ALMADS PP System

Processing & Packing

ALMADS
(A)gricultural (L)ogistics (M)anagement and (D)istribution
(S)ystem
(P)rocessing & (P)acking

Developed By

Regional IT
Dynamic Software Solutions

Introduction

ALMADS PP – **A**gricultural **L**ogistics **M**anagement **A**nd **D**istribution **S**ystem – **P**rocessing and **P**acking

Is custom software that manages all aspects of the Processing & Packing process, from huller receivables through to dispatch of marketed goods. Product is tracked from delivery, through processing, bagging and finally to delivery to the buyer. Reduction of double handling of information and miscalculation is achieved by use of barcoding, scale interfaces and both fixed and mobile onsite terminals. Information is available to management in real time with data being captured whilst the process is performed.

The major benefits that ALMADS provides that many other software solutions lack, is the ability to capture the movements and processes live, instead of information being entered after the event. The traditional method of recording data, does NOT provide timely information to the plant's management team. By having information captured live, the plant's management team have critical information at their fingertips to make real time cost saving decisions at a time when they are most effective.

ALMADS suits the scale of your business.

- The ALMADS software modules can be installed individually or used in any combination to suit your needs – eg. Huller/Sheller (HS) - Huller/Sheller/Handler (Ent) – Handler/Processor (PP) only.
- Each module covers a specific area of the Hulling, Shelling & Handling process and can work in conjunction with existing systems to provide a complete solution.
- The ALMADS modules can also be customized to suit specific needs. ALMADS is compatible with most MS Windows environments (9x, NT, 2000, XP, Vista, 2003 Server & 2008 Server).
- The system is easy to use and requires minimal training to operate.
- ALMADS is a multi-user program that can be shared amongst multiple users and locations. Although written for a Windows environment, outputs to the system can be presented for the web and accessed using a browser. This will enable access to reports anywhere!

Testimonials

Central California Almond Growers Association (CCAGA)

The business partnership established by Regional IT with customers is best summed up in the following testimonial.

These comments follow the completion of the second season of ALMADS with Central Californian Almond Growers Association (CCAGA), Kerman CA (2012 will be CCAGA's 6th season with ALMADS).

"With the tremendous volume and record delivery levels associated with this season's crop we would not have been able to efficiently receive the production from our members without the ALMADS solution. We have broken our daily receiving record by 30% and this is due in large part to the ALMADS software system which has given us improved efficiencies at the truck scale. Previously inbound Trucks would take between 5-10 minutes to process once they reached the weighbridge window. We are now averaging 3 minutes per truck! The fully integrated ALMADS software system not only compliments our receiving capabilities but has also substantially increased efficiencies in all aspects of our operations; stockpile, pre-cleaner, shelling and dispatch. We are also able to provide to the minute information to our Growers. That is unheard of in this industry and that translates into fantastic service to our members. Service, that's what we're all about!" Mike Kelley - President and CEO of CCAGA.

Cortina Hulling & Shelling

"After seeing demonstrations of both ALMADS and competing software programs, we were impressed with the capabilities and ease of ALMADS. We purchased ALMADS for the 2011 season.

We were amazed by how user friendly the program was to use and the capabilities it had to track the product of each grower from the field all the way to the processor. We were also impressed with Regional IT's ability to adapt ALMADS to our specific business practices, and the support they provided.

Based on our past season using ALMADS, our company would not hesitate to recommend ALMADS software!"

Gary Pronsolino - General Manager of Cortina Hulling & Shelling, LLC

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Testimonials cont...

Cortez Growers Association

"It is my pleasure to provide the following comments regarding services provided CGA by Regional IT and its staff, led by Justin Iovino.

Prior to selecting Regional IT's almond sheller receiving and shipping software I reviewed several programs available, but found Regional's program to be the most advanced. I also considered them to be the most stable of the several providers available, being well established in serving not only the California almond industry, but in the almond and other industries in Australia as well.

We incorporated ALMADS into our operations prior to the 2011 harvest. I found Regional IT to be most cooperative, listening to discover our needs and very willing to address modifications to their program to accommodate us. After harvest actually started I and my staff suffered a learning curve, as would be expected, but found that we could rely on Justin and his staff to respond to questions and solve problems in a very timely manner.

