

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY, 2014

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): The arrival of January saw record breaking cold temperatures for a majority of the month. The area had not experienced such cold temperatures since 1984. Several snow storms blanketed the area and stayed on as the temperatures stayed below freezing. The end of the month brought a little relief from the bitter cold and negative digit wind chills as temperatures climbed into the forties. With a low honey supply in the supers and having to rely on supplemental feeding this winter, beekeepers are concerned about losses. As the weather permits in the upcoming month, they will know more about survival rates as they assess their colonies conditions.

ALABAMA: As in most parts of the country, January weather was significantly colder in Alabama than it has been in recent years. With many days at or below freezing, colony stress was higher than normal. In central and south Alabama, brood expansion has begun, even though there were fewer days for foraging than normal. There does appear to be some weather related losses occurring throughout the state, but it is still too soon to know to what extent. Wild mustard is always a good source of pollen this time of year in southern Alabama for the bees. Camellias, henbit and tag alder are also good sources this time of year when it is warm enough to forage. Some beekeepers have to feed to keep colonies going, but it doesn't seem to be wide spread at this time. Some beekeepers have a little honey left to sell, but many are out until the new crop comes. Alabama is hoping for more mild weather in February.

ARIZONA: Drought conditions continued across the state of Arizona in January. Many areas across the state have received no precipitation for the month. Temperatures have been higher than normal.

Many of the bee colonies from Arizona are currently out of state in California, pollinating almond trees in that state. These colonies are not expected to begin their return for at least another month.

The counties experiencing the greatest bee activity across the state for the month are Yuma, Pima and Maricopa. Some of the leading sources for bee pollination in Arizona for January were desert plant bloom, alfalfa and nuts. Demand for honey remains good across Arizona.

ARKANSAS: No pollen and nectar sources were received in the month of January. Beekeepers have continued to feed. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather has seen below normal temperatures with more snow than in recent years. Demand and supply are both good.

CALIFORNIA: The month of January in the Golden State began with dry conditions and no significant precipitation; however a series of weak weather systems moving through the Pacific Northwest skirted far Northern California and brought light rain to the far North Coast. The strongest of these systems spread some light precipitation across the northern mountains and into the North Sacramento Valley. The south part of the State remained dry and an offshore flow was beginning to create very dry conditions in Southern California. This resulted in unseasonably warm temperatures across California. No measurable precipitation was reported at mid-month. Unseasonably dry and warm weather persisted across California at the end of the month, as a stubborn high pressure ridge continued to block cool air and storm systems from moving across the State. No significant precipitation was reported during the month of January, normally a rainy month in California. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the state's snowpack was at 12 percent of normal for this time of winter. The northern and central Sierra snowpack provides about a third of California's water supply. 1.53 inches of rain was recorded from October through December, the lowest aggregate total in records dating back to 1895. 2013 is also the state's driest calendar year since records started being kept. The state is facing more dry forecasts, little mountain snow and dwindling reservoirs. The main sources of food this month for the bees (where available) are wild mustard, rosemary, borage, eucalyptus and manzanita.

Southern California bees are beginning to be moved in preparation for almond pollination, with the first loads already delivered. The bees appear to be in good shape for the most part, however, feeding continues at record pace right now. Due to the extremely dry conditions, just about no colonies are able to support themselves in terms of food at this point. The biggest problem right now is the lack of pollen. This lack of pollen has greatly slowed the normal early season buildup that typically takes place in late January in Southern California, and has slowed the ability of many colonies to gain ample strength for almond pollination. The bees that are faring best are those that are situated closest to urban or suburban areas, where gardens and flowering trees can provide the balance of nutrition for the bees. These kinds of locations are particularly at a premium this season. This season, anything in the chaparral is completely worthless as far as bee nutrition goes, and the bees that are situated in purely rural zones look much worse off than those near population centers. There is basically nothing for these bees to feed on and it shows.

In Northern California and the foothills of Northern California, the bees are seemingly doing well. Colonies are building up slowly here at the apiary. The dry weather was a mixed blessing. The bees could fly every day, and built up well on alder pollen. But due to the dryness, there has been nothing else in bloom, and little ground cover growing in open spaces. Northern California received a brief rain shower late in the month, which should allow filaree and native forbes to grow, but no telling if there is enough soil moisture for them to flower in upcoming months. The Manzanita are producing buds and will be in bloom in a week or so and the Ceanothus will also be in bloom shortly.

Coastal bees are responding to feed and the colonies are OK, but not as strong as they should be. Some willows are beginning to bloom, and that is helping some, but for pre bloom buildup, it comes a little late.

In the almond orchards, there is a notable absence of the usual Shepard's Purse, filaree, phacelia, and mustard, so nothing for bees to forage upon until the trees come into bloom. There is an apparent glut of bees in the SJV, but supply may be getting short further north. And currently there does not seem to be a shortage of bees to pollinate the almonds. Almond pollination prices are all over the board, from \$150.00 to -200.00. A big issue is looming ahead as the drought worsens. The lack of water will affect beekeepers not only in the lack of forage, but in having available water to drink. The normal ponds and small streams have dried up, and the bees are becoming more of a nuisance in the general public watering devices.

COLORADO: Temperatures were warmer across most of Colorado during January with the exception of colder than normal temperatures in the West Central area around Grand Junction and Alamosa. Precipitation was below normal across the State with the exception of slightly higher precipitation along the Front Range areas of Denver and Colorado Springs. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the North Central part of the State is near normal on precipitation. There continues to be severe to extreme drought conditions in the southeastern area of Colorado. The Western and Northeast areas of the State continue to be abnormally dry. Much of Colorado could certainly use some good moisture to correct the mounting deficiencies. The drought conditions could become critical for summer forage production if present moisture trends continue into the spring in the current deficient areas of the State.

