



MERIDIAN MONITOR

MARKET NEWS AND INDUSTRY INFORMATION FOR MERIDIAN'S VALUED CUSTOMERS

In a nutshell...

- Pistachio market continues to rise
- Substantial increase in Almond Market
- Walnut & Pecan supply limited

Pistachio Update

The Pistachio market continues to rise as supplies become tighter

Iran may have lost as much as 50% of next year's crop to a devastating freeze

California is just about done with bloom. In about 30 days we will have a better idea of our availability for next years crop.

Prices remain firm, especially for EU grade material. Kernels have also seen a large increase in recent days as demand is strong. At this time we are still positive in pistachio pricing for the next 12-18 months.

EU Update

New recommendation of codex to adjust the aflatoxin allowance from 4ppb total to 10ppb total.

Reduced sample sizes, which in turn would reduce the cost for testing

California would easily meet the new standards

Pushing for September acceptance but more likely January of 2009

Almond Update

Substantial increase in the almond market in the last few weeks.

Almond Board shipment numbers for March of 08 were at 91 million pounds, 5 million pounds up from February of 08 and almost 21 million from the same period last year.

Market trades in Europe on Blanchable Varieties Std are at USD \$1.70/lb for both new and current crop. There have been reported trades on Nonpareil Supremes 23/25 for new crop at USD \$2.30/lb and current crop is around 10-15¢ higher.

European second hand traders are now pricing almonds at origin levels. Prices are expected to remain firm for this week.

Walnut Update

The walnut market remains firm with limited availability.

Pecan Update

The pecan market remains firm with limited availability.

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