



NEWSLETTER

8800 South Minturn Road - Le Grand California 95333 USA
 Office 559-665-8500 FAX 559-665-8588
 www.minturnnut.com

March 2006

Almond Industry Position Report

February 2006

	<u>Million Lbs</u>
Carry-in August 1, 2005.....	137.7
2005 Net Marketable Crop (<i>Received to date</i>)	<u>871.6</u>
Total Supply.....	1,009.3
Sold Shipped & Not Shipped	
Domestic.....	255.0
Export	<u>467.8</u>
Total Sold	722.8
Uncommitted Inventory (Not Sold).....	(286.5)

Position Report

Almond Shipments for February totaled 62.1 million pounds, compared to 69.8 million pounds last February. Total shipments for the year now stands at 542.2 million pounds, down 18.14% compared to last year. As our industry completes the year, almond shipments should improve with lower and more competitive pricing resulting in a better "carry out" position.

2005 Crop Pool Progress Payment

Monday, April 10th the 2005 crop April progress payment will be mailed out. The Nonpareil payment will be \$0.50/Lb making the total \$2.55 per lb. And all other varieties will also be \$0.50 bringing the total to \$2.35 per lb. We will announce the final payment at the completion of selling the 2005 crop.

2006 Crop Bloom Report

The Bloom started off in Kern County, closely followed by Sacramento Valley and concluded with the Northern and Central San Joaquin Valley Areas. The early blooming varieties were met with unseasonably warm and sunny weather. On February 16 a cold front moved in and produced a widespread frost that threatened the crop potential. Temperatures were reported in the mid 20's throughout the state and concern set in as to "How much damage did the crop sustain?" After the cold front moved through, the weather improved and the bees had a chance to work. Unfortunately the dry period didn't last and the weather became unusually cool and wet and continues in this pattern today. The bud set was reported as strong in all varieties. To date accumulated Bee flight hours were almost double that of last year in all reported areas. And most importantly the bloom was slow and long. Currently the early varieties are pushing through the jackets with the late varieties still in the jackets. Growers are reporting that the crop potential is surprisingly promising despite the wide range of weather this year's bloom experienced.

7th Annual Grower Appreciation BBQ, Friday May 5th

Be sure to mark your calendars for Friday May 5th. We hope to see you at this year's BBQ to help celebrate Minturn Nuts **10th Anniversary**. There will be plant tours, Hank's famous Oyster Bar and nut contests. We will get started at 11 a.m. with lunch being served around noon. We encourage you to bring your almond growing friends or neighbors.

Grower Contracting

Minturn Nut is currently contracting with growers for the 2006 seasonal pool and future crops. We offer 1-year and 3-year contracts with a bonus incentive with growers signing a 3-year contract. Our payment schedule is aggressive and our return payment stands up well against any handler in the industry. If you have any questions please call your field representative or the office. We appreciate all the support you growers have given us.

Field Representatives

Dave Hudgins 209-617-8500

Keith Rigg 209-604-9981

Matt Kahl 209-617-8602

Richard Marchini 209-769-7500

Robert Borba 209-209-769-3660

Grower Appreciation BBQ – Friday May 5th