By January, Colorado commercial beekeepers had shipped their bees to California for the upcoming almond pollination season. It is anticipated that bees will be earnestly pollinating almond trees by the middle of February. Contract prices that Colorado beekeepers are receiving this season seem to be around \$185.00 per 8 frame hive and in some cases even more. Pollination services provide not only a critical service to the almond growers, but also

provide much needed revenue for beekeepers. After suffering one of the worst drought years in the history of California in 2013, many almond growers are being forced to deal with allocation of water resources. Many almond growers have to choose between which trees to water, with certain overall quantity restrictions coming. The water shortage directly affects beekeepers. According to beekeepers, due to the water shortage, there may actually be too many bees available for pollination, unless precipitation is received very soon.

Some Colorado beekeepers are confident that their bees are ready for the almond pollination and will wait to treat, feed and make divides after almond pollination is over. However, other Colorado commercial beekeepers have treated bees for mites as they arrived in California. These beekeepers believe that even though the mite population seems to be generally low at this time, it is a precaution, to provide treatments before the almond pollination and honey flow starts. Some beekeepers also used the pre-pollination time to provide supplemental corn syrup or sucrose and pollen patties to the bees. Not all beekeepers believe that pollen patties provide any benefits to the bees in general. What this proves is that no one beekeeper has all of the answers on the best management practices. Ultimately it comes down to what works best for each individual beekeeper. Beekeepers stated that any of these pre-season management practices help to prepare their bees for maximum performance in the almond fields. At this point, according to beekeepers, most of the bees were looking healthy. Some commercial beekeepers indicated that they would be heading back to Southern States after leaving California. Most Colorado beekeepers have indicated that it is too early to determine how many bee losses they may see here in the spring. In January many beekeepers were still busy working on building pollen traps, new super frames and other top and bottom super components. Currently, wholesale and retail demand for honey exceeds supply in Colorado. Most commercial beekeepers have sold their entire 2013 honey. Some beekeepers kept various amounts of honey back to sell at the retail level. Current retail prices were ranging from \$4.72 to \$ 6.95 per pound. Prices were varied, depending upon the type of honey and container.

FLORIDA: The weather was generally warm until a prolonged cold spell late in the month. Precipitation was normal to slightly above normal in contrast to being a little below normal in January for the previous 2-3 years. Adequate precipitation is necessary for plants to produce pollen and is essential to good honey production. Sources of pollen were limited with maple being almost the only source, and supplemental feeding was required. Bee health was considered to be good. Small amounts of Brazilian Pepper honey were available for sale with prices mostly in the \$2.00-\$2.25 per pound range. Demand was still good. Sixty to seventy per cent of commercial beekeepers were moving hives to California for almond pollination, according to one source. One-half of the hives to be moved were also estimated to be in California by late in the month. All of the hives should arrive in California before February 5-7. Pollination fees are expected to be similar to last year, probably in the \$175 range per hive.

Orange blossom honey production is expected to start in early March. Prices are expected to also be in the \$2.00-\$2.25 per pound range. An increasing threat to the Florida citrus industry and also citrus honey production is the spread of Citrus Greening disease. This disease is also known as Huanglongbing (HLB). HLB is spread by the Asian citrus psyllid (jumping plant lice) and has been found in every commercial citrus growing area in Florida. HLB has also been reported in California and several southeastern states. HLB was first diagnosed in 2005 in Florida and since then has spread throughout the state. Control of the psyllid and removal of infected trees are the main ways to control the spread of the disease. Once infected, there is no known cure for the disease. The trees will die within a few years. Fruit it produces will often be misshapen and will remain green even when mature. The fruit infected trees produce is unsaleable due to poor size and quality. Orange blossom honey production may decrease because of decreased orange production due to HLB. Citrus growers and beekeepers are working together to coordinate efforts to control the Asian citrus psyllid without endangering honeybees.

GEORGIA: January has been a strange month for Georgia with the weather. Some fairly warm days, rain and then some very cold freezing days throughout the whole state. Some beekeepers have covered the hives to protect the bees from the extreme cold temperatures. In the southern parts of the state the bees have been able to get to the early Red Maple pollen but the weather has put a damper on the availability. The northern areas expect the Red Maple to be late to come in. Several beekeepers have reported some more losses over the fall and early winter months and are trying to keep the bees in good condition until winter is over. The last week of the month had snow in most areas of the state and the northern areas were hit hard. Rain could come in the first week of February. Heavy feeding and continuous management control with some antibiotics have helped. A poor honey flow for the fall has the beekeepers feeding more this winter to keep the bees healthy and strong until the spring weather starts to warm up the hives. Demand is still very strong and prices steady.

IDAHO: Temperatures were much warmer than normal across the State of Idaho during the month of January except a small area around Boise that recorded slightly below normal temperatures. Precipitation was below normal across the entire State during the month. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State is now in various levels of drought conditions. Upper Panhandle of the State is abnormally dry. The Central Valley and Southwestern area of the State continues to be in a severe to extreme drought. The Southeast and Mid-Central Panhandle continue to be in a moderate drought. Most of the State of Idaho could certainly use some good moisture to correct the mounting deficiencies. The drought conditions could become critical for summer forage production if present moisture trends continue into the spring.

In January, most Idaho commercial beekeepers shipped their bees to California for the upcoming almond pollination season. It is anticipated that bees will be earnestly pollinating almond trees by the middle of February. Contract prices that Idaho beekeepers are receiving this season seem to range from \$155.00 to \$180.00 per 8 frame hive. Pollination services provide not only a critical service to the almond growers, but also provide much needed revenue for beekeepers. After suffering one of the worst drought years in the history of California in 2013, many almond growers are being forced to deal with allocation of water resources. Many almond growers have to choose between which trees to water, with certain overall quantity restrictions coming. The water shortage directly affects beekeepers. According to beekeepers, due to the water shortage, there may actually be too many bees available for pollination, unless precipitation is received very soon.

