



Cost of Pollination

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Cost per Colony to Pollinate Almonds up 2 Percent from Previous Year

In Regions 6 & 7, the average cost per colony for almonds increased 2 percent from 167 dollars per colony to 171 dollars per colony in 2017. The average price per acre, however, decreased from 287 dollars per acre to 272 dollars per acre during that period. The total value of pollination for almonds decreased 5 percent. Almonds were the highest valued crop in that region. The total value of all pollination in Regions 6 & 7 for 2017 was 273 million dollars, down 7 percent from last year.

Cranberries had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 1 during in 2017. The price per colony for cranberries increased slightly to 78.0 dollars per colony in 2017. The price per acre decreased 3 percent to 162 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for cranberries in Region 1 for 2017 was 4.76 million dollars. The total value for pollination of all crops in Region 1 for 2017 was 16.5 million dollars, down 11 percent from a year ago.

Blueberries had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 2 during in 2017. The price per colony for blueberries increased 4 percent to 55.9 dollars per colony in 2017. The price per acre increased 5 percent to 85.5 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for blueberries in Region 2 for 2017 was 1.96 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 2 for 2017 was 5.99 million dollars, up 17 percent from previous year.

Watermelons had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 3 during in 2017. The price per colony for watermelons decreased 5 percent to 55.7 dollars per colony in 2017. The price per acre increased 7 percent to 63.7 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for watermelons in Region 3 for 2017 was 1.50 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 3 for 2017 was 6.84 million dollars, up 45 percent from last year.

Apples had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 4 during in 2017. The price per colony for apples increased 10 percent to 50.1 dollars per colony in 2017. The price per acre increased 27 percent to 41.2 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for apples in Region 4 for 2017 was 160 thousand dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 4 for 2017 was 855 thousand dollars, down 66 percent from last year.

Apples had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 5 during in 2017. The price per colony for apples increased 1 percent to 51.9 dollars per colony in 2017. The price per acre decreased 3 percent to 46.3 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for apples in Region 5 for 2017 was 5.55 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 5 for 2017 was 16.7 million dollars, up 14 percent from previous year.

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Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 1: 2016

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 1				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ²	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit					
Apple	83,400	33.0	46,000	69.9	3,215
Cherry	26,600	21.9	15,000	55.0	825
Peach	2,150	33.9	2,200	58.5	129
Melons					
Watermelon	5,600	40.4	3,700	78.1	289
Berries					
Blueberry	37,500	147.0	65,000	88.2	5,733
Cranberry	30,300	167.0	66,000	77.9	5,141
Vegetables					
Cucumber	29,100	29.4	15,000	62.7	941
Pumpkin	11,200	32.4	11,000	76.8	845
Squash	9,400	32.3	7,500	74.1	556
All other ¹	7,100	31.0	17,500	49.9	873
Total	242,350	66.0	248,900	74.5	18,547

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 1: 2017

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 1				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ²	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit					
Apple	91,600	32.0	47,000	70.9	3,332
Cherry	29,400	25.8	14,000	56.6	792
Melons					
Watermelon	4,150	28.1	2,500	77.7	194
Berries					
Blueberry	32,500	126.0	55,000	77.3	4,252
Cranberry	29,500	162.0	61,000	78.0	4,758
Vegetables					
Cucumber	23,000	44.1	16,500	67.0	1,106
Pumpkin	8,400	40.2	9,000	76.2	686
Squash	7,500	29.7	5,000	67.8	339
All other ¹	6,800	42.5	11,500	86.2	991
Total	232,850	62.4	221,500	74.3	16,450

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 2: 2016

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 2				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ³	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit					
Apple	21,200	15.9	8,500	48.6	413
Melons					
Cantaloupe	2,200	43.0	2,500	56.1	140
Watermelon	15,300	71.6	17,000	69.8	1,187
Berries					
Blueberry	15,900	81.8	33,000	53.7	1,772
Vegetables					
Cucumber	9,300	45.7	9,000	55.2	497
Pumpkin	5,200	31.6	4,600	63.0	290
Squash	5,600	37.2	5,500	47.9	263
Other vegetables ¹	2,000	44.9	2,000	85.6	171
All other²	2,050	39.3	6,500	59.6	387
Total	78,750	48.4	88,600	57.8	5,120

¹ Includes other vegetables.

² Includes crops not categorized above.

³ Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 2: 2017

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 2				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ²	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit					
Apple	15,700	17.0	6,500	51.6	335
Peach	2,300	20.0	1,700	39.9	68
Melons					
Cantaloupe	4,100	75.8	5,500	64.1	353
Watermelon	23,100	69.9	28,000	60.3	1,688
Berries					
Blueberry	18,900	85.5	35,000	55.9	1,957
Vegetables					
Cucumber	15,400	43.3	14,000	51.4	720
Pumpkin	3,200	56.6	3,400	66.6	226
Squash	5,600	47.6	7,000	47.3	331
All other¹	2,900	38.5	5,500	56.8	312
Total	91,200	55.7	106,600	56.2	5,990

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 3: 2016

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 3				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ³	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree Fruit					
Other tree fruit ¹	7,000	16.5	7,500	38.0	285
Citrus					
Orange	6,700	1.3	38,000	16.4	623
Melons					
Cantaloupe	3,650	47.1	4,100	49.8	204
Watermelon	28,200	59.5	31,000	58.7	1,820
Berries					
Blueberry	3,150	87.5	8,500	43.3	368
Vegetables					
Cucumber	5,700	56.8	7,500	47.5	356
Pumpkin	2,250	73.4	2,400	74.0	178
Squash	3,700	67.3	7,500	41.7	313
All other ²	2,100	39.0	14,500	38.7	561
Total	62,450	49.3	121,000	38.9	4,708

¹ Includes other tree fruit.

