

# THE NUTCAST

Valley Harvest  
Nut Co., Inc.



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

July 2017



**CALL US  
WITH ANY  
CHANGES**

Harvest is near. Please notify us if there are any changes from last year regarding:

- Your sheller choice
- Lessee/lessor split
- Payments—if you want to defer, we need to be called each year

All payments will be issued according to our schedule unless you tell us differently; putting your request in writing is best. Happy Harvesting!



## MARKET REPORT

In that the Objective Estimate is up by only 50 million pounds from the Subjective Estimate, there has been a slight stir in the market. Not a rush upward, but a stirring to slightly higher pricing. Manufactured almonds have remained steady and consistent, whole almonds are almost nonexistent (waiting for new crop) and the lower end almonds, called blanchable standards, are up a few cents. The “stir” comes from the fact that the Objective Estimate was up at the “lower end of expectations”. The additional 50 million pounds represents a 5% increase over the 2016 crop. The “stir” upwards is based on the thought that

a 5% increase may not cover the demand. However, there still will be 2.25 BILLION pounds of almonds to sell, more than ever before. So pricing could continue to fluctuate slightly up and down resulting in a fairly stable market.

Valley Harvest will have about a 200,000 lb. carry-in which we deliberately planned. For our first time in 23 years, we will be able to start September with manufactured items ready to sell. Our past has been that we don't have any manufactured items to sell until October. We trust this change will satisfy our faithful customers without making them wait!

## NASS Objective Estimate

The Objective Estimate was released on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.25 billion meat pounds. This is up from the 2.2-billion-pound Subjective Estimate stated on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The May estimate is based on phone calls to random growers throughout the state. This July estimate is based on actual nut count on trees. The sampling was done on 852 different orchard blocks throughout the State with 2 trees from each block being sampled. The count is based on the actual bearing acres for 2017 – 1,000,000 bearing acres! The sample of almonds are taken to a sizing station which measures kernel weight, length, width, thickness and grade. With that information and other factors, the estimate is established. It is interesting to note the estimate has been within a very few percent of actual final yearly yields most years. The estimate may not be perfect, sometimes short and sometime over – but close!

The report also predicts nut set per tree. The upcoming 2017 harvest is set at 5,714 nuts per tree. That is down from last year and down from 2015. Therefore, the estimate is up because of more producing acres, not individual tree production! The estimate yield per acre is predicted at 2,250 lbs. You may want to highlight this number so that you can compare it to your actual production!

Additionally, the report predicts the nut count per tree by variety. All varieties are expected to produce less than last year with the exception of nonpareils which is estimated to be up by 2.4% from last year. The report estimates the greatest decrease of nut count will be in the Monterey, Padres, Buttes, and Carmel varieties.

We have the complete comparison report in our office if any of you would like more information.

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**PICNIC at VALLEY HARVEST**  
**Tuesday, August 22 @ 6PM**

Please RSVP to  
538-7766 by  
Tuesday, 8/13