I consider our first year with ALMADS to have been a success. We have learned that we can have confidence in the program and the database behind it. We look forward to working with Regional IT to make the program even more responsive to our needs, and to our growers needs, in future years.

For those considering updating their grower receiving, shipping, and accounting functions I suggest that you would be well served to consider Regional IT."

Joe Kollmeyer - Association Manager of Cortez Growers Association

T & P Farms

I have been the Assistant Manager for T & P Farms Hulling & Shelling for 5 years, and we have just successfully completed our first season using ALMADS as our software system. ALMADS is helping us track product with speed and efficiency. We are able to eliminate costly errors, increase our productivity, manage commodities, and provide our growers with up to date information instantly.

Regional IT has been phenomenal to work with in developing a customized version of the ALMADS software. From the very beginning we were promised a system that would be customized to fit our unique needs as a Hulling & Shelling Facility, and Regional IT delivered us a system that met and exceeded our expectations.

Lastly, we are very pleased with the Customer Service side of Regional IT. With it being our first season using the ALMADS software, we were quick to call with minor questions, concerns, and requests. Regional IT has been outstanding in taking care of our needs, and all issues were dealt with by Regional IT in a very timely manner, in some cases the middle of the night. Regional IT is dedicated to their clients at any hour.

T & P Farms Hulling & Shelling is looking forward to working with Regional IT for many years to come. We truly believe that working with Regional IT and their ALMADS software would be an asset to any Hulling & Shelling Facility.

Sarah Reynolds - Assistant Manager, T & P Farms Hulling & Shelling

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Testimonials cont...

4 Corners Hulling & Shelling

After completing our first season using ALMADS I've had time to reflect on our experience. The software and service are outstanding! As you are aware, we had very limited time to implement the system. In late June we found ourselves in an awkward position in which we couldn't use our previous software. From the first phone call I knew that we were dealing with professionals that provide a phenomenal product. Justin put me at ease, not only could custom software be developed, but functional by our estimated August 15th start date.

As promised, by mid August our custom version was installed and functional. We knew with our limited time frame we were going to have to jump in with little testing time. We began receiving product the day after our final version was installed. With any custom software, hiccups are bound to occur. During the first month of harvest I called at least 50 times, in the rare event that Justin didn't answer, I had a call back within a few minutes and a solution. I never worried the software would slow production. I felt as though we were your only clients, the service was superb!

ALMADS provided solutions to issues I didn't know we had. It provides unparalleled tracking form the point of receiving field run to the shipment of finished product and commodities. At any time I am able to track product to the specific stockpile, trailer, tank, bin or warehouse location. Immediately after completing a run ALMADS provides several statistics on the run time, bin counts, weights and turnout. Every run can be instantly analyzed to insure our customers are being provided the highest possible return. I'm particularly impressed with the validation processes that must occur before any finished product is shipped to processing. Almonds cannot leave our facility without proper verification and paperwork, eliminating any shipment errors.

Thank you for providing such a great service and an excellent product. I'm grateful for ALMADS, it's a must have product for our industry. After looking back I cannot believe how we managed without it.

Thank you.

Kevin Amator

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ALMADS and Technology

The point of difference with ALMADS and most other process management systems is the way data is captured at ground level.

Using industrial fixed (or solid state netbooks) and mobile terminals that withstand the moisture and dust of a production environment, it allows all movements of product to be tracked through the plant. At any time, the product is easily locatable using the ALMADS program.   Information is entered at pivotal points throughout the plant. This provides "live" information within the system for staff to access and react to.

Connection can be made to existing electronic scales and the weight information is broadcast over any internal network allowing ALMADS to collect the information and place it into relevant areas of the system.   It is possible to interface truck and bin scales in this way.

The industrial fixed or netbook & handheld scanner can be easily configured and installed without additional software development. The information captured on these terminals is sent immediately to a host system via either a hardwired or wireless network. The industrial terminals can come equipped with infra red scanners to read barcodes which reduce error.

