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THE 1942 CANADIAN HONEY CROP

Ottawa, May 13, 1943. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture issues today a third report on honey production in Canada in 1942.

SUMMARY

The third estimate of the 1942 honey crop, 24,086,100 pounds, is 3.4 million pounds or 12.4 per cent smaller than the revised estimate of the 1941 crop which is now placed at 27,487,700 pounds. Although records were established in 1942 in the numbers of beekeepers and colonies, yields were generally low and the total crop was below average in size.

In spite of a smaller volume of production, however, the 1942 crop of honey and wax is valued at \$3,505,000, which is \$190,200 or 5.4 per cent higher than the value of the 1941 crop. Practically the entire crop has been marketed at an average return to the producers of 13.9 cents per pound. This is 2.4 cents per pound higher than the average price paid for the 1941 crop. Some further expansion is expected in apiculture during the 1943 season.

Production

The 1942 Canadian honey crop totalled 24,086,100 pounds as compared with 27,487,700 pounds in 1941, a decrease of 3.4 million pounds or 12.4 per cent. Although numbers of beekeepers and colonies were the highest on record, average yields were disappointingly low, the average for the Dominion being only 56 pounds per hive. Sharp declines in production from the previous year were recorded in three of the main producing provinces, the decrease amounting to 35 per cent in Ontario, 37 per cent in Manitoba and 20 per cent in Alberta. These declines were only partially offset by larger crops in the other provinces.

The distribution of production in pounds follows by provinces in order of magnitude, with the revised estimates for 1941 in brackets: Ontario 7,800,000 (12,000,000); Saskatchewan 4,947,100 (2,966,500); Quebec 4,026,900 (3,042,600); Manitoba 3,142,000 (4,970,000); Alberta 2,500,000 (3,120,000); British Columbia 1,333,600 (1,169,000); New Brunswick 225,000 (124,800); Nova Scotia 78,000 (82,600); Prince Edward Island 33,500 (12,200).

Beeswax. - The quantity of beeswax produced in 1942 is estimated at 361,300 pounds as compared with the revised estimate of 412,300 pounds produced in 1941.

Prices and Marketing

The crop moved readily in response to a brisk demand on local markets, all grades of honey selling well up to the ceiling price established by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board's order released September 14, 1942. Prices paid to the producers averaged 2.4 cents per pound higher than the average of 11.5 cents paid for the previous year's crop. The increase in price was due in part to the fact that much of the honey was bought up before restrictions on the use of honey for industrial purposes were imposed by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board's food administration. In many areas where honey prices had been abnormally depressed, the Board's order establishing maximum prices for honey brought prices generally up to the ceiling prevailing throughout Canada.

Beeswax prices were also higher, averaging 45.6 cents per pound as compared with 39.1 cents paid in the previous year. The total value of the 1942 crop of honey and wax is estimated at \$3,505,000, which is \$190,200 or 5.4 per cent higher than the revised value of the previous year's output, namely, \$3,314,800.



Table 1

 Numbers of Beekeepers and Hives, Production of Honey and Value of Honey
 and Beeswax in Canada, 1933 to 1942

	HONEY					
	Beekeepers	Colonies	Average Production per Hive	Total Production	Average Price Paid to Producers	Total Value of Honey and Wax
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	cents per lb.	\$
1933	23,100	328,200	77	25,287,800	8.6	2,256,900
1934	24,300	328,400	82	27,062,800	9.2	2,574,700
1935	24,800	357,000	75	26,814,800	8.3	2,337,500
1936	26,300	370,800	86	31,938,100	8.5	2,822,900
1937	27,900	386,400	60	23,196,600	9.0	2,163,700
1938	27,300	394,000	96	37,909,900	7.8	3,057,200
1939	28,000	406,000	71	28,873,100	8.7	2,615,700
1940	27,200	398,500	59	23,671,300	10.5	2,583,500
1941	27,400	409,700	67	27,487,700	11.5	3,314,800
1942	28,400	427,000	56	24,086,100	13.9	3,505,000

Table 2

 Production and Value of Honey and Beeswax in Canada
 By Provinces, 1942 as Compared with 1941

Province	HONEY						Value of Honey and Wax
	Bee- Keepers	Colonies	Average Production per Hive	Total Production	Average Price Paid Producers	Total Value	
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	¢ per lb.	\$	
<u>1941</u>							
P. E. Island ...	30	190	65	12,200	12.0	1,500	1,600
Nova Scotia	280	1,190	70	82,600	16.0	13,200	13,600
New Brunswick ..	570	2,400	52	124,800	14.0	17,500	18,200
Quebec	5,680	77,080	39	3,042,600	14.0	431,800	450,000
Ontario	7,000	200,000	60	12,000,000	10.5	1,260,000	1,332,000
Manitoba	2,580	45,180	110	4,970,000	10.0	497,000	526,800
Saskatchewan ...	4,820	37,680	79	2,966,500	11.7	347,900	363,500
Alberta	2,400	24,000	130	3,120,000	12.0	374,400	391,700
British Columbia	4,000	22,020	53	1,169,000	18.0	210,400	217,400
CANADA	27,360	409,740	67	27,487,700	11.5	3,153,700	3,314,800
<u>1942</u>							
P. E. Island ...	50	290	115	33,500	14.0	4,700	4,950
Nova Scotia	290	1,190	65	78,000	18.0	14,100	14,700
New Brunswick ..	700	2,700	83	225,000	16.0	36,000	37,600
Quebec	5,400	79,270	51	4,026,900	16.3	676,700	704,500
Ontario	6,800	210,000	37	7,800,000	12.5	975,000	1,030,000
Manitoba	2,250	39,150	30	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
British Columbia	3,360	22,780	59	1,333,600	21.0	280,100	289,700
CANADA	28,430	427,050	56	24,086,100	13.9	3,346,500	3,505,000

Outlook for the 1943 Season

Some further expansion is anticipated in the beekeeping industry this coming season, as a result of the increased demand for cane sugar substitutes. It is estimated that there will be increases of approximately 12 per cent in the number of beekeepers and 8 per cent in the numbers of colonies of established beekeepers. The 1943 crop will be readily absorbed by the domestic markets.