NATIONAL HONEY REPORT

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2006
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 Lots)

ARKANSAS – Soybean, extra light amber, 70¢
- Soybean, light amber, 67¢

CALIFORNIA – Cotton/Alfalfa, light amber, 75¢
- Mixed Flowers, extra light & light amber, 65 - 75¢ (delayed payments)

FLORIDA – Gallberry, extra light amber, 85¢
- Orange, white, $1.05 - 1.16 (new crop)
- Orange, white, 95¢#
- Orange, cut comb, white, $1.60 (new crop)

IDAHO – Alfalfa, white, 87¢ - $1.00#

MONTANA – Clover, white, 85 - 90¢

NORTH DAKOTA – Clover, white, 82.5¢

SOUTH DAKOTA – Alfalfa/Clover, water white, 85¢
- Clover, white, 80 - 85¢
- Sunflower, white, 77¢

WASHINGTON – Clover, white, 80¢

WYOMING – Alfalfa/Clover, white, $1.05

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.

ALBERTA – Alfalfa, white, 80¢

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

EAST COAST - - -
Argentina – Clover, white, 89¢

WEST COAST - - -
China – Mixed Flowers, white, 63.5 - 67¢
Vietnam - Mixed Flowers, light amber, 63¢

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A petition asking the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to develop a Standard of Identity for honey was filed. The Standard of Identity (SOI) will provide a legal description of honey. Expectation is that the SOI will assist in the battle against so – called "honey pretenders" – products that are labeled as honey, but are not actually 100% honey.

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A proposal has been submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Service asking that the current National Honey Board be changed to one funded and controlled by packers and importers. The proposal will be reviewed by AMS, then published in the Federal Register for public review before going to referendum by the packers and importers. Honey producers will not participate in the referendum, nor will they be assessed for the new board. In contrast, the current National Honey Board is funded by assessments paid by producers and importers.

Under the proposal, the new Packer-Importer Board would have 10 members: 4 packers, 2 importers, 3 honey producers and a cooperative representative. The current board has 12 members: 7 producers, 2 packers, 2 importers and a cooperative representative.
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COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING APRIL, 2006

ALABAMA . . . The beekeepers in south Alabama have had a trying spring at best. The year started out with great expectations, but now uncertainty seems to be the rule. Some of the most seasoned beekeepers have said that this has been the worst swarming year they have ever seen, therefore colony management during this month has been very important. The weather has been very dry and the nectar flow has almost stopped. At the end of April, the privet bloom (which has been poor) and Chinese Tallow trees were just beginning to bud out. There is some honey on colonies, but it is not quite ready to be extracted.

Central Alabama has had a poor nectar flow this April because of the dry weather. Beekeepers are looking to Chinese Tallow and the summer nectar flow for honey production.

North Alabama conditions have been very different in April. Above average rainfall and warm temperatures has been favorable. Nectar flow has been normal to good. The swarm season was not as bad as expected and colony strength has been good. Most of the nectar sources have been tulip poplar, blackberry and other small fruit and berry plants. Beekeepers have been able to make some splits and increase their numbers. The availability of quality queens have been the limiting factor. Colonies are awaiting the remaining spring and summer flows.

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV) . . . April weather was ideal for pollination and nectar gathering with generally warm days and cool nights. Bloom has been very good on peaches, nectarines and various spring flowering trees and lasting a long time with the favorable weather. Although for most of April the District was very dry, several heavy rains the latter part of the month alleviated the dry conditions and fire bans in several states were lifted and top soil moisture returned to more normal levels for this time of year. Colonies that were pollinating in western states have all returned east. Colonies are building nicely and are very active. Current nectar supplies continue to be spring flowering trees, bulbs, dandelion, yellow rocket, and dandelion.

ARIZONA . . . Average temperatures were generally above normal in all parts of the State for most of the month but cooled to below normal levels the last week of the month. Frequent precipitation fell in Northern Arizona throughout the month while limited rainfall fell early in the month in Central and Southern areas. Bees worked fruit, nut and citrus bloom in various Western production areas early in the month before the remaining colonies were returned to desert locations to work melon, vegetable, citrus and desert bloom.

ARKANSAS . . . Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of April were from red bud, oak, willows, and fruit trees. Wide ranges of wild flowers were also blooming. Colonies were generally in good condition. Weather has been above normal in temperatures, with adequate rainfall.

Supply and demand for honey was light.