Thermal transfer industrial printers are used. Using this printing technique, the cards do not fade in the sun and stand up to most weather and industrial conditions.

Although most of the information is captured using terminals, the administration program does provide the ability to enter relevant information through its windows based data entry screens.

It is important to note that a network infrastructure that will support the terminals, printers and scale interfaces must be in place throughout the site(s).

SAMPLE TICKET

QA Pallet Tag
Pallet #: E120804-16527

KERNEL FINISHED GOODS

Batch: EO70403   TRN:119109

Pool:

Variety: Carmel

Size: 20/22

Grade: SSR

Pack Size: 850 kg Bags   Unit Count: 1

Pallet   1 of 20   Net: 850.00 kg

Date: 4/08/12 Time: 1:17AM

SAMPLE BIN TAG

Bin Tag: 20003
Run No.:   04972

Handler: ABC

Grower: BLOSSOM ALMONDS

Variety: Aldrich

Field: NO FIELD

Gross Weight: 2,000 lb
Tare: 200 lb

Net: 1,800 lb

Bin No.:
BD Ref No.

HANDHELD SCANNER

TAG PRINTER

INDUSTRIAL TERMINAL

Or

NETBOOK
TERMINAL

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ALMADS Modules

It is possible to use automated, live shopfloor data capture tools or to manually enter data in all modules.

Covers all transactions that pass over the truck scales.

Storage tracking for bins and pallets in locations, rows, and levels and positions in rows, waiting to go to packing and also finished goods waiting to be shipped out. This module captures all movements into and out of the nominated warehouse(s). It also keeps a history of all movements performed on a raw bin or finished good pallet.

Used to create buyer contract orders to be packed. This module also registers _Micro Testing_ required for each order, the specific label requirement and the stock to use.
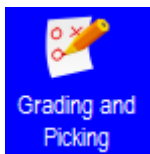
Once a marketing order is entered, this module is used to pick up the marketing order and select bins to be packed out for dispatch.

Records and tracks data and alerts management to any quality issues so a decision can be made about the product in process, or finished goods. Reports trends in the quality across the season.

Once marketing orders are filled and goods packed and stored in the warehouse, this module is used to ship out either meats/kernel and/or inshell finished goods.

Linked to all the modules, the management reporting tool collates data from all areas of the system to generate reports that cover the almond handling business. Reports access live data so that it can be used to inform management on performance throughout the season.

Keep track of consumable items bought in and used as part of the packing process to allow you to guage when items need restocking.
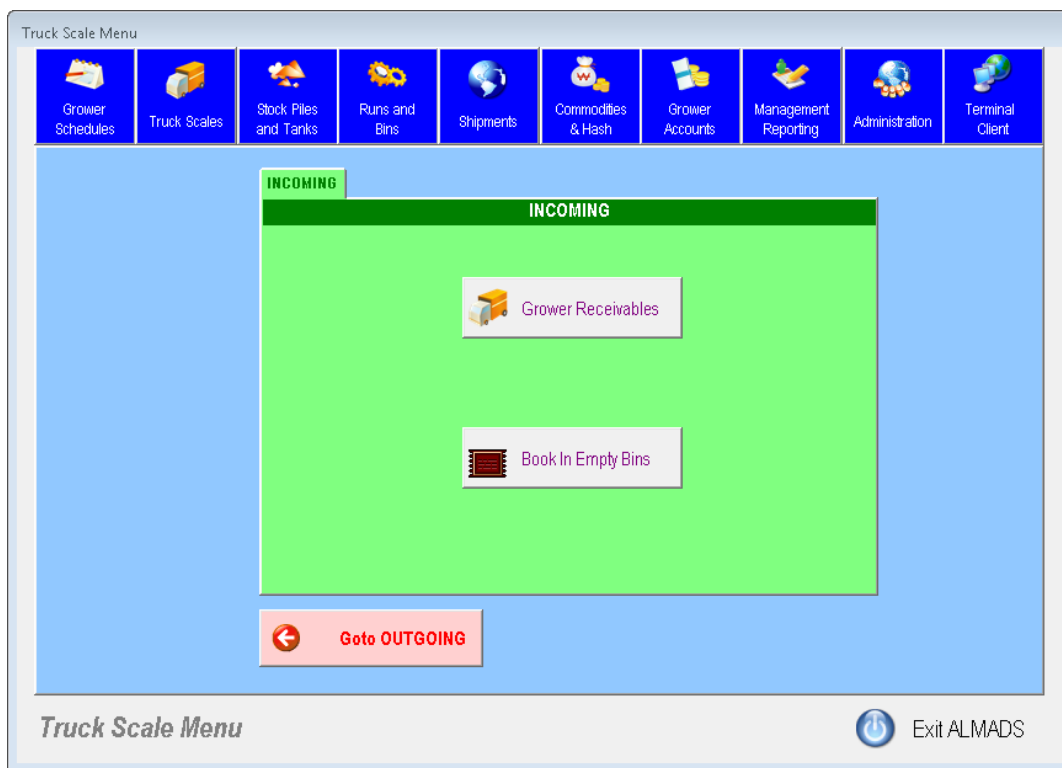
ALMADS Modules cont...

