



July 29, 2020

**MARKETING ORDER FOR CALIFORNIA PRUNES
NOTICE OF THE 2020-2021 MARKETING SEASON ASSESSMENT RATES**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Based upon a recommendation by the California Prune Board (Board), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) has established rates of assessment applied upon prunes received by processors from producers or dehydrators during the 2020-2021 marketing season, which is the period of August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021.

The combined total assessment rate for the 2020-2021 marketing season has been set at \$76.50 per ton. The incremental assessment rates 2020-2021 marketing season are \$43.25 per ton for producers and dehydrators and \$33.25 per ton for processors. These incremental assessment rates are \$7.25 per ton higher than the rates that were in effect last season for both producers/dehydrators and processors.

The table below compares the 2020-2021 rates with those of the most recent three seasons.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Producer/Dehydrator Assessment (per ton)	\$35.00	\$38.50	\$36.00	\$43.25
Processor Assessment (per ton)	\$25.00	\$28.50	\$26.00	\$33.25
Total Assessment (per ton)	\$60.00	\$67.00	\$62.00	\$76.50

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.



Notice of Assessment

July 29, 2020

Page Two

All California prune processors are required to collect and remit both the processor and producer/dehydrator assessments directly to the Board office. In turn, processors are authorized to deduct the producer's or dehydrator's share of the assessments from any monies owed to such producers or dehydrators. Please note that the Board will be billing processors at the end of each quarter for the following percentages of their anticipated assessments due for the 2020-2021 crop year: 35% in November, 25% in February, 25% in May and 15% next August.

If you have any questions regarding the Marketing Order for California Prunes, please contact Donn Zea, Executive Director of the California Prune Board, at (916) 749-3442. For questions about this assessment notice, please contact Kacie Fritz with the Department's Marketing Branch at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Monson".

Joe Monson, Branch Chief
Marketing Branch