CALIFORNIA . . . The entire State experienced additional cool and wet conditions through the middle of April. Temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees below normal which threatened many crops. Numerous precipitation records continued to be broken. Redding received measurable rain on each of the first twelve days in April, after setting a record with 23 days of precipitation in March. Los Angeles received daily-record amounts on the 4th and 5th. Snowfall totaled up to 3 additional feet in the San Gabriel Mountains. Cool weather lingered for the 9th consecutive week with temperatures still ranging as much as 5 degrees below normal which slowed fieldwork. Showers were also reported again in Central and Southern California, some from thunderstorms, on the 22nd and 23rd with another accumulation of snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Warm, dry weather finally overspread the State the last few days in April, promoting spring fieldwork. Average temperatures ranged mostly in the 60's and 70's with only small amounts of precipitation reported along the coast and in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Hives were being moved out of the almonds the beginning of April, progress frequently slowed by muddy roads and orchards. While the bees were able to find enough days to pollinate the almonds, losses are expected from frost and hail damage. After the bees were moved out of the almonds, they were immediately set in cherry orchards in Yuba County along with prunes, apples and pear orchards. Blueberries, nectarines, figs and strawberries also began to bloom in the San Joaquin Valley. Oranges were just getting started the end of April. Additional pollen and nectar was being gathered from Manzanita in the hills, some sage and various other wild plants. Most crops are running behind schedule because of the cool, wet weather. Also during the month, more feeding than previous years was being done. Queens were added along with packages to make up the dead-outs. Overall, bees are reported to be in good condition with most losses coming in colonies that weren't fed enough or treated for mites.

Queen and package producers were busy filling orders during the month. Some shipments were made late because of the weather which also caused some producers to delay making divides when new queens had not arrived. Beekeeping supply companies reported selling significant amounts of supplemental feed during April to both in and out-of-state beekeepers. While some are not currently bringing in bees wax, others are paying $1.65-1.75 in trade per pound for good, clean wax and $1.55 cash.

Honey packers reported sales are about the same as last year. Some are buying but others are using existing inventories. A few purchases were made from beekeepers that needed the money to pay for their honey under government loan. Because of the adverse weather in some locations, including various foreign countries, the amount of honey available to packers could decline, therefore, higher prices are being discussed.

COLORADO. . . Bees were generally in good shape although some suffered 30-40% mite loss or winterkill. Many beekeepers have had to feed corn syrup. The dandelion bloom arrived about the 3rd week of April. Bears were a problem in Jefferson County. One beekeeper had his barn burn down that was used for extracting honey. Some tree bloom on elms and maples were providing pollen at month-end.

FLORIDA . . . The citrus nectar flow was a little disappointing in some cases. Nectar production was somewhat spotty. The month of May will bring Gall berry, Palmetto and Tupelo into production. Colonies are generally in good condition. The general outlook is favorable with the price of honey reasonably strong.

Some beekeepers have started their seasonal journey north. May see many more leave the state following the seasonal pollination demands northward.

GEORGIA . . . Colonies around the state were in generally good condition. Statewide, the spring honey flow was fully underway as April drew to a close having begun earlier in the month in South Georgia. Colonies around the state were near maximum spring population levels as the month ended. During April, tulip-poplar trees, privet hedge & various wild clovers served as sources for pollen & nectar. Weather around the state for April varied from warm to mild days with mild to cool nights. Moisture conditions were for the most part drier than normal, although several rain events in the latter half of the month brought moisture levels closer to adequate in those areas which received them.

KANSAS, IOWA, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA . . . Temperatures for March were near to slightly above normal, while precipitation was above normal with adequate inches of rainfall and snow. March was one of the wettest months in a while. April continued to bring above average warm spring temperatures. There was nearly 4" of rain accumulated. Record temperatures were set across the Midwest for April.

Beekeepers were busy attending meetings, bee keeping classes and an FFA Convention. Hives are being cleaned as bees are working various flower sources.

IDAHO. . . Abundant moisture in April improved the soil moisture outlook. Mountain snowpack, which is a main source of water for irrigated crops, ranged from 90 to 180% of normal. In southern Idaho, dandelion bloom provided a good floral source for the bees. Mite infestations were a problem but overall colonies were in good shape.

ILLINOIS . . . The month of April, temperatures were reported warmer than normal. The southern sections reported some daytime highs had reached the mid-80's while most daytime temperatures were reported in the mid-70's in the central and southern areas. Temperatures in the northern section were in the seasonal 60's most of the month with a few mid-70's reported. Northern parts of the State, soil moisture is fairly low as the spring rainfall has been spotty and in some areas, very little rainfall has been reported. The southern section of the State however, received frequent showers and some damaging wind occurred throughout the month.

The honeybees were working many floral sources throughout the month such as Dogwood, Red Bud, Iris, peach, apple tulip, strawberry, cherry, lilac, and daffodil. By the end of the month, most of the early spring floral sources had wound down and late spring sources had no bloom.