As the bees arrived in California, Idaho commercial beehives treated bees for mites. Even though the mite population seems to be low at this time, as a precaution, treatments have been made before pollination and honey flow starts. Beekeepers also used the pre-pollination time to provide supplemental sucrose and pollen patties to the bees. Beekeepers stated that these management practices help to prepare their bees for maximum performance in the almond fields. At this point, according to beekeepers, the bees were looking healthy. Some commercial beekeepers indicated that they would be leaving their bees in California until March before coming back to Idaho. In January many beekeepers were still busy working on building pollen traps, new super frames and other top and bottom super components.

Currently, wholesale and retail demand for honey exceeds supply in Idaho. Most commercial beekeepers have sold their entire 2013 honey crop. Some beekeepers kept various amounts of honey back to sell at the retail level. Current retail prices were ranging from \$4.36 to \$ 7.89 per pound. Prices were varied, depending upon the type of honey and container.

ILLINOIS: The temperatures for the month of January in the state of Illinois were the coldest it has been within 20 years. January temperatures were extremely cold and frigid with temperatures staying below zero at weeks at a time with extremely high wind chill factors ranging from 27-32 below zero. There were also records set as far as inches of snow as well. Beekeepers report that they had left lots of honey as well as supplemental feeding of sugar bars in the supers of their hives with hope that they would survive throughout the winter months until spring. Beekeepers report that due to the inclement weather that they haven't been able to appraise their Bees condition but worry of dysentery due to the bees not being able to take cleansing flights. There have been reports of lots of honey shows during the month of January. Demand for honey at the retail is fairly good, while mostly moderate at the wholesale level. . Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Temperatures and precipitation were well below normal. Precipitation included above normal snowfalls, but overall, below normal. This month brought about frigid temperatures across all state areas.

Beekeepers were busy attending meetings, bee classes and checking bees food supplies. Some local beekeepers traveled to California to check on their hive conditions during the almond season. Supplies of queen and package bees are being reported very tight for mid-April and May deliveries. Honey demand and sales remain strong.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of January were above normal with above normal moisture due to inclement weather and lots of snow for the state of Indiana. Most beekeepers report below zero temperatures as well as a few mentioning that they haven't been able to really appraise their Bees condition due to the inclement weather. Most Bee keepers have done a lot of supplemental feeding and are worried about their bees' condition due to lack of cleansing flights. Demand for honey at the wholesale moderate while fairly good at the retail level. Prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: Kentucky has had record cold temperatures for January. There have only been a couple of days when the bees were flying. There are some reports of dead outs but is believed those are due to starvation. There is a little pollen coming in on warmer days that is attributed to Dandelion. Beekeepers are encouraged to provide supplemental feed on those warmer days.

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of January were from various trees, very little natural sources this time of year. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather has seen temperatures at night from 20-35 with day temperatures from 30-50 degrees. There have been two major snow storms, which makes this a colder and wetter winter this year. Sales have been slow this season but beekeepers are expecting to sell all of it by June harvest. Supply and demand are steady.

MICHIGAN: Below average temperatures and heavy snowfall during December and January has many beekeepers concerned about the general health of hives and heavy losses. Bees have not been able to break cluster to feed, although sugar blocks/candy boards have helped sustain some units. Honey demand has been strong, with many smaller beekeepers out of honey stores. Wholesale prices range from \$2.25-2.50 pound/drum.

For those commercial bee colonies "wintering" in Florida, the hive conditions have been excellent. Feed demands have been near normal to slightly above due to the larger populations in colonies, which require more winter feed to maintain. Some commercial bee keepers are preparing and transporting hives from their "winter" home in Florida to California for almond pollination, which is slated to begin around February 10-15. The weather conditions have remained on the warmer side all month, and the bloom could be 10-14 days earlier than one year earlier. Conditions in the San Joaquin valley orchards are extremely dry, with no rain in sight. One commercial beekeeper commented that early reports indicate adequate honeybee colonies available this spring for almond pollination. Considering the drought that almond growers face, some may be reluctant to add additional hives beyond what is already contracted. Prices are steady at this time with 7-8 frame units renting from \$150-160 and 11-12 frame units from \$185-195.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were much colder than normal across the entire State of Minnesota during the month of January. The extreme cold weather could impact smaller beekeepers who over winter in Minnesota. Smaller beekeepers will not know about any possible weather damage until they open their hives in the spring. Snow cover acts as an insulating barrier, so in areas with sufficient snow, losses should be minimal at least as far as cold weather being an issue for losses is concerned. Precipitation in the form of snow was above normal across most areas of the State during the same period. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, most Southern areas of the State currently have abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions. Most of the extreme northern part of the State has near normal moisture conditions, except for the northwest corner of the State which is abnormally dry.

Most Minnesota commercial beekeepers now have their bees in California for the upcoming almond pollination season. It is anticipated that bees will be earnestly pollinating almond trees by the middle of February. Contract prices that Minnesota beekeepers are receiving this season seem to be around \$175.00 per 8 frame hive and in some cases more or less. Pollination services provide not only a critical service to the almond growers, but also provide much needed revenue for beekeepers. After suffering one of the worst drought years in the history of California in 2013, many almond growers are being forced to deal with allocation of water resources. Many almond growers have to choose between which trees to water, with certain overall quantity restrictions coming.

The water shortage directly affects beekeepers. According to beekeepers, due to the water shortage, there may actually be too many bees available for pollination, unless precipitation is received very soon.

