



2009 SUGAR AND SPECIALTY CROP HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Sugar

Sugar production for 2009 was 176,000 tons of 96° raw sugar, a decrease of 5 percent from the previous year. This was the seventh consecutive year for which raw sugar production levels decreased. Sugar price during 2009 increased 5 percent to \$374 per ton of 96° raw sugar, with a total value of \$65.8 million, slightly less than the 2008 level of \$66.1 million. Hawaii's sugar plantations were able to harvest 1.3 million tons of sugarcane from 20,300 acres. This production level was 6 percent less than 2008 and also was the seventh year of decline. The average yield for sugarcane harvested in 2009 was 65.6 tons per acre. Going into 2010, Hawaii has only one remaining sugar plantation. The sugar plantation on Kauai County shut down their growing operation in 2009. This operation has continuously grown sugarcane since 1892.

◆ Coffee

Coffee growers harvested 6,300 acres of coffee during the 2009-2010 growing season, unchanged from the previous year. Production levels, at 8.7 million pounds (parchment equivalent basis), were identical to the 2008-2009 production estimate. The average farm price for coffee from the 2009-2010 season was \$3.60 (parchment equivalent basis), up 20.0 cents from the 2008-2009 average price. Total farm revenues generated was an estimated \$31.3 million (parchment equivalent basis), 6 percent higher than the revised 2008-2009 value of \$29.6 million.

◆ Macadamia Nuts

Hawaii Macadamia nut growers delivered an estimated 50.0 million pounds of macadamia nuts (wet-in-shell) to processors during the 2009-2010 season. About 16 percent of the harvest was culled, resulting in 42.0 million pounds (net, wet-in-shell), which represents an 8.0 million pound or 16 percent decrease from last season. Losses from immature and moldy, rotten nuts accounted for more than half of the losses. Damage from insects, Koa Seed Worm, Tropical Nut Borer, and Stink Bug, was another cause being reported by growers and processors.

Dry weather contributed to this season's lower output. Other factors contributing to the smaller harvest were higher cost of inputs, wild pigs consuming nuts on the ground, and damage to flowers due to the vog. The macadamia nut industry has experienced difficult marketing conditions during these past years. Growers commented that harvesting their nuts has not been feasible and processors have limited their nut purchases.

Overall yields averaged 2,800 pounds per acre (net, wet-in-shell basis) for the 2009-2010 season, or 500 pounds less than the previous season. Total acreage and harvested acreage for the 2009-2010 season remained unchanged at 17,000 and 15,000 acres, respectively. The farm price for (net, wet-in-shell) macadamia nuts averaged 70.0 cents per pound, 3.0 cents higher than the 2008-2009 average and highest since the 81.0 cents average price estimated for the 2005-2006 season. The record-high average price is 90.0 cents set in 1988.