Handles the set up and storage of trucks/trailer licenses, printers, scales & terminals, employee security access, sizes & shifts.

TRUCK SCALES

INCOMING - trucks delivering product or containers entering the premises
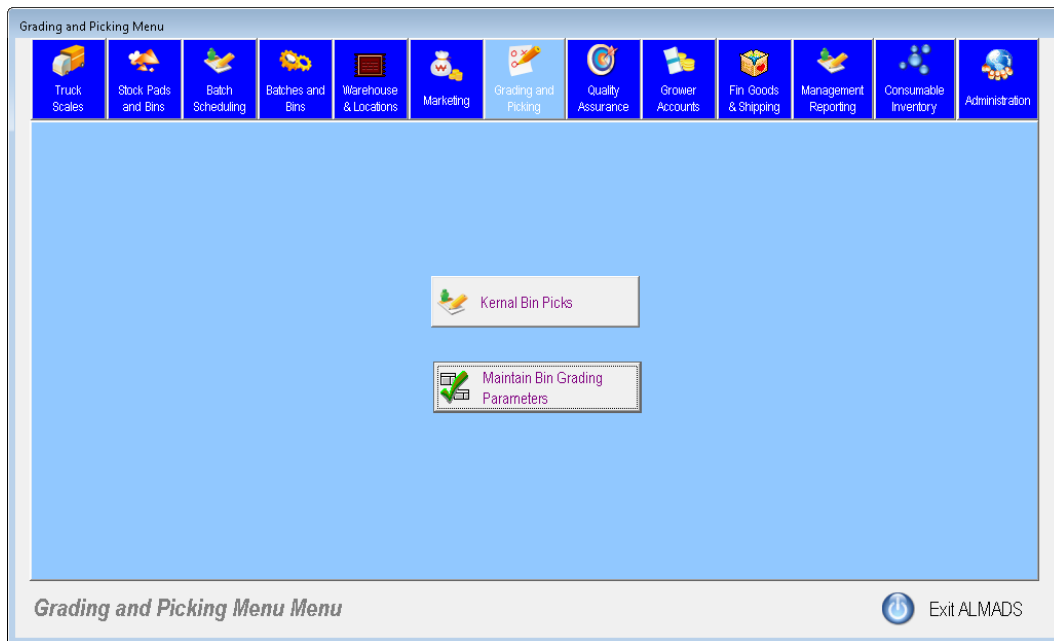
OUTGOING – trucks taking any kind of product away from the plant

WAREHOUSE & LOCATIONS

Storage tracking for bins and pallets in locations, rows, and levels and positions in rows, waiting to go to packing and also finished goods waiting to be shipped out.