The end of the month, in the northern section, most floral sources were in full bloom and collection activities were in full swing. Most of the States honeybees have over wintered well due to beekeepers treating activities and a mild winter.

Honey sales at retail level were good while bulk movement and wax sales were reported slow.

INDIANA . . . The first of the month southern and central parts of the State received ample rainfall and temperatures in the high 70's to mid 80's. This brought vegetation growth earlier than normal. Honeybees were reported in generally good condition and over wintering losses were low. The northern part of the State reported mostly dry conditions as most rainfall and thunderstorms were spotty and most areas received little precipitation. In the northern area, the winter was milder than normal and temperatures remained cool.

The honeybees were working many floral sources such as dogwood, red bud, Iris, daffodil, lilac, dandelion and tulips. The last of the month, fruit trees and strawberries had very good bloom due to the mild winter and early spring. Some beekeepers reported bees had been hampered from pollen and nectar collection of fruit trees due to high winds. Some beekeepers moved hives into California for almond pollination due to prices being offered to beekeepers willing to come.

Bulk honey movement was slow and retail sales were about normal for the month.

KENTUCKY . . . Beekeepers were pleased with the weather in Kentucky for April. There was plenty of rainfall, but not too much to keep the bees from flying. The nectar flow has been good with plenty of bloom on black locust and other wild flowers.

The colonies seem to be strong and doing well, however, heavy swarming is possible and will need to be monitored.

LOUISIANA . . . Pollen and nectar sources received during the month of April were from elm, red elm, and wild flowers. Colonies have been in good condition. Weather conditions have noted above average temperatures, with an adequate amount of rainfall.

The supply and demand for honey has been good.

MICHIGAN . . . Colonies were reported to be in good condition and fared well over winter. Limited losses were reported. April was unseasonably warm with above average precipitation by the end of the month. Migratory beekeepers returned to the state from Florida. Nectar and pollen sources included: fruit trees, dandelion and dogwood. Bees were active collecting nectar and pollen.

Demand for honey by commercial packers remains good as well as at the retail level.

MINNESOTA. . . Moisture situation is looking good. Dandelion was just starting to bloom at month-end providing a good pollen source. Some bees came back from almond orchards in California. Some beekeepers reported excellent increase from the almonds while beekeepers in other, more northern areas of California where frost affected the bloom, were not as in good of shape. Almond pollination rates ran from $100-150 per colony. While partially offset by the higher fuel costs for trucking, this still provided a good return compared to pollination rates of $55-60 per colony only a couple of years ago. Demand is fairly strong although beekeepers have a lot of honey under government loan.

MISSISSIPPI . . . Colonies around the state were in generally good condition. The spring honey flow was fully underway by the end of April having begun in latter March in the southern portion of the state. Colonies around the state were near maximum spring population levels as the month drew to a close. Favorable weather conditions (mild to warm days with cool to mild nights and a fairly limited number of rain events) have made for active gathering of pollen and nectar. In southern Mississippi, wild hollies and gallberry served as food sources. In central and northern Mississippi, various wild clovers and vetch were food sources. In addition, rattan vine in the Prairie Belt and privet hedge in the hill country of northern Mississippi were additional sources of pollen and nectar. Moisture conditions for April were adequate in central and northern Mississippi but drier than normal in the southern portion of the state.

MONTANA . . . Weather in April continued March's trend of cool, moist unsettled weather with frequent amounts of moderate to heavy precipitation statewide. On April 6th, Missoula received 1.87 inches of rainfall, marking a new daily record for the city. Heavy, wet snowfalls occurred across many locations in Montana the week ending April 22nd. with locations across central and southwestern Montana accumulating enough moisture to make April one of the wettest on record. The last week of April was milder with light precipitation across Montana, by month's end; topsoil moisture was rated adequate and surplus at 87 percent, compared to 65 percent for April 2005. Subsoil moisture adequate and surplus was rated 69 percent, compared to last year's 31 percent.

Migratory beekeepers reported colonies were hungry upon returning from California's cool, wet almond bloom, but the colonies generally bounced back into good shape as ground flowers, dandelions, willows, and choke cherries were coming into bloom across Montana. By the month's end, the first colonies were also returning from Washington State orchards. These colonies were also said to be hungry, but full of bees after a condensed bloom.

NEW ENGLAND . . . Weather in New England for April varied with temperatures generally above normal. Weather early in the month was warm and mild followed by cooler temperatures and dry conditions for the balance of the month. Moisture levels varied from adequate to drought conditions.

