



PANOCHÉ CREEK
PACKING, INC.

IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

December 2008

Market news:

Like all other commodities it seems almonds are not immune to the global economic strife. Shipping numbers for November were down and prices fell again. Following the position report we paid the following levels for almonds:

Nonpareil 25/27	\$1.61
Carmel 27/30	\$1.00
Unsize Cals (smaller than 30)	\$.93

Many buyers are looking to make multi-year contracts at these levels and this is a good sign. No growers seem willing to participate which is also a good sign as it will lend confidence to the market. The general consensus in the "PANOCHÉ" camp seems to be a strategy of waiting until we see 2009 bloom and winter precipitation levels.

Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

January Pool Payment

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Paid Up To</u>
Nonpareil	\$1.00
All Others	\$.65

Pool payments will be mailed beginning January 15. We will be making another pool payment in late February.

Currency Exchange

The dollar has lost 15% of its value vs. the euro since the beginning of the month. It is currently trading at \$1.45. The current trend favors our business, but the future is uncertain with all of the volatility in the currency markets and the world economy.

Farming News: by Barry Watts

Orchard Sanitation for Navel Orange Worm

I can't remember a year when we have had such great mummy shaking weather across the state. While this fog and rain are not pleasant to drive in, it couldn't be better for cleaning up the mummies left on the trees.

We all know the importance of orchard sanitation. Most people have begun the process already and some are nearly finished. I have seen many growers throughout the state that have already swept and blown their mummies and a few have finished mowing. It is important to take advantage of this weather before the buds begin to swell as shaking the tree too late will result in buds breaking off. The goal is to have your shaking and poling done before mid-January and to have mowed or disced the mummies sometime before March 15.

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"ALMOND MARKETING NONPAREIL"

The goal, according to the UC, is to have less than two mummies per tree (average basis). In some regions two nuts per tree is very achievable while in other regions this may seem near impossible. It is still very important to remove as many mummies as economically possible no matter where you farm. Navel Orange Worm, (NOW), multiply at an exponential rate during the growing season. Starting with as few as possible will relieve much pressure during harvest. Winter sanitation is the single most effective way to help control NOW.

Navel orange worm can do a great deal of damage to almonds by boring into the nutmeat. Research shows that NOW is a cause for *Aspergillus* mold and the aflatoxin contaminant it produces on the kernel.