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HONEY CROP REPORT

Ottawa, March 27, 1945.- 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 1944.

S U M M A R Y

In spite of a substantial increase in the number of colonies during the year, the 1944 honey crop which currently is estimated at 34,969,700 pounds is 4,522,400 pounds or 11.4 per cent smaller than that produced in 1943. The average yield for the past season was only 69 pounds per colony compared with 88 pounds in 1943 and the pre-war average of 93 pounds. Adverse conditions in eastern Canada were chiefly responsible for the reduced Canadian total. Increased interest in beekeeping which has been evident since the outbreak of war continued during 1944 and the total number of beekeepers rose to a record figure of 40,676 compared with 34,250 in 1943 and the 1935-39 average of 26,860. The average price received by growers was slightly below that of the 1943 season despite the reduced output. The average price for the country as a whole was 15 cents per pound compared with the previous year's average of 15.4 cents per pound.

PRODUCTION

Total production in 1944 amounted to 34,969,700 pounds, a decrease of 11.4 per cent from the very large crop of 39,492,100 pounds produced in 1943. While this is the second largest crop since the outbreak of war, it is, however, 2 per cent smaller than the 5-year 1935-39 average. Increases over the previous crops were recorded in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta while smaller crops were harvested in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. With the exception of Alberta the increase was entirely due to the increase in the number of colonies as average yields in all other provinces were below the 1943 level. The Dominion's average yield per colony amounted to 69 pounds compared with 88 pounds in the previous season. Yields ranged from a low of 39 pounds in Quebec to a high of 94 pounds for Manitoba.

NUMBER OF BEEKEEPERS

A further increase in numbers of beekeepers took place during the 1944 season. The total number of beekeepers advanced from 34,250 in 1943 to 40,676 to bring the numbers to 51 per cent above the pre-war level. Numbers of beekeepers increased in all provinces except in Ontario and New Brunswick with the greatest increase coming in the Prairie Provinces. This interest in beekeeping is due in part to the greatly improved price being paid for honey during the war years but is also the result of the effort of some individuals to supplement their supplies of sweets with home produced honey. This has meant a rapid increase in the number of small beekeepers and a consequent lowering of the overall average number of colonies per beekeeper. The pre-war average was 14.3 colonies while the 1944 average amounted to only 12.5.



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VALUE OF PRODUCTION AND PRICES

The total value of the crop estimated at \$5,253,400 is somewhat below the 1943 value of \$6,095,000 but is still 78 per cent above the 1935-39 average. Average prices received by producers ranged from 13 cents per pound in Manitoba to 18 cents per pound in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. While price levels in some provinces were above those of 1943, the over-all average was down slightly from 15.4 last year to 15 cents for the present crop. Current average prices, however, are 81 per cent above those of the pre-war years.

Production and Value of Honey in Canada, 1940 to 1944
and the 5-year (1935-39) Average

	Bee-keepers No.	Colonies No.	Average Production per Hive Lb.	Total Production Lb.	Average Price Paid to Producers ¢	Total Value of Honey \$
1935-39 Average	26,860	382,840	93	35,746,100	8.3	2,955,400
1940	27,850	398,540	71	28,215,300	10.3	2,913,600
1941	27,360	409,740	81	33,220,700	11.3	3,755,700
1942	28,430	427,050	66	28,048,700	13.7	3,842,600
1943	34,250	449,650	88	39,492,100	15.4	6,095,000
1944	40,676	508,478	69	34,969,700	15.0	5,253,400

Production and Value of Honey and Beeswax in Canada
By Provinces, 1943 and 1944

Province	Bee-keepers No.	Colonies No.	Honey				Value of Honey and Wax \$
			Average Production per Hive Lb.	Total Production Lb.	Average Price Paid Producers ¢ per lb.	Total Value \$	
<u>1943</u>	No.	No.	Lb.	Lb.	¢ per lb.	\$	\$
P.E. Island	80	489	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	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
<u>1944</u>							
P.E. Island	161	608	72	43,800	18	7,900	8,200
Nova Scotia	402	1,616	40	64,600	17	11,000	11,500
New Brunswick	541	2,850	65	185,200	18	33,300	34,600
Quebec	6,194	92,455	39	3,605,700	16	576,900	601,800
Ontario	5,847	203,000	74	15,022,000	15	2,253,300	2,356,900
Manitoba	3,915	56,079	94	5,271,400	13	685,300	721,700
Saskatchewan	9,915	65,320	67	4,376,400	16	700,200	730,400
Alberta	9,100	57,000	90	5,130,000	15	769,500	804,900
Br. Columbia	4,601	29,550	43	1,270,600	17	216,000	224,800
CANADA	40,676	508,478	69	34,969,700	15	5,253,400	5,494,800