

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (13/20)

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Justin Chadwick 17 April 2020



"Hope is a risk that must be run" Georges Bernanos

COVID 19 KEEP SOCIALLY CLOSE AND PHYSICALLY DISTANT

A WHO official stated that we should replace the term social distancing with physical distancing. Human beings are social animals – we love to socialise – looking forward to interacting with friends and family at sporting events, cultural events, dinner parties and other occasions. The lockdown measures have brought a stop to all this socialising – but it will not have stopped the desire to socialise. So although we should be distancing physically in trying to reduce the risks of spread, we need to become closer through other means, such as social media. The most at risk from this virus are the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. This means that many of the elderly have gone into self-isolation to restrict any chance of infection. It is these people that need reassurance and contact with loved ones – thank goodness for the advances in social media tools over the past few years. It is now possible to socialise in a different way.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEMON FOCUS GROUP

The Lemon Focus Group (LFG) met yesterday and adjusted the predicted volume to 27,1 million cartons. The LFG also considered the export trends to date. With export volumes at the moment double that of 2019, the LFG cautioned that there will be a slow-down in exports in the future as volumes are predicted at 19% up from 2019. There are many factors that are impacting the shipping of fruit from South Africa in 2020, mostly associated with the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that the 2020 shipping pattern will be unique, and all stakeholders are cautioned not to predict shipping trends based on previous years. This could also be ascribed to market pull and an earlier crop from the Northern Lemon growing areas in SA. Please be cautioned that this trend will not imply a doubling in total lemon crop.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS PACKED AND SHIPPED TO DATE

Lemon packing and shipping has started early in 2020 – to date 6 million cartons have been packed – almost 25% of the predicted total; as the Lemon Focus Group have observed there will likely be a slow down as orange and grapefruit harvesting starts to increase. To date packing of oranges has been negligible, while only 700 000 cartons of grapefruit have been packed. The soft citrus sector is all about Satsuma's with 1.2 million of the estimated 2 million cartons already packed. This is ahead of 2019 (0.7 m) but the same as 2018. Shipped figures from Agrihub indicate 300 000 cartons grapefruit shipped; 400 000 cartons soft citrus; and lemons 4.5 million cartons.

2020 INDUSTRY STATISTICS BOOKLET

The annual statistics book prepared by John Edmonds is now available – for a copy please contact johne@cga.co.za . Post lockdown the booklet will be printed and posted to all CGA members. The booklet will also be placed on www.cga.co.za

WORKPLACE BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Jacomien de Klerk of the Citrus Academy and Paul Hardman have developed a document to assist the citrus industry in addressing COVID-19 challenges in the workplace. This is uncharted territory and we would appreciate any suggestions to improve the document – visit www.cga.co.

CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS