



2007 SUGAR AND SPECIALTY CROP HIGHLIGHTS

◆ **Sugar**

Sugar production for 2007 was 206,000 tons of 96° raw sugar, a decrease of 3 percent from the previous year. This was the fifth consecutive year for which raw sugar production declined. Sugar price during 2007 declined 2 percent to \$344 per ton of 96° raw sugar, which generated a raw sugar total value of \$70.9 million, 5 percent less than in 2006. Hawaii's sugar plantations were able to harvest 1.5 million tons of sugarcane from 20,400 acres. This was 7 percent less than during 2006 and also the fifth year of decline. The average yield for sugarcane harvested in 2007 was 73.2 tons per acre.

◆ **Coffee**

Coffee farmers harvested 6,400 acres of coffee during the 2007-2008 growing season, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Production increased to 7.5 million pounds, 1 percent higher than last year. The average farm price for coffee from the 2007-2008 season was \$4.25 a pound (parchment equivalent basis), this was 5.0 cents a pound below the revised average price from the 2006-2007 season. Total farm revenues generated was an estimated \$31.9 million (parchment equivalent basis), fractionally above the revised 2006-2007 value of \$31.8 million. Coffee production from Hawaii county decreased 3 percent from a year earlier to 3.9 million pounds (parchment basis), while production from the rest of the State (Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui counties) increased 6 percent to 3.6 million pounds (parchment basis). The total value of sales for the county of Hawaii was \$25.4 million (parchment equivalent basis), 1 percent less than the 2006-2007 season. The total value of sales for the combined counties of

Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui was \$6.5 million (parchment equivalent basis), 5 percent more than during the 2006-2007 season.

◆ **Macadamia Nuts**

Hawaii's 2007-2008 macadamia nut harvest is estimated at 41.0 million pounds net, wet-in-shell, down 17.0 million pounds from last season's harvest. While not the lowest on record, this season's output was the lowest since the 1984-1985 crop year.

Low prices made it uneconomical for many operators to hire pickers, which caused nuts to go unharvested. Many growers reported that the lack of an outlet to sell their nuts was a problem and with lower nut prices, the crop was not harvested by some growers. Growers also related that feral pigs were a problem in some areas. This is probably related to growers leaving nuts on the ground which provided a food source for pigs; which in turn increased survival of offspring, lending itself to more pigs foraging for food. Some macadamia nut growers reported wet conditions caused increased spoilage while others reported dry conditions during the critical phase of maturation also lowered output.

Overall, yields averaged 2,730 pounds per acre (net, wet-in-shell), 29 percent lower than the 2006-2007 crop year. Total acreage and harvested acreage for 2007-2008 remained unchanged at 17,000 acres and 15,000 acres, respectively. The farm price for net, wet-in-shell macadamia nuts averaged 60.0 cents per pound, 7.0 cents less than the 2006-2007 average.