

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

Federal Market News Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
STOP 0238

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202-720- 2175 FAX: 202-720-0547

Website: www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv
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April 15, 2010

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF March, 2010

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

(# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------|----------|
| CALIFORNIA | | | |
| Orange Blossom | white | \$1.52 | - \$1.54 |
| DAKOTAS | | | |
| Clover | white | \$1.45 | - \$1.65 |
| FLORIDA | | | |
| Wildflower | light amber | \$1.30 | |
| MONTANA | | | |
| Clover | white | \$1.45 | - \$1.60 |
| WISCONSIN | | | |
| Clover | white | \$1.60 | |

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------|----------|
| Argentina | | | |
| Mixed Flowers | white | \$1.42 | - \$1.55 |
| Brazil | | | |
| Mixed Flowers | light amber | \$1.19 | - \$1.35 |

Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Province Not Reported –

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|--------|----------|
| Canola | white | \$1.49 | - \$1.65 |
| Mixed Flowers | white | \$1.50 | - \$1.54 |

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MARCH, 2010

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): March began warm which was much needed after a record setting cold and snowy February. Bees were making cleansing flights in the 50 and 60 degree daytime temperatures as snow drops, crocus, witch hazels, and maples bloomed. The latter part of the month turned cold and rainy and several hobbyist beekeepers began to see bee losses due to starvation. The bees that overwintered in California almond groves arrived back in good health. Local losses to both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers were expected to be higher than normal due to the extremely cold winter and starvation. Red maples, willow, forsythia and other early spring blooming plants provided nectar.

ALABAMA: Colony losses in Alabama have been around 25% to 40%, above average but not extreme. Losses have been mostly attributed to starvation. Wet weather late last summer and fall kept bees from collecting late season stores. Some clusters were too small to move to honey during extended cold. Bees were building up well but have been delayed by cold. Henbit, dandelion, willow, and other late winter flowers have provided good forage for bees. Due to extended cold, swarming was very minimal. Honey was in very short supply all over the state.

ARIZONA: Temperatures were generally normal throughout Arizona with a range from a high of 89° F in Yuma to a low of -2° F at the Grand Canyon. Precipitation was reported at 21 and 20 of the 22 reporting stations across the state during the first two weeks of the month, respectively, and at from 4 to 11 stations the remainder of the month. For the year, 20 of 22 stations are reporting above normal precipitation levels in Arizona. Many Arizona bee colonies have returned to the state after spending the past few months out of state for the purposes of pollinating fruit and nut trees elsewhere. Desert and plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state, with alfalfa also serving as a source. An increase in bee swarms has been reported across Arizona, and is expected to continue during the spring months due to the above-average levels of rainfall experienced so far this year. Demand for honey remained good.

ARKANSAS: Maple trees and wildflowers provided pollen and nectar. Colonies were in good condition. Temperatures were normal and rainfall was adequate. Supply and demand were good.

CALIFORNIA: Weather patterns were a bit of a roller coaster ride, as a series of Pacific storm systems made their way through the West Coast. Moderate to heavy rain and mountain snows fell across northern and central California with significant storms throughout the month. As the month came to a close, temperatures were dry and seasonably warm all across the state. While precipitation and snowpack statewide conditions were near average and storage in most reservoirs has improved from the previous water year, statewide runoff continues to be significantly below average in Water Year 2009-2010 at 66 percent.

Almonds were in full bloom in early March and local and out-of-state bee hives were in almond and plum orchards for the pollination season. Full bloom continued for plum, prune, peach, cherry and other early varieties of stone fruit across the Central Valley. Strawberry and blueberry plantings began blooming. Cool wet weather continued to hinder pollination activity. Bee hives were being moved between almond, blueberry, plum and cherry orchards as the bloom season progressed. Pollination activity improved where the weather was favorable. As the month came to a close, bees were working the last almond orchards and were finishing up the month in cherry and other stone fruit orchards as well as alfalfa. The almond bloom neared its conclusion throughout the Central Valley as heavy petal fall continued.

Bees were also feeding on rosemary, borage, bottle brush, bulbs, various wild flowers, poppies, calendula, wild mustard, radish, dandelions, vetch, lavenders and apple trees.

COLORADO: Colorado beekeepers still had bees in California at the end of March. Some beekeepers were moving hives to the coastal foothills in south central California to feed off sage and wildflowers while making nucleus colonies and splitting hives. Restoring hives to levels prior to the die off that was experienced before the almond bloom is the goal before beekeepers move the hives back to Colorado. By leaving them in California, beekeepers eliminate, or at least severely mitigate, the need for supplemental feeding before they return to Colorado where late March storms dropped heavy snows. Honey prices were as high as \$1.65 per pound for white clover honey in late March.

FLORIDA: Most beekeepers reported that hives returning from California were in very good shape. The citrus bloom in southern Florida which normally runs from early March until early April was delayed at least a couple of weeks by the cool, wet weather earlier in the year. Oak trees, in many cases, were blooming before the citrus which is not the normal timetable in Florida. No one knows if the citrus season will be about the same length as normal, just later, or if it will be a shorter honey production season. The honey flow from producing citrus groves was looking very good. The later citrus season is causing some hives that normally would be working in south Florida citrus groves in March and then move north, to skip citrus and be shipped to northern states, such as New Jersey, for blueberry pollination which begins soon.

Northern Florida is seeing the continuation of Titi nectar and pollen, which should continue into the second half of April. The honey production from Titi was very good. Tupelo bloom was just beginning and only very lightly scattered instances of Gallberry bloom was reported. The bloom season for almost all of Florida's sources for honey continues to be two or three weeks later than normal, due to the cool, wet weather earlier in the year. Treatment for mites has essentially ended until later in the year. No major problems were being reported at this time. The Florida Department of Agriculture is presently conducting a survey of beekeepers to assess winter death losses. The results are expected to be compiled by late April.