Minnesota commercial beekeepers treated and feed bees for mites before shipping to California. Mite populations seem to be low at this time. At this point, according to beekeepers, the most bees were looking healthy. However, there were some scattered losses of up to 28 to 30 percent of bees upon arrival in California. Just like in recent years past, these losses never seem to be explained. It is not known if these losses are the result of CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) or some other unknown problem. Minnesota beekeepers have indicated that it is too early to determine how many overall bee losses they may see here in the spring. Some commercial beekeepers indicated that they would be leaving their bees in California until April before coming back to Minnesota.

In January many beekeepers were still busy working on building pollen traps, new super frames and other top and bottom super components. Currently, wholesale and retail demand for honey exceeds supply in Minnesota. Most commercial beekeepers have sold their entire 2013 honey crop due to the reduced honey crop available from the 2013 season. Some beekeepers kept various amounts of honey back to sell at the retail level. Current retail prices were ranging from \$5.49 to \$ 7.62 per pound. Prices were varied, depending upon the type of honey and container.

MISSISSIPPI: Most beekeepers report the bees are in fairly good condition with the extreme cold temperatures reported in January and rain. Several have sold out of honey for the year. The weather was okay early in the month, but the last week brought on snow, rain and freezing temperatures. Any

problems will be reported later, as the bees are in the hives and the beekeepers are feeding extra to keep them heavy and in strong condition for the rest of the winter months ahead.

MONTANA: Most areas of Montana experienced generally average temperatures with less than average amounts of precipitation during the month of January. Bee keepers were busy with equipment repair, and winter inspections of colonies overwintering in home yards. Keepers also were busy trucking colonies from Montana or warmer staging areas to staging areas in California for the upcoming almond and soft fruit pollination season. As January drew to a close, keepers were moving their strong colonies into the first Almond, citrus, blueberry, plum, orchards for the early bloom. Honey demand was said to be good.

NEW ENGLAND: In New England, seasonal winter weather has been the norm with the usual deep freeze and heavy but sporadic periods of snow fall occurring throughout January. Precipitation in the form of significant snowfall affords the entire region with high moisture levels which should provide ideal conditions in the spring for abundant pollen and nectar sources. It has been very cold and beekeepers are especially concerned about the possibility of dead outs. In the past, these cold winters usually result in heavy losses and small spring clusters and a spring like thaw could really help the bees' right about now. Additionally, New England has had little snow cover when it has been exceedingly cold in order to insulate the hives. Furthermore, to add to the concern, package bees and Nucs (nucleus hives) from the south may be delayed as the winter has reached many of the southern production areas but we will know more in mid- February when southern queen rearing begins.

During this month, Nor'easter storms have been bombarding New England with heavy snowfall. Keepers have been checking colonies for ample supplies of honey for over wintering. In New England, experienced beekeepers during fall preparations have made sure that each hive has 60 to 80 lbs of food stores before cold weather. As needed, colonies are being fed with fondant, protein patties, and sugar candy, in order to add to any stored food that remained after surplus honey was drawn off. Many keepers are reluctant to open hives and chance chilling the bees as most leave enough food in regard to hives showing light stores. In a timely way, keepers will remove the top cover and inner cover in order to locate clusters. Many beekeepers report that bees have exhibited the usual late winter pattern of clustering just under the inner cover. Moreover, many keepers have found bees on the top frames of the upper hive body. The clusters are tight enough to keep the bees safe. As the temperature drops below 55 degrees F and gets progressively colder, they cluster closer together and generate heat by vibrating their wing muscles without moving their wings, as they move to center themselves on the brood. In a strong hive, there will be two inches of bees around the cluster that serves as insulation. This keeps the heat within the cluster so it is not lost, as bees inside the cluster continually replace those on the outside so that none of them freeze to death. Even when it is freezing outside, the bees keep the temperature around the brood nest at 92 degrees F. In New England, keepers advice checking the brood areas and replace empty frames with capped honey ones but never physically disturb the cluster. The current mindset is-, feed while you can. In this inspection process, check the hives for the weight of the stores. Light weight store conditions require adding granulated sugar or fondant on the inner cover and monitor to see if the bees are utilizing it. Keepers report a high feeding success rate when spacers (3/8 inch x 1 inch x 6 inches) are utilized. The spacers allow the bees, access to the holes in the jar cover. Many New England beekeepers are currently using hive protection methods such as wrapping hives with tar paper and/or adding a top insulation board; which will help keep the hive warm and reduce wind infiltration. Additionally, tilting hives to assist drainage is accomplished by tilting the back end of the hive up and the front end down in order to assist drainage of the bottom board. Condensation from poor ventilation will more adversely affect bees than cold weather. Colonies need to be well ventilated to abate this problem. In New England, hives normally lose 5 to 10% of their population due to normal winter ventilation issues. The increase in daylight hours will signal the queen to begin laying hence a food source is necessary and timely needed.

Many keepers are occupied in building, repairing and maintenance of equipment as this is the "down" season for beekeeping. This is the time to plan for the coming year. New England keepers will be seeking answers to the following questions: How many hives would you like to have? How much equipment will you need? When you have made these decisions you will need to order the bees, queens and equipment.

