

**Date: October 15, 2009**  
**To: California Kiwifruit Handlers**  
**From: Chris Zanobini, President, California Kiwifruit Commission**  
**Manager, Kiwifruit Administrative Committee**

Here is your California Kiwifruit 2009/2010 season Handlers Packet. Enclosed you will find:

- **2009/10 Assessment Rates and Inspection Fees**
- A supply of the required reporting forms and a **Kiwifruit Report Descriptions and Due Dates**
- **2009/2010 Season California Kiwifruit Packing Regulations Bulletin**
- **Restyle Verification Forms**

## **ASSESSMENTS**

The assessment rates for the California Kiwifruit Commission (CKC) and Kiwifruit Administrative Committee (KAC) have not changed since last season. Both KAC and CKC assessments are now invoiced and collected separately. Please pay close attention to the correct payee and address on assessment invoices. Below is the information for the CKC and KAC offices:

California Kiwifruit Commission  
1521 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel: (916) 441-0678  
Fax: (916) 446-1063  
Email: chris@cgfa.org

Kiwifruit Administrative Committee  
1521 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel: (916) 441-0678  
Fax: (916) 446-1063  
Email: chris@cgfa.org

For information regarding CKC assessments the contact person is Chris Zanobini. Contact Chris Zanobini at the KAC office regarding KAC assessments.

## **REPORTS**

Please refer to the enclosed description of reports and keep the list of report due dates handy. The first reports are due November 5 and should be submitted in a timely manner. Subsequent reports are to be filed on the fifth day of each month throughout the season, with biweekly reports required for the months of December, January and February. Note that failure to submit reports required by the KAC by the prescribed due dates is a violation of the federal marketing order and may be accompanied by a monetary penalty. All reports should be emailed or faxed to the location stated on the top of each report.

You may make additional copies of any of the blank reporting forms if needed. Forms are also available in Excel format and will be emailed to you upon request.

Remember that all certified organic California kiwifruit must be reported separately from conventional (non-organic) kiwifruit. Handlers shipping less than 10,000 tray equivalents may qualify for the EZ Reporting system. If you think you might qualify please contact the kiwifruit office for more information.

## **PLEASE BE ADVISED – NEW KISS PRICE/SHIPMENT REPORT**

The Agricultural Marketing Service, a branch of the USDA, has just published a final rule requiring handlers who ship 100,000 or more tray equivalents per season to file weekly shipment and price information (KISS Price/Shipment report) with the Kiwifruit Administrative Committee. Shipments of organic kiwifruit are exempt from this requirement. The Committee will use this information to prepare its marketing policy statements, annual reports, and to provide timely information to the industry to assist them in making marketing decisions throughout the season.

The information collected on the KISS Price/Shipment report will include data on gross f.o.b. sales and the total number of containers shipped by pack, fruit size, grade, and market destination. Handlers submitting the KISS Price/Shipment report will no longer be required to submit the existing Shipment by Destination report or the KISS/Shipment report as that information will be collected on the new KISS Price/Shipment report. However, handlers submitting the KISS Price/Shipment report will still be responsible for filing the KISS/Add Inventory and KISS/Deduct Inventory reports. The new forms are included with your handlers packet along with instructions.

## **REGULATIONS**

There are no packing regulation changes from last season.

Two years ago the industry was introduced to the “restyle verification option”, giving handlers the option of having restyled fruit reinspected by SPI or shipped under a restyle (“R”) number. There are specific conditions under which the restyle verification option may be used and handlers are required to complete a verification form for all shipments under this option. The specific conditions are listed in the *Bulletin* as well as on the back of the Kiwifruit Verification Form. Enclosed are several Verification Forms. You may make copies of the form as needed so make sure you keep a blank one on hand. An electronic copy of the form is available from KAC upon request.

Also enclosed is a small supply of Return Receipt of Kiwifruit to Grower forms. This form is required to be completed whenever any fruit is picked up by the grower from a packing shed or cold storage facility. Please advise the grower that they should keep a copy of the completed form with them whenever transporting or selling their fruit to help serve as proof of ownership. It is a state law that any California produce transported or sold must be accompanied by proof of ownership. If not, the fruit can be confiscated or dumped. The intent of this law is to protect legal growers against illegal produce thieves and peddlers.

## **RIPENING PROTOCOLS**

Also included in this packet are ripening protocols and optimum procedures for ripening kiwifruit. These guidelines were updated by Carlos H. Crisosto from the University of California, Davis for your reference and aid this kiwifruit season.