GEORGIA: After a rough winter and having to endure heavy rains followed by extreme cold evenings and days, beekeepers were busy rebuilding hives and replacing losses. It appeared hives were building up slowly and many suppliers were behind in shipments of packages and Queens. Most were creating splits and getting ready to build up for future honey flow. Some of the hives are having problems with mites, and losses were still adding up from the winter related conditions. Maple, willow, wild plum, dandelions, wild mustard and soon blackberries will provide fresh pollen for the bees. The demand for local honey was good.

IDAHO: Idaho beekeepers started bringing bees back from California by the end of March. Overall, the hives appeared to be in pretty good condition after the loss experienced before the almond bloom. This year it was estimated that there was a 5-10 percent shortage of bees needed to pollinate the almond trees for the 2010 crop. Some Idaho bees were sent to the orange groves of southern California instead of the almonds. Orange blossom honey had been estimated as high as \$1.75 per pound in late March. At the end of March, spring was just starting to arrive in southern Idaho. Therefore, supplemental feeding will be necessary for the bees brought back from California in order to maintain their health while waiting for spring to fully bloom.

ILLINOIS: March was much warmer than normal. The average state-wide temperature was 43.1° which was 2 degrees above normal. Like the rest of the region, Illinois' precipitation levels were lower than normal. State-wide precipitation levels for the month were 3.21 inches. This was a -.41 inch deviation from the norm.

Beekeepers continued to check clusters for bee activity and checked the hives for food stores and location. Although some bees were lost during the winter months, beekeepers made necessary adjustments. Warmer days allowed bees to take foraging flights. Flowers such as crocus, periwinkle and daffodils were blooming. Lilacs and other flowers also began to bloom providing a source of nectar and pollen. Beekeepers, although not seeing enough honey for current production, were optimistic about upcoming production levels. Local meetings and beekeeping classes continued to be offered throughout the state. Upcoming regional meetings were also being planned.

INDIANA: March proved to be a relatively moderate weather month. Temperature highs ranged from 38° to 79°.

The statewide average March temperature was 45.9°, which is 4.2° above normal. Although approximately ¾ of the month saw precipitation of some form, only a total of 3.09 inches fell. Although not as low as the previous month, precipitation departures were -.35 inches below normal over a 21 day period. Beekeepers continued to check clusters for bee activity and check the hives for food stores and location. Some in the warmer areas of the state were very cautiously beginning to feed their bees. Although some bees were lost during the winter months, beekeepers made adjustments as needed. Warmer days allowed bees to take foraging flights. Flowers such as crocus, periwinkle and daffodils were blooming. Maple and willow trees also provided a source of nectar and pollen. Beekeepers, although not seeing enough honey for current production, were optimistic about upcoming production levels. Local meetings and beekeeping classes continued to be offered throughout the state. Regional meetings were also scheduled for the upcoming months.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Beekeepers were busy attending meetings and classes. Many beekeepers reported heavy colony loss due to the snow and cold temperatures of this winter. In some cases, access to the hives was hard to obtain for extended periods and the lack of flight cleansing and food supply contributed to losses. Beekeepers were very busy cleaning hives. April delivery dates of bees will be challenging as the demand for package bees increased due to losses.

KENTUCKY: After an unusually cold winter, March couldn't seem to make up its mind about the season, with some very nice days and then back to almost winter weather, especially at night. However, it looks like spring is here to stay. This means that bees were out bringing in pollen and raising brood very well, in most cases. One main concern is with the newly discovered disease *Nosema ceranae*. A survey of 11 counties showed that it was present in 8 of those 11. This is consistent with reports from other states.

LOUISIANA: Various trees and wild flowers provided pollen and nectar. Colonies were in generally good condition. Temperatures were normal temperatures and rainfall was adequate. Supply and demand were fair.

MICHIGAN: Beekeepers spent much of the month preparing for the upcoming honey production season. Beekeepers have been checking colonies, providing supplemental feeding, and restocking where necessary to compensate for winter season losses. A number of bees have returned to the state from California and from the southeastern United States for the purpose of pollinating new crops in the state, such as the upcoming blueberry crop. Maple has served as a pollen and nectar source in the state. It is believed that Michigan's beekeepers were hit especially hard this winter by inclement weather conditions as well as disease. Hopes are that there is enough time to replenish hives and numbers in time for the upcoming fruit and vegetable seasons. An increasing number of orchards across the state are renting hives for pollination, as the number of wild bees has decreased across Michigan drastically in recent years. Many of them are small hobbyists, but the number of individuals involved in beekeeping across the state has seen an increase in recent years.

MINNESOTA: Beekeepers still had hives in California the end of March. Some were finishing up the cherry bloom in San Joaquin County, and many hives were still in the almond orchards of Central Valley waiting to be picked up. Some beekeepers were starting to move hives to the foothills to make splits to rebuild populations that were affected by the die off in January. Beekeepers who overwintered in Texas and other southern states noted that the unusually cold winter affected the growth rate of the bees. It also limited the amount of feeding that the bees could do making supplements necessary for longer than usual. At the end of March prices for white clover honey were \$1.55-1.60 per pound.

MISSISSIPPI: Some beekeepers were expecting the spring buildup to be light this year. Bees have gotten off to a slow start this year, and it is being reported that the Queens are late in producing. Some areas seem to have fared better than others in losses incurred over the winter months. Most beekeepers were splitting hives and seemed to think they were two weeks behind for the spring build up. Maple appears to be done but the blossoms from red bud, hen bit, willow, Tai Tai, dewberries, and wildflowers were providing pollen.

