



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ALMOND GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 338 ♦ Kerman, California 93630-0338

CCAGA ♦ *GROWING STRONGER EVERYDAY* ♦ NEWSLETTER ♦ SUMMER 2021 ♦ Vol. 16 No. 2

Pre-Season Meeting scheduled for July 22, 2021

Every year prior to harvest the Association has conducted a Pre-Season Grower meeting at Pardini's Banquet Hall in Fresno. Last year we were unable to have this meeting due to the Covid pandemic, which also vetoed our Annual Dinner meeting. Unfortunately, these conditions curtailed how we communicated to our members for quite some time. Due to the removal of safety restrictions, we feel thankful we can now schedule a Pre-Season Grower meeting for July 22, 2021, at 12:00 noon, and the meeting will once again take place at Pardini's, located at 2257 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711. We will commence with an enjoyable lunch, followed by presentations from the Association's Chairman and members of the Management team. The purpose of the gathering is for Management to provide members with the latest forecasts and financial information relevant to the season ahead. We will apprise attendees of plant improvements which will help with overall processing efficiency. Again, the meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 12:00 pm. Delivery Tickets will be available for pick up at the luncheon. Please help us to prepare for the meeting by calling 559-846-5377 confirming your presence at this important event.

Member Relations Coordinator Check-In!

It has been an intense start to the almond harvest here at CCAGA. There have been many projects to work on and little time to get them done. Ranch stockpiling and highlighting our Association's many achievements in sustainability have been a few of my priorities so far. I am currently working on a mapping project to help the Association forecast and track the ever-expanding almond industry and to ensure we can meet the shelling needs of our membership. In order to achieve this, "Boots on the Ground" tactics have been applied. "Mapping" consists of my heading out to your field and dropping a pin from my cell phone. A quick field tour from the grower would be helpful to locate the correct fields. If you have not heard from me yet I will be calling you soon! If you have your fields mapped already (either on your own phone or on a hard copy) my contact information is listed below, and I would appreciate you sharing this information with me. As always, CCAGA is here to

help and I hope that if you ever have a question, concern, or need assistance from the association, you



will reach out to us. Every season I look forward to meeting and working with all our CCAGA members. Also, please do not forget to follow us on LinkedIn for updates and association news!

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Changes to Your Membership? Please let us know!

Each year we have growers who request changes to their memberships. Sometimes these requests are made during the shelling season when it is frequently too late to execute them. This can cause delays in payments to our members from their handlers, and also for hulling fees from those handlers to be delayed to the Association. In addition, these changes can also generate a lot of paperwork, which can slow down our office operations.

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 inform us as well. We will work as fast as we can to make sure the revision is in place before the first load of your product 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 only causes delays for everyone.

Report on the Association's 58th Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 and took place via "Zoom." This meeting was quite different from our normal affair with entertainment, a steak dinner and wine on the banquet tables. However, it did finish in a record 34 minutes! Thankfully, we look forward to being back at Tornino's next year.

To start off the event Chairman McKinney reported on the results of a recent election for two Directors' seats whose terms were expiring – those being Seat 4 – Thomas Chandler and Seat 5 – Jeff McKinney. Both were re-elected to their respective position on

the Board for another three-year term. They ran unopposed as no other nominations were received.

Next, Janell Attebery with Moss Adams, LP provided a report on the 2020 Fiscal Audit just completed and this was approved by the Board of Directors.

Chairman McKinney then gave a report on the prior fiscal period activities. He also thanked the Board and staff for their efforts last season during which the Association shelled out a record 155,267,678 lbs. of meat equivalents compared to 136,427,281 in 2019. President Kelley then reported on the season ahead and stated that the Association has budgeted for an upcoming crop size of 136,720,584 lbs. He also reported that the recently concluded audit indicates we may pay out a very slim dividend on the sales of the Association’s by-products at a rate of 2/10 of one cent per meat equivalent pound based on patronage. This distribution will occur when we ship out the last of our by-products and close the books on the 2020 “Pool” period in early October 2021. He went on to report that members who delivered crop in 2015 are receiving a check in repayment of the 2015 Crop Revolving Fund (Capital Fund).

President’s Report



At CCAGA we are profoundly grateful to put the COVID-19 Pandemic behind us! As an essential industry we were indeed fortunate to have worked continuously through this crisis. This not only helped us efficiently complete the 2020 shelling season but provided us with the

opportunity to perform repairs and maintenance required since the shellers went silent on January 6, 2021. We are pleased that 97 percent of our regular fulltime staff have been fully vaccinated and we are grateful to have experienced minimal illness due to the virus. This has helped us to get all four almond plants ready for the season ahead. I am pleased to report that we will once again be fully prepared for a crop that looks to be delivered seven to ten days earlier than last year.

For the most part, the almond orchards in our area look very healthy, indicating a good crop. However, in the next 30 days, the lack of moisture due to the drought will clearly change the crop’s present potential.

In contrast, we have heard reports of growers pushing over orchards that were in their prime. This is being done as farmers try to augment the water needs of some of their acreage from other areas which will not have adequate water to carry the crop to fruition. Additionally, we have also heard reports of growers shaking trees early in hopes that in certain water-stressed areas the trees just might make it through the summer. The thought is that they would suffer minimal damage and come back into production successfully next year. Another alarming situation occurring all over the San Joaquin Valley is the sale of almond orchards by long-time farming families in our area. This is primarily due to inflated prices for planted almond acreage, the lack of clear direction regarding water policy in our State and the myriad of regulatory burdens from State and Federal agencies. In this latter case, farming has gone from a field venture to a desk job to stay in compliance with relentless requests for information and for the submission of reports. It appears that over the last few months the “deck chairs on the Titanic are being rearranged.” If we do not strive to protect and preserve these vital ranches and their ability to produce food crops, the entire fabric and potential of our beloved San Joaquin Valley may be lost.

We must all hope that this current drought cycle will be short-lived. After dealing with a Pandemic for the last 18 months, we do not need the additional stress of more restrictions and damage to our acreage and livelihoods. However, we have proven we can persevere and CCAGA is prepared to meet your needs by providing the efficient and quality shelling of your crop for delivery to your packer.

Please remember, CCAGA is a partnership! As such, to ensure the highest crop quality possible please do your part and minimize the amount of foreign material brought in with your loads. If you have an almond, a mud ball, a stone or a stick in the load, the almond will lose every time and will show up on your quality report as chippage or breakage. We do expect to finish the shelling season in mid-December. It is my hope that when the plants go quiet we will have once again met your expectations of timeliness and quality. I wish you a safe and healthy shelling season.

***PREVENT RURAL THEFT
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