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THE 1942 CANADIAN HONEY CROP

Ottawa, December 22, 1942.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture issues today a second report on honey production in Canada in 1942.

SUMMARY

The second estimate of the 1942 honey crop shows a total production of 23,205,900 pounds. This represents a 16 per cent decrease in production compared with the 1941 crop of 27,487,700 pounds. Unfavourable weather conditions in the main producing areas curtailed the volume of production with the result that the 1942 crop was one of the smallest in the past decade. About 95 per cent of the crop has been marketed at prices averaging 1.7 cents per pound higher than paid for the previous year's crop. A preliminary estimate places the value of the 1942 crop at \$3,059,900 which as a result of higher prices is approximately the same as the value of the 1941 crop. Bees generally have gone into winter quarters in good condition although stores are short in some localities. Some expansion in the industry is expected in 1943.

Production

The second estimate of the total Canadian honey production in 1942 shows a crop of 23,205,900 pounds as compared with the revised estimate of 27,487,700 pounds produced in 1941, a decrease of 4,281,800 pounds or 16 per cent. Although decreases in production in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and Quebec were offset to some extent by larger crops in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Maritime Provinces, the average yield was only 56 pounds per hive, as compared with 67 pounds in 1941 and the longtime average yield of 70 pounds per colony.

The Ontario crop, which comprised one-third of the total Canadian production, is estimated at 7.8 million pounds. This is 4.2 million pounds or 35 per cent smaller than the 1941 crop of 12.0 million pounds. The Manitoba crop shows a decrease of 1.6 million pounds or 32.3 per cent as compared with a production of 5.0 million pounds in 1941. On the other hand, the Saskatchewan crop of 5.0 million pounds was increased by 2.0 million pounds or 66.8 per cent. There were also increases of 14.1 per cent in British Columbia and 44.8 per cent in the Maritime Provinces. Production in Quebec and Alberta was somewhat lower than in the previous year.

The distribution of the 1942 honey crop in pounds by provinces, in order of magnitude follows, with the revised estimates for 1941 within brackets: Ontario 7,800,000 (12,000,000); Saskatchewan 4,947,100 (2,966,500); Manitoba 3,367,000 (4,970,000); Quebec 2,740,300 (3,042,600); Alberta 2,700,000 (3,120,000); British Columbia 1,333,600 (1,169,000); Maritime Provinces 317,900 (219,600).

The number of beekeepers was increased by 2.5 per cent and the number of hives by 3.5 per cent compared with corresponding numbers in 1941.

Table 1.

Total Production of Honey in Canada, 1933 to 1942

	<u>pounds</u>
1933	25,287,800
1934	27,062,800
1935	26,814,800
1936	31,933,200
1937	23,196,600
1938	37,909,900
1939	28,873,100
1940	23,673,100
1941	27,487,700
1942	23,205,900

Table 2.

Preliminary Estimate of Canadian Honey Production by Provinces, 1942 as compared with revised estimates for 1941.

Province	1941	1942	Increase + or Decrease - % compared with 1941	Percentage Change from 1941
	lb.	lb.	lb.	p.c.
Maritime Provinces	219,600	317,900	+ 98,300	+ 44.8
Quebec	3,042,600	2,740,300	- 302,300	- 9.9
Ontario	12,000,000	7,800,000	- 4,200,000	- 35.0
Manitoba	4,970,000	3,367,000	- 1,603,000	- 32.3
Saskatchewan	2,966,500	4,947,100	+ 1,980,600	+ 66.8
Alberta	3,120,000	2,700,000	- 420,000	- 13.5
British Columbia	1,169,000	1,333,600	+ 164,600	+ 14.1
CANADA	27,487,700	23,205,900	- 4,281,800	- 15.6

Prices and Marketing

Approximately 95 per cent of the 1942 honey crop was out of the producers' hands by December 15. Prices paid to the producers for this year's crop during the three months September - November averaged 1.7 cents per pound higher than prices paid during the corresponding three months in 1941. A preliminary estimate places the value of the 1942 honey crop at \$3,059,900 as compared with \$3,153,700, the revised value of the 1941 honey crop. This represents an average price to the producer of 13.2 cents per pound compared with 11.5 cents per pound received for the 1941 crop.

Table 3.

Percentage Proportions of the 1942 Crop Marketed as at December 15, and Average Prices Paid to Producers During the Three Months September - November 1942, Compared with Prices During the Corresponding period in 1941.

Province	Proportion of Crop Marketed at December 15		Prices Paid to Producers September - November	
	1941	1942	1941	1942
	p.c.	p.c.	cents per pound	
Maritime Provinces	56	92	15.0	16.0
Quebec	85	95	14.0	15.0
Ontario	65	90	10.5	12.5
Manitoba	90	95	10.0	12.0
Saskatchewan	90	100	11.7	12.5
Alberta	60	95	12.0	14.5
British Columbia	80	100	18.0	15.5
CANADA	74.7	94.6	11.5	13.2

Table 4.

Average Wholesale Price Quotations on Representative Markets for Canadian Honey in Consumer Containers, September - November, 1940, 1941 and 1942

Market	2's			4's		
	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942
Montreal	12.0	14.1	16.8	11.6	13.7	16.4
Toronto	12.6	13.4	15.7	12.0	12.7	15.3
Winnipeg	13.1	13.0	16.4	11.8	12.3	15.3
Regina	13.1	14.1	17.7	12.5	13.1	17.2
Calgary	13.2	14.1	15.6	12.6	13.5	15.1

Beeswax

Beeswax production in 1942 is estimated at 348,100 pounds as compared with 412,300 pounds in 1941. Prices paid for wax this year averaged 45.6 cents per pound, an increase of 6.5 cents per pound over the previous year's prices. The wax produced in 1942 is valued at \$158,700 as compared with \$161,100, the revised value of the 1941 production.

Seasonal Conditions and Quality of Crop

Cool, wet weather during the gathering season curtailed production generally in the main producing areas in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and the Lower Mainland and Coast Districts of British Columbia. On the other hand, in the Interior of British Columbia weather conditions were extremely favourable and the 1942 crop was the best in many years. Limited rainfall in Saskatchewan resulted in an exceptionally heavy-bodied crop of high quality honey. Alberta honey, too, is described as generally light in colour, mild in flavour and low in moisture content. The Manitoba crop is of fair to good quality, but Ontario honey is of only fair flavour and rather high in moisture content. Excellent quality honey was produced in British Columbia and the Maritime Provinces.

Over-Wintering of Bees and Outlook for 1943

The condition of bees entering winter quarters is generally described as good although a shortage of stores is reported in Ontario and Alberta. From 25 to 30 per cent of total colonies is being over-wintered in Manitoba and Alberta, about 73 per cent in Saskatchewan, and practically 100 per cent in all other provinces.

Increases of 5 to 10 per cent in the number of beekeepers as well as some expansion in the operations of established beekeepers are expected in the Maritime and Western Provinces with the exception of Manitoba where a reduction is considered likely. The number of honey producers will probably remain about the same in Ontario although there may be a slight increase in the number of colonies of beekeepers already established.

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