

THE NUTCAST

Valley Harvest
Nut Co., Inc.



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November 2023

GIFT BASKETS

Our office staff is available to create almond gift boxes or baskets for you to pick up or we can ship FedEx. We need about 2 weeks notice. Give us a call at 209-538-7766 or send a message to info@valleyharvestnut.com. You can either pay with check, cash, or take the cost off your grower statement.



Favorite Turkey Sides by State

19 GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE: AK, AZ, CO, CT, IA, LA, ME, MA, MN, MS, NH, NM, NC, OR, RI, SD, TX, WA, WI

5 POTATO CASSEROLE: IN, NE, OH, NY, VT
SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE: AR, FL, MI, OK, WV

MASHED POTATOES: ND, SC, UT

STUFFING: California, DE, MO

CORN CASSEROLE: AL, IN, NV

CORNBREAD: NJ, VA

2 BROCCOLI CASSEROLE: GA, KY

MAC & CHEESE: MT, PA

1 Only one state voted for listed items:

Roasted Carrots (DC), Potato Salad (TN),
Cucumber Salad (KS), Creamy Polenta (WY),
Corn Salad (MD), Coleslaw (IL), Bruschetta (HI)

Credit to USA Today 2023:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/11/15/most-popular-thanksgiving-side-dishes-by-state/71383559007/>



Market Report

#LLLWW

It is the middle of November and all almond delivery receipts are **normally** in by this time. **Not so in 2023.** We have coined **#LLLWW**. Light, late, long, wet, & wormy! This market report will expand on these initials.

Light - Industry crop receipts are currently about 20% under the 2023 June objective estimate. We have growers that are 30% and more down from last year's receipts. We also have a few that are up in some varieties. In the end, it is very possible that the industry receipts will not hit the estimate. Overall, Valley Harvest will get very close and possibly pass last year's incoming. The balance comes to us from well-coming new growers and production beginning to come in from prior years' tree replacement.

Late - Harvest began three weeks later than last year and delivery receipts will be received even into December! Valley Harvest has eight remaining huller/shellers that have product running late and in stock-piles.

Long - This is the longest receiving period we have seen in all of Valley Harvest's 29-year-history. We, teasingly, said to our office staff - "You probably won't get Christmas or New Year's Day off - we still will be receiving almonds!"

Wet - With two little rains and one deluge (in some places!), we have had a busy drying year. Valley Harvest policy is to dry almonds over 6%. (Other handlers have drying policies lower and higher than 6%.) As of the Nutcast publication,

we have dried almost two million pounds. That is the largest drying year since the two huge wet years of 2010 and 2011. The dryers are still running, and product is still being delivered for drying. We should clarify that the dryers prioritize Valley Harvest growers, but we do a significant amount of commercial work for other handlers.

Wormy - The inedible count is significantly up this year. Up to now, the industry inedible count is double what it was last year. Worm damage seems to be significant with and without proper spraying. We have seen USDA counts from less than 1% up to 31% among our own VHN receipts. We have heard horror worm count stories from other sources **MUCH** higher than ours. We hope the stories are exaggerated! Several of our own Valley Harvest deliveries have been paid as normal incoming, but include a note stating once the high inedible product is sorted and cleaned, the actual labor charges will be assessed to the statement. If you have any questions regarding the cleaning charges when they appear, always feel free to call the office or stop by.

We forgot one initial - **P for Pricing!** The year started in September with struggling sale prices. But, as the harvest progresses, it is anticipated that pricing will change. We currently are about \$0.10 higher than last year at this same time. Several factors are affecting the market. The crop not meeting the estimate, quality of the almond is lower this year because of inedibles, sizing of the almond kernel is way up (less almonds on a tree make larger ones!) Therefore, smaller sizes, which are hard to come by, could see premium pricing. All these factors, and others, affect the market - we anticipate watching prices increase.



CALIFORNIA
GRANTS
PORTAL

The California Small Agricultural Business Drought & Flood Relief Grant Program will

provide relief to small agricultural businesses that experienced a decline in annual gross receipts or gross profits due to drought or flood conditions.

Eligible Applicants: small agricultural businesses financially impacted by the severe drought and/or flood conditions in the State of California.

Grant Awards: up to \$100,000

Application deadline: 12/1/23 at 23:59

For more information: <https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/california-small-agricultural-business-drought-and-flood-relief-grant-program-groups-1-2/>