

# THE NUTCAST



(209) 538-7766 \* 3242 S. Carpenter Road, Modesto, CA 95358

August 2017



## PICNIC at VALLEY HARVEST

We are excited and we're having fun planning our Grower Picnic for next...

**Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**6:00 PM at our facility**  
**3242 S. Carpenter Rd**

Many of you have already called in your reservation, but some of you haven't. It's **NOT TOO LATE**. We call the caterer on **FRIDAY, AUG 18<sup>th</sup>**

We will have lively fiddle music, delicious food, refreshing ice cream sundaes, gifts, and helpful information for you.

We look forward to having you join us. And, of course...

**YOUR FINAL 2016 PAYMENT  
WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU**



**Final 2016 payment:  
August 22**

## MARKET REPORT

As we mentioned last month, the Objective Estimate was not much different than the May Subjective Estimate and the buying inventory will not increase greatly from last year. Therefore, at this time, there is a strengthening in prices – up about 10 cents. Indications are this upward trend could continue through Christmas – we trust that is true.

Valley Harvest Nut is in our “maintenance” month. All equipment is thoroughly cleaned and refurbished to be ready to start right after Labor Day. Most of your 2016 crop has shipped – we held some pounds to have manufactured items available for sale early in September.

*Here we go again!*

USDA starts inspecting 2017 crop tomorrow and some of you have started shaking.

Please let us know if you are...

- changing hullers/shellers
- deferring payment—you have to tell us each year
- splitting payments for lease and lessor – let us know in writing
- changing your address
- needing checks to be written to a different payor



## Newer Varieties...

With several newer almond varieties flooding growers with decisions, we offer the following information:

**Independence** – We have had a couple years of experience with this new variety in the market. Buyers find that it lacks flavor, has a dull look, and is brittle. We also hear growers are having a hard time getting them off the tree. Whole nut sales with this variety are dragging. However, Valley Harvest Nut finds it blanches well just like the Carmel. Last year we paid growers at the Sonora level (that price is usually 25 cents under the Nonpareil price). While some handlers are dropping the Independence to the Carmel price, we concluded we will give it one more year and keep it at the Sonora level. Only continued time and experience will determine where this Independence variety will land.

**Sonora** – This variety continues to sell \$0.25 cents under the Nonpareil price and we have been able to sell most of the Sonora almonds as whole almonds, also known as ‘brown skin’.

**Supareil** – This variety is our favorite for marketing as a nonpareil but we hear it is not doing well in your orchards and new plants are lagging. At this time, we still can sell Supareil as a Nonpareil replacement and we pay growers Nonpareil prices for this variety.

**Shasta & Bennett** – Shasta, from Burchell Nursery, and Bennett, from Duarte Nursery. Only experience from you, the growers, will know what they actually will do. Remember, we learn from you – so keep us posted on your findings.