

THE NUTCAST

Valley Harvest
Nut Co., Inc.



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February 2017

National Almond Day February 16

It's a day just for our growers!

Almonds have been around for a very long time. The bible makes numerous mention of almonds including in Genesis 43:11. A famine in Canaan prompted Jacob to ask his sons to go to Egypt to buy grain. He told them, *"Take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man a present, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds."* We seem to be far from a famine but we still enjoy the 'choice fruits' from YOUR land.

Besides a delicious mid-snack, here are a couple interesting facts:

- California grows about 80% of the world's almonds
- Almonds were one of the first foods awarded a qualified health claim in the US
- Almonds help to slow absorption of sugar and carbs
- Recent studies show almonds eaten mid-morning can help moderate your blood sugar throughout the day

**Thank YOU for contributing
great almonds to
NATIONAL ALMOND DAY**

MARKET REPORT

January sales seemed slow and the phones seemed quiet – and yet Valley Harvest shipped more in January than previous years! The January Position Report indicated the same results. What is interesting, is that stock piles at hullers and shellers quickly reduced because of the pending inclement weather, resulting in the incoming number for the 2016 crop to surpass the estimate earlier than anticipated. As far as sales, prices did tumble about 10 cents throughout January. Another fact is that there is a very small price difference between the Carmel/California varieties and the Mission type Butte/Padre varieties. We are seeing a price range of two to three cents from small sizes to larger sizes instead of the traditional nickel. Even though Nonpareils have remained fairly consistent, their price dropped in December and a little bit again in January but not as much as the other varieties.



The anticipation now shifts to the 2017 harvest – what will that number be? We heard from a broker that his buyers are

predicting three billion pounds (!!!!!?? – thank goodness you can't believe everything you hear!) It does appear we are in line for another large harvest. We have more acres in production, we had ample chill hours, the drought is history, and the bud set seems to be strong. With blossoms just beginning to pop, we must keep our eye on the weather with storm patterns still being predicted. As always, there is a chance of frost typically until Easter. Those two components are the only negatives to less production than last year. But, whatever the outcome, it won't be three billion!!!! (Some will do anything to get a lower price!)

We have prayed for rain and God has answered our prayers. We are so grateful for the water. However, when I prayed, I forgot to tell God, "Please send rain, but not all at once"! Most of us have been glued to the TV to follow the flooding, mud slides, and the weak Oroville dam situation. Some of you in low river bottom areas could have field flooding and some actually do. We trust that all of you will fare through the wet grounds and your crops will be strong.

We PRAYED for RAIN, now let's pray for no more rain!

We have had the wettest winter in decades which means the drought is no longer a concern to California or the almond industry. Snow pack is over 180% of average and reservoirs are trying to prevent flooding. Trees experienced enough cold hours and blossoms are popping everywhere. However, it is raining and excessively windy as we write this letter so time will tell if the buds and flowers have been effected.

Although we currently have bad weather, buyers have not decided to 'speed up' their orders because they believe that even with an average bloom, the approximately 960,000 bearing acres for next crop will yield enough almonds for the industry. At least, that is some of the talk 'floating' around.



**Next payment:
April 5**