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Honey Report No. 1

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CL 23-002 / 157-2 SECOND ESTIMATE OF HENRY PRODUCTION 1952

Revised estimates indicate a honey crop in 1959 of 31.5 million pounds, 15 per cent above the 1958 crop of 27.5 million pounds and 3 per cent above the 1948-57 average of 30.5 million pounds. The increase in honey output in 1959 was due to a higher average yield per colony as the number of colonies decreased slightly to 330,700 from 332,700 the previous season. There was, however, an increase in the number of active beekeepers to 14,180 from 12,150 in 1958.

Most of the increase in production in 1959 was due to a much heavier crop in Ontario where the yield per colony averaged 89 pounds in contrast to 42 pounds in 1958. Total production reached an estimated 11.1 million pounds, almost twice as great as the 1958 output of 5.7 million pounds. In Nova Scotia, Quebec and Manitoba beekeepers obtained larger yields and greater total crops this year. In all other provinces yields and total output were both down.

The increase in production this year in Ontario and Quebec is attributed to the effects of wet weather during the last two weeks of July, which brought on "second-cut" clovers. Continued intermittent rain hampered haying operations so that a relatively large proportion of the clover crops blossomed, providing plentiful bee pastures. At the same time there were sufficient fine days to enable the bees to gather the nectar supplies. Similarly in much of Manitoba, abundant rainfall favoured the development of bee pastures while in Saskatchewan and Alberta, drier conditions reduced plant growth and nectar secretion.

As a result of the good crops in Ontario and Quebec, 49 per cent of the total 1959 Canadian honey crop was produced east of the Manitoba-Ontario border. This is in marked contrast to 1958 when only 31 per cent of the crop was harvested in the eastern provinces.

In past seasons the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released at this time estimates of the average prices received by beekeepers and the total value of the honey crop for the previous season. However, at the present time sufficient information is not available to enable such estimates to be prepared. As soon as the necessary material becomes available this additional information will be released.

***Source:** Estimates for the province of Quebec are prepared by the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce, of that province. For all other provinces except Newfoundland, for which data are not available, the estimates are prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the provinces. Three mail questionnaire surveys are conducted, one in July to obtain the number of colonies and another in September to determine yields. A final yield and price survey is conducted at about the end of the year. Provincial officials provide the mailing lists of beekeepers and aid in the interpretation of survey results.

Second Estimates of the Numbers of Beekeepers and Colonies of Bees
and Production of Honey in Canada 1/, by Province, 1958 and 1959 2/,
with 10-year Averages, 1948-1957

Province and Year	Beekeepers	Colonies	HONEY		Total Production '000 lb.
			Average Yield Per Colony	lb.	
	no.	no.			
P.E.I.	1948-57	120	800	55	68
	1958	100	1,000	65	65
	1959	100	1,000	61	61
N.S.	1948-57	390	2,100	62	130
	1958	410	2,800	58	162
	1959	420	2,900	62	180
N.B.	1948-57	380	2,200	55	121
	1958	270	1,600	61	98
	1959	220	1,400	44	62
Que.	1948-57	3,720	65,600	58	3,826
	1958	2,680	54,700	44	2,407
	1959	2,420	51,900	76	3,952
Ont.	1948-57	4,010	182,700	60	10,919
	1958	3,000	135,200	42	5,678
	1959	2,960	125,000	89	11,125
Man.	1948-57	1,670	44,700	114	5,102
	1958	1,030	44,300	120	5,316
	1959	1,080	44,400	133	5,905
Sask.	1948-57	3,720	34,100	114	3,898
	1958	2,470	29,300	138	4,043
	1959	2,500	31,200	123	3,838
Alta.	1948-57	2,740	45,500	116	5,262
	1958	1,490	45,900	165	7,574
	1959	1,540	54,200	94	5,095
B.C.	1948-57	1,990	15,100	76	1,144
	1958	1,700	17,900	121	2,166
	1959	2,920	18,700	70	1,309
CANADA	1948-57	18,740	392,500	78	30,470
	1958	13,150	332,700	83	27,509
	1959	14,180	330,700	95	31,527

1/ Does not include Newfoundland

2/ Subject to revision

This report prepared in the Crops Section of the Agriculture
Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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