

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]

	Region 1					
Crop	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 Cherry Peach	83,400 26,600 2,150	33.0 21.9 33.9	46,000 15,000 2,200	69.9 55.0 58.5	3,215 825 129	
Melons Watermelon	5,600	40.4	3,700	78.1	289	
Berries						
Blueberry Cranberry	37,500 30,300	147.0 167.0	65,000 66,000	88.2 77.9	5,733 5,141	
Vegetables						
Cucumber	29,100	29.4	15,000	62.7	941	
Pumpkin Squash	11,200 9,400	32.4 32.3	11,000 7,500	76.8 74.1	845 556	
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.

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

[edd regional nothing on page 11]	Region 1						
Crop	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 Cherry	91,600 29,400	32.0 25.8	47,000 14,000	70.9 56.6	3,332 792		
Melons Watermelon	4,150	28.1	2,500	77.7	194		
Berries Blueberry Cranberry	32,500 29,500	126.0 162.0	55,000 61,000	77.3 78.0	4,252 4,758		
Vegetables Cucumber Pumpkin Squash	23,000 8,400 7,500	44.1 40.2 29.7	16,500 9,000 5,000	67.0 76.2 67.8	1,106 686 339		
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.

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]

			Region 2		
Crop	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 Watermelon	2,200 15,300	43.0 71.6	2,500 17,000	56.1 69.8	140 1,187
Berries Blueberry	15,900	81.8	33,000	53.7	1,772
Vegetables Cucumber Pumpkin Squash Other vegetables 1	9,300 5,200 5,600 2,000	45.7 31.6 37.2 44.9	9,000 4,600 5,500 2,000	55.2 63.0 47.9 85.6	497 290 263 171
All other ²	2,050	39.3	6,500	59.6	387
Total	78,750	48.4	88,600	57.8	5,120

¹ Includes other vegetables.

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

	Region 2						
Crop	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 Peach	15,700 2,300	17.0 20.0	6,500 1,700	51.6 39.9	335 68		
Melons Cantaloupe Watermelon	4,100 23,100	75.8 69.9	5,500 28,000	64.1 60.3	353 1,688		
Berries Blueberry	18,900	85.5	35,000	55.9	1,957		
Vegetables Cucumber Pumpkin Squash	15,400 3,200 5,600	43.3 56.6 47.6	14,000 3,400 7,000	51.4 66.6 47.3	720 226 331		
All other 1	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 Includes crops not categorized above.

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

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]

			Region 3		
Crop	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 Watermelon	3,650 28,200	47.1 59.5	4,100 31,000	49.8 58.7	204 1,820
Berries Blueberry	3,150	87.5	8,500	43.3	368
Vegetables Cucumber Pumpkin Squash All other 2	5,700 2,250 3,700 2,100	56.8 73.4 67.3 39.0	7,500 2,400 7,500 14,500	47.5 74.0 41.7 38.7	356 178 313 561
Total	62,450	49.3	121,000	38.9	4,708

¹ Includes other tree fruit.

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

[edd regional noung on page 11]	Region 3						
Crop	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 Watermelon	3,300 22,600	43.4 63.7	2,800 27,000	54.6 55.7	153 1,504		
Berries Blueberry	4,300	118.0	15,500	57.8	896		
Vegetables Cucumber Pumpkin Squash	4,750 6,000 4,150	19.5 61.0 21.8	2,900 7,500 3,600	16.3 52.1 28.6	47 391 103		
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 Includes crops not categorized above.

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

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]

	Region 4					
Сгор	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 Cherry	3,000 3,100	32.5 27.5	3,900 3,100	45.5 34.3	177 106	
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.

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

	Region 4					
Сгор	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.

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]

	Region 5						
Crop	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	44.000	400.0	00.000	40.5	4.505		
Blueberry	14,200	106.0	33,000	46.5	1,535		
Cranberry	5,700 6,400	118.0 46.9	9,000 8,000	74.3 40.0	669 320		
Raspberry	6,400	40.9	0,000	40.0	320		
Vegetables							
Other vegetables ¹	6,700	47.2	9,500	35.9	341		
_							
Other crops			40 =00				
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.

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

	Region 5				
Crop	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 Cherry Peach Pear	115,900 38,600 2,050 20,700	46.3 80.6 49.7 61.9	107,000 60,000 2,400 24,000	51.9 52.6 46.0 55.7	5,553 3,156 110 1,337
Melons Watermelon	2,100	74.7	3,400	50.0	170
Berries Blueberry Cranberry Raspberry	14,400 5,800 6,500	105.0 133.0 42.9	35,000 10,500 10,000	45.1 75.3 33.4	1,579 791 334
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 Includes miscellaneous crops.

³ Includes crops not categorized above.

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

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

			Region 6 & 7		_
Crop	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 12,800 29,800 29,700 6,200	89.2 103.0 127.0 89.9 59.0	20,000 69,000 55,000 46,000 12,800	47.7 40.8 68.6 64.4 48.2	954 2,815 3,773 2,962 617
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 Honeydew Watermelon	36,900 9,300 13,000	53.3 55.8 63.4	40,000 10,000 21,000	49.3 51.3 38.7	1,972 513 813
Berries Blueberry Cranberry Raspberry	3,050 3,300 5,100	240.0 285.0 220.0	7,500 13,000 14,000	101.0 71.5 92.3	758 930 1,292
Vegetables Cucumber Squash	3,750 2,800	82.4 64.4	11,000 6,500	28.9 27.3	318 177
Other crops Alfalfa Sunflower Misc. crops ²	42,700 22,800 11,700	137.0 36.8 14.6	92,000 30,000 5,500	63.6 28.8 32.1	5,851 864 177
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.

Includes crops not categorized above.
 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

[g	Region 6 & 7				
Crop	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 Cherry	7,100 25,900	46.6 147.0	7,500 54,000	45.3 71.3	340 3,850
Melons Cantaloupe Watermelon	34,400 12,700	55.6 57.9	43,000 20,000	44.6 38.6	1,918 772
Berries Blueberry	2,800 5,300	188.0 72.0	5,000 8,500	106.0 44.0	530 374
Vegetables Cucumber	2,250	47.5	3,300	40.1	132
Other crops Alfalfa Sunflower	24,200 30,600	107.0 42.5	37,000 35,000	49.3 37.7	1,824 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.

Arizona, California, Hawaii. **Region 6 & 7:**

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 nonmonetary 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
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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