MONTANA: Temperatures were above normal for most of the state. Highs ranged from the mid 50s to the mid 70s, and lows ranged from negative single digits to positive low 20s. Moisture amounts were below normal for most of the state during the month. At month's end, topsoil moisture measured 5 percent very short, compared to 4 percent last year; 19 percent short, 11 percent last year; 68 percent adequate, 74 percent last year; and 8 percent surplus, compared to 11 percent last year. Subsoil moisture measured 32 percent short and very short, and 68 percent adequate and surplus. Bee keepers were busy with equipment repair, and winter inspections of colonies overwintering in home yards, these colonies were in generally good security. Colonies in harsher areas will remain in their winter layers until later in April before being staged in the field. Other keepers were busy hauling new packages of bees and queens home to their locations from breeders. In early areas, willow and dandelion buds were breaking as pollen and nectar sources. Honey demand was moderate

According to figures from the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) 2009 Honey Report released February 26, Montana had 146,000 honey producing colonies (up 12,000 colonies from the 134,000 colonies reported in 2008). Montana colonies produced 10,220,000 pounds of honey in 2009 with a total production value of \$14,819,000, up from the 9,380,000 pounds of honey with a production value of \$12,851,000 produced in 2008. The average per pound price for honey in Montana in 2009 was \$1.45, up from the 2008 average price of \$1.37 per pound.

NEW ENGLAND: Most of March was very cold with a few warm and above normal record high days. The entire region faced heavy precipitation in the form of snowfall in the north and very heavy rainfall in the south. The resulting high moisture levels should provide conditions for abundant pollen and nectar sources. Early Spring ornamentals such as skunk cabbage, poison ivy, swamp red maple, winter aconite, snow drops (*galanthus nivalis*), and snowflakes (*leucojum vernum*) were in bloom in a limited way. Recently, bees were returning to their hives with their pollen sacks brimming with orange, yellow and cream colored pollen from crocus, daffodils and witch hazel. There was a lot of pollen being brought in, but most keepers began feeding light sugar syrup to supplement their stores. The few warm days made it possible for keepers to get a good idea of how the bees overwintered. In northern elevations these colonies will remain wrapped in their protective layers into April and will receive supplemental feedings of protein/pollen patties and candy boards throughout this time frame. Keepers in southern New England were feeding 1:1 ratio sugar water and high fructose corn syrup in order to stimulate brood rearing in wintered over hives. Reported losses were variable. Many keepers, both hobbyists and commercial, expressed a frustration about overwintering; bees going into winter were strong and had plenty of food but experienced heavy losses for the 2009-2010 Winter upon checking this spring. Most mite/disease treated apiaries which had gone into overwintering strong were still in good condition this spring while weaker hives were requiring packages to build up their colonies. Most hive losses were attributed to a combination of varroa mites, nosema, small clusters within the hive and neglected monitoring for supplemental feeding needs hence many cases of starvation. The varroa mites took a bigger bite last year due to problems with treatment. Additionally some of the weak hives are showing very few dead bees which indicate a problem due to tracheal mites. Queen breeders and nuc/package producers have been busy taking orders in anticipation of an early spring demand. There has been a strong demand for new equipment, nucs, and package bees due to high losses from commercial operations as well as from hobbyists. The increased need for pollination makes for the bee supply barely able to keep up with the demand. Additionally, there has been an unusually cold Southern Winter (Georgia), thus delaying bee packages and queens which means bee production is low and it's hard to come up with enough bees for everyone in the demand cycle. March is traditionally a time for bee association school classes as well as nuc and package bee pickups to be scheduled. Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remained good and honey sales remained firm. Prices quoted for 1 lb bottled units were strong at \$7.00 to \$9.00, mostly \$9.00 and occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were steady with wholesale 5 gallon units at \$150.00 to \$200.00, mostly \$175.00 and occasionally lower for both light and dark raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

NEW YORK: Warmer than normal temperatures have brought on the appearance of buds on fruit and apple trees 2 to 3 weeks earlier than normal in the state. It is believed that if these unseasonably warm temperatures continue it will lead to early blossoms, and the risk of later frost heavily damaging this year's crop. If this trend continues, growers will need to pollinate the orchards ahead of their normal schedule, which will present a problem as many bees involved in this process are still in the southeastern United States until mid to late April. This would lead to wild bees being needed for pollination. However, there are concerns about both the number of wild bees available as well as the quality of job they would do. On March 16, a ban on beekeeping in New York City, which had been in effect since 1999, was overturned.

NORTH CAROLINA: The state of North Carolina is just beginning to experience spring weather. Most of the state suffered a colder than normal winter. The average temperatures for March in the western part of the state ranged from 36° to 58° and precipitation was slightly above normal. In the eastern part of the state average temperatures ranged from 40° to 61° and precipitation was slightly below normal. Hive losses were fairly high. With the abundant moisture in the soil, beetles may develop more rapidly than normal. Hives were moved to pollinate blueberries and strawberries. Soon, they will be moved to the apple orchards. The Piedmont area experienced a good maple flow and tulip poplar flow was also expected to be good. The spring flow looks promising for the mountain regions as well. Honey sales were excellent for available supplies.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: The condition of the bees as spring approaches is mixed. Bees down in California have been hampered by cool, wet weather through much of the almond and soft fruit blossoms. The shortage of bees over wintering in California for the almonds has been serious enough that some growers were already looking at contracts for next season. Beekeepers were feeding and the bees will be working some other plants such as vetch prior to coming back to the Dakotas around the end of April. The weather at home has been generally wet this winter and everyone is hoping this will help with a good clover crop and better yields on honey.

