

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1988. SUCCESSFUL OFFERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY EASYLINK, TELEGRAM, OR MAILGRAM BY 12:00 MIDNIGHT (CST), MARCH 16, 1988. PUBLIC RELEASE OF AWARD INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AT 3:00 PM (CST) MARCH 18, 1988. DETAILS ARE IN ANNOUNCEMENT/INVITATION KC-HS-41. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COPIES OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE KANSAS CITY COMMODITY OFFICE, P.O. BOX 419205, KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-0205. TELEPHONE: 816-926-6062.

WASHINGTON, March 3--Producers may repay their 1987 honey price support loans at the following levels, according to Milton J. Hertz, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1987 crop:

White.....40.0  
 Extra-light amber.....37.0  
 Light amber.....36.0  
 Amber.....34.0

These levels are unchanged from those announced Oct. 8.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their 1987 honey-price support loans at these levels may not replace the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Contacts: Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7602 7.30 am-4.00 pm  
 John C. Ryan (202) 447-6788 4.00 pm-5.30 pm

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 CCC LOAN INTEREST RATE FOR MARCH LOWERED TO 6-3/4 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, March 1--Commodity loans disbursed in March by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 6-3/4 percent interest rate, according to Milton Hertz, CCC executive vice president. The 6-3/4 percent rate, down from 7-1/8 percent, reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in March.



## Pollination Survey

by  
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 and  
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Sales of agricultural commodities contributed 1.9 billion dollars to Oregon's economy in 1986, and 2.01 billion dollars in 1987, which was the first time these sales had ever exceeded \$2 billion. Many of these commodities require, or greatly benefit from, honey bee pollination.

Surveys have been conducted in 1986 and 1987 to clarify the value of honey bee pollination to Oregon's agricultural industry. Results from the 1986 survey were published in the OSBA Bee Line in April 1987, and served as the data base for an article on honey bees and pollination which appeared in the Oregon Farmer-Stockman and was reprinted in The Bee Line in August last year.

Preliminary findings from the 1987 survey are presented here.

In 1987 over 2000 beekeepers were registered with the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Commodity Inspection Division. There were fewer registered beekeepers, and a lower total number of colonies, than in the year before. However, there was an increase in the number of large (more than 300 hives) beekeeping operations owned by Oregon residents compared with 1986.

While full-time and semi-commercial beekeepers make up only a small proportion of all the beekeepers in Oregon, they own the majority of the hives. For the purposes of this survey a commercial beekeeper is defined as one who owns more than 300 colonies. In Oregon, 56 beekeepers are classified as commercial.

Semi-commercial beekeepers are divided into two groups based on the number of colonies owned: 50-100 colonies, with 62 registered beekeepers; and 100-300 colonies, with 61 registered beekeepers.

The commercial pollination service to Oregon's agricultural sector is primarily provided by this group of 189 individuals.

Survey results of the crops pollinated, the number of colonies involved, and average rental fees, are summarized in Table 1. Please note that this is not a complete picture of commercial pollination within the state. Only those professional beekeepers who responded to the survey (37 of 189, or 20%) are represented. These 37 individuals collectively own 15,965 colonies, or almost 25% of all colonies registered in Oregon in 1987.

Beekeepers were asked in the survey to estimate the percentage of their gross income which resulted from pollination rental.

### Percentage of Gross Income From Pollination Rentals

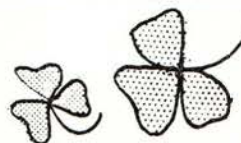
Commercial (more than 300 hives) 58%  
 Semi-commercial (50-300 hives) 42%

Rental fees were actually of comparable importance to the commercial and the larger semi-commercial (100-300 hives) beekeepers. However, some of the smaller semi-commercial beekeepers (owning 50-100 hives) derived their entire gross income from sales of hive products or equipment and did not rent any colonies for pollination. These findings lowered the average of semi-commercial operators taken as a whole.

under-evaluation of pollinating benefits of honey bee colonies, particularly in those crops where surplus honey production may be expected. Vetch is utilized as a surplus honey crop and pollination fees are rarely charged. Burgett found that the value of vetch seed production in 1986 was \$493,000, or \$125 per acre, and the necessary pollination service was provided free.

Another example is the cost of essential pollination to berry growers, which was calculated to be 0.3% of the grower's per acre gross in 1986. Low rental fees for honey bee colonies pollinating berries continue to reflect a serious under-estimation of the services provided to the growers.

It is hoped that this information will be useful to Oregon beekeepers who are considering pollination activities. These rental fee records would become more accurate and representative with responses from a larger number of beekeepers. We acknowledge the assistance of those individuals who replied to this survey, and encourage all pollinators to participate in the next annual survey.



| COMMERCIAL POLLINATION SURVEY<br>Oregon - 1987 |                         |                   |                        |                     |                       |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Crop   | # beekeepers responding | # colonies rented | Total Rental Fee - \$- | Ave. fee per colony | High/Low Fees Charged |
| Pear   | 19                      | 5,106             | 89,254                 | 17.50               | 24/7.0                |
| Sweet Cherries                                 | 19                      | 4,007             | 76,829                 | 19.20               | 21/11.0               |
| Vegetable Seed                                 | 16                      | 2,615             | 56,786                 | 21.70               | 25/0                  |
| Apple  | 12                      | 3,147             | 56,462                 | 17.95               | 41/0                  |
| Red Clover Seed                                | 15                      | 2,818             | 37,397                 | 13.30               | 45/0                  |
| White Clover Seed                              | 6                       | 1,353             | 25,901                 | 19.15               | 25/15                 |
| Berries <sup>1</sup>                           | 19                      | 2,484             | 24,390                 | 9.80                | 15/0                  |
| Cranberries                                    | 3                       | 875               | 22,967                 | 26.25               | 26.50/26              |
| Radish Seed                                    | 7                       | 427               | 5,482                  | 12.85               | 22/0                  |
| Blueberries                                    | 11                      | 412               | 5,175                  | 12.55               | 18/0                  |
| Cucumbers                                      | 6                       | 361               | 4,980                  | 13.80               | 17/0                  |
| Squash & Pumpkin                               | 5                       | 167               | 3,109                  | 18.60               | 20/15                 |
| Vetch Seed                                     | 5                       | 1125              | -0-                    | -0-                 | -0-                   |
| Miscellaneous <sup>2</sup>                     | 7                       | 1011              | 10,161                 | 10.05               |                       |
|  |                         | 25,908            | 418,893                | 16.15               |                       |

1) Berries include blackberries, raspberries, Loganberries, Marionberries and Boysenberries.  
 2) Miscellaneous includes buckwheat, arrowleaf clover seed, alfalfa, holly, strawberries, meadowfoam and watermelon.

TAKEN FROM "THE BEE LINE"

Oregon State Beekeepers Assn. Newsletter