The overall condition of colonies was good with no excessive dead outs. Reports indicate no more than 20-25% losses over winter. Many beekeepers administered an aggressive mite treatment program primarily using formic acid last fall. Most colonies which had gone into over wintering strong were still in good condition this spring while the weaker hives were requiring packages to build up the bees. Most losses were due to a combination of cold weather, starvation and small clusters within the hive. Sugar syrup feedings have commenced as the cool, dry weather has slowed food foraging activities and blooming of wild vegetation and other spring annuals necessary as pollen and nectar sources. Bees across New England were gathering pollen and some nectar from red and silver maples, skunk cabbage, dandelion, crocus, acer rubrum, willows, snow drop, witch hazel and jasmine blossoms.

The acute weather conditions have adversely affected the queens laying and brood build up and working activity of bees however, the Italian lines are progressing well whereas the Russian and Carniolans have yet to build up. The major issue of concern is the mix of cold, raw weather, drought conditions as well as the upcoming swarm possibilities.

The movement, supply and demand for local honey and wax has remained very good with prices generally unchanged.

NEW YORK . . . Migratory beekeepers returned to state from Florida and California. Most beekeepers reported limited losses due to the mild winter and correct application of winter treatment. Shortages of package bees was reported. April was unseasonably warm with above average precipitation. Nectar and pollen sources included: fruit trees, maple and dandelion. Bees were active collecting pollen and nectar.

Demand for honey by commercial packers remains good as well as at the retail level.

NORTH CAROLINA . . . The month of April was mostly warm with a good amount of precipitation received throughout the state. This has brought on a lot of spring flowers which include fruit orchards and ornamental trees and shrubs. However, the eastern part of the state remains in drought conditions, with a mandatory restriction on water. Even with higher than normal losses during the winter, overall condition of the bees are fairly good going into the season. Bees that have come through the winter have built up a good supply of honey. Apiary officials caution beekeepers to continue to look for mite problems when the honey flow begins to diminish. Also, they are cautioning beekeepers to pay close attention to the instructions given on the chemicals that are being used to treat the bees with. Some beekeepers are now moving hives out of blueberry fields and into strawberry fields for pollination. North Carolina has held many beekeepers' schools throughout the state and many have been having field days during the month. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture has set up a Bee Link to the web site to help bring growers and pollination services together. The web site can be reached at: www.agr.state.nc.us In addition to the mixed flowers, some of the nectar that the bees are working now is locust, poplar and blackberry.

Honey sales remain good.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA . . . Additional rains again helped moisture levels across both States during April. Sioux Falls, South Dakota received daily-records of 1.60" and 1.79" on the 6th and 7th. Along the Red River, water levels rose to nearly 20' above flood stage. The rains turned to wet snow in some areas also on the 6th and 7th as Custer, South Dakota accumulated 10". While the rain was falling, temperatures were rising with daytime highs as much as 8-9 degrees above normal. Several locations along the southern border of South Dakota reported a daytime high of 85 degrees the first part of April. By the second week of the month, temperatures began to warm in both States with daytime highs raising to as much as 13-19 degrees above normal. Lows at night stayed mostly right at or slightly above freezing. Winter returned to North Dakota the next week with blizzard conditions in the Black Hills. From the 17-20th, Lead, South Dakota, located along the western border, received 64.9" of snow while wind gusts to 69 miles per hour were reported in Rapid City on the 19th. Weather patterns varied the last week of the month, starting with lows in the 20's in some areas but warming into the 70's to end April. In South Dakota, topsoil moisture levels at the beginning of the month were 67% adequate end ended the month at 77%. In North Dakota, the month began with topsoil moisture at 71% adequate and ended at 74%. Despite the higher levels, most regions of both States are

SOUTH DAKOTA continued

reporting below normal seasonal precipitation. Although the precipitation was more than welcome after the near-drought conditions the last couple of years, muddy fields delayed seeding and plant growth. Some crops, such as sunflowers, were less that one-half of one percent planted by the end of the month.

Commercial pollinators had their bees sitting in numerous locations during April. Some left their bees in California after they were pulled from the almonds. They sat in the foothills where the vetch was producing a good nectar flow. These bees are reported to be in excellent condition and in some cases wee so heavy, swarming was becoming a problem. Other colonies were taken from California to Washington and spent the month pollinating the State's apple crop. A few were hauled to southern states to catch an early honey flow it is extremely dry there and many colonies had to be fed. The remainder of the bees were brought back to North and South Dakota during the month. They are reported to be in very good condition with very few mite problems but they will be treated before summer. Queens were also added and divides were made. Trees were beginning to leaf out in North Dakota, a little earlier than normal. Everyone is hoping for additional rain.

OHIO . . . Colonies were reported to be in good condition. April was unseasonably warm and precipitation was still slightly above normal. Bees were very active collecting nectar and pollen. Nectar and pollen sources included: dandelion, fruit trees and maple. Everything is blooming two weeks ahead of schedule. Beekeepers reported 10-15 % losses over winter.