OHIO: Beekeepers across the state were busy preparing for this year's crops after an especially brutal winter on the bee population. Bees went into winter in a weakened condition, did not store up enough food for winter, and needed many supplemental feedings. In addition to the weather not being cold enough to kill off parasites and mites, pesticides and colony collapse disorder could have contributed to the weakened state. In many areas, the temperatures did not get warm enough for bees to make cleansing flights and starvation affected many bees. Moisture getting into hives chilled many bees as well. The hopes across the state are that the bee populations can be built up enough in time for the fruit and vegetable crops for this spring and summer. This includes apples within the next month. If there aren't enough bees for pollination, there will be either less production of produce, or a stronger reliance upon wild honeybees, native bees and other insect pollination.

OKLAHOMA: Throughout the state, cedar, elm and maple provided pollen and nectar. Colonies were in good condition. Temperatures were normal and rainfall was adequate. Supply and demand were good.

OREGON: Spring has arrived in Oregon, with fruit crops blooming early. Cherries, pears, peaches were blooming by month's end, while the apples were moving toward bloom. Early warm weather has given wintering over and early spring crops a good start, but most areas were still falling below freezing at night during March. Snowpack moisture measurements taken during March were below normal levels across Oregon, although several strong late March-early April storms added some much needed new snow to previous levels at higher elevations. Current projected summer water availability estimates range from lower than normal to none at all.

During March, bee keepers continued with their winter and early spring chores, maintaining and repairing equipment, and preparing wintering colonies to be staged in preparation for the start of the early lower elevation tree fruit pollination season. With the finish of the California almond bloom, migratory colonies were being transported home to Oregon, while other colonies remained in California for the citrus pollination. Colony health was reported to be generally good. The demand for honey was said to be moderate.

According to figures from the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), Honey report released February 26, 2010, Oregon State was home to 55,000 honey producing colonies in 2009, (up 5,000 from the previous year). Oregon's bee colonies produced 1,870,000 pounds of honey with a total production value of \$2,786,000 in 2009, down from the 2,150,000 pounds of honey that was produced in 2008 with a value of \$3,182,000. Oregon's bee

colonies yielded 34 pounds of honey per colony in 2009. The average per pound price for Oregon honey in 2009 was \$1.49, up from the 2008 average of \$1.41 per pound.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Colonies across the state were in good conditions. Spring build-up started off slow but got better during the last half of the month when more pollen sources became available. Bees across the state were gathering mostly pollen from breath of spring, red maples, redbud, peach, plum and a few other landscaping ornamentals. Moisture conditions were adequate. No major pest problems were reported. Some beekeepers were starting to use a new technique to treat bees for mites. Keepers spray a solution of essential oils and water on their bees until they are saturated. The saturated bees clean the solution off of one another knocking off mites in the process.

TENNESSEE: Not available at time of release.

TEXAS: Numerous wildflowers provided pollen and nectar. Colonies were in good condition. Temperatures were below normal and rainfall was adequate. Supply and demand were on the rise.

UTAH: Some Utah beekeepers that moved bees to California for the almond bloom have left the bees there until the weather improves in Utah. Beekeepers have moved some bees to the Mojave Desert area where they are planning on making nucs, or nucleus colonies, for splitting hives. Nucleus colonies are smaller than regular hives and allow the new colony to establish itself in a smaller environment where humidity and temperature are more easily controlled by the bees facilitating brood production. Nuc production was planned for mid-April with plans to start returning the bees to Utah in the middle of May. Desert flowers and early mesquite were providing plenty of pollen for the bees. Therefore, supplemental feeding was not necessary for bees in the desert. At the end of March, prices for light amber honey were reported at \$1.30 per pound and white clover honey was being sold at \$1.60 per pound.

WASHINGTON: The weather has been cool to cold and somewhat wet and windy. Many areas are 7-10 days behind normal at this point. There has been some activity in early areas. However, the cool and often windy weather has not been good for flying. There have been several nights requiring frost protection in orchards.

WISCONSIN: March 2010 proved to be a month with varying weather days. The highs were upwards of 77° and lows as cold as 14°. The average mean temperatures posted throughout the state were 34-41°. The end of month's unseasonably high days led to above average temperatures for the month overall. Temperatures posted an average departure as high as 6.5 degrees above normal. The state began to once again show signs of drought conditions. Precipitation departures overall posted from -1.29 to -1.76 inches. Beekeepers continued to check clusters for bee activity as well as checking the hives for food stores and location. They made adjustments as warranted. Warmer days allowed bees to take foraging flights. Flowers such as crocus, periwinkle and daffodils were blooming. Beekeepers were optimistic about upcoming production levels. Local meetings and beekeeping classes continued to be offered throughout the state and beekeepers also attended district meetings.

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

| | Year to Date | | February 2010 | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | Quantity Kilograms | Value Dollars | Quantity Kilograms | Value Dollars |
| COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - | | | | |
| Bahamas, The | 10,287 | 24,969 | 10,287 | 24,969 |
| Barbados | 442 | 4,591 | 442 | 4,591 |
| Bermuda | 988 | 5,899 | 0 | 0 |
| Cayman Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| China | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Guyana | 654 | 4,323 | 654 | 4,323 |
| Honduras | 354 | 2,819 | 0 | 0 |
| Hong Kong | 9,525 | 46,595 | 0 | 0 |
| Iceland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Indonesia | 5,490 | 13,326 | 0 | 0 |
| Japan | 29,412 | 119,537 | 0 | 0 |
| Korea, South | 18,934 | 69,094 | 0 | 0 |
| Kuwait | 40,026 | 97,155 | 40,026 | 97,155 |
| Netherlands | 686 | 4,773 | 686 | 4,773 |
| Netherlands Antilles(*) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pakistan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Panama | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Philippines | 38,067 | 92,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Saudi Arabia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Singapore | 16,916 | 44,522 | 1,445 | 6,969 |
| Taiwan | 750 | 4,185 | 750 | 4,185 |
| United Arab Emirates | 80,502 | 195,405 | 40,919 | 99,324 |

| | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Yemen(*) | 80,018 | 337,480 | 19,936 | 84,370 |
| NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - - | | | | |
| Australia(*) | 1,378 | 5,877 | 1,378 | 5,877 |
| Bahamas, The | 9,450 | 26,468 | 7,408 | 19,074 |
| Barbados | 1,434 | 9,100 | 0 | 0 |
| Bermuda | 1,200 | 5,799 | 1,200 | 5,799 |
| Canada | 53,034 | 205,746 | 21,494 | 95,515 |
| Cayman Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| China | 2,004 | 4,863 | 2,004 | 4,863 |
| Costa Rica | 249 | 3,651 | 249 | 3,651 |
| Ecuador | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Guatemala | 15,177 | 31,680 | 15,177 | 31,680 |
| Hong Kong | 8,782 | 29,775 | 0 | 0 |
| Indonesia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Israel(*) | 60,900 | 214,368 | 0 | 0 |
| Japan | 72,256 | 100,000 | 36,128 | 50,000 |
| Korea, South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leeward-Windward Islands(*) | 272 | 7,920 | 0 | 0 |
| Malaysia | 619 | 2,952 | 619 | 2,952 |
| Netherlands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Netherlands Antilles(*) | 2,115 | 10,821 | 1,263 | 6,271 |
| Panama | 12,804 | 58,626 | 855 | 4,551 |
| Philippines | 4,012 | 28,443 | 2,772 | 19,229 |
| Saudi Arabia | 18,000 | 79,474 | 18,000 | 79,474 |
| Singapore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thailand | 6,910 | 16,772 | 6,910 | 16,772 |
| United Arab Emirates | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 603,647 | 1,909,408 | 230,602 | 676,367 |

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

| Year to Date | | | February 2010 | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Quantity Kilograms | Value Dollars | CIF Value Dollars | Quantity Kilograms | Value Dollars | CIF Value Dollars |

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Argentina | 648,552 | 1,922,766 | 1,981,995 | 390,301 | 1,179,181 | 1,210,221 |
| Australia(*) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brazil | 264,327 | 740,329 | 765,658 | 94,929 | 268,030 | 276,545 |
| Canada | 1,151,341 | 4,023,802 | 4,053,123 | 764,977 | 2,671,658 | 2,687,355 |
| India | 270,655 | 694,556 | 724,856 | 270,655 | 694,556 | 724,856 |
| Indonesia | 977,320 | 1,634,962 | 1,736,871 | 440,220 | 738,039 | 776,073 |
| Italy(*) | 8,943 | 53,014 | 56,164 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Japan | 11 | 2,573 | 2,679 | 11 | 2,573 | 2,679 |
| Switzerland(*) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 19,000 | 49,225 | 51,199 | 19,000 | 49,225 | 51,199 |
| United Kingdom | 3,249 | 35,015 | 37,187 | 3,104 | 32,474 | 34,046 |

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Argentina | 594,250 | 1,760,208 | 1,811,844 | 131,371 | 424,614 | 437,717 |
| Brazil | 193,314 | 548,266 | 576,397 | 42,301 | 119,161 | 124,811 |
| Canada | 16,788 | 84,718 | 85,653 | 6,206 | 31,512 | 31,818 |
| France(*) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hungary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| India | 90,000 | 222,300 | 232,300 | 90,000 | 222,300 | 232,300 |
| Italy(*) | 3,501 | 8,821 | 9,321 | 3,328 | 5,869 | 6,119 |
| Malaysia | 1,245,480 | 2,011,318 | 2,217,176 | 539,280 | 858,886 | 947,216 |
| Mexico | 10,755 | 32,803 | 33,303 | 10,755 | 32,803 | 33,303 |
| Mongolia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Zealand(*) | 9,464 | 16,692 | 16,693 | 9,464 | 16,692 | 16,693 |
| Taiwan | 669,900 | 1,239,315 | 1,341,315 | 248,820 | 460,317 | 499,317 |
| Thailand | 18,600 | 38,502 | 39,580 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 19,140 | 50,721 | 51,229 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vietnam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Argentina | 432,584 | 1,293,134 | 1,329,601 | 210,894 | 627,348 | 641,305 |
| Austria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brazil | 569,370 | 1,499,705 | 1,568,692 | 264,146 | 714,805 | 757,885 |
| Canada | 1,190 | 3,896 | 3,902 | 1,190 | 3,896 | 3,902 |
| Hong Kong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hungary | 3,384 | 17,565 | 18,465 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| India | 400,315 | 850,699 | 905,191 | 92,912 | 198,044 | 212,706 |
| Italy(*) | 1,248 | 8,381 | 8,933 | 1,248 | 8,381 | 8,933 |
| Malaysia | 1,503,552 | 2,305,498 | 2,516,237 | 853,952 | 1,311,610 | 1,430,888 |
| Mexico | 36,809 | 108,650 | 110,429 | 36,809 | 108,650 | 110,429 |
| New Zealand(*) | 64,538 | 113,825 | 117,110 | 60,266 | 106,290 | 108,455 |
| Pakistan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peru | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spain | 2,844 | 20,860 | 21,995 | 1,264 | 9,456 | 9,995 |
| Taiwan | 192,168 | 345,775 | 364,284 | 76,560 | 136,085 | 144,885 |
| Thailand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 38,000 | 102,210 | 102,212 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vietnam | 1,650,310 | 3,575,473 | 3,688,958 | 822,820 | 1,741,590 | 1,806,271 |

