



# IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

May 2009

## Market Update:

The surprisingly large crop estimate from NASS seems to have stalled buying enthusiasm. While the shipping numbers for April were impressive, they were not big enough to offset the 150-200 million pounds of extra almonds the NASS estimate provided. The following are prices we have paid following the release of the crop estimate and April shipping numbers from the ABC:

Nonp 25/27	\$1.76
Nonp 27/30	\$1.70
Carmel/Monterey 27/30	\$ .95
Others AKA STD Unsize	\$ .82

The European market seems to be flooded with almonds and is skeptical about future pricing while our fastest growing markets like China can't seem to get their fill. Prices for Nonpareil remain firm for both 2008 & 2009 crop as current crop inventories seem thin. Most folks in the industry forecast a disappointing Nonpareil yield for the 2009 crop relative to other varieties. For those of you who are new to the industry, when we began packing and shipping almonds 26 years ago, the price differential between Nonpareil and California varieties was 5-7 cents per pound. Each year the spread seems to grow. Go figure !!!!

## Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

### *2009 Crop Seasonal Pool Closing June 15th*

We continue to renew pool contracts for the 2009 crop. We plan to close our seasonal pool this year on June 15.

### *Date to Remember*

**June 30 - Objective Crop Estimate and Panoche Creek Packing Crop Estimate Lunch**

### *2009 Crop Estimate Competition*

Below are the estimates submitted. The closest guess to the receipts as shown on the March 2010 position report published by the Almond Board of California will win a \$1,000 cash prize.

“ALMOND MARKETING NONPAREIL”

<u>Name</u>	<u>2009 Crop Estimate</u>
Estee Strombotne	1,597,900,000
Sarabian Farms	1,586,723,490
Mike Petersen	1,436,670,893
Frank Zonneveld	1,435,250,500
Del Mar Farms	1,423,888,777
Scott Porter	1,421,389,750
John Zonneveld	1,401,500,000
Lederhos Farms	1,401,001,001
Cosyns Farms	1,395,000,000
Russel Efird	1,392,651,000
Donald Montano	1,389,999,000
Chester Andrew	1,378,000,000
J. Bender Almonds	1,375,000,000
John Belli	1,355,000,000
Jack Pecarovich	1,352,555,000
B.B. Limited	1,350,000,000
LeRoy Espericueta	1,340,678,480
Borba Farms	1,335,448,031
Vince Martinazzi	1,333,000,000
Jamie Swanson	1,325,000,000
Derek Elrod	1,323,260,218
Toretta Farms	1,322,000,000
La Mancha Orchards	1,301,512,000
Tim DaSilva	1,295,500,000
Gene Robben Farms	1,293,500,250
Jim Erickson	1,287,495,000
Jim Walls	1,287,000,499

<u>Name</u>	<u>2009 Crop Estimate</u>
Chris Hurd	1,286,380,000
Brandon Walker	1,286,000,000
Darrell Vincent	1,285,000,000
John E. Lasgoity	1,283,750,000
Bob Houlding	1,281,500,000
Clay Groefsema	1,277,000,000
Palla Rosa Farms	1,275,000,000
Eddie Martinazzi	1,271,000,000
Bill Gentle	1,268,000,000
Chad Martinazzi	1,266,000,000
Larry Rogers	1,257,025,000
Jeff McKinney	1,254,715,427
Phil Hansen	1,250,999,000
Ted Visser	1,250,000,000
F & M Oberti	1,245,599,000
Dan Claxton	1,230,000,000
Ken Samarin	1,223,258,271
Felger Farms	1,222,222,221
Vince Kovacevich	1,208,000,000
Vernon Martinazzi	1,200,500,000
Dennis Pecarovich	1,198,758,000
Louie Crettol	1,156,050,101
Richard DeBenedetto	1,150,000,000
Doug Doudney	1,120,000,000
Elvin Davis	1,112,000,000
Jim Anderson	1,080,000,000
Ray Rezendes	999,758,000

## **Farming News: by Barry Watts**

### ***It's Ground Squirrel Time Again***

Once again, we are near the stage in development where our almonds will look very appealing to squirrels. As spring turns to summer, the green material that Ground Squirrels have been feeding on will dry down. This makes our maturing almonds a great replacement.

The breeding season in the Central Valley is from February through April. After a month long gestation and six weeks in the burrow, the young squirrels begin feeding near the burrow opening. This may be happening now, or a few weeks from now, depending on where you are located (earlier in the south and later in the north).

When annual grasses and plants dry down the Ground Squirrel will turn to seeds, grains, and nuts as its primary food source. Using bait stations (PVC tubes) at this time of year will help control large numbers of squirrels. Some toxic bait **MUST** be pre-baited with untreated grain to attract the squirrels to the bait station. Your bait supplier can tell you if you need untreated grain and how to apply it properly.

If you have been fumigating or trapping since late winter or early spring you may have your squirrel populations under control. If so, you may consider continuing to fumigate and bait individual burrows as this is a more efficient process for low pest numbers. Squirrels rarely feed more than 150 yards from their burrow. This should be considered when choosing how to manage orchards with low squirrel numbers.

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**Fumigation:** Spring is a very effective time to fumigate because you can get adults before they reproduce or just after while the litter is still in one burrow. Contact your pest control advisor to recommend a material.

**Toxic Baits:** Most of the baits used to kill Ground Squirrels are anticoagulant. To be effective, baits must be consumed in several feedings over a period of a week or so. Baits work well in the summer and fall as ground squirrels are feeding primarily on grains and nuts. Bait stations (PVC tubes) will need to be used to prevent non-target animals from feeding on the bait. Using bait requires at least 4 weeks to be effective and bait should be offered until feeding stops or no Ground Squirrels are observed. Contact your pest control advisor to recommend a material.

**Trapping:** Traps work well when Ground Squirrel numbers are low. Some traps need to be baited with nuts, seeds or fruit in order to lure the Ground Squirrel. Other traps can be placed in the burrow opening without bait. Traps need to be inspected daily to remove dead squirrels.