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## HONEY PRODUCTION AT LAKE CARL BLACKWELL, 1943-1945

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In order to give a better picture of what happened at the Experimental Apiary at Blackwell Lake, it would be best to go back to the time that it was established in that area. The first colonies were moved to the area in the spring of 1943. During that season, the bees had access to ten acres of alfalfa which had been started in the fall of 1942. The per-colony average and total honey yields for the 1943 season are shown in Table I. This table also shows the yields for the apiaries located on the Experiment Station Farm at Stillwater and at Tipton, Oklahoma. It will be noted that for that season the lowest per-colony average was obtained from the bees located at Blackwell Lake.

In the fall of 1943, ten additional acres were seeded to alfalfa in the Blackwell Lake area. This new pasture was available for bee pasture for the first time during the 1944 season. In 1944, the bees at Blackwell Lake also had access to about two acres of sweet clover planted in the spring of 1942. For 1944, the Blackwell apiary had a bee pasture consisting of about 20 acres of alfalfa and two acres of sweet clover. The yields obtained for 1944 are shown in Table II. The average yield per colony this year was highest from the Blackwell Lake apiary and lowest at the apiary on the Experiment Station Farm, with the Tipton apiary in between.

Two small orchards started early in the spring of 1944 near the Blackwell Lake apiary are expected to supply the bees with early-spring pollen at some future time. As yet, however, they are of little value for bee pasture. The only additional bee pasture established during 1944 was five acres of vetch planted in October and about five acres of poor land, formerly in native grass and weeds, that was disked and then seeded to sweet clover. However, a good stand of sweet clover was not obtained and the crop did not come into production until 1946. The vetch came up to a nice stand and was the only additional pasture available to the bees. It must be recalled, however, that ten of the twenty acres of alfalfa were producing a crop for the third season and the other ten acres for the second season.

In the spring of 1945, the bees from the Tipton apiary, together with an additional five three-pound-packages of bees, were moved to the Blackwell Lake apiary. Therefore, this apiary was increased in size until it had twice as many colonies as in 1944. The yields for the 1945 season are shown in Table III. It will be noted from this table that the average yield at Blackwell Lake was 114 pounds. In comparing yields for the three seasons, it will also be noted

that there was a steady increase in the average per-colony yield from 1943 to 1945. The 1944 season was not considered so good from the standpoint of honey production as the previous one. The per-colony average at Blackwell Lake, nevertheless, shows an increase.

In 1945 there was likewise an increase in the average yield per colony and this in spite of the fact that the number of bees for the available pasture had been doubled.

TABLE I  
Honey yields from all colonies 1943

Apiary on Experiment Station Farm							
Colony No.	Date extracted	No. of supers	Lbs. honey ext.	Date extracted	No. of supers	Lbs. honey ext.	Total lbs. honey
Scale	8-8-43	2	56				56
0	8-8-43	2	44	10-27-43	1	15	59
A1	8-5-43	1	27.25	10-27-43	1	25	52.25
4	8-5-43	1	27				27
8	8-4-43	2	44	10-27-43	2	37	81
6	8-5-43	2	61.5	10-27-43	2	41	102.5
10	8-5-43	1	13.5	10-27-43	1	29	42.5
12	8-5-43	1	29	10-27-43	1	23	52
13	8-5-43	1	23	10-27-43	1	21	44
19	8-5-43	1	14	10-27-43	1	21	35
20	8-5-43	1	17	10-27-43	1	19	36
22	8-5-43	1	25.5	10-27-43	1	29	54.5
26	8-5-43	1	24.5				24.5
27	8-5-43	1	17	10-27-43	1	27	44
		Totals 423				287	710
						Average	50.714
Blackwell Lake apiary							
B1				10-27-43	1	13	13
B2				10-27-43	1	15	15
B3				10-27-43	1	19	19
B4	8-9-43	2	35	10-27-43			35
B5	8-9-43	1	22	10-27-43	1	15	37
B6	8-9-43	1	15				15
B7	8-9-43	1	26				26
B8	8-9-43	1	24	10-27-43	1	13	37
B9	8-9-43	1	19				19
		Totals 141				75	216
						Average	21.833
Tipton, Oklahoma, apiary							
2	8-16-43	1	31	10-20-43	2	11	42
5	8-16-43	4	111	10-20-43	3	27	138
7	8-16-43	2	53	10-20-43	1	7	60
16	8-16-43	3	83	10-20-43	3	28	111
30	8-16-43	3	95	10-20-43	3	6	101
32	8-16-43	2	61	10-20-43	2	31	92
25P	8-16-43	1	23	10-23-43			23
33				10-20-43	1	25	25
		Totals 457				135	592
						Average	94
Total surplus from all colonies—1518 pounds							