MARKETING
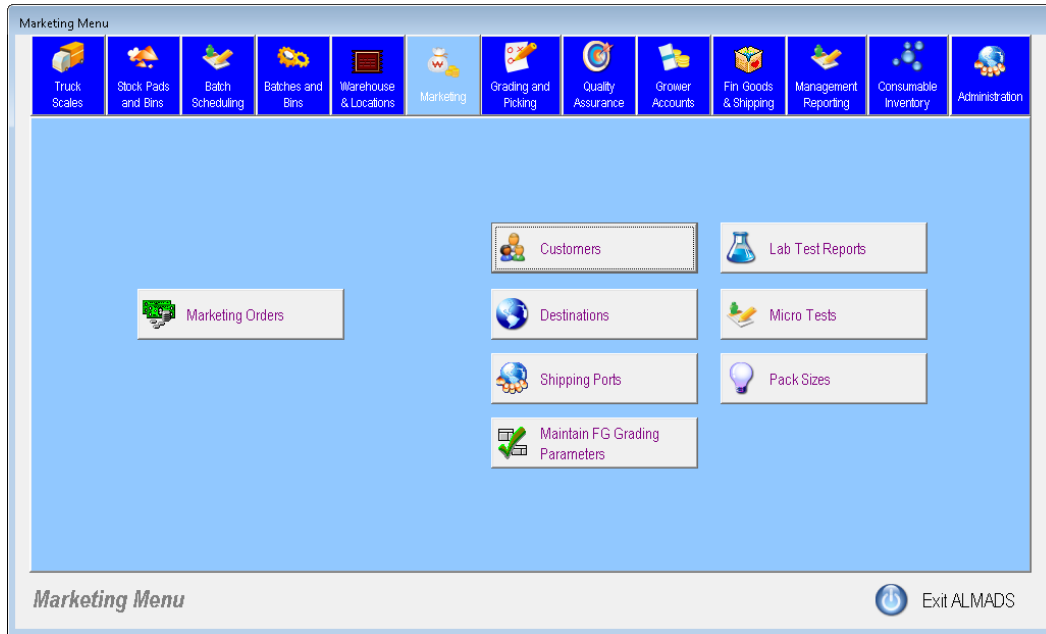
Create buyer contract orders to be packed.

GRADING & PICKING

Pick up the marketing order created and select bins to be packed out for dispatch.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Record and track quality data throughout the process.
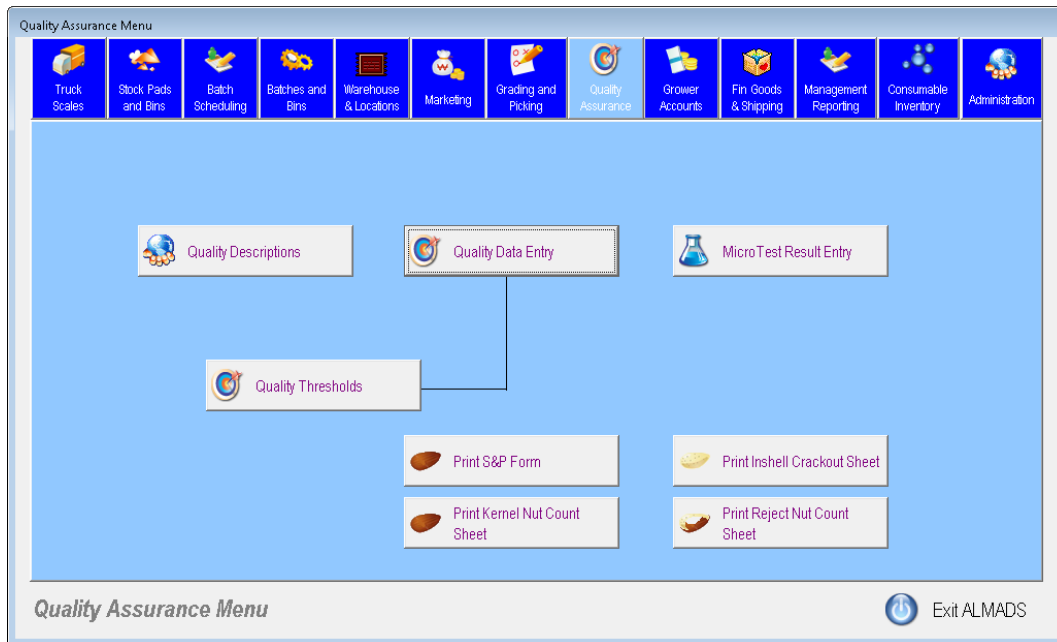
FINISHED GOODS & SHIPPING

