

State of Mississippi

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Agriculture Fact Sheet Honey 2013



- There are between 20 and 30 thousand colonies in the state during the summer and 80-120 thousand during the winter.
 - There are 12 full-time commercial beekeepers, 30-40 part-time honey producers and 800 hobbyists.
 - Mississippi produces about 2.25 million pounds of honey each year.
 - Honey is defined as the sweet substance produced by honeybees from the nectar of blossoms or from secretions of living plants. The bees collect, transform and store the honey in honey combs.
 - About one third of the human diet can be contributed directly or indirectly to honey bee pollination.
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- Some 15-20 non-resident beekeepers bring about 20,000 colonies to Mississippi each winter, divide them into 50,000 to 80,000 bee colonies and transport them back to the northern states each May/June.
 - Each hive has a colony including one queen bee, several hundred drones (male bees) and 60-80,000 workers. All worker bees are female.
 - To make one pound of honey, it takes about 30,000 trips and 50,000 miles of flying. In an hour's trip, a worker bee may visit 50 flowers.
 - Honey doesn't spoil from bacteria if packaged properly. However, it will ferment if the moisture content is too high and it is not well sealed. Honey has been discovered in ancient tombs and was still edible.
 - Honeybees contribute a value to pollination of fruits, berries, vegetables, cotton, soybeans, vegetables, peanuts and wild plants in Mississippi exceeding \$200 million annually

Source: Mississippi State University



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