URUGUAY

Exports of honey for 1993 are estimated at 6,000 metric tons. During the last three months of 1993 beekeepers said the weather was windy and rainy. Blossoms were destroyed by the storms, so that colonies could not build up as they normally do. This has set back colony development for the big honey flows in 1994. Beekeepers are selling their honey at around U.S. 80 cents per kilo. Retail prices are about $2.00 per kilo.

CHILE

Coming into spring colony losses were low and bees were developing normally. Honey plants are showing good growth. Export honey prices are low. More and more Chilean producers are selling their honey crops for domestic consumption in short sizes and demand is growing. The retail price per kilo is averaging around U.S. $3.12 in stores. At the export level bulk honey is receiving above U.S. 80 cents per kilo. The shortage of honey by the time the orange flow normally arrives is attributed to the government's policy. This carries a 10 percent tariff imposed on the CIF value which will decrease to 8 percent on January 1, 1994.

Honey production in Korea has been fairly stable with 1993 production estimated at 10,000 metric tons, thanks to favorable weather. This compares to 9,673 tons in 1991 and 9,446 tons in 1992. Other factors that affect production are the ratio of native to improved bees and the level of husbandry. Native bees have a much lower production level. The number of imported or improved variety bees has started to decrease since 1989, while the native variety has increased. Although the productivity of native bees is low, most Korean beekeepers prefer to keep native honey bees that produce honey and wax only. This tendency is attributed to the government's and NLCF's promotion of Korean products as being superior and best suited for Koreans. The level of husbandry is not always very high as most beekeepers do it only as a sideline and there are reports of bees starving because inadequate honey is left for them and of large kills due to freezing.

There are several types or flavors of honey produced in Korea. The most common are acacia, chestnut, rape seed flower, linden tree and wild flower honey. Acacia honey accounts for over 65 percent of domestic honey production. Most honey in Korea is produced between March and June. The number of Korean beekeepers is estimated at about 50,000.

ISRAEL

In 1993 beekeepers were disappointed with the orange flow which normally provides the bulk of their crop. However, later wildflower and eucalyptus honey crops were better than normal which helped somewhat in making up the shortfall. About 170 metric tons of honey were imported, but there will still be a shortage of honey by the time the orange flow comes in 1994 unless more honey is purchased from abroad. Beekeepers are hoping that the shortage will result in better prices when the 1994 crop is extracted.

SOUTH KOREA

(Honey is import restricted in Korea. However, this policy will be liberalized by 1997 and will present market opportunities for U.S. suppliers. Exporters from the United States are advised not to wait until liberalization to study the market and make initial contacts. At present only the Korea Tourist Hotel Supply Center can import honey. Imports of honey amounted to about 42 metric tons valued at $166,000 in 1992 up from the 31 metric tons valued at $139,000 in 1991. We forecast imports of $5 million per year within five years of liberalization. There is a 20 percent tariff imposed on the CIF value. Also U.S. suppliers should be aware that natural honey enriched with royal jelly (2 percent or more royal jelly) is importable now. This carries a 10 percent tariff imposed on the CIF value which will decrease to 8 percent on January 1, 1994.)

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