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Argentina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Australia(*) | 9,240 | 65,877 | 70,396 | 9,240 | 65,877 | 70,396 |
| Brazil | 68,419 | 203,577 | 212,176 | 30,429 | 63,275 | 68,575 |
| Canada | 39,170 | 46,542 | 50,543 | 37,687 | 33,234 | 37,234 |
| Dominican Republic | 21,411 | 39,000 | 41,261 | 21,411 | 39,000 | 41,261 |
| Egypt | 12,045 | 23,925 | 25,725 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| France(*) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| India | 16,690 | 48,427 | 50,427 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Malaysia | 19,612 | 13,822 | 16,072 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mexico | 68,737 | 166,537 | 169,087 | 37,700 | 78,793 | 80,043 |
| Morocco | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Zealand(*) | 195,681 | 416,162 | 420,200 | 13,758 | 44,301 | 44,302 |
| Russia | 500 | 3,435 | 3,714 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Switzerland(*) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| Armenia | 5,095 | 24,570 | 25,859 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Australia(*) | 2,138 | 11,478 | 19,926 | 2,138 | 11,478 | 19,926 |
| Austria | 4,181 | 39,838 | 45,827 | 2,249 | 22,434 | 28,053 |
| Brazil | 94 | 3,612 | 3,783 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bulgaria | 19,832 | 87,602 | 93,910 | 10,173 | 48,927 | 54,207 |
| Canada | 136,475 | 711,877 | 714,303 | 73,246 | 376,781 | 378,157 |
| China | 2,000 | 4,000 | 5,205 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Dominican Republic | 908 | 2,937 | 3,017 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Egypt | 2,681 | 9,345 | 9,753 | 2,110 | 6,965 | 7,286 |
| France(*) | 46,841 | 184,234 | 187,001 | 22,355 | 81,504 | 82,257 |
| Georgia | 400 | 4,000 | 4,400 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Germany(*) | 25,663 | 122,988 | 128,532 | 13,504 | 69,340 | 72,384 |
| Greece | 10,989 | 83,482 | 86,183 | 10,293 | 77,569 | 80,045 |
| Hungary | 2,302 | 14,875 | 15,917 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| India | 223,525 | 472,477 | 493,199 | 155,715 | 313,152 | 326,744 |
| Israel(*) | 630 | 6,857 | 7,371 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Italy(*) | 3,323 | 16,032 | 16,556 | 2,817 | 9,516 | 9,706 |
| Lebanon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lithuania | 2,184 | 9,802 | 10,782 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Malaysia | 19,830 | 33,200 | 34,665 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mexico | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moldova | 3,691 | 19,936 | 21,457 | 1,142 | 5,722 | 6,294 |
| New Zealand(*) | 112,126 | 327,347 | 340,184 | 78,247 | 237,771 | 247,553 |
| Poland | 15,796 | 44,335 | 47,636 | 13,966 | 32,687 | 35,930 |
| Portugal | 600 | 4,638 | 5,163 | 600 | 4,638 | 5,163 |
| Russia | 1,664 | 15,688 | 17,257 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spain | 2,157 | 13,907 | 14,881 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Switzerland(*) | 67,059 | 266,351 | 276,216 | 51,885 | 164,251 | 169,158 |
| Taiwan | 2,705 | 8,233 | 8,521 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Turkey | 13,378 | 88,433 | 90,956 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 19,129 | 61,694 | 67,863 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| United Kingdom | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

FLAVORED HONEY - - - None Reported

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| GRAND TOTAL | 12,309,803 | 29,136,649 | 30,436,476 | 6,077,448 | 14,561,260 | 15,192,596 |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Notes:

1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics

2. (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.

3. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure. Commodity groups on a value report will reflect a total of all statistics for each commodity in the group in DOLLARS, whereas a QUANTITY line item will show statistics on the greatest number of like units of measure for grouped commodities.

4. Product Group : Harmonized

Bee Colony Pollination rental prices, eastern US with comparison to west coast

Dewey M. Caron, Emeritus Professor Univ of Delaware, Affiliate Professor Oregon State University, Corvallis OR.

A mail survey was sent to 75 beekeepers identified by MAAREC (Mid_Atlantic Apiculture research and Extension Consortium) members as involved in pollination colony rental in 4 of the 6 state region of MAAREC. A total of 19 valid responses (25% return) were tallied and compared to 7 such surveys obtained in a pilot survey the previous year (2008). The 8 Commercial (> 300 colonies) operations (11,366 colonies) responding averaged 1420 colonies & the 11 semi-commercial beekeeping operations averaged 101 colonies (all managed minimum of 50 colonies). Table 1 summarizes the responses from both the 2008 pilot survey and the 2009 survey; it provides number of beekeepers who rented colonies for each of 12 commodities, total colony rentals reported, number colonies/ac rented by crop (range), and the pollinating fee (weighted ave and range) for each crop.

The average pollinating fee (a weighted average of number of rentals at each respective fee) was \$64.40 for the 2009 season. This was an increase of \$15.10 from the more limited pilot study of the previous season. In the 19 returns, responding beekeepers indicated they were managing 12,477 colonies (pre-winter losses) for which they reported 21,745 rentals (1.7 rentals/col). These rentals generated approximately \$1,413,674 gross pollination income. Winter losses were significant, averaging 31.7% with a range of 6 to 70%. These numbers are slightly higher than the national average of winter losses for 2008-2009 (29%) (VanEngelsdorp, et al 2010) but presumably spring splitting will enable the 19 beekeepers to recover colony numbers as was being done by pollinators in the west (Caron, et al, 2010).

