

**WILD BLUEBERRIES**



Maine's 2008 wild blueberry crop totaled 90 million pounds, an increase of 16 percent above 2007 output, and 20 percent higher than 2006 production. The price growers receive for processing berries

damage due to the large amount of snow coverage. Traces of mummyberry and red leaf disease were evident in some fields, however disease pressure was light and there were few insect problems. A good bloom in May, accompanied by great pollinating conditions, resulted in an average fruit set in most areas. Dry conditions in early July were cause for concern, but rains arrived later in the month to improve berry size. Harvest began during the first week of August but was halted at times due to rainy conditions. Excessive moisture in some areas caused berries to swell and crack. Where weather conditions were favorable, berries matured quickly and developed better flavor. Harvest was complete in mid-September, slightly behind last year and normal.

in 2008 is expected to average \$0.60 per pound, a decrease of \$0.47 per pound from 2007. If realized, this would place the 2008 processing value at a three-year low of \$53.6 million, compared with \$82.2 million the previous year.

Maine's wild blueberry crop survived the winter with minimal

**MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1999 – 2008**

Year	Total Production 1,000 Lbs	All Price per Pound Dollars	Total Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Wild Blueberries			Wild Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars
1999	66,102	0.513	33,889	300	1.100	330	65,802	0.510	33,559
2000	110,990	0.403	44,732	420	1.200	504	110,570	0.400	44,228
2001	75,200	0.305	22,945	350	1.400	490	74,850	0.300	22,455
2002	62,400	0.286	17,860	400	1.250	500	62,000	0.280	17,360
2003	80,400	0.334	26,880	400	1.200	480	80,000	0.330	26,400
2004	46,000	0.456	20,970	300	1.350	405	45,700	0.450	20,565
2005	60,150	0.656	39,430	350	1.600	560	59,800	0.650	38,870
2006	74,600	0.805	60,040	400	1.700	680	74,200	0.800	59,360
2007	77,250	1.070	83,031	450	1.900	855	76,800	1.070	82,176
2008 <sup>1</sup>	89,950	0.608	54,707	550	1.940	1,067	89,400	0.600	53,640

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary price per pound and value of production. Final price statistics to be published in July 2009.

