



January 12, 2010

MERIDIAN MONITOR

In a nutshell...

- Almond shipments continue strong.

MARKET NEWS AND INDUSTRY INFORMATION FOR MERIDIAN'S VALUED CUSTOMERS

Almond shipments up more than 57%.

Shipment numbers released today showed the industry still has a head full of steam. Shipments were an astonishing 147.5 million lbs. Shipments to China increased from 4M to over 30M lbs. Out of the 63 countries shipped that the industry ships to, only 9 countries showed a decrease in December and most of those were by small margin. YTD overall shipments are up nearly 20%. Receipts are also on track as projected to hit around 1.35 billion lbs. Currently we have received 1.32 billion, but that number seems to be slowing, as shown by the fact that in Dec 08 we received 165 million lbs. and in Dec 09 we received 102 million lbs.

December 2009 Shipment Analysis-

Item	Current Month	Last Year	% move-ment	Current YTD	Last Years YTD	% move-ment
Crop Receipts	102.8	165.9	-38.0%	1,327.5	1,486.9	-10.7%
Domestic Ship-ments	33.9	27.8	22.1%	187.3	171.9	8.9%
Export Shipments	113.6	65.9	72.5%	531.7	431.4	23.3%
Total Shipments	147.5	93.6	57.5%	719.0	603.3	19.2%

Excluding January, shipments for Q1 and Q2 2009 were all records, so it's unlikely we'll average 20% higher shipments this year against last year. Assuming that we average 8-10% above last year we should end up with between 140-160 million lbs. of carryout. Pricing has risen drastically this year from the record lows of 2008 crop. The bloom will start coming into the conversation more and more in the coming weeks. However, the fact is that we need to fill the pipeline until then 2010 crop actually comes. The question is now at what point and how fast do rising prices slow demand.

Supply/ Demand-

Sales Contacts:

Jim Zion, Managing Director

Cecilia Kjar, Sales Coordinator/Purchasing Director

Paul Reynolds, Sales

Michelle Carter, Sales & Marketing

Carry-in-	413.7
2009 receipts	1350.0 (less 3% loss)
Total inventory	1723.2
Estimated shipments	1567.9 (assuming +8% for remainder of CY 09)
Carry Out	155.31