



2021 Report – Not a Record, but a Vast Improvement from the Season’s start.

Our shellers finally concluded a long hulling and shelling season with Sanger closing down operations on December 17 and Kerman on the afternoon of January 12. We are still closing the books as we wait for some late inshell results, but at this time it appears that the record will show we cracked out slightly less than 144,000,000 meat equivalent pounds. This compares to the record production volume of 155,265,958 lbs. achieved in 2020 for a 11,265,958 lbs. decrease, (or 7.25%), as reported in the prior season. The average yield per acre appears will be just over 2,318 lbs., compared to 2,524 lbs. recorded in 2020.

After the significant record volume of last year, we fully anticipated the shelling volume would be off this season. Water availability and quality issues caused us to question the almond crop’s potential in our area of operation. This was certainly true for the softshell variety of non-pareil which constitutes 40% of our overall volume. We found that other pollinators were off from their potential as well. However, the Independence variety was up 27% in volume from the prior year as new acreage came into production and existing acreage of young trees had much higher yields. The second largest variety delivered into the Association is Monterey, which saw a 6% increase in volume over 2020. Overall, average turnout is currently running at 25.57% compared to 25.75% in 2021.

It was a very difficult shelling season as we constantly struggled with labor issues. Wet hulls that were exceedingly leathery slowed operations as did a record volume of inshell. It was also a challenge to juggle runs due to a shortage of bins caused by port issues. Once again, excessive foreign material from the field also made the crop very difficult to process. Combined, these factors made for a highly

challenging season. During the final days of the season, a surge of record volume of inshell. It was also a challenge to juggle runs due to a shortage of bins at the port

COVID-19 infections caused further delays and complications. It was a season like no other, but in the end we had the second highest shelling volume ever recorded. Satisfyingly, the overall quality of product that was delivered to our members packer was quite good as long as good dry product that was low in extraneous matter was delivered to us from the field.

Acreage Surveys Are in the Mail

We need your help! One of the most important types of feedback we receive from our members is our annual acreage survey. This year’s survey was mailed out on December 28, 2021 and we ask that you please provide us with an immediate response.

This information is crucial when trying to forecast our future volumes and it is essential that we receive a timely reply. As we continue to grow, it is imperative that we know your total almond acreage in our Association, as well as the year it was planted. We will use this information to better prepare for the large volumes we anticipate receiving in the years ahead.

Should you have any questions about filling out our survey please call the Association’s Kerman Main Office (846-5377) and ask for Lauren Dutra, our Member Relations Coordinator. She will gladly help with any of your inquiries. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

CORE VALUE

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

President's Report

On December 15, 2021, the Association's Board of Directors chose to make a significant change in the way your cooperative assesses hulling fees. Since the Association's inception, we have always charged a hulling fee based on a meat equivalent basis after hulling or shelling. Next season, like many other hullers and shellers in our area, we will assess a hulling fee on a delivered basis. This means we will assess a fee for service on the field run weight delivered to us on inbound truckloads to both our Kerman and Sanger sites. Those who deliver excess foreign material in their loads will pay more for hulling or shelling. Those who deliver less foreign material will pay less. Our dividend will still be paid out on a meat equivalent basis. The rate by which we charge hulling fees shall be set in the June of each year - well in advance of the harvest season.

It is important for you to understand why we are making this significant change. As our industry has grown over the last few years, we have seen significant increases in foreign material delivered with inbound loads. In fact, foreign material (primarily composed of dirt and sticks) has risen from the 11-12% of just a few years ago to around 15% today. This situation has caused us to rethink how we charge for the service of hulling your almond production in hopes we will see decreased levels of extraneous matter.

Foreign material in the form of dirt and sticks markedly decreases overall plant performance. It damages equipment and leads to significant downtime in unloading product into our pre-cleaners. It necessitates inordinate in-season repairs to your plants, much more so than in the off-season. It is also important to know and remember if an almond kernel must compete with a stick or dirt during processing, the almond will lose every time. The result is decreased quality. As an owner of this cooperative, it is prudent to think about delivering cleaner product in the future to protect your investment.

This is a big change for our members. Many other almond operations in our area have already switched to this method of assessing fees. We are

among the last to make this change and we strongly feel it is prudent to do so. It is important for you to approach us with any questions you may have on this subject. We are available by phone or email at any time. We want to make sure we address your concerns and that you are satisfied with our motives and the solutions we have proposed to deal with this important issue.

Regional Growers' Meeting Postponed

Recently we mailed out a letter to our members regarding a change in the way we will be assessing hulling fees in the future. This is an important modification and is being implemented to persuade our membership to deliver cleaner field run product for hulling or shelling. We had scheduled several grower meetings to discuss this subject in detail. Due to the dramatic increase of Covid-19 infections in our area, we have decided to postpone all four regional grower meetings until early spring. Once a new date has been determined we will send out new meeting invitations. We had an impressive response to our attempted meetings invitations at all four scheduled locations. However, it appears that this virus is once again raising its ugly head, and we are restricted in our capacity to meet in person. Thank you to everyone who responded, confirming they would like to participate in such a meeting. We look forward to seeing you all very soon! Please call us should you have any questions.



Accumulated Dirt Delivered to CCAGA Kerman in 2021