² Includes crops not categorized above.

³ Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 3: 2017

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 3				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ²	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Melons					
Cantaloupe	3,300	43.4	2,800	54.6	153
Watermelon	22,600	63.7	27,000	55.7	1,504
Berries					
Blueberry	4,300	118.0	15,500	57.8	896
Vegetables					
Cucumber	4,750	19.5	2,900	16.3	47
Pumpkin	6,000	61.0	7,500	52.1	391
Squash	4,150	21.8	3,600	28.6	103
All other ¹	5,400	31.4	91,000	41.2	3,749
Total	50,500	55.5	150,300	45.5	6,843

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 4: 2016

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 4				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ²	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit					
Apple	3,000	32.5	3,900	45.5	177
Cherry	3,100	27.5	3,100	34.3	106
Vegetables					
Pumpkin	3,850	26.7	2,500	80.3	201
All other ¹	3,400	71.9	35,000	57.9	2,027
Total	13,350	40.0	44,500	56.4	2,511

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 4: 2017

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 4				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ²	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit					
Apple	2,050	41.2	3,200	50.1	160
Cherry	2,600	25.7	2,400	30.8	74
All other ¹	2,700	41.7	12,500	49.7	621
Total	7,350	36.1	18,100	47.2	855

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 5: 2016

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 5				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ⁴	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit					
Apple	112,600	47.6	105,000	51.5	5,408
Cherry	39,900	75.4	61,000	49.3	3,007
Peach	2,900	38.5	2,500	48.1	120
Pear	24,300	65.4	30,000	53.1	1,593
Melons					
Watermelon	2,750	74.8	4,200	51.8	218
Berries					
Blueberry	14,200	106.0	33,000	46.5	1,535
Cranberry	5,700	118.0	9,000	74.3	669
Raspberry	6,400	46.9	8,000	40.0	320
Vegetables					
Other vegetables ¹	6,700	47.2	9,500	35.9	341
Other crops					
Clover	8,300	34.9	10,500	33.6	353
Misc. crops ²	10,900	69.2	18,500	47.9	886
All other ³	5,600	32.3	6,500	35.6	231
Total	240,250	59.5	297,700	49.3	14,681

¹ Includes other vegetables.

² Includes miscellaneous crops.

³ Includes crops not categorized above.

⁴ Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 5: 2017

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 5				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ²	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit					
Apple	115,900	46.3	107,000	51.9	5,553
Cherry	38,600	80.6	60,000	52.6	3,156
Peach	2,050	49.7	2,400	46.0	110
Pear	20,700	61.9	24,000	55.7	1,337
Melons					
Watermelon	2,100	74.7	3,400	50.0	170
Berries					
Blueberry	14,400	105.0	35,000	45.1	1,579
Cranberry	5,800	133.0	10,500	75.3	791
Raspberry	6,500	42.9	10,000	33.4	334
Other crops					
Clover	9,000	44.8	15,500	39.6	614
All other ¹	30,100	98.9	66,000	46.7	3,082
Total	245,150	65.2	333,800	50.1	16,726

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 6 & 7: 2016

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 6 & 7				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ⁴	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree nuts					
Almond	921,400	287.0	1,590,000	167.0	265,530
Tree fruit					
Apple	10,400	89.2	20,000	47.7	954
Avocado	12,800	103.0	69,000	40.8	2,815
Cherry	29,800	127.0	55,000	68.6	3,773
Plum	29,700	89.9	46,000	64.4	2,962
Other tree fruit ¹	6,200	59.0	12,800	48.2	617
Citrus					
Orange	2,700	130.0	11,000	103.0	1,133
Other fruit					
Kiwi	2,800	217.0	4,800	205.0	984
Melons					
Cantaloupe	36,900	53.3	40,000	49.3	1,972
Honeydew	9,300	55.8	10,000	51.3	513
Watermelon	13,000	63.4	21,000	38.7	813
Berries					
Blueberry	3,050	240.0	7,500	101.0	758
Cranberry	3,300	285.0	13,000	71.5	930
Raspberry	5,100	220.0	14,000	92.3	1,292
Vegetables					
Cucumber	3,750	82.4	11,000	28.9	318
Squash	2,800	64.4	6,500	27.3	177
Other crops					
Alfalfa	42,700	137.0	92,000	63.6	5,851
Sunflower	22,800	36.8	30,000	28.8	864
Misc. crops ²	11,700	14.6	5,500	32.1	177
All other ³	7,900	71.2	28,000	42.4	1,187
Total	1,178,100	246.8	2,087,100	140.7	293,620

¹ Includes other tree fruit.

² Includes miscellaneous crops.

³ Includes crops not categorized above.

⁴ Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 6 & 7: 2017

[See regional listing on page 11]

Crop	Region 6 & 7				
	Paid pollinated acres	Price per acre	Colonies used	Price per colony ²	Total value of pollination
	(acres)	(dollars)	(colonies)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Tree nuts					
Almond	928,600	272.0	1,480,000	171.0	253,080
Tree fruit					
Apple	7,100	46.6	7,500	45.3	340
Cherry	25,900	147.0	54,000	71.3	3,850
Melons					
Cantaloupe	34,400	55.6	43,000	44.6	1,918
Watermelon	12,700	57.9	20,000	38.6	772
Berries					
Blueberry	2,800	188.0	5,000	106.0	530
Raspberry	5,300	72.0	8,500	44.0	374
Vegetables					
Cucumber	2,250	47.5	3,300	40.1	132
Other crops					
Alfalfa	24,200	107.0	37,000	49.3	1,824
Sunflower	30,600	42.5	35,000	37.7	1,320
All other ¹	48,400	88.7	172,000	50.0	8,600
Total	1,122,250	239.0	1,865,300	146.2	272,740

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: The *Cost of Pollination* survey, conducted annually in all 50 states, collects information on acreage pollinated, colonies used, and dollars spent for a variety of different crops. The target population for *Cost of Pollination* estimate program is all farms and ranches with at least one acre of a crop determined to be potentially pollinated by honey bees. There were 34 specific crops targeted in the *Cost of Pollination* sampling scheme, 19 of these crops were listed individually on the questionnaire. Additional crops were allowed to be reported under the “All Other Crops” category (see “Sampled Crops”). Any other reported commodity not included in these lists were grouped as miscellaneous and summarized together. The *Cost of Pollination* samples were selected using a Multivariate Probability Proportional to Size (MPPS) sampling scheme. Each record was assigned a measure of size based on the record’s data for multiple specified commodities. The 2017 sample size was 14,532 and the 2016 sample size was 19,931. All sampled operations were mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail or electronic data reporting (EDR). Those that did not respond by mail or EDR were telephoned or enumerated in person.

Sampled Crops: The 19 sampled crops listed on the questionnaire were: alfalfa, almonds, apples, blueberries, cantaloupes, cherries, clover, cranberries, cucumber, nectarines, oranges, peaches, pears, pumpkins, raspberries, squash, strawberries, sunflowers, and watermelons. The 15 remaining crops that were sampled, but not listed individually on the questionnaire were: apricots, avocados, boysenberries, buckwheat, caneberries, canola, grapes, honeydew melons, kiwifruit, plums, prunes, macadamia nuts, mangos, tomatoes, and turnips

Estimation Procedures: Estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each Regional Field Office. All data were analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation were compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations were covered by weighting positive data of similar operations based on location and strata. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other, estimates from the previous year, and other USDA, NASS reports.

In order to be published individually, a crop must have an appropriate threshold of paid pollinated acres in a region and meet USDA, NASS's confidentiality policy. If a crop did not meet either of these requirements, it was combined with all other unpublished crops under the “All Other” heading. Due to the differences in regions and years, the aggregate and other published estimates may include different crops.

Revision Policy: The previous year’s estimates are subject to revision when current year’s estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late reports or corrected data.

Reliability: Estimates were created by reviewing rounded indications from the survey and the associated measures of error. Due to the sampled population differing from other USDA, NASS surveys, estimates on this report may differ from other published numbers. Since all operations with crops were not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. The measurement of error due to sampling in the current period is evaluated by the coefficient of variation for each estimated item. For individually published crops, coefficients of variation can be found using USDA, NASS’s Quick Stats searchable database.

Survey results were also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they were minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Estimation Regions

To improve the reliability and increase the number of estimates which can be published, estimates are published at regional level, based on the regions used for the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Regions 6 and 7 were combined. The states in each region are as follows:

- Region 1:** Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin.
- Region 2:** Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
- Region 3:** Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.
- Region 4:** Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming.
- Region 5:** Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.
- Region 6 & 7:** Arizona, California, Hawaii.

Terms and Definitions of Cost of Pollination Estimates

Paid Pollinated Acres: Acreage that an operation paid money to be pollinated by honey bees.

Dollars per Acre: The average price paid by operations to pollinate an acre of crop. Acres pollinated for free or on a non-monetary basis were not included in this calculation.

Colonies Used: The total colonies used to pollinate a crop; regardless of ownership or if on a paid basis.

Dollars per Colony: The average price paid by operations to use a colony for pollination. Colonies owned by the operation or used on a non-monetary basis were not included.

Total Value of Pollination: The total valuation of all pollination, calculated by multiplying the price per colony by colonies used.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-4447
Aaron Cosgrove – Catfish Production, Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Trout Production	
Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage	(202) 720-4751
Tom Kruchten – Census of Aquaculture	(202) 690-4870
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Mink	(202) 720-3244
Vacant – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-3676

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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