Overall colonies were reported to be in moderate to fairly good condition whereby the reported colonies experiencing good health were reportedly the ones that received regular and aggressive applications of mite treatments. This year has proved to be a good overall season with light varroa populations, sporadic disease issues and a reasonable honey crop with a commercial estimated average of 45 pounds per production colony. Hobbyists report generally speaking that their colonies have exhibited a mixed bag relative to the amount of honey production reported. It is difficult to generalize the season, however it is the local environment and the work the bees do that determines the quantity, quality, color and taste.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remains firm. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$8.50 to \$10.50 mostly \$10.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$19.50, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were higher with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$230.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. Additionally, current prices quoted for 1 Quart bottled units for raw pollen were \$28.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$29.00 and for raw propolis tincture are \$16.00 to \$18.00 mostly \$17.50 for 2 ounce containers. Current wholesale prices quoted exclusively for white, cleaned beeswax are steady and for 1lb block units at \$5.50 to \$6.00 mostly \$5.50 and for 50lb block units at \$4.50 to \$5.50 mostly \$5.00. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50lbs are \$2.50 to \$4.50 mostly \$4.00 for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Retail white and cleaned beeswax prices reported are \$16.00 to \$20.00 per pound mostly \$19.00. In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around \$2.50 per pound by the 55 gallon barrel.

NEW YORK: Below normal temperatures the past 3-4 weeks has beekeepers concerned with survival rates. Additional feedings have been necessary to sustain hives. There are many novice beekeepers facing some adverse weather conditions thus far this winter, and higher losses could be likely unless extra precautions and care were carried out as winter began. If the cold weather continues into February, March and April, without opportunities for periodic cleansing flights, colony losses will increase. Local honey demand has been steady with some beekeepers out of stock and a strong wholesale market continues. Meanwhile, many beekeepers have been busy placing orders and buying packages in anticipation of higher losses.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were below normal reaching record lows during January. Many areas were under a Winter Weather Advisory and/or Winter Storm Warning in effect January 28-30 and received measurable snow and sleet. During this time statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 3 percent short, 57 percent adequate, and 40 percent surplus. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 5 counties as abnormally dry.

The unseasonably cold temperatures and snow made it difficult for beekeepers to inspect hives for losses, but some are expected due to the lingering effects of varroa mites as well as the weather variations. If bees were able to forage during the month they could be seen working ornamental evergreen shrubs and possibly Red Maple in the Coastal Plain. Bees were also seen in bird feeders, saw dust, and grain dust.

Commercial beekeepers have been preparing to move bees to California for fruit and tree nut pollination or sales of bees. It is predicted there will be a shortage of queens and packages this season. Demand for honey remains high.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: Cold and winter conditions were in most areas. Soil moisture and conditions are generally good in most areas. Bees are in their winter homes. For those that have gone to California early blueberry varieties were blooming in the San Joaquin Valley. Early variety stone fruit trees were also beginning to bloom with the onset of warm weather. As the spraying of almond and walnut orchards continued, almond trees were getting close to blooming.

OHIO: Local honey stores are scarce and packers are scrambling to find supplies. Cold temperatures have forced supplemental feedings to minimize bee losses. Extra precautions were implemented by many beekeepers in better insulate hives from higher losses. Prices as high as \$3.00 pound wholesale and \$5.00 pound for varieties such as star thistle and lynden have been reported; some sellers remain bullish and await higher spring prices.

OKLAHOMA: No Pollen and nectar sources were received during January. Bees have been fed with sugar patties, and water. There were no nature sources in the month of January so most beekeepers were feeding. Colonies and bees are in good shape so far but weather is severely cold and wet with fronts moving in that are unusual. Demand is very high and supply is short.

OREGON: During February, below average amounts of precipitation fell on the valley floors and over the mountain ranges of Oregon. Temperatures were generally mild west of the Cascade Mountains with periods of cold to the east.

During January, bee keepers were busy with their winter chores, maintaining and repairing equipment, and spot checking wintering colonies in home yards. Migratory colonies in California were inspected and later in January, moved into the early blooming Almond groves. Colony health was said to be generally good, although some losses were noted among keepers. Honey demand was good.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

TEXAS: No Pollen and nectar sources were received during January. Beekeepers started feeding pollen substitute, and will continue feeding the bees weekly through February to promote colony growth in anticipation of the spring nectar flow. In checking on the colonies, the ones that have any stores of pollen refuse the pollen substitute, but this too will change as stores are eaten out and little or no fresh pollen is brought in through February. No sign of colony collapse or other maladies, apart from the scattering of hive beetles. Treated for varroa mites in the fall, in hopes to avoid treating again during the brood build up due to the inevitable losses that may result. Weather has seen below normal temperatures, with snow and ice. Supply is low and demand is good.

UTAH: Temperatures were warmer than normal across the entire State of Utah during the month of January. Precipitation was below normal across the State during the same period. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the Northwest part of the State continues to be in a severe drought. The rest of the State remains abnormally dry to moderate in drought conditions. Much of Utah could certainly use some good moisture to correct the mounting deficiencies. The drought conditions could become critical for summer forage production if present moisture trends continue into the spring.

By January, most Utah commercial beekeepers had already shipped their bees to California for the upcoming almond pollination season. It is anticipated that bees will be earnestly pollinating almond trees by the middle of February. Contract prices that Utah beekeepers are receiving this season seem to be around \$180.00 per 8 frame hive. 6 or 7 frames seem to be being contracted for around \$170.00. Pollination services provide not only a critical service to the almond growers, but also provide much needed revenue for beekeepers. After suffering one of the worst drought years in the history of California in 2013, many almond growers are being forced to deal with allocation of water resources. Many almond growers have to choose between which trees to water, with certain overall quantity restrictions coming. The water shortage directly affects beekeepers. According to beekeepers, due to the water shortage, there may actually be too many bees available for pollination, unless precipitation is received very soon.

As the bees arrived in California, Utah commercial beekeepers treated bees for mites. Even though the mite population seems to be low at this time, as a precaution, treatments have been made before pollination and honey flow starts. Beekeepers also used the pre-pollination time to provide supplemental corn syrup or sucrose and pollen patties to the bees. Beekeepers stated that these management practices help to prepare their bees for maximum performance in the almond fields. At this point, according to beekeepers, most of the bees were looking healthy. However, there were some scattered losses of up to 70 percent of bees upon arrival in California. Just like in recent years past, these losses never seem to be explained. It is not known if these losses are the result of CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) or some other unknown problem. Utah beekeepers have indicated that it is too early to determine how many overall bee losses they may see here in the spring.

Some commercial beekeepers indicated that they would be leaving their bees in California until April before coming back to Utah. In January many beekeepers were still busy working on building pollen traps, new super frames and other top and bottom super components. Currently, wholesale and retail demand for honey exceeds supply in Utah. Most commercial beekeepers have sold their entire 2013 honey crop. Some beekeepers kept various amounts of honey back to sell at the retail level. Current retail prices were ranging from \$4.84 to \$6.65 per pound. Prices were varied, depending upon the type of honey and container.

WASHINGTON: While later in the month there has been a little snow, the amount of precipitation in the mountains (which will be our source for irrigation water this summer) is still a concern. Bees have been out of the hives a bit more often in some areas and feeding may be required. Some losses have been noted in the overwintering bee populations, many of which were from new packages this spring. Queen quality is still in question. Honey prices seem to be holding and the demand for honey as well as other related products such as mead, wax, and propolis continues to be very good.

WISCONSIN: Wisconsin was cold with a few more days of extremely colder temperatures as well as few days of 30 or more degree wind chill factors. A few Beekeepers report that it is definitely a challenge for them to check their Bees condition due to the inclement weather. The beekeepers are concerned about their bees' condition due to the fact that the bees aren't having any cleansing flights. Most beekeepers remain optimistic that they left enough honey within their bees supers for the to survive the winter months, but do admit that this particular winter has been one of the worst they have

seen in a long time and that it's not over yet. Demand for honey at the retail level is fairly good, while moderate at the wholesale level. Prices remain about the same.

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

	Year to Date		December 2013	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Australia(*)	82,085	287,071	0	0
Bahamas, The	10,740	40,966	0	0
Bahrain	12,903	31,318	7,778	18,879
Barbados	14,079	77,269	0	0
Bermuda	2,464	14,323	0	0
Brazil	2,156	27,035	0	0
Cambodia	18,224	44,237	0	0
Cayman Islands	1,278	5,975	0	0
China	37,135	105,892	15,815	33,392
Guyana	8,458	29,632	0	0
Hong Kong	91,773	309,515	0	0
India	1,207	2,929	1,207	2,929
Indonesia	335,426	897,868	0	0
Japan	538,085	2,207,686	91,549	399,085
Korea, South	456,057	2,082,349	89,541	324,582
Kuwait	158,026	619,886	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,405	5,500	0	0
Malaysia	7,085	24,736	0	0
Mexico	19,747	53,940	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	10,433	57,590	2,295	5,570
New Zealand(*)	6,587	30,567	4,200	10,194
Pakistan	49,487	120,121	32,922	79,912
Panama	19,902	104,551	0	0
Philippines	439,461	1,082,349	106,748	259,111
Qatar	16,098	39,075	0	0
Saudi Arabia	857	6,401	0	0
Singapore	49,904	144,411	5,614	13,627
Taiwan	79,939	367,421	11,342	53,644
Thailand	42,521	108,245	0	0
United Arab Emirates	182,214	450,823	0	0
Yemen(*)	773,466	3,233,656	96,724	234,780

NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -

Australia(*)	17,509	86,681	0	0
Bahamas, The	48,559	207,030	8,444	30,428
Barbados	5,128	23,360	0	0
Bermuda	28,716	121,079	2,841	9,698
Cambodia	2,354	16,990	0	0
Canada	731,598	3,036,852	67,772	273,315
Cayman Islands	1,273	6,566	0	0
Chile	43,729	113,383	0	0
China	145,504	368,906	31,147	75,600
El Salvador	5,592	13,572	0	0
Hong Kong	58,832	254,868	150	3,192
India	87,365	239,658	0	0
Israel(*)	40,600	202,188	0	0
Jamaica	1,887	5,600	0	0
Japan	399,176	823,660	107,663	263,376
Korea, South	43,276	227,286	0	0
Kuwait	61,625	151,608	0	0
Malaysia	646	4,231	0	0

Mongolia	867	5,302	461	2,772
Netherlands Antilles(*)	11,739	44,010	0	0
Panama	403	3,854	0	0
Philippines	56,043	146,696	0	0
Saudi Arabia	20,738	104,913	0	0
Singapore	5,022	41,083	741	5,518
Taiwan	453	2,811	0	0
Ukraine	20,118	63,501	0	0
United Arab Emirates	18,662	135,031	0	0
Venezuela	8,199	21,661	0	0
Vietnam	82,158	195,780	0	0
Yemen(*)	2,310	18,000	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	5,419,283	19,299,497	684,954	2,099,604

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

Year to Date			December 2013		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	10,851,924	36,269,609	37,409,878	531,413	1,958,502	2,003,240
Austria	750	5,355	5,634	0	0	0
Brazil	1,677,123	6,234,804	6,481,095	218,016	928,435	957,966
Canada	7,630,451	34,756,596	34,895,221	477,093	2,340,904	2,346,093
Chile	273,564	896,133	908,798	0	0	0
China	22,400	79,184	83,116	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	4,661	9,395	9,961	0	0	0
Egypt	29,428	106,230	109,636	0	0	0
France(*)	713	11,175	11,458	144	2,372	2,431
Germany(*)	420	2,722	2,968	0	0	0
Hungary	840	6,765	7,297	0	0	0
India	3,796,380	10,767,299	11,071,924	0	0	0
Italy(*)	107	3,456	3,848	0	0	0
Japan	10	2,857	2,970	0	0	0
Korea, South	720	6,075	6,183	0	0	0
Mexico	1,872,816	6,949,425	6,984,673	74,268	297,964	297,976
Poland	3,900	27,932	29,637	0	0	0
Spain	5,714	31,198	33,698	0	0	0
Switzerland(*)	2,834	14,829	15,320	0	0	0
Taiwan	155,049	309,882	333,681	20,150	34,875	37,640
United Kingdom	6,876	52,756	54,537	0	0	0
Uruguay	1,579,525	5,386,931	5,474,289	0	0	0

