

# THE NUTCAST

Valley Harvest  
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## CFAP 2 PROGRAM

USDA announced updates to the CFAP 2 program. They are offering more flexibility to the payment calculations for crops including almonds. The change is an amendment to allow to substitute 2018 sales for 2019 sales. Previously, only 2019 was used to determine the amount to be paid. You must apply online via the CFAP 2 Application Portal. Applications can be completed by you, electronically signed, and submitted directly to your local Farm Service Agency Center through this online system. For further information, call your local Farm Service Agency Office, 209-491-9320.

**Applications  
must be submitted by  
October 12, 2021**

## Market Report

Each report is based on the previous month's almond activity. And, as the case has been for several months now, shipments in August 2021 were greater than shipments in August 2020. Export shipments were up and domestic shipments were slightly up. Of course, the 2020 abundant surplus still existed and the increased shipments were shipping of that 2020 product before 2021 crop hits the market. Also, because of the large 2020 crop, contract sales were up significantly (handlers feared they may not be able to sell a huge crop, so they booked contract early in the season for large amounts at lower prices). Many of the contracted pounds shipped in August 2021 before new crop began. Valley Harvest usually stops production during August for annual maintenance. However, because of changes in our maintenance program, we continued to process your almonds. Wow! What a difference. We were swamped with orders and shipments. *(This change was a blessing that came from the pandemic.)*

Once the 2021 harvest began, it was quickly evident that the crop tonnage is down and the almonds have less weight due to water shortage and excessive heat. That spurred an immediate price increase; we hear 'talk' that nonpareil prices to growers could pass the \$3.00 mark! This

sounds great and promising, but the boost didn't last too long. It is true that large nonpareils may sell for a premium price because there are few and far between this year. Manufactured products have also increased in price, but not the "pie in the sky" prices. We are starting our grower pricing at 30% more than our 2020 closing. We trust that will hold throughout the year and even increase. Only the actual harvest results will determine pricing. During the last week or so, buyer quietness displayed their reluctance to purchase compared to last month when they were calling fearful of not being able to fill their needs. Why the slowdown? 1. The price increase; 2. Abundant supply from last year's attractive pricing; 3. Unsure of another Covid uprising; and, 4. Transportation issues at the port and booking domestic shipments. When dealing with commodities anything can happen. By next month, we should have a better idea of what the crop looks like and see price stability.

In the meantime, we wish you much success in your dry, dusty fields with your harvest.

Let's continue to pray for rain!



About 240 of you were able to attend our grower dinner last month and pick up your closing 2020 checks. Those of you that could not attend have now received your checks by mail. It was a busy, fun, great social time for our guests - Janine used humor to make us laugh, and share statistics of how your almonds sold throughout the year. We chuckled through the Better Together match game as you "fought" over each Better Together centerpiece. We trust you enjoyed your ice cream supply collection and almond ice cream made from your almonds. We sincerely apologize for the mishap with the 30ish people that did not get tri tip! We have used the same caterer for years and have never had this embarrassing mishap in the past. We have met with the caterer and a couple of meetings with our staff to determine what went wrong and how to "fix" it next time. We are so very sorry and wish we could "redo" the evening! Please accept our apology.

Thank you for completing the grower information sheets and surveys. Your survey answers help us better serve you. A few of you left quite comical answers. Thanks for making us smile. Most of all, thank you for your trust in Valley Harvest Nut. Our next grower dinner should be in 2023.

