EVALUATION OF AIRLEG SORTING

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ABSTRACT

To evaluate if there are any benefits to "on farm" airleg sorting, 74 lots of walnuts comprising six varieties collected from three counties were submitted to airleg sorting, separating each lot into three sublots: #1's, #2's, and culls, which were weighed to calculate percent in each category. These sublots plus an original non-airlegged sample were submitted for quality evaluation and value determination.

OBJECTIVES

The use of sorting walnuts with "airlegs", machines which sort walnuts by weight as a result of being exposed to a stream of air, is a recent innovation to the on-farm walnut operation. The question of whether or not the use of airlegs is of economic benefit to growers is a controversial subject and the question under study in this trial.

PROCEDURE

In this trial, 74 delivered lots of non-airlegged walnuts comprising six varieties: Ashley, Payne, Vina, Serr, Hartley and Franquette, were collected from Tulare, Stanislaus and Butte County. A sample of each lot was taken and the remainder was sent through two airlegs separating the walnuts into #1's, #2's, and culls, thus resulting in four sublots from each original lot. Each of these sublots was weighed to determine percent of each category and submitted for quality evaluation and value determination.

RESULTS

The results of this trial are not available at this time.