

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (2/15)

Justin Chadwick (30 January 2015)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt" Dean Martin

NEW CITRUS IMPORT REQUIREMENTS IN MALAYSIA

Malaysia has amended their citrus import protocols which will impact on South African shipments in 2015. All exporters will now need an import permit, phytosanitary certificate, quarantine certificate and inspection by DAFF (and possible inspection on arrival in Malaysia).

MINIMUM WAGES FOR FARM WORKERS SECTOR

Growers should be aware of the new minimum wages which will take effect from 1 March 2015. The monthly rate has increased from R2 402.41 to R2 606.78; the weekly rate from R558.60 to R601.61; the daily rate (for an employee who works for 9 hours a day) from R111.72 to R120.32; and the hourly rate from R12.41 to R13.37.

CITRUS SUMMIT 2015 –ENJOY SOME GOLF

The CGA is organizing a golf day the day before the Citrus Summit (10 March 2015) at the world renown Hans Merensky Golf Course – the website describes the experience as follows;

Tee off on the wild side at Hans Merensky Golf Course near the Phalaborwa Gate of Kruger National Park.

The renowned course has a unique bushveld atmosphere and it's not uncommon for visitors to share their golf experience with resident giraffe, hippo, crocodile and other wildlife!

Designed by Bob Grimsdell, the 18-hole par 72 championship golf course has been voted as the best walking course in the country. It also recently received the Diamond Arrow Award for being the highest rated golf course in the Limpopo.

This is also an opportunity for service providers to the citrus growing sector to sponsor their grower customers to a day of golf – sponsor a four ball and join them on the course.

For more information contact Fanie Meyer meyerf@mweb.co.za or 082 8559949 or Robert Miller robertm@cga.co.za or 031 7652514.

Citrus Summit (sponsored by Standard Bank) registrations are coming in thick and fast. With some growers only getting to their mails now a decision has been made to extend the normal registration fee (R1 000 per delegate) to Monday 16 February (thereafter the fee will increase to R1 500). All information available on www.cga.co.za

FLORIDA CITRUS PRODUCTION

Volumes of oranges produced in Florida has decreased by 63% from its peak a decade ago (according to an article in Freshplaza). Similarly, grapefruit volumes have halved over the past ten years. The demise has been brought about through a combination of disease (citrus greening and canker), inclement weather (freezes and hurricanes) and real estate development. Americans have also decreased their intake of citrus juice – from 5.49 gallons per person per year in 2003/4 to 3.95 gallons in 2012/13.

Florida Citrus Production, Thousands of Boxes

