New to the final position report of the 2015/2016 crop year is an analysis of the full weight of almond tree fruit that California almond orchards produce – hulls and shells included.

Almond trees and the resources used to grow them produce more than just almonds. In addition to each tree’s biomass and the inherent benefits an orchard provides, each almond tree grows not just the almond kernels we eat but also hulls and shells which are important and valuable products in their own right.

Did you know?
Each almond tree fruit has 3 parts, all of which are used.

The Kernel
Kernels are the nutrient-rich almonds we eat. Every ounce of almonds – 28g or about a handful – contains 6g of energy-packed protein, 4g of hunger-fighting fiber, 13g of ‘good’ unsaturated fat and only 1g of saturated fat.

The Shell
Shells go to various alternative farming uses such as livestock bedding.

The Hull
The hull is the dry and fuzzy outer layer. Hulls are sold as livestock feed, which reduces the amount of water used to grow other feed crops.

*Source: Almond Board of California. Learn more at almonds.com/blog

100% of Almond Tree Fruit generated in 2015/16 = 7.001 billion lbs.

The Kernel = 27%
• Based on the final USDA kernel weight of 2015/16 Crop Year of 1.892 billion lbs.

The Hull = 54%
• For every 1 million kernel lbs. there are 1,000 tons of hulls = 3.785 billion lbs.

The Shell = 19%
• Using an average of 65% crack out = 1.325 billion lbs.

Sources:
Kernel Weight: USDA Incomings received by Almond Board of California
Shell & Hull Estimations: Almond Alliance of California (formerly Almond Hullers & Processors Association)