Demand for honey by commercial packers remains good. Supplies are limited

OKLAHOMA . . . In Southern Oklahoma, pollen and nectar sources received during April were from cedar, fruit trees, and clover. Colonies in the beginning of the month were fair, but towards the middle of the month they were improving to good condition. Weather conditions have noted above normal temperatures, with very little rainfall at the end of the month. Hive beetles have been confirmed in Oklahoma, while the Africanized bees are not active. Supplies of honey has been light, while demand has been very good.

In Northern Oklahoma, pollen and nectar sources received in the month of April were wild flowers. Colonies were in good condition. Temperatures have been above normal, with small amount of rainfall. Supply and demand for honey has been good.

OREGON . . . For much of early April, wet, cool conditions continued across Oregon producing marginal bee activity until later in the month when conditions dramatically turned around resulting in good pollination of tree fruit and berries. As the month ended, topsoil moisture contents were rated, 8 percent short, 77 percent adequate, 15 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture contents were rated, 7 percent short, 75 percent adequate, 18 percent surplus. Colonies were generally in good condition.

SOUTH CAROLINA . . . Colonies across the state are in good condition. There have been very little pest problems. Most of the month was very dry which has slowed the nectar flow of blooming flora. Bees have been gathering nectar mainly from water tupelo, black gum, blackberry, blueberry and wisteria to name a few. Some beekeepers reported to have a honey flow but not in all of their hives. Some beekeepers have observed inactive bees not working at all. A few of the bigger beekeepers, in the coastal plains of South Carolina, have extracted honey from their hives. The honey color for the most part was amber.

Wholesale Prices for Water Tupelo & Blackberry, amber, in 12-20oz jars $35.00; 12-40oz jars $60.00; 12-16oz squeeze bottles $28.00 and $1.25 per lb for barrels.

TENNESSEE . . . A series of April storms, including several severe ones, with hail have increased the moisture level in Tennessee during April. Daytime temperatures have fluctuated from highs above 80 to more normal 60s.

The warmer temperatures and increased rainfall have stimulated production of bee forage very quickly and most bee colonies have responded by growing rapidly. A good honey flow has been on since the first week in April from redbud, maples, forsythia, quince, apple and henbit bloom. Clover bloom was spotty but on the increase at month's end. Ornamental holly and wisteria provided good nectar during the middle of the month. Starting bloom the second week and still blooming profusely and providing a strong nectar flow are blackberry, black cherry, wild rose, bush honeysuckle, black locust, royal Paulownia, oak, and a native blue penstemon (very abundant in East Tennessee this year). Bees are also visiting poppy, rose and other ornamentals for pollen only. Ornamental plants including herbs such as sage, rosemary and lavender are contributing nectar and pollen to the bee's diet.

In East Tennessee colonies have increased fast and swarming is above normal.

Mite levels seemed low in most colonies and were not treated prior to nectar flow. Levels will be monitored closely in May and June. Hive beetles are present in low numbers and are to be monitored closely.

TEXAS . . . Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of April were from elm, oak trees and fruit trees. Wide ranges of wild flowers were also blooming. Colonies were in generally good condition. Temperatures have been above normal and, with adequate rainfall.

Supply and demand for honey has remained steady.

UTAH . . . More beekeepers than usual went to California for the almond bloom because of the shortage of bees for the almond pollination. Most of these colonies came back to home during April. Most beekeepers were happy with the condition of the bees on return. However they returned to cold conditions and a late spring. Some had to feed the bees for a short while before the dandelion bloom arrived. Due to short crops in China and Argentina, producers and packers are expecting the market to improve as less honey is imported to the U.S. A pesticide spraying incident that killed bees was reported in the press. Homeowners were encouraged not to spray their flowers or gardens during daylight hours. Homeowners that spotted swarming bees were encouraged to call the Utah Beekeepers Association to remove the honeybees and start new colonies.

WASHINGTON . . . The cool, wet weather recorded in March continued into April across the State. As much as 9" of rain fell the first in week in areas along the Pacific Coast but parts of Central Washington also experienced almost continued rain with some locations getting almost an inch. By the middle of the month, most all regions in the State were over 100% of their normal precipitation. Snow continued to accumulate in the Cascade Mountains. Temperatures also ranged mostly from 2-3 degrees below normal in Central Washington and as much as 7 degrees in Eastern Washington. Many days were also windy. By the 16th, the rain only increased and temperatures were still as much as 4 degrees below normal with a few locations in Central and Eastern Washington recording nighttime lows below freezing. Most all crops were behind schedule. On the 19th, Spokane had their first reading of 60 degrees with the average date normally closer to the middle of March. Finally, the last week of April, warm and dry conditions were reported across Central and Eastern Washington. Average temperatures were as much as 8-12 degrees above normal when daytime highs rose into the low 80's in a few locations. At the same time, Western Washington began to dry out but conditions remained cool with average temperatures only in the 50's.

