



## CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ALMOND GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 338 ♦ Kerman, California 93630-0338

CCAGA ♦ *GROWING STRONGER EVERYDAY* ♦ NEWSLETTER ♦ SUMMER 2019 ♦ *Vol. 13, No. 4*

### **Date Set for Pre-Season Grower Meeting**

Save the date! The Association's annual Pre-Season Grower Meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 26, 2019 at Pardini's located at 2257 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711. This will be the only meeting in advance of what appears will be another very large hulling and shelling season. Please try and attend! Lunch will be served to our guests and you can sit back, relax and learn about how we have prepared for a record incoming harvest. The program will begin at 11:30 AM. There will be presentations by our Chairman and the Management Team on critical topics relevant to our reception of your field run loads as well as our plant operations for the season ahead. This is important information that you need to know. Delivery Tickets will be available for pick up at the luncheon. Help us to prepare for the meeting by calling 559-846-5377 to reserve your seat.

### **Ranch Stockpiling Allowance Set for 2019**

Do you have adequate space on your ranch to store some, or all your harvested almond production? If so, the Association will make it worth your while. If you have space and are interested in this opportunity, then the Board of Directors has approved and directed management to pay 2 cents per eligible meat pound as an incentive for deliveries of Almond production into either our Kerman or Sanger locations. Included with this newsletter is some additional information. As almond acreage continues to expand please consider this option to alleviate the quantity of almond production that must be offloaded into our stockpile yards. Check it out, it just might pencil!

### **Report on the 56th Annual Meeting**

This year's annual meeting was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at TorNino's Banquet Hall in Fresno. It was a very special evening in which we celebrated the 56th Annual Dinner Meeting of the Association.

Jeff Yribarren, a member of the Election Certification Committee, gave a report on the results of a recent election for two seats for Directors whose terms were expiring. Seat 6 held by James McFarlane & Seat 7 held by Gary Coleman were both re-elected to their respective seats on the Board for another three-year term.

Chairman James McFarlane gave his report and thanked staff for their efforts over the past year. He also encouraged members to think about ranch stockpiling product with the large crop we anticipate being delivered in the season ahead. President Kelley gave a report on

last season shelling activities in which the Association shelled out 105,816,119 lbs. of meat equivalents compared to 120,484,511 lbs. in 2017. President Kelley then reported on the season ahead and stated that the Association has budgeted for a crop size of 132,822,000 lbs. for the upcoming harvest season. He also reported that the recently concluded audit indicates we may pay out a dividend on the sales of the Association's by-products at a rate of 2.02 cents per meat equivalent pound based on patronage. He went on to report that members who delivered crop in 2014 received a check in repayment of the 2014 Crop Revolving Fund (Capital Fund) at or following the Annual Dinner.

To close out the evening the audience listened to a presentation by Roger Isom, President & CEO of Western Agricultural Processors Association. He brought those present up to date on legislative affairs affecting the tree nut industry. He also discussed various farm tractor and diesel pump replacement programs of which growers need to take advantage.

### **Changes to Your Membership? Please let us know soon!**

Each year we often have growers who request changes to their memberships. Sometimes these requests are made during the shelling season which is frequently too late to get them in place. This can cause a delay in payments to our members from their handlers, and for hulling fees from those handlers to be delayed to the Association. It can also cost us a great deal of time in trying to correct paperwork to reflect needed changes.

Are there changes you have made to your farm which we should know about? If so, please make sure not only to let your handler know, but to let us know as well. We will work as fast as we can to make sure the revision is in place before the first load of your production is delivered. Please be aware that the time to make these changes is not when the shelling season is already under way; it should be done before the harvest season commences! To do otherwise will only cause delays.

### **Improvements to Your Association**

The 2019 crop has the makings of another record. The Association is budgeting for a crop size of 132,822,000 meat equivalent pounds. To adjust to this new reality of even larger volumes in years ahead we have taken numerous actions to help us prepare.

- We are in the process of modernizing Kerman Plant #1. As explained in earlier newsletters this modernization is slated to be completed by the

2020 season. However, electrical conduit and the installation of our baghouses is already completed. This will accelerate the construction taking place at the conclusion of the 2019 season. The improved plant is designed to give us a 38% increase in efficiency helping us to efficiently meet the production challenges that lay ahead. The new plant will include an additional inshell line to compliment the K-3 hulling line, and will also include a hash clean-up line so we may capture higher values for this important by-product.

- Another stockpile belt-loader has been purchased and delivered to our Kerman site. This is the tenth belt-loader for Kerman and will certainly help to process field run loads quicker.
- A new 1-megawatt solar array has just come online that will offset 70% of our electrical utilization at K-1 and K-2. This will complement our stage 1 solar array that came online in 2016.
- Using the air districts tractor replacement program, a new wheel loader will be received replacing a 2005 unit that is obsolete.
- Using funding from the California Air Resources Board, five new electric gators are on site this season replacing five of our older gas propelled units.
- Recently, we have entered into an agreement with Blue Diamond Growers for the purchase of the receiving station at Sanger. This purchase will clean up the property lines and bring our total acreage from 35 to 40 acres making the property a perfect square. We also believe this acquisition will allow us to more efficiently process Blue Diamond members' product through the Receiving Station, a service for which we will be reimbursed.
- The Association's website has been totally updated with new features. Please click on to [ccaga.com](http://ccaga.com) to check the new look, which will be functional by the end of July!

As you can tell by our actions, we are determined to be prepared for the formidable challenges that lay ahead. We are continually focused on being pro-active and not reactive. We look to the future when making sure that the best home for your almonds is here at your Association.

## President's Report – Be Prepared



Watch out! Here comes the latest tsunami of almond production that is getting ready to hit a sheller near you. There seems to be a regularly occurring cycle every few years where almond acreage exceeds our shelling capacity. That new cycle of growth is imminent. Your Association is in the process of facing this evolution head on, so that we can continue to meet our member expectations of exceptional service.

The changes outlined in the preceding article attest to the proactive nature of the Board of Directors and Management in trying to ensure that we will be prepared for the almond production looming on the horizon. I am so very proud of the actions we have taken. They illustrate our determination to vigilantly serve our members.

Consider the fact that we will have 64,375 acres of almonds that will be delivered into us by 2021. At a per acre yield of 2,250 pounds we would have to be able to shell out 145,000,000 pounds of kernels. At our record volume of 2,446 pounds recorded in 2011 we could be closer to 157,500,000.

Can we meet this challenge? Yes, we can! With the modifications, acquisitions and investments we will make over the course of the next year we will be able to accommodate this growth and finish processing operations in the late fall as we have in the past.

We have never had the luxury of resting on our laurels and casually waiting for the next season to come. The growth of almond acreage has necessitated that we be proactive in order to assure timely processing. This we have done and will continue to do so on your behalf. Have a safe and prosperous shelling season.

### CORE VALUE

*Adding the greatest potential value  
to the Members' product with the  
highest quality service and integrity.*