



PANOCHÉ CREEK  
PACKING, INC.

# IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

April 2008

## Market Update

The crop estimate made by Terra Nova Trading and the strong shipping numbers seen on the March ABC report sure shocked a number of people. Many say that Terra Nova has an agenda each year to be either on the high side or low side. We at Panoche Creek Packing trade a lot of almonds with said exporter. I only know that they have a history of accuracy that meets the NASS objective estimate and outperforms the NASS subjective estimate; so who am I to argue.

Panoche Creek Packing went into bloom with very few 2008 almonds sold as it seemed that the crop had to shrink given last fall's stellar yields to the north. Then suddenly Mother Nature gave us ideal pollination weather and we suddenly felt naked. After the dust settles maybe we do have the PERFECT supply scenario??

## Thanks to our loyal clients in Kern County

I wanted to thank all of you for your continued confidence in Panoche Creek Packing during our transition to Barry Watts this past winter. Barry has done a great job. Year to date he has over 85% of the acres that were contracted last fall back under contract for the 2008 crop and beyond. Plus he has added some new names to our client list as well. Again, we appreciate your helping us to be the almond industry's most prosperous California almond handler with respect to returns, growth, efficiency and much more.

## Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

### *2007 Crop Estimate Contest Winner*

The receipts from the Almond Board of California's March Position Report were 1,377,560,448 pounds making Kelley Ivancovich the winner of our 2007 Crop Estimate Contest. Congratulations to Kelley, the winner of \$1,000 for his guess of 1,375,800,000 pounds.

### *2008 Crop Estimate Contest*

This year's rules follow:

1. The closest guess to the receipts of the 2008 crop as shown on the March 2009 position report published by the Almond Board of California will be the winner. The winner will be rewarded with a \$1,000 cash prize.
2. One entry per farm organization. Multiple entities or partners do not entitle you to multiple entries. In the event of a tie, the proceeds will be split. All guesses will be published in the May 2008 newsletter.
3. All entries must be mailed or faxed by May 2, 2008 to Panoche Creek Packing, 3611 W. Beechwood Ave. Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93711. Fax to 559-435-3481.

“ALMOND MARKETING NONPAREIL”

## 2008 Crop Estimate Contest Entry

GROWER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CROP ESTIMATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### ***May Pool Payment***

As growing costs continue to rise at a very brisk pace, we feel it would be helpful to make a May payment. The payment will bring YTD prices to these levels:

Nonpareil	\$1.81
Sonora	\$1.70
Carmel/ Monterey	\$1.56
Others	\$1.35

The payment will be made on May 23. We plan to make our final payment in late June or early July.

### ***Grower Appreciation Day Lunch and Skeet Shoot***

We will be having our annual Grower Appreciation Day on May 2, 2008 at my ranch in Madera. See enclosed invitation. If you need directions please contact Leisa in our office at 559-449-1721 or email [leisa@panochecreek.com](mailto:leisa@panochecreek.com).

## **Farming News: by Barry Watts**

### ***Irrigation Management Strategies***

The University of California has developed a website to display a summary of its research regarding “*Irrigation Management for Almond Trees Under Drought Conditions*”. For those of us that are, or were, short on water this year, this research will help answer a lot of questions.

The research touches on the effects of drought conditions on almond trees and how it relates to yield and growth for the current crop year and those that follow. Specifically, this website outlines early season stress, stress during fruit growth and development and post harvest stress. It also covers moderate, more severe and “staying alive” water stress strategies.

Some of the results are very surprising to say the least. To view the website, go to [www.ucmanagedrought.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ucmanagedrought.ucdavis.edu).