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

Argentina	27,360,253	90,514,263	93,882,122	1,513,301	5,501,763	5,692,283
Australia(*)	19,500	76,440	77,440	0	0	0
Brazil	2,268,885	7,661,523	7,932,366	130,939	470,048	484,364
Canada	677,236	3,056,288	3,079,609	7,623	52,358	52,424
Chile	133,123	428,850	440,121	0	0	0
France(*)	2,041	22,410	28,032	0	0	0
Greece	495	3,946	4,398	495	3,946	4,398
Guatemala	19,347	50,636	53,916	0	0	0
India	11,092,800	29,943,355	31,490,897	184,200	479,316	507,919
Italy(*)	16,498	44,701	50,914	9,553	16,848	19,848

Japan	38	10,512	11,287	0	0	0
Mexico	2,177,845	8,392,430	8,455,914	828,616	3,303,935	3,336,950
New Zealand(*)	11,931	21,043	21,212	0	0	0
Pakistan	323,000	842,080	899,080	38,000	101,080	107,080
Poland	864	6,221	7,251	0	0	0
Sweden	480	5,329	5,520	0	0	0
Thailand	496,800	1,154,871	1,179,695	54,000	127,710	128,247
Ukraine	3,030,733	8,364,446	8,584,391	303,836	838,470	864,840
Uruguay	3,095,526	9,985,553	10,230,995	18,859	67,138	69,638
Vietnam	1,557,100	3,780,560	4,012,918	153,540	380,393	402,435

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	5,529,824	18,145,289	19,040,959	563,822	2,454,022	2,545,828
Australia(*)	3,354	47,297	47,895	0	0	0
Austria	34,794	315,434	334,094	2,223	20,705	21,743
Brazil	5,133,815	16,469,779	17,054,304	319,156	1,089,690	1,147,275
Canada	36,907	182,194	183,296	0	0	0
Chile	408,173	1,244,394	1,281,559	0	0	0
China	37,200	97,092	103,032	0	0	0
Cote d'Ivoire	19,200	55,027	55,028	0	0	0
Croatia	864	7,412	7,922	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	679,062	1,986,626	2,086,150	58,009	156,576	163,193
France(*)	566	4,898	5,212	170	2,107	2,142
Germany(*)	66,423	342,753	363,449	0	0	0
Greece	9,936	143,736	151,240	0	0	0
Guatemala	121,200	332,250	342,450	0	0	0
Hong Kong	6,840	45,184	46,031	3,420	22,384	22,800
India	10,189,020	27,031,814	28,408,582	843,490	2,207,257	2,302,755
Italy(*)	8,973	107,946	115,152	490	4,864	6,144
Kenya	3,000	15,000	16,916	0	0	0
Kuwait	441	3,997	4,473	0	0	0
Latvia	296,960	623,616	644,696	74,240	155,904	161,184
Malaysia	35,960	80,910	80,914	0	0	0
Mexico	927,082	2,721,219	2,771,639	55,200	160,080	160,089
Moldova	2,546	4,643	4,644	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	33,138	1,447,073	1,459,773	0	0	0
Pakistan	1,242	6,935	7,629	0	0	0
Poland	14,996	61,602	66,347	0	0	0
Romania	5,587	52,871	56,924	704	4,614	5,218
Spain	22,701	175,277	179,897	1,798	13,709	14,002
Switzerland(*)	391	5,932	6,348	0	0	0
Taiwan	153,667	339,264	352,847	57,420	132,066	136,681
Tajikistan	20,000	5,040	5,490	0	0	0
Thailand	348,573	836,389	867,663	147,873	357,940	371,504
Turkey	1,785,600	4,165,470	4,615,470	167,400	401,760	446,760
Ukraine	197,491	584,132	613,540	56,287	166,049	171,117
Uruguay	3,992,776	11,852,155	12,062,309	74,823	234,946	242,634
Vietnam	28,502,863	70,923,810	74,340,003	2,653,720	6,212,352	6,506,441

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	447,619	1,474,341	1,536,821	0	0	0
Australia(*)	6,824	23,965	24,554	0	0	0
Austria	1,852	17,246	18,277	0	0	0

Brazil	113,882	397,170	422,386	76,032	286,281	298,652
Canada	192,793	895,904	896,291	53,616	255,439	255,542
Chile	38,489	99,658	100,061	0	0	0
Cyprus	1,739	22,927	27,427	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	245,528	527,637	552,201	1,559	4,000	5,139
Egypt	18,998	82,115	86,648	1,080	8,250	8,768
France(*)	6,063	46,820	51,089	0	0	0
Germany(*)	2,128	28,007	28,569	0	0	0
Greece	28,734	283,529	298,326	3,458	28,663	31,139
Hungary	22,800	147,666	156,666	0	0	0
India	317,371	790,800	841,636	0	0	0
Israel(*)	10,804	59,479	61,407	0	0	0
Italy(*)	10,445	137,064	142,958	753	11,918	12,516
Latvia	259,840	531,560	531,568	55,680	116,928	116,930
Lithuania	6,144	30,720	32,720	0	0	0
Mexico	361,464	1,213,044	1,217,397	781	2,460	2,534
Moldova	8,539	17,873	20,326	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	804,353	6,200,388	6,374,747	50,856	352,269	361,163
Pakistan	677	2,370	2,607	0	0	0
Poland	35,688	184,008	197,128	17,981	90,769	96,115
Portugal	901	9,545	9,766	488	5,306	5,414
Romania	20,755	138,128	143,128	0	0	0
Russia	7,799	25,128	26,702	0	0	0
Spain	2,504	18,883	20,633	242	2,718	3,046
Taiwan	1,357,930	3,220,416	3,348,622	153,410	347,375	357,872
Ukraine	48,132	145,535	153,855	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	770	3,760	4,136	0	0	0
United Kingdom	29,190	93,996	101,636	0	0	0
Uzbekistan, Republic of	515	3,868	4,255	0	0	0
Vietnam	3,525,805	8,238,448	9,063,303	277,448	661,226	704,709

