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HONEY CROP REPORT

Ottawa, February 2, 1946.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture issues today preliminary estimates of honey production in Canada in 1945.

SUMMARY

According to the current estimate of production, the 1945 honey crop amounted to 30,683,000 pounds or 12 per cent smaller than the 1944 crop of 34,970,000 pounds. The reduction was due chiefly to the unusually small crops in Ontario and Quebec which were the outcome of adverse spring and early summer weather. With a lighter crop, prices were generally above those of last season. The average price per pound for all Canada was 16 cents, compared with 15 cents in 1944. The total value of the crop was down some 6 per cent from last year at \$4,946,000. The average yield was 59 pounds per colony or 10 pounds lighter than in 1944. For the fourth year in succession there was an increase in the number of beekeepers, which now stands at 43,800. The increase in the number of beekeepers took place in all provinces with the exception of New Brunswick and British Columbia.

1945 HONEY SEASON

Unusually heavy snow during the winter caused some misgivings among the producers early in the spring, but on the whole the bees came out of winter quarters in excellent condition. The colonies were strong and prospects were for an excellent honey crop. Cold, wet weather in eastern Canada during May and June, however, greatly restricted bee activity, and much feeding was necessary. Few producers reported any increase in colony weights. In the Prairie Provinces, package bees arrived in good condition, but heavy feeding was at first necessary. By mid-June, however, the bees began to gather nectar from fruit and dandelion blossoms. In British Columbia cool, backward weather prevailed until the end of June, and little or no honey was stored by the bees.

The unfavourable outlook continued into mid-July. In eastern Canada there was an abundance of clover and other nectar producing plants, but the cool, wet weather restricted bee activity. In the Prairie Provinces crop prospects continued to be fair. Bees were working wild mustard and yellow sweet clover. In British Columbia the colonies showed some gains by the middle of July. More rain, however, would have greatly improved the bee pasture. During the remainder of July and the month of August weather throughout Canada was warm and bright. Bee activity was at the maximum and many sections reported good gains in colony weight. In western Ontario, however, crop prospects continued to be poor. At the time producers had begun to extract the crop it was apparent that production in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia would be considerably lighter than in 1944. The outlook in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Alberta was for an increase over the previous year, while Saskatchewan's crop was expected to be the heaviest on record.



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Production and Value of Honey in Canada, 1940 to 1945
and the five-year (1935-39) Average

	Bee-keepers	Colonies	Average Production Per Hive	Total Production	Average Price Paid to Producers	Total Value of Honey
	No.	No.	Lb.	000 lb.	cents per lb.	\$ 000
1935-39 Average	26,900	382,800	93	35,746	8	2,955
1940	27,200	398,500	71	28,215	10	2,914
1941	27,400	409,700	81	33,221	11	3,756
1942	28,400	427,000	66	28,049	14	3,843
1943	34,200	449,600	88	39,492	15	6,095
1944	40,700	508,500	69	34,970	15	5,253
1945	43,800	524,100	59	30,683	16	4,946

Production and Value of Honey and Beeswax in Canada
by Provinces, 1944 and 1945

Province	Bee-keepers	Colonies	Honey				Value of Honey and Wax
			Average Production Per Hive	Total Production	Average Price Paid Producer	Total Value	
	No.	No.	Lb.	000 lb.	¢ per lb.	\$ 000	\$ 000
<u>1 9 4 4</u>							
P. E. Island ..	160	610	72	44	18	8	8
Nova Scotia ...	400	1,610	40	65	17	11	12
New Brunswick .	540	2,850	65	185	18	33	35
Quebec	6,190	92,450	39	3,606	16	577	602
Ontario	5,850	203,000	74	15,022	15	2,253	2,356
Manitoba	3,920	56,080	94	5,271	13	685	722
Saskatchewan ..	9,920	65,320	67	4,376	16	700	730
Alberta	9,100	57,000	90	5,130	15	770	805
Br. Columbia ..	4,600	29,550	43	1,271	17	216	225
CANADA	40,700	508,500	69	34,970	15	5,253	5,495
<u>1 9 4 5 1/</u>							
P. E. Island ..	170	720	64	46	16	7	7
Nova Scotia ...	420	1,530	54	83	21	17	18
New Brunswick .	380	2,140	49	104	22	23	24
Quebec	6,490	97,070	22	2,150	17	366	381
Ontario	6,130	216,040	42	9,095	16	1,455	1,518
Manitoba	4,500	60,000	81	4,860	15	729	763
Saskatchewan ..	11,390	65,890	111	7,328	17	1,246	1,297
Alberta	10,000	63,000	95	6,000	15	900	941
Br. Columbia ..	4,370	17,740	57	1,017	20	203	210
CANADA	43,800	524,100	59	30,683	16	4,946	5,159

1/ Preliminary.