



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (15/09)

Justin Chadwick (17 April 2009)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

HAPPY VOTING ON THE 22nd. Please exercise your right and privilege to vote!!!!

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEBSITE

Please note that the new website link to view import/export programmes is as follows:

- www.doa.agric.za
- Divisions
- Plant Health
- Exporting from SA
- Special export protocols/programmes/directives or
- Phytosanitary registration for special export markets or
- Producers database for special export markets

Growers wishing to check their registration status with respect to Special Export Programs will need to follow this link.

PACKED AND SHIPPED 2009

The first 2 million cartons for 2009 have been packed, and the season is starting to hot up now that we are over the Easter festivities. The majority of this is lemons (963 000 cartons) and Satsumas (828 537 cartons). The lemon cartons are slightly down on 2008 (to be expected given the red hot start to the 2008 lemon season); while Satsuma packed volumes are very similar to 2008. So far 312 000 cartons of grapefruit have been inspected (215 000 of which are star ruby's).

The Middle East and Far East are preferred destinations for lemons (receiving 75% of volumes against 60% in 2008), gaining at the expense of northern Europe (20% in 2008 vs. 5% in 2009).

As expected the vast majority of Satsumas (70%) have gone to the UK – this is up from the 57% in 2008.

There has been significantly less Satsumas shipped to Russia (2008 – 20%; 2009 – 5%).

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE SEASON

The latest figures from Spain indicate an increased shipment to the USA and less into Russia. Moroccan figures also show 64 000 tons of soft citrus into North America, with the majority (47 000 tons) going to Canada. It is uncertain how this compares to 2008 as comparable figures were not supplied, but it does seem that North America may have received more Med fruit than in the past.

CHILE ACCESS TO USA

The access for oranges and grapefruit from Chile into the USA has gained some momentum, and reports indicate that they could have their first shipments in 2009.

PACKING DVD

This week was spent predominantly in Cape Town (enjoying the last few days before winter it would seem!). Under direction of the Citrus Academy, and with funds from many sources (including Post Harvest Innovation Fund, CGA and AgriTV) a series of DVD's are being recorded covering packhouse practices, packaging and other post packhouse supply chain activities. I was asked to do the "scope of the industry" section which was recorded at FPT – thanks to FPT for the use of their facilities. The project should be concluded by October, with DVD's available to the industry for training and education purposes. In addition, small segments will be broadcast on Agriculture Today on SABC2. We will let you know when this will begin.

FOOD AND VETERINARY ORGANISATION (FVO) VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

The Department of Agriculture has been informed by the EU that a FVO delegation will visit South Africa in the second half of June 2009. The purpose is to investigate various phytosanitary concerns, with CBS and non med fruit flies being specifically mentioned. FPEF, CGA and CRI will meet with DoA to plan for this delegation's visit.

YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA, CRI AND THE CITRUS ACADEMY