Cost of Pollination

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Cost per Colony to Pollinate Almonds up 15 Percent from 2024

In Regions 6 & 7, the average cost per colony for almonds increased 15 percent from 181 dollars per colony in 2024 to 209 dollars per colony in 2025. The average price per acre increased from 305 dollars per acre to 310 dollars per acre during that period. The total value of pollination for almonds increased 5 percent. Almonds were the highest valued crop in that region. The total value of all pollination in Regions 6 & 7 for 2025 was 364 million dollars, up 3 percent from 2024.

Cranberries had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 1 in 2025. The price per colony for cranberries decreased 6 percent to 83.9 dollars per colony in 2025. The price per acre decreased 9 percent to 172 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for cranberries in Region 1 for 2025 was 5.29 million dollars. The total value for pollination of all crops in Region 1 for 2025 was 18.0 million dollars, down 3 percent from 2024.

Blueberries had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 2 in 2025. The price per colony for blueberries decreased 10 percent to 61.5 dollars per colony in 2025. The price per acre decreased 16 percent to 121 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for blueberries in Region 2 for 2025 was 2.77 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 2 for 2025 was 6.12 million dollars, down 1 percent from 2024.

Watermelons had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 3 in 2025. The price per colony for watermelons increased 16 percent to 80.6 dollars per colony in 2025. The price per acre decreased 2 percent to 83.8 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for watermelons in Region 3 for 2025 was 1.69 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 3 for 2025 was 4.02 million dollars, up 1 percent from 2024.

Apples had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 4 in 2025. The price per colony for apples increased 22 percent to 72.8 dollars per colony in 2025. The price per acre increased 22 percent to 66.5 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for apples in Region 4 for 2025 was 124 thousand dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 4 for 2025 was 346 thousand dollars, down 50 percent from 2024.

Apples had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 5 in 2025. The price per colony for apples decreased 6 percent to 54.4 dollars per colony in 2025. The price per acre decreased 12 percent to 50.0 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for apples in Region 5 for 2025 was 5.06 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 5 for 2025 was 15.9 million dollars, down 3 percent from 2024.

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Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 1: 2024

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	75,600	37.5	40,000	89.3	3,572
Cherry	25,000	36.5	15,000	66.8	1,002
Melons					
Watermelon	2,950	73.7	2,600	100.0	260
Berries					
Blueberry	29,500	174.0	67,000	81.5	5,461
Cranberry	26,300	188.0	63,000	88.8	5,594
Vegetables					
Cucumber	11,800	32.6	6,000	68.3	410
Pumpkin	7,800	46.9	9,500	88.7	843
Squash	4,750	46.0	3,800	79.1	301
All other [1]	5,100	47.6	16,000	68.6	1,098
Total	188,800	80.9	222,900	83.2	18,541

[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: 2025

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	78,600	41.8	48,000	85.6	4,109
Cherry	27,400	36.5	16,000	70.4	1,126
Melons					
Watermelon	3,000	56.6	2,300	114.0	262
Berries					
Blueberry	25,500	151.0	50,000	85.9	4,295
Cranberry	28,900	172.0	63,000	83.9	5,286
Vegetables					
Cucumber	10,200	24.6	5,000	73.0	365
Pumpkin	7,400	52.0	7,500	84.3	632
Squash	4,700	46.1	4,400	87.6	385
All other [1]	5,300	53.9	17,500	86.6	1,516
Total	191,000	75.4	213,700	84.1	17,976

[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: 2024

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	11,000	18.7	4,200	60.3	253
Melons					
Cantaloupe	510	59.7	800	79.1	63
Watermelon	18,200	81.0	20,000	74.6	1,492
Berries					
Blueberry	21,000	144.0	53,000	68.0	3,604
Vegetables					
Pumpkin	2,500	58.4	2,900	58.9	171
Squash	2,600	69.1	3,200	63.7	204
All other [1]	5,700	43.8	6,500	58.6	381
Total	61,510	86.4	90,600	68.1	6,168

[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: 2025

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	9,400	18.0	3,800	58.7	223
Melons					
Cantaloupe	340	62.5	380	78.7	30
Watermelon	20,700	85.9	26,000	71.2	1,851
Berries					
Blueberry	21,900	121.0	45,000	61.5	2,768
Vegetables					
Pumpkin	2,550	34.9	2,100	49.1	103
Squash	1,700	66.5	3,900	30.5	119
All other [1]	11,500	59.9	13,500	75.8	1,023
Total	68,090	80.9	94,680	64.6	6,117

[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: 2024

[See regional listing on page 10]

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					
Watermelon	22,100	85.5	28,000	69.6	1,949
Berries					
Blueberry	2,000	194.0	17,000	25.8	439
All other [1]	22,600	37.3	33,000	48.7	1,607
Total	46,700	66.8	78,000	51.2	3,995

[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: 2025

[See regional listing on page 10]

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					
Watermelon	19,900	83.8	21,000	80.6	1,693
Berries					
Blueberry	1,850	159.0	15,500	20.1	312
All other [1]	21,000	38.4	30,000	67.3	2,019
Total	42,750	64.8	66,500	60.5	4,024

[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: 2024

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	1,300	54.7	2,400	59.6	143
Cherry	1,650	39.8	2,400	39.0	94
All other [1]	1,900	52.3	5,500	81.8	450
Total	4,850	48.5	10,300	66.7	687

[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: 2025

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	1,380	66.5	1,700	72.8	124
Cherry	1,200	37.9	2,100	26.8	56
All other [1]	1,850	37.7	5,500	30.2	166
Total	4,430	46.7	9,300	37.2	346