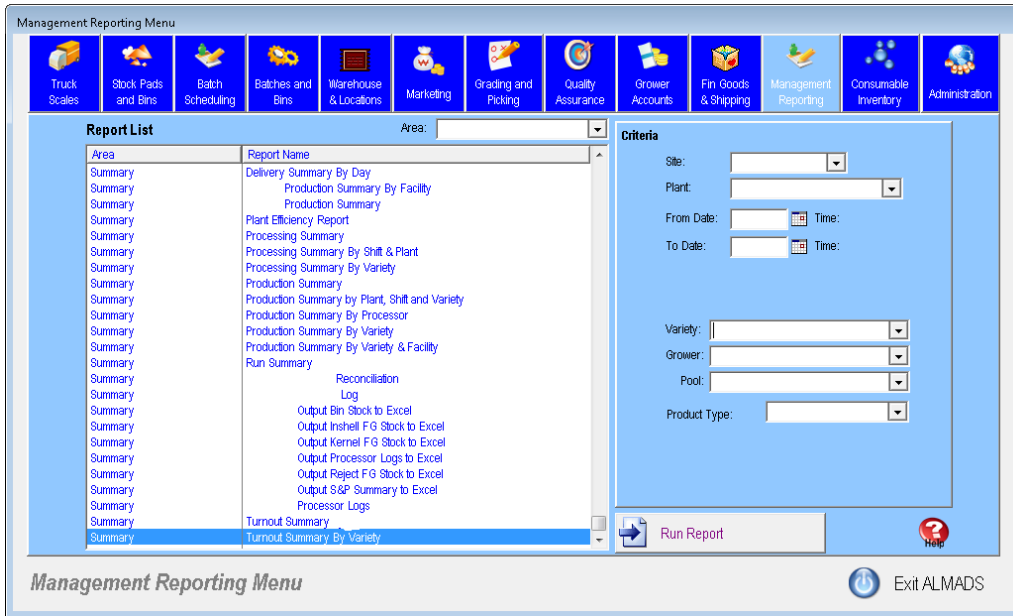Ship out either meats/kernel and/or inshell finished goods
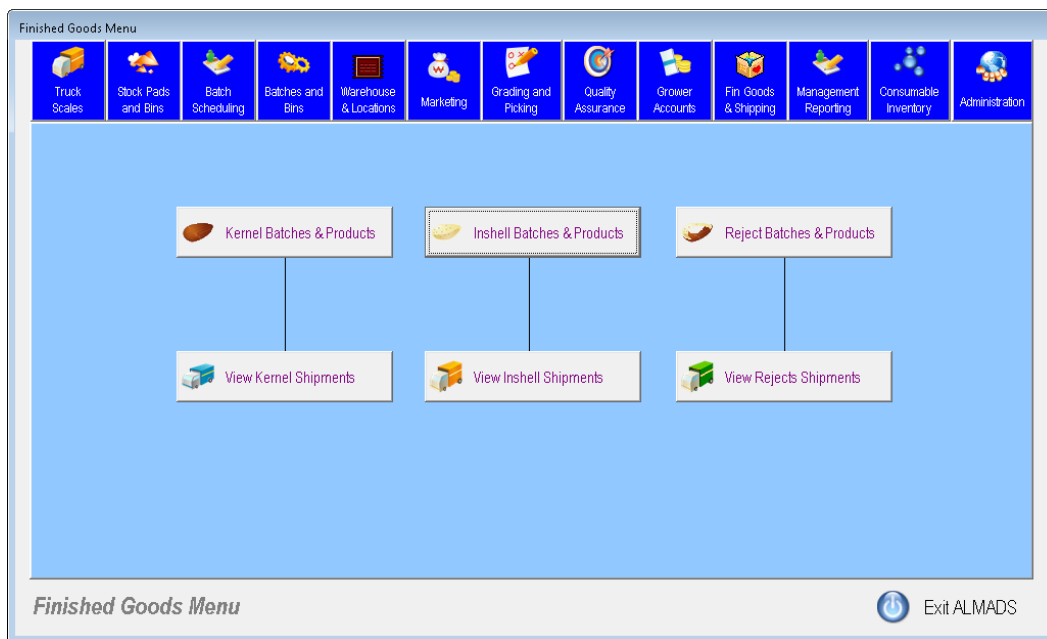
Manages the outgoing product after being packed, ready for dispatching to the Buyer
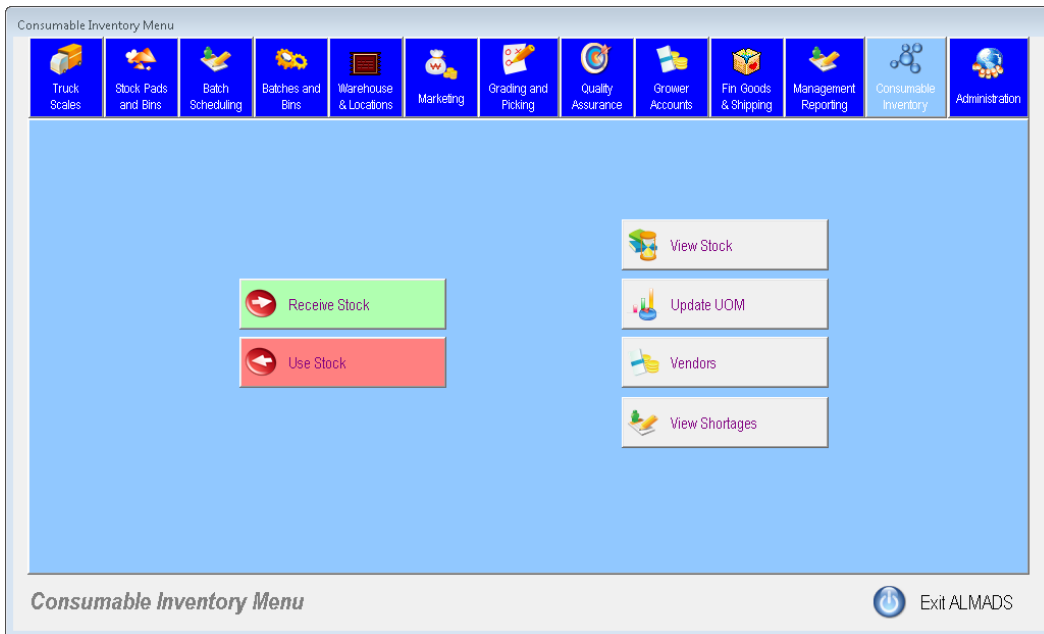
MANAGEMENT REPORTING

