



PANOCHÉ CREEK  
PACKING, INC.

# IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

April 2010

## Market Update:

Not much to report this month. The Terra Nova Trading crop estimate of 1.44 billion pounds was not controversial this year as it has been from time to time. Seems everything is in balance for the moment. Recent sales have resulted in the following paid prices:

Nonpareil 23/25	\$2.40
Nonpareil 27/30	\$2.32
Cal SSR 27/30	\$2.09
Cal Unsized	\$2.03

We have a lot of grower support for 2009 crop and nearly none for 2010 crop.

I must say that things are quite dull right now. No buyers going broke, no almond handlers going broke, no juicy gossip to report. Nada

## Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

### *2009 Crop Estimate Contest*

We can officially congratulate Al, Allen and Rick Cosyns of Cosyns Farms on winning the 2009 Crop Estimate Contest and the \$1,000 prize. Their guess was 1,395,000,000 and the receipts on the March position report were 1,395,051,752. We will continue this tradition with our 2010 Crop Estimate Contest. The form and instructions are below.

### *2010 Crop Estimate Contest*

This year's rules follow:

1. The closest guess to the receipts of the 2010 crop, as shown on the March 2011 position report published by the Almond Board of California, will be the winner. The winner will be rewarded with a \$1,000 cash prize.
2. One entry per farm organization. Multiple entities or partners do not entitle you to multiple entries. In the event of a tie, the proceeds will be split. All guesses will be published in the May 2010 newsletter.
3. All entries must be received by May 1, 2010. Either e-mail to [kristi@panochecreek.com](mailto:kristi@panochecreek.com) or fax to 559-435-3481.

### **2010 Crop Estimate Contest Entry**

GROWER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CROP ESTIMATE \_\_\_\_\_

“ALMOND MARKETING NONPAREIL”

### ***2009 Crop Pool Nonpareil Size Program Schedule***

Every year we go through our sales records to determine what we are going to pay for our size premium program. These are the results for this year:

<u>Kernel size</u>	<u>Payment per lb.</u>
Larger than 20	\$0.12
20/22	\$0.08
22/25	\$0.00
25/27	-\$0.08
27/30	-\$0.13
30/32	-\$0.21
Smaller than 32	-\$0.68

### ***Cash Flow Planning / Seasonal Pool Payment Update***

Pool growers, we will have your April pool payment available for pick up at our Grower Appreciation Trap Shoot. If not picked up, they will be mailed that day. Looking into the future, we are going to make a June payment and are looking to make the final payment in either late July or early August. We are now in the process of renewing pool contracts for the 2010 Crop. We plan on closing the pool June 15, 2010.

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

### ***Nitrogen, how much are you applying?***

I have been asked this question more in the last two years than I can ever remember. I suspect the reason is because of the spotty production in certain areas the last two years. It seems when an orchard is fully loaded with almonds, it is not hard to decide how much nitrogen to use but when the orchard has light production, particularly a frosted orchard, it is a real challenge.

The fear we have all faced is that an orchard will grow vegetative on the years our production is off if not carefully monitored. The UC guidelines are more geared to "average" crops and therefore not very helpful. I believe one of the best indicators to help prevent over application of nitrogen is leaf tissue sampling. It has become standard practice to take tissue samples in April for early detection of fertilizer imbalances. Every orchard is different so it is important to have a history of tissue samples to compare against. Some key factors for decreasing the amount of nitrogen are universal: light yield, excessive tree vigor, greater than 3.0% concentration of N in leaves (for the June/July sample) and high nitrate irrigation water. Keeping track of all fertilizer applications is very important. Post-harvest application of nitrogen must be taken into account when determining the current crop's need. Sometimes, depending on how light the crop is, it may be necessary to cut the spring application of nitrogen by 50% or more.

Consult with your agronomist or PCA to determine how much and which type of nitrogen will be necessary during the spring and summer applications. Determining the appropriate level of nitrogen today may/will influence mites and miticide application frequency, spring diseases, hull rot and pruning.