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Argentina	2,939	30,318	35,124	2,355	17,678	20,484
Austria	6,797	88,430	94,683	883	14,940	16,401
Brazil	4,012	27,074	27,606	1,315	7,826	7,999
Bulgaria	150,272	599,781	627,987	25,340	92,794	97,147
Canada	471,355	2,886,870	2,900,492	3,600	31,878	32,381
Cyprus	5,047	35,787	38,537	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	4,357	16,588	17,094	0	0	0
Egypt	9,480	29,335	31,777	6,806	20,760	22,918
France(*)	109,711	1,218,276	1,289,615	10,261	110,337	118,958
Germany(*)	381,204	2,054,582	2,119,395	28,759	155,378	157,928
Greece	53,347	612,246	638,771	718	7,696	7,697
Guatemala	30,188	93,667	97,377	9,022	13,360	14,533
Hungary	18,995	137,169	144,036	0	0	0
India	453,045	1,480,627	1,551,604	16,598	34,944	38,719
Ireland	958	6,375	7,600	0	0	0
Israel(*)	2,090	13,865	13,915	0	0	0
Italy(*)	31,665	342,552	353,848	4,262	40,234	41,890
Lebanon	2,715	30,765	31,565	0	0	0
Lithuania	8,088	39,083	43,326	0	0	0
Mexico	16,796	58,558	63,294	0	0	0
Moldova	10,377	47,010	51,748	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	146,289	1,517,607	1,552,263	20,108	127,773	130,455
Poland	15,374	30,011	31,478	0	0	0
Portugal	12,871	91,709	96,663	220	5,371	6,361

Romania	1,383	11,522	12,846	576	5,648	6,387
Russia	91,127	567,400	624,140	15,200	95,418	104,960
Serbia	3,484	12,190	12,650	0	0	0
Spain	195,419	1,349,030	1,390,025	18,000	129,076	132,576
Switzerland(*)	53,511	589,460	620,833	4,677	70,152	74,114
Taiwan	160,109	323,745	343,299	30,052	41,573	45,384
Thailand	661	4,916	5,135	0	0	0
Turkey	111,630	679,046	705,725	20,824	138,543	143,354
Ukraine	31,243	118,631	129,591	0	0	0
United Kingdom	168	2,692	2,695	0	0	0

FLAVORED HONEY –

Brazil	1,200	35,760	35,762	0	0	0
Canada	1,696	63,684	64,649	160	7,188	7,190
China	36,660	68,852	80,252	36,660	68,852	80,252
France(*)	14,070	68,672	70,747	369	5,666	5,861
Germany(*)	9,971	52,176	55,130	0	0	0
Greece	2,204	5,905	6,170	0	0	0
India	29,944	75,292	79,692	0	0	0
Ireland	194	2,169	2,423	0	0	0
Italy(*)	4,523	94,054	96,429	264	6,003	6,057
Japan	180	29,588	29,788	0	0	0
Korea, South	127,558	1,930,837	1,967,793	19,609	275,312	280,450
Mexico	340,502	3,064,114	3,081,876	45,810	441,848	443,372
New Zealand(*)	1,421	51,621	52,168	0	0	0
Norway(*)	171,041	4,931,363	4,973,842	16,343	341,644	349,302
Pakistan	5,127	8,721	9,841	0	0	0
Portugal	8,340	46,525	48,923	0	0	0
Spain	5,912	41,904	47,844	0	0	0
Taiwan	22,558	43,843	46,951	1,269	2,897	3,118
Thailand	82,175	365,347	377,420	0	0	0
United Kingdom	864	26,130	26,495	864	26,130	26,495

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	46,565	168,152	173,603	0	0	0
Armenia	2,004	20,040	20,093	0	0	0
Australia(*)	9,240	75,229	82,713	0	0	0
Brazil	2,479,140	8,306,409	8,603,978	85,186	318,098	327,431
Bulgaria	3,978	14,325	16,325	0	0	0
Canada	390,957	2,414,418	2,428,971	4,114	30,367	31,167
Dominican Republic	170,893	391,326	405,875	48,636	110,880	115,880
France(*)	4,573	42,637	44,466	0	0	0
Greece	1,130	22,939	27,269	583	13,283	17,060
India	18,420	47,010	50,210	0	0	0
Italy(*)	23,178	309,114	319,257	660	11,753	12,129
Kuwait	1,090	11,314	11,647	0	0	0
Mexico	291,909	1,026,628	1,028,490	3,750	23,280	23,480
New Zealand(*)	13,704	201,161	205,167	1,668	23,636	24,267
Uruguay	42,171	153,885	160,095	0	0	0
Zambia	18,000	26,118	34,401	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL	153,748,739	491,256,702	509,139,115	10,823,196	35,744,900	36,976,978
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Notes:

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

2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.

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

4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure. QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.
5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.
6. Product Group : Harmonized