

Fact Sheet: Bee & Honey



- Bees pollinate 80 percent of flowering crops, which constitute one-third of the American diet.
 - The queen honeybee is Alabama's official state agricultural insect.
 - In 2016, Alabama had approximately 7,000 honey-producing colonies.
 - Eighty-five percent of U.S. honey imports come from five countries: Vietnam, India, Argentina, Brazil and Thailand.
 - A common honey variety in Alabama is cotton honey, a light-colored, delicately flavored honey.
 - For every 60 pounds of honey produced, one pound of beeswax is made.
 - There are three types of honeybees in a colony: the queen (fertile female), workers (infertile females) and drones (males).
 - The peak population of a colony of honeybees usually occurs mid-summer and results in 60,000 to 80,000 bees per colony.
 - A queen bee can lay up to 3,000 eggs per day.
 - Honeybees are one of over 20,000 bee species and are not endangered.
 - Honeybees must gather nectar from 2 million flowers to make 1 pound of honey.
 - The average bee will make only one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
 - The honeybee is the only insect that produces food eaten by man.
- Sources:
ABFnet.org
BuzzingAcrossAmerica.com
MatterofTrust.org
USDA.gov



- Honey yield per colony averaged 52 pounds.
- Honey production totaled 364,000 pounds in Alabama and 162 million pounds in the U.S. in 2016.
- The average American consumes 1.61 pounds of honey each year.
- There are over 200,000 beekeepers in the U.S. Every state has honeybees and beekeepers.
- North and South Dakota combined produce a little more than one-third of the nation's commercial honey supply.