



May 11, 2009

**MERIDIAN  
NUT GROWERS**  
DRIED FRUITS ~ NUTS

# MERIDIAN MONITOR

## In a nutshell...

- **New crop interest for Pistachios**
- **1.450 Billion for 09 Almond crop**

## Pistachio Recall Update

Most processors have begun making dramatic changes to their processing facilities and procedures in the aftermath of the recent recall. We are in the process of adding additional equipment, quality control personnel and restructuring some of our processes as additional steps to ensure food safety. Many of the recommendations being made currently were implemented by our facility previously.

Interest for new crop continues to grow as existing stocks disappear. Most processors are very close to being sold out. There are some stocks of lower quality material available that are quickly disappearing as buyers worry about coverage before new crop.

## Almond Update

NASS's subjective estimate of a 1.450 billion crop has been a slight surprise for most California packers. It is certain that NASS took into consideration the additional bearing acreage for this upcoming 2009 crop along with some of the frost damaged endured by the young orchards as this estimate is down approximately 10% from 2008.

On Tuesday May 12th, the Almond Board shipment numbers for the month of April will be issued and are expected to be strong in comparison to last years. Although quiet these past days, it is expected that the market may not see a major change in pricing especially on new crop and possibly a slight decline on current as the last stocks are moved to make room for new crop.



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