April is usually the beginning of swarm season in Western Washington. Beekeepers were advised to check their colonies often, adding supers or making splits & divides when hives become too crowded. Feeding was necessary because of the cool, rainy weather during the month. Queens & packages were also put in. When conditions allowed, bees had many floral sources from which to collect nectar and pollen as commercial tulip & daffodil fields were in full bloom. Many ornamental trees and other spring plants were also blooming along with raspberries, strawberries & blueberries. Many beekeepers are still complaining about their small honey crops last fall.

In Eastern Washington, colony development is behind schedule, also due to the cool and wet spring. Considerable losses are being reported in colonies that were wintered here. Varroa Mites are the likely cause of the losses and some beekeepers feel the treatments they depended on are no longer effective. Especially at the end of the month, a significant amount of pollen was being brought in from willow, alder and various spring flowers.

Commercial pollinators wee extremely busy during April moving hives from cherry and soft fruit orchards into the pears and apples. The bloom is running late and because everything is behind, some beekeepers had to scramble to get their hives out of the apples the end of the month so the trees could be sprayed. New queens and packages were just being added the last of April. Bees are reported to be in good condition.

WISCONSIN . . . The temperatures for the month of April were extraordinary as spring had returned to Wisconsin. The above normal temperatures combined with the frequent rain showers brought about rapid plant growth. Most beekeepers continued supplemental feeding activities; however, most bees had been bringing in pollen and nectar. Some beekeepers moved their hives out of overwintering yards and into orchards. Precipitation for the month was reported adequate in most areas. Some light frost was reported the last of the month. Most colonies were in good condition going into late spring.

Honey at the retail level was moving good while bulk honey and wax sales were slow.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY
BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	FEBRUARY 2006		YEAR TO DATE 2006	
	QUANTITY Kilograms	VALUE Dollars	QUANTITY Kilograms	VALUE Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE			***DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE***	
Aruba	12,972	17,016	12,972	17,016
Barbados	0	0	932	4,178
Bulgaria	5,994	7,863	5,994	7,863
China, Peoples Republic of	5,063	12,145	5,063	12,145
Costa Rica	575	2,633	575	2,633
Japan	1,485	3,923	1,485	3,923
Jordan	0	0	8,679	11,385
Korea, Republic of	588	4,194	588	4,194
Mexico	0	0	1,926	2,526
Philippines	799	3,132	48,532	65,745
Saudi Arabia	51,242	67,216	69,585	125,146
Yemen	36,865	64,925	55,830	115,150
SUBTOTAL	115,583	183,047	212,161	371,904
HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED			***DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE***	
Australia	0	0	960	2,645
Bahrain	7,700	10,100	7,700	10,100
Bermuda	1,680	7,825	1,680	7,825
Canada	70,172	124,651	113,551	201,037
Costa Rica	0	0	2,504	6,845
Indonesia	0	0	907	2,968
Israel	0	0	20,400	42,343
Japan	58,512	75,793	96,312	177,193
Korea; Republic of	11,138	14,610	13,042	17,921
Kuwait	18,751	76,971	18,751	76,971
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	20,177	17,072	20,177	17,072
SUBTOTAL	188,130	327,022	295,984	562,920
GRAND TOTAL	***303,713***	***510,069***	***508,145***	***934,824***

