



PANOCHÉ CREEK
PACKING, INC.

IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

August 2008

Market Update:

Total shipments for the 2007 crop campaign were awesome. The final tally for 2007 shipments is 1,261,159,546. That is up 18.29 % from the prior year. We have excellent momentum going into the 2008 year. Our biggest hurdles for the next several months will be getting space on vessels and currency. I have visited with people whom I consider to be in the know about the cause of the chaos with the shipping lines and they lack any useful insight. This year, if you can even get a quote for a shipping rate to Europe, it is about \$4,000 per container vs. \$2,300 this time last year. In my 25 plus years of exporting almonds we have never encountered anything like this.

The US dollar has suddenly shown strength for the first time in 12 months. In the past week it has gained 6% against the Euro. Thus almonds priced at \$2.00 per pound last week would now cost the buyer 12 cents more without netting you, the farmer, any more or less.

Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

2008 crop POOL delivery payments:

Nonpareil	\$.70 cents
All Others	\$.50 cents

Those of you wishing to defer income to January 2009 please contact Jean at jean@panochecreek.com. You may also call her at 559-449-1721. Don't forget you can see your delivery/USDA quality data online at our website www.panochecreek.com.

Almond Champion and National Champion Team Up!

We are very excited to offer our growers a unique program that directly supports Fresno State Athletics. The elation of winning the national championship in baseball is being followed by the anticipation of an outstanding football season. Panoche Creek Packing has partnered with Fresno State University to create "The Almond Program". We introduced the concept this spring at our Grower Appreciation Trap Shoot and made it official at our Grower Crop Estimate Party in Kerman. It is now open for your donations starting with the 2008 crop. To participate is simple. You just let us know what you want to give (whatever the variety and tonnage; you customize the donation). That allocation will go into our seasonal pool. The proceeds from your donation will go directly to the FSU Athletic program. We will take care of all tracking and paperwork and a report will be available for you. Recognition as donors will be given for whatever amount is generated from your donation. It is an easy way to maximize your "giving power" and a terrific way to support our local athletes and the University. Hopefully you will see this as an opportunity to make a difference. Thanks go to Danny White and Jay Vickers of the FSU Athletic Department for putting "The Almond Program" together. Please contact Frank or Barry with any questions. This is another way Panoche Creek Packing is helping you make the most of your almonds. **Go Dogs... Win the WAC!**

"ALMOND MARKETING NONPAREIL"

Farming News: by Barry Watts

Good Agricultural Practices during harvest.

The Almond Board of California has developed guidelines for growers to minimize potential microbial hazards during the production and harvesting of almonds. Most of us have read the GAP manual in the past but it is good to have a refresher course as we begin to harvest our almonds.

Many GAP's are detailed in the manual. Those dealing with harvest are very relevant as we begin shaking almonds. The manual covers "in depth" topics like Orchard Floor Management, Cleaning and Sanitation of Harvest Tools, Worker Hygiene Guidelines and Trace-back Procedures. In the back of the manual there is a tool to customize your own GAP program complete with forms and examples to help get started.

A copy of this manual is available by contacting the Almond Board of California or by visiting:

<http://www.almondboard.com/Programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=541&snItemNumber=450&tnItemNumber=837>. After arriving at the site, scroll mid-way down the page to a gold banner. Directly below the banner is a link to the GAP manual.