There were “rentals” in 5 commodities reported by semi-commercial beekeepers (2 for apple, 1 for cherries and 1 each in strawberry and pumpkin) for which no rental fee was paid – survey forms indicated colonies were placed in the crop for convenience or sales outlet availability. These 5 instances were not computed in the weighted average rental fee for these 4 commodities. Rentals in 4 additional commodities were tallied in 2009 for which no rental information was received in the previous season (blackberry, cranberry, squash and almond). In the case of the later, almonds, 3 eastern beekeepers reported renting colonies but the fee reported (range \$45 to \$100) and lack of information on col/acre would indicate other beekeepers with transportation were subsequently renting these colonies (2129 total) to the growers (presumably for a higher fee). Still almond rental income represented 11% of total rental income for the 19 beekeepers.

The per cent increase in average rental price for 8 commodities for which numbers were gathered in both survey years is shown in the last column of Table 1. There were only 7 individuals participating in the initial (pilot) season and the 2009 pollination fee should be considered more representative of the pollination industry in the mid-Atlantic region. Increase in average rental prices were noted for all 8 commodities ranging from 2.6 to 14.5% (simple ave =9.5%) but this may not be an actual reflection of an increase, merely a larger pool of respondents. It is however similar to the increase (10.9%) reported by Burgett (2009) in his survey of pollination prices in the PNW (see below).

There is a wide range in the number of colonies rented per growing area (expressed in col/ac). Some returned surveys did not indicate the acreage pollinated, just numbers of colonies. Not knowing the acreage might indicate a lack of communication between beekeeper and grower or it may simply reflect inadequate records at the time of completing the survey. The range of prices for pollination was quite broad both years and was consistent, whether commercial or semi-commercial beekeeper. Rental price differences per crop (in the major rental crops nearly 2 fold) may reflect past practices, level of competition, regional differences or uneven business skills of the beekeepers.

Table 1: Crop Pollination in MAAREC Region (PA, DE, NJ, MD, VA, WV), 2008-9

SUMMARY of 2008-09: Number Indiv, Num Col, rented,#Col/ac (range) & pollinating fees (ave & range) + % change by crop

| CROP | 2008 | | | | | 2009 | | | | | |
|-------------|--|-------|-----------|----------------|---------|--|-------|-----------|----------------|------------------|--------|
| | # Indiv | # Col | #col/ac | Ave Fee | range | # indiv | # Col | # col/ac | Ave fee | fee range | % chg |
| | 3 commercial (1692 col ave) & 4 semi-commercial (132 col ave) beekeepers | | | | | 8 commercial (1420 col ave) & 11 semi-commercial (101 col ave) beekeeping operations | | | | | |
| Apple | 10 | 2041 | .2-1.6/ac | \$37.90 | \$35-60 | 14 | 1812 | .33-2/ac | \$38.90 | \$35-65 (2 \$0)* | +2.6% |
| Blackberry | | | | | | 2 | 36 | n/a | \$48.30 | \$45-50 | |
| Blueberry | 2 | 350 | 1/ac | \$59.70 | \$58-70 | 12 | 5794 | .8-1.3/ac | \$67.80 | \$56-90 ** | +12% |
| Cranberry | | | | | | 2 | 4295 | 1.2/ac | \$73.40 | \$73-74 | |
| Cherries | 1 | 60 | ½/ac | \$45.00 | | 3 | 95 | .25-1/ac | \$50.90 | \$40-70 (1 \$0)* | +11.5% |
| Cucumber | 9 | 4113 | .67-1/ac | \$50.40 | \$26-65 | 12 | 4777 | .4-1/ac | \$58.90 | \$28-70 | +14.5% |
| Melons | 4 | 556 | 1-1.9/ac | \$67.40 | \$30-70 | 8 | 846 | .6-1/ac | \$69.90 | \$50-70 | +3.6% |
| Pumpkin | 3 | 66 | .5-1.7/ac | \$52.90 | \$50-55 | 12 | 471 | .1.8-8/ac | \$62.70 | \$40-70 (1 \$0)* | +15.7% |
| Squash | | | | | | 3 | 36 | .16-.5/ac | \$58.30 | \$55-65 | |
| Strawberry | 2 | 40 | 1col/ac | \$64.30 | \$50-70 | 8 | 206 | .3-.5/ac | \$67.80 | \$50-70 (1 \$0)* | +5.4% |
| Watermelon | 2 | 690 | 1-1.75/ac | \$55.40 | \$55-70 | 9 | 1248 | .8-1.2/ac | \$61.90 | \$50-70 | +10.5% |
| Almond (CA) | | | | | | 3 | 2129 | n/a | \$75.80 | \$45-100 | |
| | 7tot | 7916 | | \$49.30 | | 19tot | 21745 | | \$64.40 | ave | +9.5% |

*If \$0 fee charged =not computed into ave fee **\$90 fee in Maine - in MAAREC region range =\$56-70

This survey represents the first comprehensive survey of pollination prices in the eastern US. Two west coast surveys of pollination prices are the annual survey conducted by Mike Burgett in the PNW, which he has been conducted continuously since 1987 (see Burgett 2009 for the most recent report and Burgett, et al 2010 for a summary of the total survey years) and a similar survey patterned after the PNW survey of California beekeepers conducted since 1994 (also reported in Burgett, et al 2010). The two surveys on different coasts with different beekeepers show a number of similarities. The number of colonies represented in the two surveys are highly disparate; this survey of eastern commercial/semi-commercial beekeepers includes management of only approximately 1/4th the average number of colonies by commercial beekeepers (ave 1420col) and only 1/10th of total pollination rentals compared to those of the PNW survey.

