

Meridian Nut Growers Market Update

9/19/2011



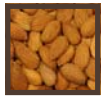
Harvest should be in full swing this week over most of the state. Initial results are mixed. Sizing is running 70% 21/25 or larger. Stain is running 4% or less for light and less than 1% for dark. We have started to see some adhering hull and there are some concerns over possible insect damage.

Maturity is highly variable meaning the closed shell percentage has ranged from 12% to as high as 50% in loads coming from the same orchards. So still too early to tell what our percentage of closed shell will be.

Finally it is still too early to tell what the crop size will be. Estimates range from 400 million to 500 million depending on which part of the state you farm in. We hope as we get further into harvest, we can begin to get a better idea of crop size.

We have heard that yields in Iran are disappointing and will fall short of the 180,000 MT (396 million) they were hoping for.

Market remains stable with buyers and to a point sellers taking a wait and see attitude until a better picture of the 2011 US crop becomes clearer.



The almond market has been relatively quiet for the last week. Interest from certain area's has picked back up slightly as pricing has softened a bit and buyer's look to layer in additional volumes. September and first part of October shipments are still carrying a bit of a premium. Large size almonds have stayed stable in general while smaller material has a larger range of trades being reported. Inshell demand has been stagnant since India and China have backed away from the market. We are hearing strong demand for Indian spot goods and expect that demand to return shortly as the Chinese have already started coming back.



Inshell business has been relatively active the past week with China coming in on some volumes. Business on LHP still a bit spotty but the market is in the \$4.00 - \$4.20 /lbs range on LHP depending on the packer. Initial indications is that color should be very light this year and quality overall good.



Raisins – Harvest and drying is continuing. The mild weather is slowing down the drying of the grapes on the ground. Market is continuing to firm.

Expect prices to increase US\$0.10 per lb-0.15 per lb from 2010 crop.

Prunes – New crop prunes continue to being harvested.

Cranberries – The harvest will continue over the next month. We are expecting new crop to remain firm.

