



GUIDE TO BUYING & SELLING WALNUTS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY

What do I need to sell my walnuts in Stanislaus County?

Growers: Valid Proof of Ownership (ex.: Restricted Materials Permit, Operator Identification Number, Certified Producer's Certificate, Walnut Proof of Ownership Certificate) while the commodity is in your possession, while being transported and until sold. Keep a copy on file for two years.

Growers Allowing Gleaning: A Walnut Proof of Ownership Certificate issued by the Stanislaus Ag Commissioner's office. BOTH the grower and gleaner information must be filled out and signed by each party. This is given to the gleaner by the grower. This form must be kept by the gleaner while the commodity is in their possession, while being transported, and until sold. This completed certificate must be presented to the walnut buyer and kept on file for two years.

Gleaners: A completed Walnut Proof of Ownership Certificate, from the owner/grower of the trees. BOTH the grower and gleaner information must be filled out and signed by each party. This must be kept by the gleaner while the commodity is in their possession, while being transported, and until sold. This completed certificate must be presented to the walnut buyer. Keep a copy on file for two years.

Growers or Gleaners from Outside Stanislaus County: A completed Walnut Proof of Ownership Certificate from the county Ag Commissioner's Office where the trees are grown.

Who can buy my walnuts in Stanislaus County?

Before the Walnut Buying Period

The Walnut Buying Period is determined on a yearly basis by the County Ag Commissioner. Before this period begins, ONLY registered, licensed nut processing facilities may be engaged in the buying of walnuts. NO "Cash for Walnuts" roadside stands may operate before the Walnut Buying Period.

During the Walnut Buying Period

After the Ag Commissioner has declared the opening of the Walnut Buying Period, registered and licensed nut processing facilities, non-processing walnut buying operations and "Cash for Walnuts" roadside stands may be engaged in the buying of walnuts. All persons buying walnuts must be registered with the county Ag Commissioner's Office.

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What if I want to buy walnuts in Stanislaus County?

Register with California Department of Food & Agriculture Market Enforcement Branch in accordance with the Produce Dealers Act and/or the Processors Law. (Chapter 6, Division 20 of the Food & Ag Code, and Chapter 7, Division 20 of the Food & Ag Code).

Register with the Stanislaus County Ag Commissioner's Office: Non-processing walnut buying operations shall register with the agricultural commissioner and designate a processor to which sales will be made. Buyers shall keep all walnuts purchased or possessed for commercial purposes at an authorized location and/or facility, until transported for resale or processing. Registration is valid the day after the date declared by the agricultural commissioner to be the end of the harvest of walnuts until April 30 of the following calendar year.

Weighmaster License: If any farm product is sold to and purchased by any processor on the basis of weight, such product shall be weighed by a weighmaster licensed under the laws of this state. (Section 55581, Chapter 6, Division 20 of the Food & Ag Code)

Sealed Scales: Scale devices used to weigh commodities being bought or sold in Stanislaus County are required to be registered, tested, and have a current seal with an Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer.

Before the Walnut Buying Period: Registered, licensed nut processing facilities may engage in the buying of walnuts. No "Cash for Walnuts" roadside stands are allowed.

During the Walnut Buying Period: Both processing and registered, non-processing walnut buying operations may be engaged in the buying of walnuts.

What if I violate the Stanislaus County Walnut Ordinance?

Food and Agricultural Code Section 885 provides that in lieu of pursuing a civil prosecution, the agricultural commissioner may levy a civil penalty against any person violating the provisions of this chapter. The civil penalty for each violation may be up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The Stanislaus County Purchase and Sale Walnuts Ordinance can be found on the county website; <http://qcode.us/codes/stanislauscounty/> Title 9 Health and Safety, Chapter 9.48 Purchase and Sale of Walnuts.