Linked to all the modules, the management reporting tool collates data from all areas of the system to generate reports that cover the almond processing business. Reports access live data so that it can be used to inform management on performance throughout the season
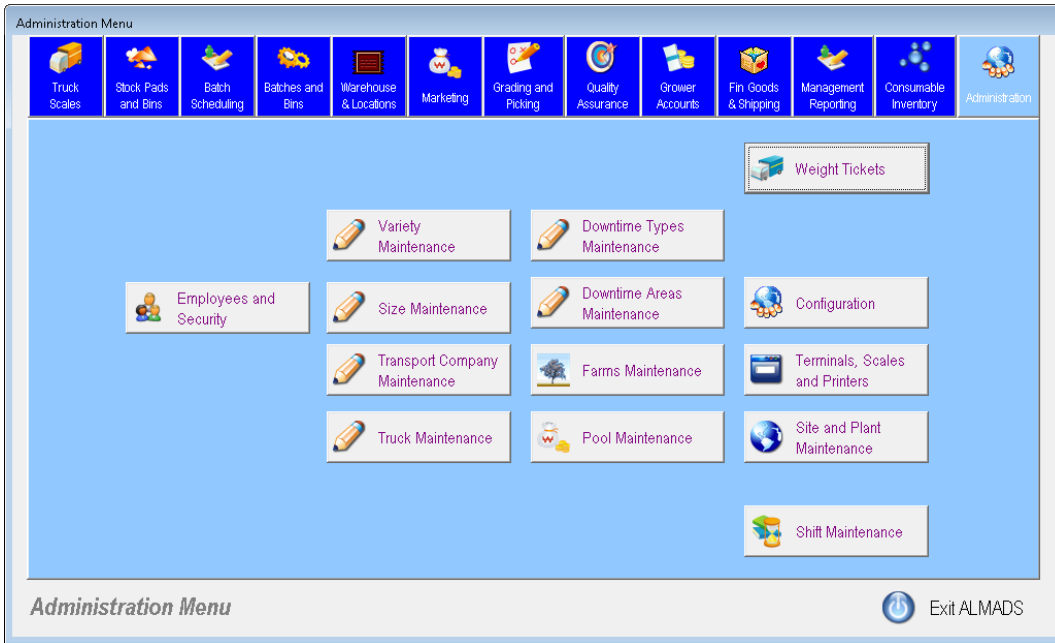
CONSUMABLE INVENTORY

