

THE NUTCAST



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

February 2021



Training Tuesday

MARCH 2, 2021, 8-9:30AM:

During this training, participants will learn about the latest Almond Board industry resource: the Nitrogen Best Management Practices. Resource authors Dr. Patrick Brown and Dr. Sebastian Saa will inform participants on how to adopt guidance within this management tool in addition to reviewing areas of uncertainties that growers face when applying nitrogen.

www.almonds.com/sites/default/files/2021-02/March2_TrainingTuesday_02112021.pdf

Call in (Audio only):

(213) 262-7443

Phone Conference ID:

341 331 00#



Market Report

After five robust months of almond shipments, the January Position Report numbers revealed that shipments decreased! In fact, shipments in January were down 12% compared to last year. There are some solid reasons for the decline – most of them attributed to problems at the ports. Between Covid-19 and a shortage of shipping containers, almonds are not moving as we hoped. Containers of almonds are being held on the water unable to dock due to lack of workers while other loads can't leave the handler's facility because of the container shortage. Export shipments were down almost 10%. However, domestic shipments were down even more – 17%. This decrease cannot be explained away by dock or container issues. Low shipments bring the realization of a possible unmanageable carry-in. This immediately declined the prices about \$0.15/lb. in the industry. We saw that drop firm this last week.

Another factor in this month's report is that the industry reported 3.025 billion incoming pounds. The 2020 crop could top out around 3.1 billion pounds – higher than the estimate.

Fabulous news! Valley Harvest Nut shipments did not follow industry levels – we shipped almost a million pounds of our seven million pound incoming. Trucks were bustling in and out of our facility two and three at a time. Our employees had a weekend off recently not because of a slack in work, but because they have been working 58+ hour weeks since the beginning of the season just to keep up with the large crop. While we truly endeavor to keep prices as high as possible, we also must follow the industry pricing to stay competitive. Therefore, while we are still quite busy, we feel the price decline in current orders.

Bloom is under way and looks good at this point, although anticipated to be a smaller crop than the bumper one of 2020. The weather has cooled again slowing the bloom, but bees are in place and are getting good afternoon sun and warmth. The rain was a true blessing and has relieved some of the fear of another drought. Bloom sprays have begun; however, we understand the reluctance on the part of growers to get too anxious to spray in hopes to keep costs down. Another year, another different set of circumstances.

EPA Approves Section 18 Emergency Registration Request for Kasugamycin on Almonds

The Almond Board announced: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Pesticide Regulation recently accepted a Section 18 petition to allow the use of Kasumin 2L (kasugamycin) to control bacterial blast (*Pseudomonas* sp) in almonds. The registration allows up to two applications under anticipated cold or freezing conditions on almonds at a use rate of 64 fl. oz. per acre from February 12, 2020 through petal fall. Application after petal fall is prohibited. Kasugamycin may only be used during bloom.

The approval applies to the counties of Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo and Yuba.

Growers interested in this application are heavily encouraged to reference the Almond Board of California's [Honey Bee Best Management Practices](#) as well as the [Quick Guide for Applicators](#) to ensure pollinator health is maintained. As stated in these practices, growers should only use applications when absolutely necessary and should only make applications in the late afternoon or evening, when bees and pollen are not present.

Please contact your local County Ag Commissioner's office for further details if interested in using this product. Visit the [California Department of Food and Agriculture website](#) for a full list of County Ag Commissioners' offices as well as contact information for each.