

# THE NUTCAST



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## HIVE INSPECTIONS



Bees arrive each year to pollinate your trees. Have you ever inspected the hives delivered to your fields? Here are three quick tips from the Almond Board regarding the process

for hive inspections:

1. **Inspect hives** as soon as bees acclimate to the orchard landscape.
2. **Learn about bees**, such as basic bee biology and colony organization, different inspection procedures and standards, and how to recognize some parasites, diseases and other potential problems. You can sign up for "Honey Bees and Colony Strength Evaluation" class at <http://class.ucanr.edu/>
3. **Daily walk your fields.** Monitor colony strength during bee flight hours to observe activity levels. Let your beekeeper know if you notice weak or inactive hives.

You can find the full article at <http://newsroom.almonds.com/content/hive-inspections-why-they-matter-and-what-to-look-for>

The Almond Board of California has a website full of great grower information:

<http://www.almonds.com/growers>



**Next Progress**

**Payment:**

February 20

## MARKET REPORT

Happy New Year! It continues to be "busy as a bee" at Valley Harvest Nut. Speaking of buzzin' busy, the bee season is just around the corner! Our growers are watching for the bloom to set next year's crop and we are buzzing around selling your last crop.

Even with holiday closure, shipments in December escalated with trucks coming in and out for pick-ups. We shipped 100,000 lbs. more in December than in November! The total industry had the same busy month with shipments up significantly from previous months. But, most significant, is the total incoming has now officially passed the estimate of 2.22 billion pounds. Documented incoming is now at 2.38 billion pounds. Again, the higher receipts are a result of the increased acreage - not that individual production records were up. And still, new almond trees are being planted.



Domestic shipments were up, export shipments were fairly stable—some countries were up and China down (with tariffs). We have seen whole almond prices slip a little, but manufactured prices have not - at least not at this time. Our Valley Harvest Nut phone is still ringing and sales are still brisk. The next effect on the industry will be the bloom. Chill hours are accumulating, bees are coming into the area and rain has been adequate with a good early snowpack. We will see what the next four weeks brings to us.



## FINALLY, A FINAL !!!

The two storage buildings are complete and with the final inspection on January 7<sup>th</sup>. It took 12 months and 11 days from start to finish: Nine months of permit paperwork and three months of construction. Soon we will be able to keep all almonds and empty bins under cover and satisfy FDA preferences and FSMA regulations. We are grateful for the support and encouragement of our growers as we endeavor to keep Valley Harvest Nut at the highest standards.

