

# THE INDEPENDENT VOICE

Newsletter of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association

September 2009

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Editor – Christine Sheppard	

## Drying & Storage

### By Popular Demand!!

Ken Sheppard and Chuck Moss will again present their Drying & Storage workshop, but with a change of emphasis – this workshop will briefly cover drying and then go into more detail into how to safely store your precious coffee, from the simplest solutions through to fully self-sufficient storage rooms.

Ken makes the key point: coffee cannot be safely stored for long in the tropics where it is grown without intervention. Historically coffee was shipped out of a coffee growing region as soon as possible after processing to prevent moisture increase and spoilage. As we strive for the excellent quality that is only obtained by the farmer supervising every aspect of the process, it is essential to know how to store your dry coffee in its optimum state.

The workshop, co-sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service, UH CTAHR, is Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4:30 pm at the Daifukuji Soto Mission Hall, Honalo. Free to members and \$10 to non-members who may apply this to a membership fee if they wish. Contact Sarah at CTAHR, 322-4892 [shashimo@hawaii.edu](mailto:shashimo@hawaii.edu), or MaryLou Moss 329-7239

[marylou@cuppakona.com](mailto:marylou@cuppakona.com).

Please register as last time we were over subscribed and had to run a second workshop!

## Drying & Storage Workshop held at Ka'u

Ken Sheppard was invited by Sabina Swift, the UH Agricultural Agent responsible for the Ka'u region, to give an abbreviated version of the workshop to the Ka'u Coffee Grower Association. More than 35 farmers attended the event, held at the Pahala Community Center on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Many questions resulted and much knowledge was passed in both directions. The Ka'u Coffee Growers are a lively and energetic group, and said Ken "it was a true pleasure to meet the farmers and 'talk story'. The Ka'u farmers are as enthusiastic about quality as Kona farmers, and quality in all Hawaiian coffees is good for all of us".



Ken Sheppard with the Ka'u Coffee Growers Association Meeting September 4th

## Moisture Meter Calibration

Yes, it is essential to calibrate them at the start of each season, and if you were not able to attend Virginia Easton-Smith's Coffee Talk moisture meter calibration session, then here is an alternative. HDOA Coffee Program Specialist Brenda Okazaki says, "We recently acquired a new Steinlite SB900 moisture meter. If you haven't done so already, please visit the Captain Cook office to compare your moisture meter reading with this official device. Its accuracy was confirmed by two separate labs. Please contact the Captain Cook office at 323-7500 to setup an appointment."

So no excuses, get your meter calibrated.

## Bags for Sale!

Get your order in early for the bags you will need this season.

GrainPro Super Grainbag, 30x50, store green or parchment. The results showed that the moisture % was the same after months of storage without air conditioning or a dehumidifier. \$3 each to members or \$3.50 for non-members.

KCFA Burlap Bags are available for your farm use in any quantity. We will help you arrange pickup. These are very high quality Burlap bags and are extremely durable. \$2 each to members. Buy online at <https://www.konacoffeefarmers.org/Store.asp>

## NASS Statistics for the 2008/2009 Season

The latest NASS figures are now available. In brief: coffee revenues decreased even though production increased. There was an 18% drop in the average farm price for Hawaii County compared to a 3 per cent increase in production. Of course the question that comes to mind is, is this evidence of Kona Blend depressing our prices once again?

Hawaii County produced 4 million pounds (parchment equivalent) with a price of \$5.30 a pound. As always, Hawaii County's contribution to the State coffers far exceeded all the other islands together, \$21,200,000 compared to \$8,040,000. Which