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY & VALUE

COUNTRY	FEBRUARY 2006 QUANTITY kilograms	FEBRUARY 2006 CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	FEBRUARY 2006 C.I.F. VALUE dollars	YEAR TO DATE 2006 QUANTITY kilograms	YEAR TO DATE 2006 CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	YEAR TO DATE 2006 C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE						
Argentina	859,877	1,128,408	1,194,151	1,901,538	2,509,199	2,675,093
Brazil	19,470	39,914	43,414	57,090	111,238	122,559
Canada	471,215	778,034	783,561	471,215	778,034	783,561
Germany	0	0	0	17,882	24,931	27,931
Hungary	18,525	24,879	27,379	18,525	24,879	27,379
India	362,064	458,599	522,227	528,035	665,981	747,611
Indonesia	111,070	70,009	88,412	111,070	70,009	88,412
Mexico	18,700	35,624	38,124	18,700	35,624	38,124
Mongolia	72,664	63,218	66,718	145,328	135,155	153,914
Russian Federation	146,160	146,161	174,939	222,600	232,803	277,549
Ukraine	0	0	0	37,249	48,753	51,903
Uruguay	19,930	27,252	32,237	19,930	27,252	32,237
Uzbekistan; Rep. of	14,000	22,244	24,246	14,000	22,244	24,246
Vietnam	0	0	0	35,488	51,150	57,150
SUBTOTAL	**3,110,902**	**3,642,797**	**3,931,640**	**6,675,142**	**7,357,770**	**7,977,910**
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER						
Argentina	153,232	203,541	222,263	267,793	348,464	374,791
Austria	2,880	16,231	17,115	2,880	16,231	17,115
Canada	0	0	0	4,212	5,942	5,964
China; Peoples Republic of	2,090,320	1,441,116	1,792,593	3,041,760	2,102,111	2,579,865
India	991,701	1,124,224	1,285,672	1,646,843	1,926,684	2,172,743
Uruguay	59,517	86,890	95,963	59,517	86,890	95,963
SUBTOTAL	**3,297,650**	**2,872,002**	**3,413,606**	**5,023,005**	**4,486,322**	**5,246,441**
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER						
Argentina	187,594	266,844	282,646	527,275	732,762	780,076
Brazil	114,065	175,149	182,266	326,123	451,600	486,793
Chile	0	0	0	18,767	23,298	25,732
China; Peoples Republic of	1,108,960	785,980	998,413	2,185,440	1,595,188	1,997,779
Egypt	0	0	0	3,150	7,525	8,814
France	0	0	0	450	2,250	2,353
India	532,015	659,486	737,087	570,365	708,376	786,081
Indonesia	0	0	0	167,040	155,347	187,085
Italy	58,481	89,939	91,924	61,328	100,830	103,243
Korea, Republic of	74,240	70,528	81,493	222,720	221,962	234,767
Mexico	38,244	70,501	74,751	38,244	70,501	74,751
Mongolia	0	0	0	18,166	17,439	21,254
Poland	0	0	0	4,203	7,650	11,314
Russian Federation	54,810	52,618	56,118	89,629	87,140	93,140
Spain	842	4,507	4,818	842	4,507	4,818
Thailand	334,800	322,830	360,930	610,500	586,330	653,023
Ukraine	18,345	23,137	26,142	55,123	70,196	78,551
Uruguay	193,259	264,641	287,194	248,625	340,615	369,421
Venezuela	1,431	8,976	10,998	1,431	8,976	10,998
Vietnam	510,450	547,619	617,538	640,370	676,889	768,390
SUBTOTAL	**3,227,536**	**3,342,755**	**3,812,318**	**5,789,791**	**5,869,381**	**6,698,383**

IMPORTS continued

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED						
Argentina	12,559	32,678	35,578	12,559	32,678	35,578
Australia	885	4,600	4,858	10,245	79,480	81,638
Belgium	677	2,551	2,706	677	2,551	2,706
Bolivia	0	0	0	7,500	33,750	36,250
Brazil	0	0	0	41,040	55,404	63,812
Canada	4,238	34,076	35,954	6,778	43,904	45,832
China; Peoples Republic of	72,210	57,768	76,205	72,210	57,768	76,205
Dominican Republic	18,900	7,000	8,066	18,900	7,000	8,066
India	16,004	27,129	29,610	30,049	60,580	64,561
Israel	0	0	0	1,570	5,584	5,744
Italy	480	4,429	4,778	780	7,246	7,877
Lebanon	805	11,270	12,191	805	11,270	12,191
Malaysia	30,383	62,424	68,921	46,886	98,099	108,019
Mexico	18,836	37,389	37,392	37,353	74,145	74,151
New Zealand*	0	0	0	135	3,713	3,760
Spain	0	0	0	5.915	28.398	29,898
Switzerland	2,644	26,284	27,432	3,622	36,112	37,781
Thailand	0	0	0	1,8600	16,485	19,995
SUBTOTAL	**178,621**	**307,598**	**343,691**	**315,624**	**654,167**	**714,064**
HONEY – COMB AND RETAIL						
Argentina	4,637	22,059	24,288	4,637	22,059	24,288
Austria	840	6,570	7,396	8,139	30,181	34,263
Brazil	0	0	0	228	2,778	2,963
Bulgaria	2,625	7,436	9,994	15,373	38,051	42,821
Canada	110,140	434,756	437,243	271,987	1,070,466	1,075,882
France	5,259	40,216	42,724	9,789	75,415	79,255
Germany	17,054	57,478	60,405	17,054	57,478	60,405
Greece	3,942	33,725	34,827	12,969	117,249	121,466
India	22,882	41,040	43,790	62,535	105,844	116,365
Italy	297	3,246	3,302	2,245	18,592	19,705
Korea; Republic of	0	0	0	111,360	116,928	134,928
Lithuania	0	0	0	4,378	15,364	16,614
Moldova; Republic of	0	0	0	9,161	7,970	8,767
New Zealand *	22,713	57,627	62,747	45,229	140,179	149,462
Poland	4,972	10,968	12,321	9,148	34,068	35,536
Russian Federation	16,715	65,157	71,817	24,276	88,424	97,198
Slovenia	0	0	0	540	3,430	4,844
Spain	413	2,192	2,371	1,029	8,399	9,244
Switzerland	4,175	21,326	23,268	9,404	47,393	51,103
Taiwan	4,830	7,965	8,528	11,505	16,588	17,832
Turkey	10,500	45,480	45,481	12,398	59,773	61,204
Ukraine	0	0	0	6,680	13,120	13,844
Uruguay	0	0	0	20,040	63,232	69,366
SUBTOTAL	**231,994**	**857,241**	**890,502**	**670,104**	**2,152,981**	**2,247,355**
FLAVORED HONEY						
Canada	3,950	48,486	50,904	3,950	48,486	50,904
Italy	0	0	0	635	6,900	7,175
Japan	135	23,207	24,135	135	23,207	24,135
Mexico	4,355	61,286	62,117	16,131	212,778	215,149
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	19,656	27,180	29,980
Thailand	118,860	101,640	118,556	415,154	358,394	424,834
United Kingdom	292	15,378	16,029	292	15,378	16,029
SUBTOTAL	**127,592**	**249,997**	**271,741**	**455,953**	**692,323**	**768,206**
GRAND TOTAL	**10,174,295**	**11,272,390**	**12,663,498**	**18,929,619**	**21,212,944**	**23,652,359**

