

Taro: Production Down 7 percent from Last Year

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro production at 4.0 million pounds in 2009, down 7 percent from 2008's estimate of 4.3 million pounds. The farm price decreased 2 percent to an average of 61.0 cents per pound, while the value of sales decreased 8 percent from 2008 to \$2.4 million.

Taro for processing totaled 3.9 million pounds in 2009, down 7 percent from 2008. The bulk of all processed taro, and taro in general, is made into poi. Other processed uses for taro include a

traditional Hawaiian dessert called *Kulolo* (a mixture of taro and coconut cream and/or shredded coconut meat) and chips.

Taro for poi production increased 17 percent for the fourth quarter of 2009. Taro millers used 370,000 pounds of taro in October, 14 percent higher than September. The amount of taro used for poi millings then dipped 4 percent to 355,000 pounds in November. Taro for poi millings then increased 13 percent to 400,000 pounds in December. ■



TARO: Number of Farms, Acreage, Marketing, Price, and Value, 2005-2009

Year	Farms	Acreage in crop ¹			Marketings			Farm price			Value of sales
		Poi taro	Chinese taro	Total	Fresh	Processed	Total	Poi taro	Chinese taro	All	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>			<i>1,000 pounds</i>			<i>Cents per pound</i>			<i>1,000 dollars</i>
2005	110	350	10	360	100	4,200	4,300	54.0	54.0	54.0	2,322
2006	105	360	20	380	100	4,400	4,500	56.8	65.5	57.0	2,565
2007	105	355	25	380	100	3,900	4,000	59.2	50.5	59.0	2,360
2008	105	370	20	390	100	4,200	4,300	62.0	61.5	62.0	2,666
2009	110	415	30	445	100	3,900	4,000	60.9	64.5	61.0	2,440

¹ Survey conducted in November of each year. Does not include acreage used primarily for leaf production.

TARO: Poi Millings by Months, State of Hawaii, 5-year Average, 2008 and 2009

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	351	332	349	319	326	330	374	400	381	400	371	407	4,340
2008	330	285	315	330	315	320	420	445	385	355	315	385	4,200
2009	315	285	295	305	285	325	320	320	325	370	355	400	3,900
	<i>Percent</i>												
Percent Changes:													
2009/5-year	90	86	85	96	87	98	86	80	85	93	96	98	90
2009/2008	95	100	94	92	90	102	76	72	84	104	113	104	93

¹ Years: 2004-2008.