



July 12, 2015

**CALIFORNIA DRIED PLUM BOARD 2015/16 ASSESSMENT RATES**

Upon recommendation of the California Dried Plum Board (board) the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has approved a combined total assessment rate of \$60 per ton for the 2015/16 season (August 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016). The 2015/16 incremental rates are \$35 per ton for producers and dehydrators and \$25 per ton for processors. The 2015/16 rates are higher than last season's rates. The table below compares the 2015/16 rates with those of the most recent three seasons.

	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
<b>Producer/Dehydrator Assessment (per ton)</b>	\$25.26	\$25.25	\$30.00	\$35.00
<b>Processor Assessment (per ton)</b>	\$15.26	\$15.25	\$20.00	\$25.00
<b>Total Assessment (per ton)</b>	\$40.52	\$40.50	\$50.00	\$60.00

Following are some clarifying points regarding assessable tonnage.

- The assessments must be paid on all prune tonnage received by processors from producers or dehydrators, including undersized prunes, even if the producers and dehydrators are not being paid for such undersized fruit.
- The assessments do not apply to trash such as dirt, twigs, leaves, and brown rot.
- For lots inspected by the DFA, the assessable tonnage is total certified pounds less removed trash.
- For lots not inspected by the DFA, assessments must be paid on the total tonnage of prunes received unless the processor can provide written verification of trash removed.

All California dried plum processors are required to collect and remit the processor and producer/dehydrator assessments directly to the board office. Processors are authorized to deduct the producer's or dehydrator's share of the assessments from any monies owed to a producer or other person. Please note that the board will be billing processors at the end of



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each quarter for the following percentages of their anticipated assessments due for the 2015/16 crop year: 35% in November, 25% in February, 25% in May and 15% next August.

If you have questions concerning the assessments, please call Donn Zea, Executive Director of the California Dried Plum Board, at 916-565-6232, or call Ben Kardokus of this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Maxie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

Robert Maxie, Chief  
CDFA Marketing Branch