

# Dalgety and Vessey Set Up Tri-Fresh

By Patt Patterson

FIREBAUGH, CA — Tri-Fresh Garlic Co. is a new name in the industry, but there are some familiar faces. Earlier this year Dalgety Produce of Salinas and Vessey & Co. of El Centro bought the assets of the former P&D Garlic & Onion Sales here and formed the jointly owned Tri-Fresh operation.

David Grimes, a former owner of P&D and the only member of its management team to join Tri-Fresh, is salesmanager and supervises packingshed quality. General manager is Pete Welton of Dalgety.

"We're farming close to 800 acres this season," Grimes told *The Produce News*. "We've extended our grading line and added new equipment. Right now we're packing about 1,500 to 2,000 boxes per shift. P&D was only turning out 700 to 1,000 boxes maximum."

Grimes said the company was finishing up its late crop, but would be marketing California garlic until the end of the year. "Then we'll be importing from Argentina and finally from Mexico before our own fields come in about July. We're going to have product all year round."

Jon Vessey of Vessey & Co. said that one of the big reasons for the two companies to acquire P&D was "to get Dave Grimes. I've known Dave for 20 years, and he's one of the best salesmen in the garlic business. He used to work for us in our old Vessey Foods operation in Hollister."

Vessey has been importing and marketing Mexican garlic six months a year, and looks to Tri-Fresh as a way of providing continuity of product for year-long marketing. "In addition to the old P&D labels, Tri-Fresh will be marketing the 'Vessey' label and 'Spice Queen,'" Vessey said.