



# Almond Hull Educational Seminar

Cathryn McCandless, Senior  
Environmental Scientist

Ted Bert, Senior Environmental  
Scientist

CDFA

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## What is the CFRP?

State Agency which has specific legislative charges, including:

- (a) Enable the feed and feeding industry, with the aid of the state, to ensure in every way possible a clean and wholesome supply of meat, milk, and eggs for the benefit of the consumer.
- (b) Provide assurance to the consumer-buyer of commercial feed that the product he or she purchases is properly identified and of the quality and quantity represented by the manufacturer of the commercial feed.

# Labeling Requirements: Law

14992. The label shall contain a legible and plainly printed statement which certifies all of the following:

- (a) The net weight or volume of the contents of the lot or parcel unless accompanied by a certified certificate of weights and measures.
- (b) The product name, brand name, or trademark.
- (c) The name and principal address of the manufacturer or person that is responsible for placing the commodity on the market.
- (d) The guaranteed analysis stated in terms as the director specifies by regulation.
- (e) The recognized official name, as specified by the director, of each ingredient. The director may by regulation permit the use of a collective term for a group of ingredients which performs a similar function. The director may exempt a commercial feed, or any combination of commercial feeds from labeling requirements if he or she finds the listing is not necessary to comply with the intent of this chapter.
- (f) Adequate directions, warnings and caution statements that may be necessary for the safe use of any feed.



# Labeling Requirements: Regulation

§2694. Label Statements. The tag or label shall contain a legible and plainly printed statement which certifies to all of the following:

- (a) Minimum percent of crude protein.
- (b) Minimum percent of crude fat.
- (c) Maximum percent of crude fiber.
- (d) Maximum percent of ash.
- (l) Maximum percentage of moisture or minimum percentage dry matter shall be guaranteed when moisture exceeds 15.0 percent. When dried animal waste is used in a mixed feed, the moisture of the mixed feed shall not exceed 12.0 percent.

# §2773.5. Almond Hull Products.

Almond hulls are obtained by drying that portion of the almond fruit which surrounds the nut. **They shall not contain more than 13.0 percent moisture, no more than 15.0 percent crude fiber, and not more than 9.0 percent ash.**

If they contain more than 15.0 percent but less than 29.0 percent crude fiber, they shall be labeled “Almond Hull and Shell,” and the maximum percent of crude fiber shall be stated.

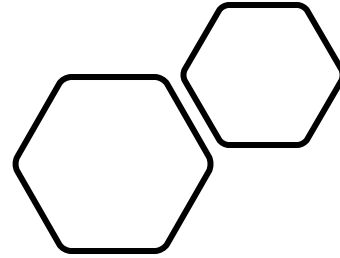
If the crude fiber exceeds 29.0 percent, the product shall be labeled “Almond Shell.” If the ash exceeds 9.0 percent, the term “and dirt” shall be included in the product name.

Almond hull products shall be free of foreign material, including plastic, glass, and metal except in such trace amounts as unavoidably occur in good manufacturing practices.

(b) When the following almond hull products are used in a mixed feed, the maximum percent shall be stated.

- (1) Almond hull and shell.
- (2) Almond shell.
- (3) Almond products containing more than 9.0 percent ash.

# Sampling Methods



- Samples are taken upon a routine basis or driven by complaint
- Almond hull sampling consists of taking 8 almond hull probes to represent 24 tons of Almond hulls
- Samples are taken on-farm or at manufacturing facilities
- All samples taken are official samples
- Official samples are taken in a manner that ensures traceability and lot integrity.

# 2022 Sampling Almond Hull Information

- 127 almond hull samples taken in 2022
- Of the 127 samples, 58 almond hull manufacturers were represented
  - 88 Non-violative samples
  - 35 Violative samples (fiber)
  - 2 Violative samples (moisture)
  - 2 Labeling violations

# Almond Hull Complaints 2022

- 17 total complaints to the program, 11 were almond hull
  - All almond hull complaints were submitted with third-party lab values



The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of numerous almond shells. Some shells are whole, while others are cracked open, revealing the light brown, textured interior. The shells are piled together, creating a dense, organic pattern. The lighting is bright, casting soft shadows and highlighting the natural textures of the shells.

# Compliance

CDFA is committed to a consistent approach to compliance throughout the state of California. All violations will be followed with a violation follow-up inspection. This inspection will consist of an investigation into your mixing plan and how the plan is being managed. Upon results of that investigation CDFA will decide the necessary corrective actions needed. If these corrections are not made, further regulatory action will be used.



December 5, 2022

### **NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL FEED INDUSTRY**

This fall, the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program's official almond hull sampling has a 35 percent violation rate. The maximum crude fiber allowance for almond hulls is 15.0 percent.

One of the causes of this high violation rate is the blending of almond shell back into almond hulls. The requirement for use of almond shell/almond hull and shell in a formula feed or mixed feed, such as adding almond shell to almond hulls, is outlined below California Code of Regulations Section 2773.5 (b) states: "When the following almond hull products are used in a mixed feed, the maximum percent shall be stated.

- (1) Almond hull and shell
- (2) Almond shell
- (3) Almond products containing more than 9.0 percent ash."

Anytime almond shell is added to commercial feed, it shall be stated on the label with the maximum inclusion percent stated.

This requirement applies to all firms utilizing this practice, including almond hullers and processors who remove almond shell while hulling and shelling. When a firm adds or blends shell back into its almond hulls or almond hull and shell, the firm is creating a formula feed as defined in Article 2 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC), Section 14930. Meaning the firm is required to declare the maximum percent of almond shell included in the feed on the label.

If almond shell is being added back into the feed, and sold as Almond Hulls or Almond Hull and Shell, and is not declared on the label accompanying the load, it will be considered adulterated per FAC Section 15041(c) "A commercial feed is adulterated if its composition differs from, or quality falls below, that which it is purported or is represented to possess by its labeling."

If a violation occurs and a firm does not have an almond hull shipping plan with crude fiber assays, showing that the plan will result in almond hulls that meet the crude fiber maximum guarantee, the inventory of almond hulls that are over 15.0 percent crude fiber will be subject to quarantine and only able to be shipped and labeled as almond hull and shell.

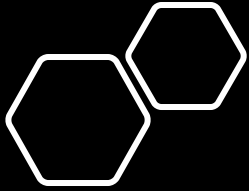
For additional information or questions please contact Mike Davidson, Supervising Special Investigator at (209) 649-3682.



# Almond Hull Issues and Suggestions Going Forward

- Ensure usage of appropriate mixing plan
- Sample current almond hull pile varieties to build a mixing plan
- Verify mixing plan
- 15% is the guaranteed max crude fiber, mixing to 14% allows a buffer
- 13% is the max allowable moisture for almond hulls





# Resources

- [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/docs/FeedLaw\\_Regs.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/docs/FeedLaw_Regs.pdf)
- [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/pdfs/20221202\\_almond\\_hull\\_products\\_notice\\_to\\_industry.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/pdfs/20221202_almond_hull_products_notice_to_industry.pdf)
- Presentation will be available on the SAFE website:  
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/safe.html>

*Please Note: The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Safe Animal Feed Education Program (SAFE) guidance materials are provided for educational purposes only and do not guarantee adequacy of procedures or compliance with regulations.*