TABLE II  
Honey yields from all colonies for 1944

Experiment Station Farm					
Colony No.	Date extracted	No. of supers	Wt. of full supers	Wt. of empty supers	Lbs. of honey ext.
Scale	10-3-44	1	37.5	12.5	25
1	10-3-44	2	38.5	19.5	19
8	10-3-44	1	42	13.5	28
12	10-3-44	2	84	27	57
13	10-3-44	1	19	10	9
19	10-3-44	1	37	11	26
26	10-3-44	1	41	11	30
27	10-3-44	1	25.5	11.5	14
17	10-3-44	1	40	13	27
					Total 233
					Average 25.7
Blackwell Lake					
B1	10-4-44	3	78	36	42
B2	10-4-44	3	98.5	38	50.5
B3					
B4	10-4-44	3	78	36	42
B5	10-4-44	4	151	55	96
B6	10-4-44	3	100	36	64
B7	10-4-44	4	158	61	97
B8	10-4-44	3	104	32	72
B9	10-4-44	3	89	39	50
B10	10-4-44	3	80.5	39.5	41
					Total 554
					Average 61
Tipton, Oklahoma					
1	10-8-44	2	84	24	58
2X	10-8-44	2	35	22	13
3X	10-8-44	1	38	14	24
4X	10-8-44	2	46	23	23
5	10-8-44	1	34.5	14.5	20
16	10-8-44	2	50	24	26
32	10-8-44	3	153	47	106
33	10-8-44	2	83	25	58
					Total 328
					Average 41

TABLE III  
Honey yields in 1945

Blackwell Lake										
Colony No.	Extracted July 26-28, 1945				Extracted September 19, 1945					
	No. of supers	Wt. of full supers	Wt. of empty supers	Lbs. honey ext.	No. of supers	Wt. of full supers	Wt. of empty supers	Lbs. honey ext.	Total	
B1	5	233	71	162	4	106	44	52	214	
B2	2	126	32	94	3	97	37	60	154	
B4	3	168	45	123	2	38	22	16	139	
B5	3	109	37	72	3	61	34	27	99	
B6	1	42	13	29	1	14	11	3	32	
B7	3	161	46	114	3	120	40	80	195	
B8	2	82	21	61	2	55	23	32	93	
B9					2	82	27	55	55	
B10					2	56	22	34	94	
B11	3	140	42	98	3	54	34	20	118	
B12	3	114	39	75	3	124	36	78	153	
B13	2	85	25	60	3	114	38	76	136	
B14	2	77	26	51	2	83	28	55	106	
B15	3	132	41	91	2	49	26	23	114	
B16	3	164	56	108	3	110	37	73	181	
B17	2	120	27	93	2	78	25	55	148	
B18	1	34	13	21	2	71	21	42	63	
B19	1	39	9	30	3	51	32	19	49	
B20					3	107	38	69	69	
B Scale	3	114	35	79	3	85	34	51	130	
				Totals	1362				920	2282
Apiary on Experiment Station Farm										
Scale	1	30	12	18	1	33	12	21	39	
E 0	1	45	12	32	1	45	13	32	64	
E 4	3	130	40	90	3	86	33	53	143	
E 6					1	34	12	22	22	
E 9	1	37	12	25					25	
E 10					1	38	13	25	25	
E 12	1	32	12	20	1	45	14	31	51	
E 13	2	96	25	71	2	80	23	57	128	
E 17	2	54	26	28	1	44	13	31	89	
E 18					1	16	11	5	5	
E 22	1	41	11	30					30	
				Totals	314				277	591
									Average 53.7	
									Grand total 2873	