

**2009
GRAIN SORGHUM SITUATION
VICTORIA COUNTY**

Grain sorghum acreage increased to over 32,000 acres in 2009 due to the extreme drought limiting corn planting and final corn acreage. Sorghum fared well during the extended drought and yields were average to above average performing better than other crops as typical on minimal moisture. Sorghum prices dropped similar to corn as 2008 record high prices were nearly halved. With prices at \$4.82/bushel, profit margins were tight as fuel, fertilizer, seed and herbicide prices remained high in 2009.

YEAR	COUNTY ACREAGE	AVERAGE YIELD LBS/AC	AVERAGE PRICE \$/CWT *	% OF COUNTY AG INCOME
2009	32,320	4,500	\$4.82	16%
2008	19,982	4,800	9.04	15
2007	27,721	500 (b)	4.00	1
2006	20,628	3,150	4.13	7
2005	15,314	5,200	3.66	6
2004	17,003	3,900	3.85	5
2003	18,686	3,800	3.90	7
2002	15,986	3,800	3.65	7
2001	15,196	5,500	3.52	7
2000	15,500	5,500	2.30	4
1999	19,885	6,000	3.85	8
1998	12,689	3,300	3.85	6
1997	37,345	3,600	3.77	17
1996	21,000	2,800	6.30	13
1995	14,397	5,800	5.45	9
1994	20,900	5,650	4.05	11
1993	23,500	3,400	3.85	9
1992	26,817	4,000	3.70	11
1991	40,300	3,900	3.90	14
1990	39,407	3,000	4.30	18
1989	43,300	2,500 (a)	3.00 (a)	13
1988	29,250	4,500	4.20	35
1987	36,809	3,900	2.60	18
1986	43,000	3,900	2.90	22
1985	32,055	4,100	3.56	24
1984	29,467	4,000	4.60	17
1983	43,000	3,600	3.35	30
1982	63,000	3,000	4.80	32
1981	65,000	4,000	4.60	38
1980	58,000	3,300	—	34
1979	58,000	3,300	—	28
1978	60,000	4,000	—	37
AVG	33,218	4,006	\$3.91	18

(a) Weather Sprout Damage reduced yields 1000 lb/ac and discounted most sorghum \$1.00/cwt.

(b) Due to 40 inches of rain during the harvest season, only 10 % of the acreage was harvested although most had a yield potential of 5000 lbs/acre; thus the overall average is 500 lbs/acre.

The above listed selling prices are an estimated average selling price taken over a two month period during harvest. Many farmers have sold their crops above or below this average price and the prices listed above and income below does not reflect any government payments*.

2009	
Total County Agricultural Income	\$45,231,000
Income from Grain Sorghum	\$7,010,000
Percent Income from Grain Sorghum	16 %