

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (21/13)

Justin Chadwick (24 May 2013)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before, and wiser than the one that comes after it" George Orwell

COMMITMENT TO COMPLIANCE

Last week DAFF supplied the Risk Management System (RMS) documentation to plant health authorities throughout the European Union (EU). This document outlines the intense measures that have been implemented to ensure that CBS free fruit is supplied to the EU. Growers are committed to reducing risk, and have taken some drastic decisions, with the Sundays River withdrawing a million cartons of lemons that would have been sent to the EU. This has resulted in a shortage in the EU markets, and resultant higher prices for the consumers.

All growers wishing to export to the EU have to register their production units and orchards. This registration can be withdrawn should inspections show them to be high risk – hence the voluntary decision to withdraw from the market. There are already a number of production units that have had their registration withdrawn, while many more are on the "alert list", under scrutiny by DAFF.

DAFF have introduced orchard inspections for all EU registered orchards, expanded inspection at the Packhouse which includes inspections at intake, on the pack line and in the carton, while additional port inspections have been introduced. These inspections have added to the costs of EU export fruit, and administration complexity. It also places considerable strain on DAFF's resources.

Additional pressure on the port infrastructure has been applied by the requirement to get fruit under cooling as soon after packing as possible. This can suppress development of CBS, failure to get fruit under cooling in time results in additional port inspections.

The key to CBS is a good spray programme and ideal climatic conditions at time of application. At registration growers acknowledge application of an appropriate spray programme, and at orchard inspection DAFF confirm that the spray programme has been followed.

These actions have meant that to date no CBS interceptions have been reported from the EU.

The full RMS document is available on request.

CRI WORKSHOPS

Many growers find it difficult to attend the biannual CRI Research Symposium – in order to make it easier for growers to get the relevant information the Extension team at CRI have a series of production workshops that will be presented at venues within the growing regions (these run on the same basis as the highly successful Packhouse Workshops). The first workshop is next week in Limpopo (with over 40 already registered to attend); and it is not too late to register!!

These workshops will cover fertilization, irrigation, fruit manipulation, the Citrus Improvement Scheme, cultivars and the setting of research priorities. Please contact Hennie Le Roux (hlr@cri.co.za 0824471537) or Hannes Bester

(HannesBester@cri.co.za or 0833258379) should you need more information. The agenda and registration forms are available on www.cga.co.za

Date	Workshop	Venue
Tues 28- Wed 29 May	Limpopo	Eiland, Letsitele
Thurs 30- Fri 31 May	Mpumalanga	CRI, Nelspruit
Thurs 6- Fri 7 June	Eastern Cape	Africanos, Addo
Tues 11- Wed 12 June	Western Cape	Bydidam, Citrusdal

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Grapefruit packing continued at a high tempo, but is expected to start slowing down in the next few weeks. The Grapefruit Focus Group met on 22/5 and made a slight increase to their latest prediction. With 91% of **satsuma's** now packed the focus turns to clementines. The **Soft Citrus** FG met on 23/5 and left the prediction unchanged. The good first pick of **lemons** is evident when comparing to previous years; but later fruit does not look as plentiful. **Navels** are starting to take over as lemon harvesting slows. In the markets **Russia** has received good volumes of South African fruit – indications are that the market is now well supplied. Growers, FPEF members and CMF members are reminded that the CGA representative in Moscow sends out a 1 page weekly report on market conditions in Russia; please contact justchad@iafrica.com if you want to be added to the distribution list.

To Week 21 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2011	2012	2013	2012	2013	2013	2013	2012
Grapefruit	5.1 m	5.4 m	6.7 m	3.7 m	4 m	15 m	15.2 m	13 m
Soft Citrus	3.1 m	2.8 m	2.8 m	2.3 m	2.2 m	8.2 m	8.1 m	7.6 m
Lemons	3 m	2.9 m	4.2 m	2.2 m	3.1 m	11.1 m	10.1 m	10.5 m
Navels	2.7 m	2.5 m	2.2 m	1 m	0.7 m	24.9 m	24.9 m	24.6 m
Valencia	0.1 m	0.1 m	-	-	-	47.7 m	47.7 m	47.2 m
	14 m	13.7 m	15.9 m	9.2 m	10m	106.8 m	106 m	103 m

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS' FUND THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE LEVY
ADMINISTERED BY THE CGA**