* Excluding Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau

SOURCE: Department of Commerce, Foreign Trade Division

2005 HONEY LOAN SUMMARY REPORT

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICES AGENCY
PRICE-SUPPORT LOAN ACTIVITY

AS OF MAY 2, 2006 - - - ALL DATA IN POUNDS

	LOANS MADE			LOANS OUTSTANDING		
STATE	COUNT ORIGINAL	QUANTITY ORIGINAL	AMOUNT ORIGINAL	COUNT OUT	QUANTITY OUT	AMOUNT OUT
AL	10	265,300.00	$159,180.00	5	140,020.00	$84,012.00
AZ	3	122,400.00	$73,440.00	1	10,200.00	$6,120.00
AR	14	677,075.00	$406,245.00	7	511,619.00	$306,971.40
CA	88	3,466,383.00	$2,079,829.80	46	1,513,671.00	$908,202.60
FL	17	970,428.00	$582,256.80	11	503,466.00	$302,079.60
GA	1	330.00	$198.00	1	330.00	$198.00
ID	36	559,594.00	$335,756.40	29	442,033.00	$265,219.80
IA	17	1,946,642.00	$1,167,985.20	14	1,806,983.00	$1,084,189.80
KS	13	358,399.00	$215,039.40	12	308,169.00	$184,901.40
LA	17	268,395.00	$161,037.00	5	113,700.00	$68,220.00
ME	1	29,700.00	$17,820.00	1	29,700.00	$17,820.00
MI	29	729,911.00	$437,946.60	23	530,255.00	$318,153.00
MN	32	1,397,582.00	$838,549.20	30	1,369,814.00	$821,888.40
MS	7	84,650.00	$50,790.00	5	76,200.00	$45,720.00
MT	74	2,984,950.00	$1,790,970.00	35	1,250,397.00	$750,238.20
NE	21	1,103,250.00	$661,950.00	15	797,789.00	$478,673.40
NY	11	438,061.00	$262,836.60	10	277,051.00	$166,230.60
ND	42	3,525,600.00	$2,115,360.00	30	2,855,567.00	$1,713,340.20
OH	2	49,937.00	$29,962.20	1	7,260.00	$4,356.00
OK	3	6,460.00	$3,876.00	1	680.00	$408.00
OR	12	343,878.00	$206,326.80	4	144,524.00	$86,714.40
PA	2	63,200.00	$37,920.00	2	55,760.00	$33,456.00
SD	46	7,435,806.00	$4,461,483.60	32	6,538,598.00	$3,923,158.80
TN	5	19,375.00	$11,625.00	1	2,806.00	$1,683.60
TX	15	1,067,190.00	$640,314.00	9	564,640.00	$338,784.00
UT	2	65,450.00	$39,270.00	2	20,510.00	$12,306.00
WA	21	528,082.00	$316,849.20	13	196,906.00	$118,143.60
WI	8	399,355.00	$239,613.00	7	295,449.00	$177,269.40
TOTAL	549	28,907,383.00	$17,344,429.80	352	20,364,097.00	$12,218,458.20