

THE NUTCAST

Valley Harvest
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December 2022

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. Which popular Christmas beverage is also called "milk punch?"
2. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
3. Where was baby Jesus born?
4. In *Home Alone*, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
5. In the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang?
6. Which country did eggnog come from?
7. Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?
8. Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as another holiday mascot?
9. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
10. What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?

Market Report

Most of the crop is now in – we have just two small late variety deliveries still out at a huller of choice for those two growers. It won't change our final incoming total too much which puts us approximately 17% less than last year. We compared grower records from this year to the last year searching for a consistent number of difference to talk about in this report. What we found is that consistency doesn't exist. Some growers are way up from last year and others down significantly. You each know your own orchards and where you stand. We do know we received more requests from crop insurance companies asking for grower records. We heard rumors that there might be a federal financial aid assistance program released to help growers with farming expenses in that commodity prices probably will not equal growing costs. We will keep our ears open.

The most exciting news is that rain has come, we have a snow pack currently, and we feel a bit of relief from the serious drought. Of course, we have a long way to go and sadly, the current weather report isn't predicting any rain. We do have fog which is unpleasant for holiday driving, but excellent for next year's crop! We hear chatter that the bud set looks good, but that begs the question of how a "good bud set" will affect the almond market.

Prices have dropped significantly from this time last year, but not drastically from last

month. Lower prices help to keep the product moving, but not the "grab the good deal" mentality. It seems the "pipeline" is full and buyers only purchase what they need. In addition, the inflated prices, we all face, slows almond sales.

Industry wide, shipping is down 4.3% from last year (and last December was down 15% from the robust 2020 crop). The total crop receipts are down about 17% from last year, but the carryover into this year "eats" up the 17%. When combining the remaining 2021 crop carryover with this year's receipts, there is still **MORE** product available to sell **right now** than last year at this same time. Export shipping overall is down. The monthly Almond Board Position Report gives the amounts per country, but generally, Europe and China are down while the Middle East is up.

At Valley Harvest, even though our shipping numbers are down 3%, our phone continues to ring and we are steadily moving your 2022 crop. Your December progress payment is enclosed and represents approximately 40% of an anticipated price closing for next August. That number can go up and/or down as the selling year progresses.

Let's pray for us!

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



Battling in the Trenches for the Farmers

Western Ag Processors Association (WAPA) coordinated a meeting with several agricultural organizations and officials from many different utility boards/districts to discuss the issue of expanded electric infrastructure capacity, or lack thereof, throughout the state as the CARB moves forward with requiring zero emissions equipment, such as trucks and forklifts, across the board. After participants visited two agricultural sites in Madera County, they convened at the conversation table. Discussions included the astronomical cost for ag sites to update facility infrastructure and purchase new equipment. The utility officials admitted that there are 'system-wide constraints' on the distribution and transmission system where many substations need to be expanded or updated. In addition, there was talk about the ever-increasing electric rates. WAPA said this first meeting with all of the affected parties gathered in the same room was very productive. Discussions will continue and WAPA will continue to fight on the industry's behalf.

1 Eggnog. 2 Join in any reindeer games.
3 Bethlehem. 4 Paris. 5 An angel got his wings. 6 England. 7 The Christian bishop Saint Nicholas. 8 Cupid. 9 Germany.
10 "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby.
Game from www.parade.com.