

THE NUTCAST



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December 2019



Wayne and Bob have been out on the highways and byways delivering Christmas treats to our growers. They look forward to delivering Christmas gifts to all of you with their Christmas cheer and gratefulness to each of you that allow Valley Harvest Nut to be your handler.

It is our privilege to serve you, our growers, and we continue to do our very best to bring you excellent returns for your farming efforts. If, for some reason, you didn't receive your gift, please feel free to call the office and we will get one to you!

Almond Bark Candies



24 ounces white candy coating, (coarsely chopped)
1 cup almond butter
2 cups dry roasted almonds
2 cups miniature marshmallows
3 cups crisp rice cereal

In a heavy saucepan, melt candy coating and peanut butter over low heat. Remove from the heat; stir in the remaining ingredients. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto waxed paper.

MARKET REPORT

The almond business never ceases to amaze us. How can it be that almost every grower was down in production from last year (Valley Harvest growers were down about 11%) and yet, now, it appears the industry will meet and surpass the objective estimate of 2.2 billion pounds. Much of that is from the additional producing acreage, but the ratio is not yet known. The November report indicates that the kernel weight is 2.0, but stragglers at hullers and the carry over from last crop will continue to push the number upwards - predicted at 2.4. So what has that done to the market?

Shipments are fairly consistent to last year - domestic down a little and export up especially in Indian and Middle East Markets. Valley Harvest continues to ship consistent with the market except that most of our shipments are domestic. What is quite strong is the manufactured almond -

sliced, slivered, diced, roasted, flavored and almond butter. Of course, that is right up our alley and sales continue to be brisk. Another interesting market trivia is that the predicted compressed pricing between the



nonpareil and the mission-type almond has remained. The mission-type almond continues to increase in value because it is becoming a desired ingredient

in healthy food items. Who would have predicted that even just a couple of years ago!

Pricing has slipped just a bit from September, but definitely up from last year at this same time. The analysis report we read explains how the pricing and shipments vary by export market and monthly comparisons, but the bottom line is that pricing should remain stable without a big fall when the incoming reaches the 2.4 billion mark.

WAREHOUSE UPDATE

The buildings are very close to completion. We are adding a bit more gravel around the two warehouses, so the fire department can sign off. Then, it's up to the county to give the FINAL signature on the permit. Once this is done, we will fill them up with bins and bins of your almonds in the New Year 2020.



**Next Progress
Payment:**

February 20