



# IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

January 2011

## Market Update:

Almond prices have moved up about 30% since July. All nuts seemed to have enjoyed big prices. In fact, by comparison, almonds have marginal pricing. Pecans are at or near \$7.00 per pound and all other major nuts are above \$3.00. Who knows where this is headed and or what the right price is???? Kind of alarming for those of you who thought we are experts here. Did Frank tell you all that I know what I am doing????

So, our largest competitor published their final prices for the 2009 crop a while back and I am pleased to be able to show you the following:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>BDG</u>	<u>Panoche</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Sonora Meats	\$1.58	\$1.91	+ 33 cents
Mixed	\$1.05	\$1.31	+ 26 cents
Neplus	\$1.21	\$1.35	+ 14 cents
Monterey	\$1.39	\$1.51	+ 12 cents
Nonpareil Meats	\$1.94	\$2.06	+ 12 cents

I get an enormous amount of satisfaction being able to boast about the above accomplishment. BDG is a nonprofit organization. Being able to outperform anybody is rewarding but to put the whoop on a nonprofit group is especially satisfying. We take your business very seriously and appreciate the confidence you have in us. We know that you have options with whom you market your almonds and that loyalty is about "What have you done for me lately?" There ain't no free lunches .....

## Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

We are pleased to announce our February Pool Payment. This payment will bring the Nonpareil variety up to \$1.25/lb and all other varieties up to \$.95/lb.

	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nonpareil	\$ .25	\$1.25
All Others	\$ .25	\$ .95

We will start sending payments on February 28, 2011. Keeping with our tradition, we will be making our next pool payment in late April/early May. Please call me if you have any questions.

## Farming News: by Barry Watts

**Happy New Year!** I am excited to be working on the 2011 crop and not sad at all to see the 2010 crop go away! "I've never seen that before" appears to be last year's theme. Delayed bloom, very mild spring, mid-season disease explosion, late season mite explosion, delayed harvest, weekly rains at the end of harvest, lack of drying capacity, rancid almonds and Kern County getting its annual rainfall in 20 days.

Here we are in mid-January and many of us on heavy soil haven't been able to get into the orchard. I am seeing polling crews go to work on heavy ground where shakers would do too much damage to the floors and where growers are concerned with barking wet trees. The importance of Winter Sanitation (continued on back)

"ALMOND MARKETING NONPAREIL"

to prevent Navel Orange Worm and Peach Twig Borer damage can't be overlooked. This is the most effective control of both worm pests. We need to get the mummy nuts off the tree prior to bud swell and flail mow or disc by March 15.

After last year's disease and mite flare-ups, I am hearing many PCAs talk about using a heavy dose of oil and copper along with a pesticide in their dormant sprays. This is a good value spray that should be considered if you have a problem with NOW, PTB, Mite, Scab or Rust. Consult your PCA for advice on rates, timing and compatibility.

**Quick Bee Reminder** – Placing hives on the outside of the orchard can help in many ways. Bees usually leave their hives to forage during daylight when temperatures are between 55 to 60°F. Spotting hives in early morning sunlight will help heat the hives. Colonies that get treated with orchard sprays have a higher mortality rate, which lowers the overall strength of the hive. Usually, there is more room on the outside of the orchard. This allows for hives not to be stacked and allows for each hive to get more sunlight. Keeping the soil firm and weed free around the colonies will keep the area warmer, allowing the bees to forage earlier.