



Hawaii Avocados

July 8, 2009

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Hawaii avocado production declines 14 percent

Hawaii avocado production is estimated at 1.0 million pounds for the 2008/09 season, down 14 percent from the previous season. A 6 percent decline in harvested acreage to 330 acres and a 9 percent drop in average yields to 3,000 pounds per acre contributed to the overall lower harvest.

Avocado growers noted that uneven rains and the overall dry weather were major factors for the lowering yields during the 2008/09 season.

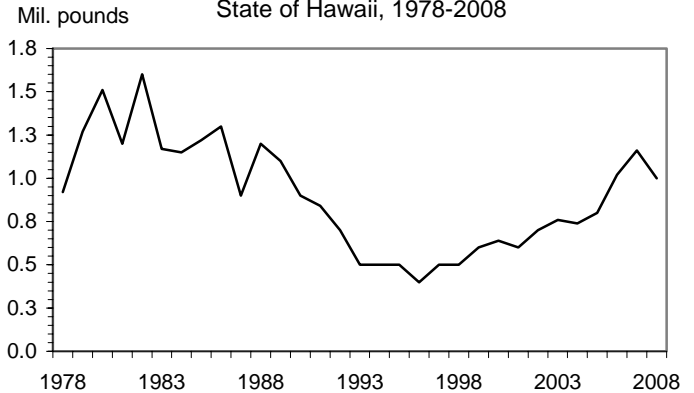
Farm price reaches record high

Hawaii avocado growers received an average a record high 73.0 cents per pound for the 2008 harvest, 7 percent higher than the previous season's average farm price of 68.0 cents per pound.

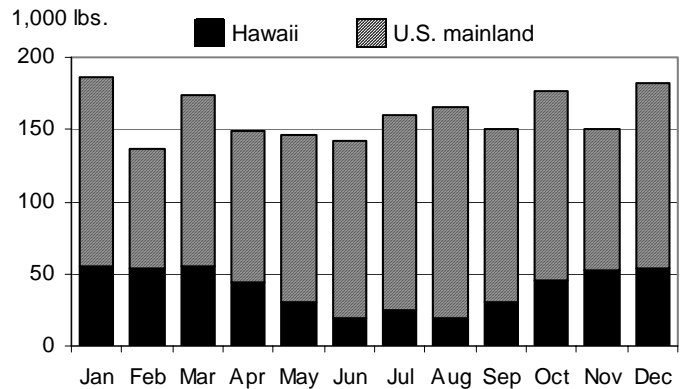
California's harvest lowest since 1979/80 season

California, which produces almost 78 percent of the U.S. total, suffered its lowest avocado harvest in 29 seasons (see next page). California's 2008/09 harvest was hurt by record high heat last June which damaged the fruit that was beginning to mature on trees. Average farm prices, however, rose to a six-season high of \$2,000 per ton.

Fresh Avocados: Production, State of Hawaii, 1978-2008



Fresh Avocados: Monthly unloads into the Honolulu Wholesale Market by source, 2008



Source: Market Analysis and News Branch

AVOCADOS: Number of farms, acreage, yield, production, price, and value, State of Hawaii, 2004-2008

Year	Farms	Acreage ¹		Yield per acre (Bearing)	Production	Farm price	Value of sales
		In crop	Bearing				
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>				<i>Cents per pound</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
2004	150	380	270	2.7	740	63.0	466
2005	175	390	300	2.7	800	66.0	528
2006	225	380	330	3.1	1,020	68.0	694
2007	250	390	350	3.3	1,160	68.0	789
2008	250	400	330	3.0	1,000	73.0	730

¹ At end of year.

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**U.S. Avocados: Bearing acreage, average yield, production, price per ton, and value,
by State and United States, 2006-07 to 2008-09.**

State and Season	Bearing Acreage	Yield Per Acre	Production ¹	Price Per Ton	Value
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
California					
2006-07	65,000	2.03	132,000	1,890.00	249,480
2007-08	66,000	2.50	165,000	1,990.00	328,350
2008-09	65,000	1.51	98,000	2,000.00	196,000
Florida					
2006-07	6,500	2.15	14,000	912.00	12,768
2007-08	7,000	3.93	27,500	440.00	12,100
2008-09	7,500	3.66	27,450	480.00	13,176
Hawaii					
2006-07	330	1.55	510	1,360.00	694
2007-08	350	1.66	580	1,360.00	789
2008-09	330	1.52	500	1,460.00	730
U.S.					
2006-07	71,830	2.04	146,510	1,800.00	262,942
2007-08	73,350	2.63	193,080	1,770.00	341,239
2008-09	72,830	1.73	125,950	1,670.00	209,906

¹ Production is the quantity sold or utilized.

Source: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2008 Summary - July 2008*, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

U.S. Avocados: Blooming, harvesting, and marketing dates, by State.

State	Usual Date(s) of Full Bloom	Usual Harvesting Dates			Usual Marketing Dates		
		Begins	Most Active	Ends	Begins	Most Active	Ends
California	Nov 1–Oct 31	Nov 1		Oct 31	Nov 1		Oct 31
Florida	Feb 1–Mar 15	June 20	Aug 1–Dec 31	Mar 1	June 20	Aug 1–Dec 31	Mar 1
Hawaii	Feb 1–Apr 30	Jan 1	Mar 1–Apr 30	Dec 31	Jan 1	Mar 1–Apr 30	Dec 31

Source: *Fruits and Tree Nuts: Blooming, Harvesting, and Marketing Dates - December 2006*, Agricultural Handbook No. 729, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.