition.

Weather conditions throughout the spring and early summer have been favourable to the bees, and colonies have built up rapidly, except in Nova Scotia where the season continues backward and cold, and in eastern Ontario where owing to heavy winter losses of bees and heavy winter-killing of alsike clover, prospects are for a crop of not more than 40 per cent of normal. In western Ontario, however, where the bulk of the honey is produced, colonies are in excellent condition and clovers have made exceptional growth so that if weather conditions remain favourable for the next few weeks the white honey crop should be exceptionally good. Prospects in the four western provinces are very good, with the exception of the coastal districts in British Columbia where continued cold rainy weather has kept crop prospects somewhat doubtful.

Some increase in the number of beekeepers is indicated this year, mostly beginners with one to three hives. It is estimated that the total number of colonies has increased by approximately 7 per cent, the expansion being chiefly in the western provinces where increases vary from an estimated 5 per cent in Manitoba to 15 per cent in Saskatchewan and 30 per cent in Alberta and British Columbia. The number of colonies in Ontario is approximately the same as in 1943. Winter losses in this province were about 10 per cent of the colonies wintered and they have been made up by larger than normal imports of package bees.