

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (51/13)

Justin Chadwick (20 December 2013)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Live as if you were to die tomorrow; learn as if you were to live forever" Mahatma Gandhi

Merry
Christmas

FINAL TRIP TO EUROPE

During 2013 CGA held many discussions with authorities, importers and other stakeholders in Europe. As the year comes to an end a CGA group led by the Chairman, Pieter Nortje, travelled to Europe to wrap up the season; meeting with Dutch and German importers, EU authorities, European grower representatives and other interested parties. The goal was to wrap up discussion that have taken place earlier in the year, discuss the 2013 season and plans for the 2014 season. Although more thorough feedback will be supplied to growers, the take home message is;

- The importance of South African citrus trade in Europe is widely recognised and supported.
- We need to comply to keep this market open in 2014. **Everything must** be done to ensure compliance. Sacrifices must be made – "if in doubt then stay out".
- Communication is key – must immediately communicate about the 2013 season; and what is planned for 2014. And then continuously engage throughout 2014. The CGA is in the process of engaging additional resources to ensure continual communication.
- Unfortunately uncertainty will prevail until after the EFSA PRA is complete (end January 2014). At best we can plan for the same scenario as 2013.

CBS RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Growers should be aware of the changes that have been made to the CBS Risk Management System for 2014. In an ongoing effort to ensure compliance with EU regulations the RMS has been strengthened further. In particular the following should be noted;

- * Packhouse managers must receive training from DAFF. A Packhouse will only be registered if the manager has been trained. It would be advised to have a second person at each Packhouse also trained. Training will take place in conjunction with the CRI Packhouse workshops.
- * Freight Forwarders will also require training (training will take place in Durban, PE and Cape Town), while export agents will need to be registered and attend an information session. Storage depots and managers will also need to be registered with DAFF.
- * Only A15C supervent cartons, T64 cartons, open display cartons, IFCO plastic crates and bulk bins can be used for the EU.

DATES FOR 2014

With diaries already filling up for 2014, growers are asked to note the following dates;

CRI Postharvest Workshops **28-29 January**, Limpopo, The Ranch, Polokwane; **30-31 January**, Mpumalanga, Loskopdam Resort; **11-12 February**, KZN & Swaziland, Blue Waters Hotel, KZN; **13-14 February**, Eastern Cape, Summerstrand Hotel, PE; **18-19 February**, Western Cape, Protea Hotel, Stellenbosch.

CGA Grower Workshops **17 February** Limpopo River; **18 February** East Cape Midlands (Fort Beaufort) & Zimbabwe; **19 February** Letsitele (am), Hoedspruit (pm) & Sundays River; **20 February** Senwes & Patensie; **25 February** Western Cape, Nelspruit (am) & Onderberg (pm); **26 February** Boland & Swaziland; **27 February** Oranje Rivier, Pongola (am) & Nkwalini (pm); **4 March** KZN Midlands. Final times and venues will be advised later.

CGA BOARD **28 January** **VARIETY FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS** **17 March** **CITRUS MARKETING FORUM** **18 March**