

California Pistachio Industry – 2023

BOB KLEIN, MANAGER

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR PISTACHIOS & CALIFORNIA
PISTACHIO RESEARCH BOARD

2023 CROP CONDITIONS

- 2022 off-year crop?
 - Decent quantity but poor removal
- Bud set was generally excellent
- More than adequate chill
- Winter rain more than average, full soil profiles
- Bloom weather not excessively hot and dry but late
- Crop matured slowly

2023 California Pistachio Crop

- Record crop of 1.49 billion pounds from 461,079 bearing acres (3232 lbs per acre)
 - Best per acre since 2018 (3262)
- Low closed shell, shelling stock
- Large nut size
- Generally low insect
- About equal acreages of Golden Hills and Kerman
 - Golden Hills production > Kerman

California Pistachio Acreage

- Survey done by LandIQ
 - Takes about 6 years before acreage age is clearly identifiable
- 461,097 bearing acres in 2023 + 144,363 nonbearing = 605,000 total acres
- Planting down sharply in 2023 (10k acres vs 33,500 average for 4 prior years)
- 90% of new plantings are Golden Hills after about 2011
 - 235k acres of Kerman, 220k acres of Golden Hills
- Some acres lost to flood, future losses due to water regulations

Future Crop Sizes?

- Historically, significant alternate bearing
 - Golden Hills isn't as extreme as Kerman
- Warming and drying climate
 - Golden and Lost Hills have lower chill requirements
 - Water is critical concern
- 605k acres @ 3300 lbs per acre = 1.997 billion pounds in 2028 (2027?) with proper environmental conditions
- 2024?



Headwinds


- Invasive Pests and Diseases
 - Brown Marmorated Stinkbug, Spotted Lanternfly, Fruit Flies?, Carpophilus
- Water Regulations
- Pesticide Phase-out
- Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture

Research Programs

- In 2023, 29 projects totaling \$2.4 million
- Will be evaluating nearly 50 proposals for funding in 2024
- Have access to a significant number of UC and USDA researchers
- Retirements and new hires
 - Will there be people to carry on existing programs?
 - Will there be people to address the ramifications of new regulations?



RETIREMENT

- Nearly 25 years with California Pistachio Commission, Administrative Committee for Pistachios, and California Pistachio Research Board
 - THANK YOU ALL for the support and collaboration that has made my job intellectually rewarding and stimulating and personally satisfying
 - TOGETHER - Botryosphaeria blight, navel orangeworm, mealybug, aflatoxin, salmonella, clonal rootstock and bushy-top, breeding programs, Alternaria, chill, salinity, nitrogen, irrigation,
 - Next?
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New leader at ACP/CPRB

Stephen Vasquez

- Nearly 15 years as Farm Advisor
- Viticulture
- Most recently at SunMaid
- Plant pathology background