[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: 2024

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	109,400	56.7	108,000	58.1	6,275
Cherry	35,000	90.7	54,000	59.1	3,191
Pear	26,200	61.0	27,000	61.1	1,650
Berries					
Blueberry	13,100	161.0	49,000	44.9	2,200
Cranberry	4,250	117.0	6,500	74.3	483
Raspberry	5,500	78.4	12,000	36.5	438
All other [1]	25,500	63.6	42,000	49.3	2,071
Total	218,950	71.5	298,500	54.6	16,308

[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: 2025

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	99,700	50.0	93,000	54.4	5,059
Cherry	40,600	83.8	60,000	59.9	3,594
Pear	21,000	65.4	24,000	57.5	1,380
Berries					
Blueberry	11,900	191.0	38,000	63.0	2,394
Cranberry	4,500	105.0	6,000	76.9	461
Raspberry	5,000	60.4	9,000	33.7	303
All other [1]	17,400	69.0	41,000	65.2	2,673
Total	200,100	69.9	271,000	58.5	15,864

[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: 2024

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	1,055,700	305.0	1,800,000	181.0	325,800
Tree fruit					
Apple	1,700	86.5	3,500	54.0	189
Cherry	29,400	168.0	48,000	103.0	4,944
Melons					
Cantaloupe	17,600	63.2	14,500	76.5	1,109
Watermelon	9,600	110.0	13,500	81.8	1,104
Other Crops					
Sunflower	11,100	56.5	15,500	40.3	625
All other [1]	65,800	215.0	133,000	143.0	19,019
Total	1,190,900	289.3	2,028,000	174.0	352,790

[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: 2025

[See regional listing on page 10]

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	1,035,800	310.0	1,630,000	209.0	340,670
Tree fruit					
Apple	1,550	57.8	1,800	86.9	156
Cherry	29,800	119.0	47,000	80.9	3,802
Melons					
Cantaloupe	17,500	49.0	11,000	73.6	810
Watermelon	9,100	91.8	11,500	94.7	1,089
Other Crops					
Sunflower	10,200	65.4	13,500	48.8	659
All other [1]	61,900	207.0	160,000	104.0	16,640
Total	1,165,850	291.9	1,874,800	194.1	363,826

[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 33 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 2025 sample size was 15,092 and the 2024 sample size was 15,046. 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 14 remaining crops that were sampled, but not listed individually on the questionnaire were: apricots, avocados, boysenberries, buckwheat, 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 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 nonmonetary 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@usda.gov.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch ..... (202) 692-0069
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter ..... (202) 690-8632
Tiffany Byrne – Dairy Products..... (651) 440-7789
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed..... (202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows ..... (202) 720-3278
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised, Poultry ..... (202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish, Trout, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products..... (202) 690-3237
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs ..... (202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Sheep and Goats ..... (202) 720-4448
Shulonda Shaw – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses..... (202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs ..... (202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Chicken Hatchery, Broiler Hatchery..... (202) 720-6147

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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@usda.gov.

If you have specific questions you would like an expert to respond to, please visit our "Ask A Specialist" website at www.nass.usda.gov/Contact_Us/Ask_a_Specialist.

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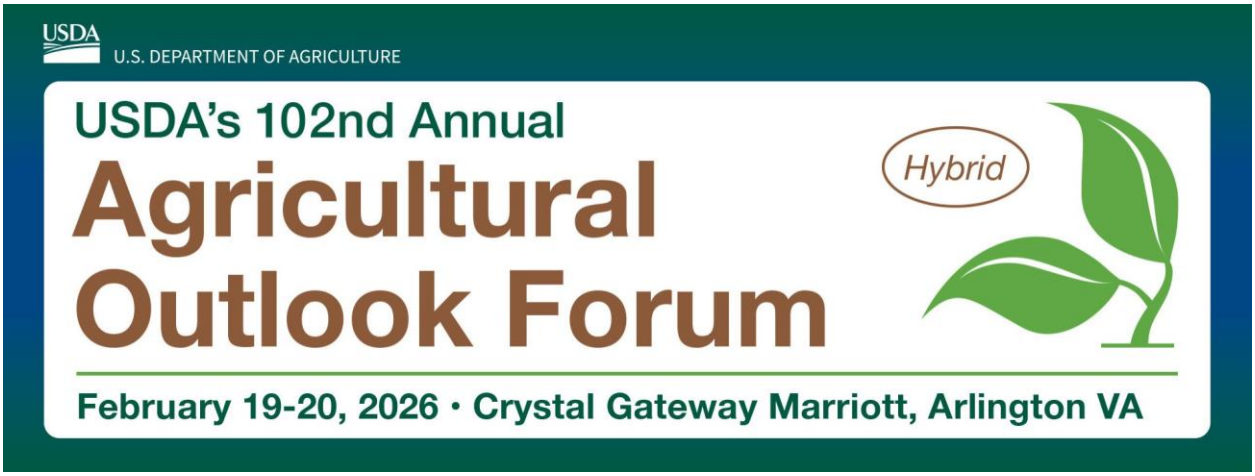

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USDA's 102nd Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott on February 19-20, 2026, and all Forum sessions will be livestreamed on a virtual platform. Join USDA's new Chief Economist, Justin Benavidez, as he unveils the USDA's initial 2026 forecast for the agricultural economy, commodity markets, trade, and farm income. Hear how cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence are modernizing agricultural production practices and reshaping markets. Learn from more than 80 subject matter experts, executives, and academics as they explore some of the most pressing issues impacting agriculture. Explore USDA's agency exhibits and discover recent USDA-funded innovations along with the Department's key programs and activities.

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