

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (40/20)

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Justin Chadwick 2 October 2020



"I'd rather argue against a hundred idiots, than have one agree with me" Winston Churchill

DEPARTMENT AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DALRRD) ANNUAL CITRUS COORDINATING MEETING

On an annual basis DALRRD convenes an end of season meeting to analyse the past season and to plan for the next season. In these unusual times the 2020 meeting will be held via videoconferencing. This will allow greater participation as delegates will not have to travel to the venue – given the wide geographic footprint of the citrus industry in South Africa there has always been some travelling involved in the past.

This year the meeting will be held on Thursday 12 November 2020. A link to the event will be shared at a later date.

BREXIT DATE APPROACHING

On 1 January 2021 the UK will officially leave the European Union. Fresh produce traders have expressed concern regarding various aspects of the supply chain between the EU and the UK. DEFRA figures show that the EU exports 1,357 million tonnes of fresh fruit to the UK (32,6% of UK fresh fruit consumption). Imports of fresh fruit from the rest of the world are 2,279 million tonnes (55% of UK fresh fruit consumption); while domestic production of fresh fruit in the UK is 683 000 tonnes. The UK is more reliant on the EU for fresh vegetables, with 42,6% of UK consumption imported from the EU.

With regard to South African exports of fresh produce to the UK, the Fruit Desk at AgBIZ has confirmed as follows: *The SACUM-UK EPA is included on the UK Government's list of "Agreements in Existence:"*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-trade-agreements-with-non-eu-countries#trade-agreements-until-31-december-2020>. According to all reports on the subject, this indicates that the UK authorities are prepared to implement the agreement on 1 January 2021. South Africa has signed and ratified the agreement, which means that it has been effected in South Africa.

SPANISH 2020/21 LEMON AND GRAPEFRUIT CROP

Ailimpo, the body representing the lemon and grapefruit industries in Spain, has circulated their first estimate for 2020/21. Lemon production is estimated to increase by 8%, reaching 1 290 000 tonnes. In 2019/20, 60% of the 1 192 438 tonnes produced was exported. Conversely, grapefruit production is set to decrease by 14% to 73 692 tonnes. In 2019/20, 71% of the 85 688 tonnes of grapefruit was exported.

SOUTH AFRICAN FRUIT JOURNAL

Although the latest edition of the S A Fruit Journal will be making its way to growers by post, you may want to look at the digital version on the SAFJ website <https://www.safj.co.za/publications/> The latest Issue is October/November - the page opens up onto that issue and the cover. This is the first edition in the "new look" and we would be pleased to get some feedback from our growers. You can email gloria@cga.co.za if you have any comments.

HARVEST SA

Herewith is the link to issue 48 of Harvest SA magazine www.harvestsa.co.za/current-issue

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Million 15 Kg Cartons to end Week 39	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AgriHub	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020	2020	2020	2019
Grapefruit	20 m	16.1 m	15.5 m	14.9 m	14.7 m	16.7 m	15.6 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	16.1 m	18.2 m	23.6 m	17.3 m	23.1 m	23.3 m	24.3 m	18.2 m
Lemons	19.6 m	22 m	29.4 m	19.2 m	24.7 m	26.4 m	29.8 m	22.1 m
Navels	26.6 m	24.3 m	26.1 m	22.4 m	24.2 m	26.5 m	26.2 m	24.3 m
Valencia	51.7 m	46.3 m	53.1 m	41.7 m	45.4 m	50.4 m	53.3 m	46.8 m
Total	134 m	126.9 m	147.7 m	115.5 m	132.1 m	143.3 m	149.2 m	127.5 m

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