Keep track of consumable items bought in and used as part of the packing process to allow you to guage when items need restocking.

ADMINISTRATION

Setup facilities and fields for the ALMADS program.

Maintenance and set up of new varieties, trucking companies, trucks, truck drivers, downtime, shifts, terminals, scales, printers, employee security access to ALMADS.

EXAMPLES OF WAREHOUSE TERMINAL SCREENS

```
F11 - Connect                          F12 - Disconnect
ALMADS - WH TRML -  1:56PM
 Active User: JIOVINO
 WAREHOUSE TERMINAL MAIN MENU

 1 Pickup Product
 2 Move Product
 3 Correct Product
 4 Find Product Location
 5 List Product in Location
 6 Tip Product
 9 DISPATCH MENU


 Please Enter Option:

                                        [ Send ]
Hit F10 to View Tanks          Hit F5 to Refresh Screen
```

Pickup, Move or Tip Product

Dispatch

```
F11 - Connect                          F12 - Disconnect
ALMADS - WH TRML -  1:57PM
 Active User: JIOVINO

 DISPATCH MENU
 1 Start Dispatch
 2 Load Pallet from Dispatch

 4 Close Dispatch
 5 Dispatch Totals
 6 Outstanding Pallets



 Please Enter Option:

                                        [ Send ]
Hit F10 to View Tanks          Hit F5 to Refresh Screen
```

Dispatch Menu

Minimum Existing Hardware Recommendations

The following tables show the *minimum* recommended configurations for the correct operation of **ALMADS** Configurations of lower functional specification than these listed here may result in **ALMADS** performing poorly.

Server Minimum Recommendations for ALMADS

Operating System	Windows 2003 Server
Database	Microsoft Windows SQL Server 2005
Hard Disk	>80GB hard disk
Memory	2 Gbytes
Processor	Genuine Intel Pentium 4, 3Ghz or above
Network Interface Card	32 Bit Listed on Microsoft Windows Hardware Compatibility List

Windows Client Workstation Minimum Recommendations

Operating System	Windows XP Professional
Hard Disk	> 1GB hard disk
Memory	512 Mbytes
Processor	Genuine Intel Pentium4, 1.8 Ghz or above
Network Interface Card	32 Bit Listed on Microsoft Windows Hardware Compatibility List

Note:
If other applications such as Microsoft Office will be used, their memory requirements should be taken into consideration.

Network Requirements

<u>Hard Wired Network</u>

To fully capitalize on the distinct advantage ALMADS will bring to your business, ALMADS requires network capabilities within your plant. This would mean installing network ports near bin scales, packing and warehouse areas.

These network ports need then to be linked back to your office so the terminals can be controlled by a host in your nominated server room.

<u>Wireless Network</u>

In addition to the hardwired network, areas such as Dispatch and Warehouse to full advantage of using wireless terminals that have barcode readers installed.

These wireless terminals connect to the network by communicating to WAPs (Wireless Access Points) that would need to be installed in prominent locations where the wireless terminals would do most if not all of their work. The WAPs normally have a 300ft range, therefore hard wired cable would need to be installed and run to where the WAPs are to be installed to support the wireless terminals.

The wireless terminals (like the hardwired terminals) are recording and reading live at all times so that the database located in the office is updated with information real time.

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