

THE NUTCAST



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

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REMINDER:

PRODUCE SAFETY RULE

After our announcement last month, FDA declared on 3/27/19, that almond growers, hullers & shellers do **NOT** have to follow the Produce Safety Regulation requirements.

THIS IS GREAT NEWS!

Per Tim Birmingham of the Almond Board of California...

“The notice issued by FDA, calls out almonds specifically and acknowledges the effectiveness of our food safety programs, and your continued diligence in this arena going on two decades. Congratulations to all the Almond Handlers, Huller/Shellers and Growers in the State, for this accomplishment and recognition received by FDA today.”

MARKET REPORT

The Almond Industry Report for March shipments show that shipments were down slightly from last year and from last month; however, Valley Harvest shipments were up slightly. We are seeing great market interest in natural regular slice, roasted 22/8 diced, and brown skin Butte Padres. We are not seeing an increased interest in the remaining Nonpareils even though production could be affected for 2019 because of the wet bloom season. And, of course, with the subjective estimate coming out on May 10th, it is now a “wait and see” market game. Grower feed back seems to be all over the board as far as their crop estimate. We have heard that the late varieties look like they fared well through the bloom – driving through your fields with lights on will reveal the early set! The earlier varieties show more weakness (and in some cases strength) in the set. We hear south fared well with early varieties because



they were in bloom before most of the rain hit. The north area shows more weakness in that they bloom even later than our central area.

What is interesting is the “pre”-estimate report that is released this time of year by one of the long standing export trader companies in the industry – Terra Nova Trading. They say their

visits to about 400 ranches this last month show weakness and strength in all areas! In fact, there is variance within each field! Just as the buying and selling market is in a “wait and see” stage, so is the crop set.

Nevertheless, Terra Nova Trading published their estimate for the 2019 crop at 2.53 billion pounds, significantly higher than the actual 2018 crop receipts. You probably remember that the estimate for last year’s crop landed completely out of the ballpark, so again, we “wait and see.”

Yields Per Acre

The Terra Nova Trading report compiled interesting statistics regarding yield per acre – increased bearing acres produce huge yields, but individual tree average is declining in this century. Keep in mind that 2018 is not final.

Why the decline? Of course, there is no definite answer, but some possibilities are warmer winters and absence of the Tule fog, more cool and wet bloom seasons, summers with periods of scorching heat and drought/water issues. Did you notice the high boom year of 2011? Oh, that we could go back in time to observe all the factors and determine what that formula was! In the meantime, farming is a blessing and a gamble – but it is what each of you are called to do – just keep on farming as we endeavor to feed the world.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Yield Per Acre</u>
2010 -	2,130
2011 -	2,540 –highest
2012 -	2,300
2013 -	2,360
2014 -	2,150
2015 -	2,070 – lowest in decade
2016 -	2,270
2017 -	2,260
2018 -	2,080–2nd worst in decade

**Next Check
JUNE 30**