Burgett reported that the average colony rental fee in 2009 for PNW pollinators was \$89.90 (up 10.9% from the previous year) and that 71% of the annual gross income of the 13 commercial beekeepers (semi-commercial beekeepers are NOT included in his surveys) filling the survey was obtained from pollination rentals. The 13 PNW individuals owned on average 5140 colonies and reported 1.8 rentals/colony on average in 2009; for the 17 past years it averaged 2.4. For California pollinators, all who rented to almonds, the average was 1.6 average number of colony rentals since 1996 (Burgett et al 2010). In this first report of eastern pollination rental prices, the average rental fee was \$64.40. (see Table 2).

For PNW beekeepers (Burgett 2009), CA almond rentals were the most common crop rental (40.3% of all rentals) and they accounted for 67.4% of all rental income in the 2009 survey. PNW tree fruit rentals (apples predominantly but also pears and sweet cherries) was the next most common rental crop (37% of total) but these rentals accounted for only 21% of income; taken together California almonds and PNW tree fruit accounted for 77.4% of all rentals and 88.2% of all pollination income, which illustrates the dominance and importance of these crops for a commercial PNW beekeeper. Interestingly if the almond crop was NOT available, the average colony rental fee would have been \$49.20. PNW respondents reported a gross pollination income of \$10, 998,747; this was extrapolated to estimate the regions pollination value in rental income alone was \$15 million.

Table 2. 2009 Average pollination fees, east & west coasts

| PNW 13 commercial beekeeping operations | | | | EAST 19 semi & commercial Beekeeping Operations | | |
|---|-------------|----------|----------|---|---------|----------|
| Crop | No. Rentals | Avg. Fee | Fee +/-1 | No rentals | ave fee | Fee +/-1 |
| Pears | 5,862 | \$51.40 | +21.4% | none | | |
| Cherries | 15,605 | \$51.50 | +21.6% | 95 | \$50.90 | +11.5% |
| Apples | 23,858 | \$49.70 | + 9.5% | 1812 | \$38.90 | +2.6% |
| Berries ² | 2,844 | \$38.40 | +26.9% | 36 | \$48.30 | -- |
| Blueberries | 7,100 | \$42.50 | +15.2% | 5794 | \$67.80 | +12% |
| Cranberry | | | | 4295 | \$73.40 | -- |
| Cucumber | | | | 4777 | \$58.90 | +14.5% |
| Melon & Watermelon | | | | 2094 | \$65.70 | + 7.9% |
| Veg. seed | 6,652 | \$53.75 | +13.6% | none | | |
| Clover seeds ³ | 3,435 | \$46.20 | +48.3% | none | 61.80 | na |
| Squash & Pumpkin | 2,636 | \$47.30 | + 2.3% | 507 | \$60 | +11.5% |
| Meadowfoam | 1,336 | \$47.30 | + 4.3% | none | | |
| Strawberry | 206 | \$67.80 | +5.2% | | | |
| Almonds | 49,318 | \$150.30 | +1.5% | 2129 | \$75.80 | |
| | 122,310 | \$89.80 | +10.9% | 21,745 | \$64.40 | 9.5% |

Table 3 compares by crop category, the importance of west and east coast pollination rental opportunities. On the west coast, almond and tree fruits each account for about 40% of the rentals but tree fruit rentals accounts for only 21% of rental income; almonds provide 67% of pollination income. On the east coast, 3 crops, cucurbits, blueberry and cranberry each account for 20% or more of rentals and each provide a similar rental income; as in the west, tree fruits (apple and cherries) don't provide adequate income for the beekeeper in the east, providing only 5.3% of total income despite accounting for 8.8% of rentals.

Table 3. 2009 Pollination rentals and income by crop type - 13 PNW commercial beekeepers (top) and 18 Commercial and Semi-commercial beekeepers in east.

PNW

| Crop | # Rentals | % of total rentals | Rental Income | % of total rental income |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Tree Fruit | 45,325 | 37.1% | \$2,290,447 | 20.8% |
| Almonds | 49,318 | 40.3% | \$7,410,980 | 67.4% |
| All other | 27,667 | 22.6% | \$1,297,320 | 11.8% |
| Total | 122,310 | | \$10,998,747 | |

EAST

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Tree Fruit | 1907 | 8.8% | \$ 75,584 | 5.3% |
| Blueberry | 5794 | 26.6% | \$393,985 | 27.9% |
| Cranberry | 4295 | 19.8% | \$315,990 | 22.4% |
| Cucurbits | 7378 | 33.9% | \$450,506 | 31.9% |
| Almond | 2129 | 9.8% | \$161,451 | 11.4% |
| All other fruit | 242 | 1.1% | \$ 15,706 | 0.1% |
| Total | 21,745 | | \$1,413,674 | |

Among the eastern beekeepers, the percentage of estimated income was 42% honey, 54% pollination and 4% other for the 8 commercials responding to the survey while among semi-commercials it was 32.4% honey, 57.3% pollination and 10.3% other. In the western states it was 60-40% pollination vs honey for commercials and the opposite, 40-60% income from pollination vs honey.

Burgett et al 2010 examine the information gathered over several seasons regarding rental income. They report that almonds have increased dramatically since 2004 and examining the data does not reveal an effect of CCD or recent heavy colony losses. Continuing this eastern survey is planned for the current year and perhaps a look at several season will help demonstrate how heavy losses and changing agricultural practices might be affecting the eastern beekeepers involved in pollination rental.

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MAAREC (Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium) includes 6 State (DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV) state beekeeper association, State regulatory officials, Research/extension professionals and USDA Beltsville). This data base lacks participation from VA and WV, although a few rentals in both states are included.