

FAQ: Buying and Selling Walnuts in Butte County

What Do I Need To Sell My Walnuts In Butte County?

- If you are a **Grower**: A valid **Proof of Ownership** (valid Restricted Materials Permit, an Operator Identification Number, a Certified Producers Certificate issued by the county where the trees are located, or a Cash Seller Certificate issued by the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner for trees **within Butte County**) while the commodity is in your possession, while being transported, and until sold.
- If you are a **Grower** allowing **Gleaners** onto your property **within Butte County**: A Gleaner Certificate booklet to document the transaction. The booklets must be kept secured and only issued and signed by the **Grower** or an **Authorized Representative**. Booklet requests can be made at any of our offices.
- If you are **Gleaning** walnuts from **within Butte County**:
 - A completed **Gleaner Certificate** from the **Grower** of the property while the commodity is in your possession, while being transported, and until sold.
 - If you are a **Cash Seller**: A current embossed copy of a Cash Seller Certificate issued by one of our offices while the commodity is in your possession, while being transported, to be presented at time of transaction. (Cash Sellers are typically homeowners with a few trees.)
- If you are **Gleaning** walnuts from **outside of Butte County**:
 - A completed **Proof of Ownership** form from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in the county where the trees are located. (Many county Agricultural Commissioner's Offices also have the forms available online.)

Who Can I Sell My Walnuts To In Butte County?

- Before the **Walnut Buying Period** has been declared by the Agricultural Commissioner: Only approved licensed Nut Processing Facilities may be engaged in the buying of walnuts, there should be no "Cash For Walnuts" roadside stands operating before the **Walnut Buying Period**.

- After the **Walnut Buying Period** has been declared by the Agricultural Commissioner: Approved licensed Nut Processing Facilities, **Non-processing walnut buying operations**, and “Cash for Walnuts” roadside stands may be engaged in the buying of walnuts.

What Do I Need To Buy Walnuts In Butte County?

- Registered with the California Department of Food & Agriculture in accordance with the Produce Dealers Act (Chapter 6, Division 20 of the Food & Ag Code) and/or the Processors Law (Chapter 7, Division 20 of the Food & Ag Code).
- Weighmaster License: (Section 55581, Chapter 6, Division 20 of the Food & Ag Code) 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.
- Scale devices used to weigh commodities being bought or sold in Butte County are required to be registered, tested, and sealed with the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of either Butte County or their home county, and have a current seal issued by the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of either Butte County or their home county.
- Before the **Walnut Buying Period**: Approved licensed Nut Processing Facilities may be engaged in the buying of walnuts, there should be no “Cash For Walnuts” roadside stands operating before the **Walnut Buying Period**.
- During the **Walnut Buying Period**: Both Processing and **Non-Processing walnut buying operations** may be engaged in the buying of walnuts.

What Happens If I Am Found In Violation Of This Ordinance?

- All persons found to be in violation of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor which will be punishable as provided in section 1-7 of the Butte County Code by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.
- Pursuant to Food and Ag Code Section 885 the commissioner may levy an Ag civil penalty up to \$500 for first offense and up to \$1,000 for second offense in lieu of civil prosecution.