



Murray Pioneer
Friday 9/2/2007
Page: 23
Section: General News
Region: Renmark SA Circulation: 6,550
Type: Regional
Size: 321.89 sq.cms.
Published: -T--F--

Brief: HH-CMV

Production to jump 46 per cent

Australia's almond industry is booming, with the Almond Board of Australia predicting a 46 per cent increase in production for 2007.

It is estimated this year's crop will top 23,500 tonnes (kernel), an increase of 46 per cent over last year's crop, with an associated farm gate value of \$150 million.

According to the board, Australian almond acreage has increased five-fold over the past eight years, from approximately 9000 acres in 1999 to more than 47,000 acres in 2007. Planted orchards are expected to produce annual crops of over 50,000 tonnes (kernel) by 2012.

Almond Board of Australia chairman John Bird said Australian growers are well positioned to win an increased market share over the next five to seven years, as young trees mature and come into production.

"Australia is world competitive in both costs and quality, allowing us to compete effectively in global markets," he said.

"This increase in production is timely, allowing Australian growers to benefit from the current growth in global consumption."

Consumption of almonds has grown rapidly in recent years, across both local and export markets, boosted by growing awareness of the

health benefits of almonds and a shift by consumers towards natural foods.

Consumption of almonds has grown rapidly in recent years in both local and export markets. The Almond Board of Australia is working hard to spread the good news about the benefits of regular almond consumption through an industry funded marketing program.

Australia's key almond growing regions include the Riverland, Sunraysia and the Riverina, in New South Wales.

The two major almond processors in the Riverland are Almondco, based at Renmark, and Riverland Almonds, based at Loxton.



The Almond Board of Australia anticipates this year's harvest to reach in excess of 23,000 tonnes.



Australian almond acreage has increased five-fold over the past eight years, from approximately 9000 acres in 1999 to more than 47,000 acres in 2007.