



Almond Board of California

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California ALMOND facts

Almond Board of California (ABC)

Established in 1950, the Board administers a grower-enacted Federal Marketing Order under USDA supervision.

- The Board's mission is to create a rewarding environment for the production, processing and marketing of California almonds.
- The Federal Marketing Order for California almonds is used to support research, promotion and technical services and to increase the consumption of California almonds around the world.

Key Almond Industry Issues

There are approximately 6,000 almond growers and 100 almond handlers (processors) in California, producing almonds throughout the Central Valley.

- In 2008, California almond growers produced a record-breaking 1.590 billion pounds of almonds year-to-date.
- Almonds do not benefit from federal price support programs. The ABC is grower financed.

Statistics

California produces 81% of the world's almonds and 100% of the U.S. commercial supply.

- 31% of the crop is consumed in the U.S.; 69% is exported to some 90 countries worldwide.
- Domestic almond shipments reached a record high, increasing 35% from 291.7 million pounds in 2002/2003 to 394.8 million pounds in 2007/2008.
- California almond exports achieved a 25% increase from 690.6 million pounds in 2002/2003 to 866.4 million pounds in 2007/2008.

Almonds are:

- California's #1 agricultural export valued at 1.90 billion dollars (2007 AIC, University of California).
- The U.S.'s #1 specialty crop export valued at 1.90 billion dollars (2007 Bureau of the Census, US Dept. of Commerce).
- California's #4 leading agricultural crop valued at 2.4 billion dollars in farm value to California almond growers. (2007 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture).
- California's # 1 ag export to the European Union, valued at 1.1 billion dollars (2005 AIC, University of California).

USDA Partnership

The Board utilizes USDA's Market Access Program, Emerging Markets Program, Technical Issues Resolution Fund, and the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops fund to promote California Almonds.

- The industry works closely with USDA APHIS and FAS to address emerging Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) issues.
- The USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) support is needed to address apiary issues which could impact the industry's future viability and health.
- Almond industry representatives respond to other U.S. government requests for technical information and industry data in support of improved market access worldwide.

Food Safety

The industry is committed to offering the highest quality, safest and most nutritious crop possible to domestic and foreign buyers.

- Guidelines have been issued on GAPs, GMPs, Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures and HACCP programs.
- The industry has implemented a mandatory regulation for pasteurization of almonds.
- A voluntary aflatoxin sampling plan has been successfully implemented to address European concerns, and continues to be evaluated jointly between the EU, USDA and the industry.

Almond Growers – Stewards of the Land

30 years of research funded by the ABC on orchard management, insect and pest management, variety development, tree nutrition and irrigation, diseases, and pollination have provided the tools to be better stewards of the land.

- The Board has been recognized twice by the EPA's Stewardship Program for its commitment to the dramatic impact of agricultural environmental issues affecting the industry.

For more information

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