

# THE NUTCAST

Valley Harvest  
Nut Co., Inc.



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November 2018

## Top 10

### Thanksgiving Dishes\*

1. Pie (Gobble gobble...all pie flavors are #1)
2. Stuffing
3. Gravy
4. Sweet potatoes with marshmallows
5. Ham
6. Mashed potatoes
7. Mac and cheese
8. Green bean casserole
9. Corn bread
10. Turkey (YES, actually #10. LOL, the bird barely made the list.)



## IT'S HARVEST TIME

October was a very busy month for the almond industry. In spite of predictions that shipments would reduce due to increased tariffs, the industry shipped more product than last year or any other year. With that said, 2018 crop shipments are still below last year, but the huge October shipment closed the gap considerably. November shipments have been brisk and heavy which could bring the total shipping numbers above last year.



Almond receipts to date are still significantly below the estimate, but sheller stock piles still exist. It is still too early for anyone to know the actual crop size. What we do know is that nonpareil yields are down and the later variety yields have not equaled

the difference. It is projected that the final crop size will be a little less than the estimate. Another interesting fact is that shipments to China almost doubled in October over September...so much for China tariffs being a serious issue. However, China's 2018 crop imports are still below last year because August and September shipments were significantly down.

We trust that in November we will see that change.

How do these facts affect pricing? Well, pricing is still behind last year, but it has increased slightly. The anticipation is that with increased shipping numbers, increased demand, and weak crop receipts, prices will continue to inch upward. Valley Harvest Nut just had a five cent increase on whole almonds. Manufactured prices lag behind the whole nut market usually by a couple of weeks, so we anticipate that to change upward also.

## MFP – Market Facilitation Program

Many of our growers attended the informational meeting for the new government sponsored program held at the Almond Board on November 8. This is a Direct Almond Payment program at 3 cents per pound to almond growers. All growers can sign up for the program at their local FSA office. **The deadline for registering for the program is January 15, 2019.** Valley Harvest can help you with copies of your grower statements if needed, but we are unable to register you for the program. It must be done at the FSA office and you must call for an appointment – (209) 287-3669. As any other program, there are some qualifications that must be met, but it behooves all growers to see if they are eligible.