



OFFICE OF THE
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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‘Walnut Buying Period’ Announced in Sutter County

Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner Mark Quisenberry announced today the walnut buying period will begin Sunday, November 1, 2015, beginning a window period that will end April 30, 2016, pursuant to the County’s Walnut Theft Prevention ordinance. The walnut buying period is the declared conclusion of harvest of the Chandler variety of walnuts by the Agricultural Commissioner, after consultation with walnut growers, during which non-processing walnut buying operations within Sutter County may lawfully purchase and receive walnuts that have not been dried or processed.

The ordinance was established to deter thefts from commercial walnut growers by creating a time frame for walnut purchases and the use of documentation to identify the growers of walnuts.

Walnuts are the highest valued agricultural commodity in Sutter County. According to the Sutter County 2014 Crop Report there were 29,851 harvested acres in Sutter County with a market value of over \$191,590,000. “The walnut industry is vulnerable to theft especially when prices are high. The Walnut Theft Prevention ordinance is intended to deter theft. Proof of ownership is a mandatory requirement of the ordinance”, stated Quisenberry.

For more information or to access a proof of ownership form approved by this office please see the Agricultural Commissioner’s website:
<http://www.co.sutter.ca.us/doc/government/depts/ag/aghome>

There are similar ordinances in place in Butte, Tehama, Glenn, and Yuba counties, and in several counties to the south.

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