



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (31/09)

Justin Chadwick (7 August 2009)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore and wrong too often for us to rely on" Patrick Young

CELEBRATE SUCCESS: BEATING NEW ZEALAND IN RUGBY TWO WEEKS IN A ROW (AND IN CONTROL AT ALL TIMES); MEDALS, INCLUDING GOLD BY CAMERON VAN DER BURGH AT THE SWIMMING WORLD CHAMPS IN ROME

REMINDER ABOUT IMPORTANT DATES

A reminder that the **CGA AGM will be held at Willow Park Conference Centre (15 minutes from OR Tambo International Airport) at 17h00 on 18 August 2009 (notice of AGM included in the Annual Report package)**. If any member has any issues that they would like raised at either the CGA Board meeting (on the same day), or at the AGM please do not hesitate to call me or your CGA Board representative.

It's already that time of year where we advise of the Department Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (new name DAFF) coordinating meeting; and opportunity for the industry to meet with DAFF officials and look back at what went right and what went wrong in 2009; and to plan for 2010. The meeting will be held **in Stellenbosch at ARC Infruitec, Olive Grove on 16 September 2009 at 09h00**

BIOSECURITY

Increased international trade and travel, along with climate change is seriously altering the global profile of pests and diseases. As a citrus industry, there is no doubt that biosecurity (protection against invasion of new pests and spread of existing pests) is the biggest challenge we face for the foreseeable future. One just needs to look at the Florida greening and canker experience to see how these new invasions can devastate an industry. There are many other examples. In southern Africa we face the threat of Bactrocera Invadens (BI), while the woolly whitefly has begun to establish in various spots around the country. What is important is that ALL stakeholders in the industry need to play a role in biosecurity – it is not just the job of DAFF, or CGA, or CRI, it is the joint responsibility of ALL STAKEHOLDERS. The biosecurity plan should include in farm hygiene and surveillance practices, pest and disease control practices, surveillance through the supply chain, surveillance at destination ports and a well-managed awareness campaign. Biosecurity threats must be identified and appropriate risk assessment actions developed.

Although many growers have implemented strict pest and disease management practices, there are many who have gaps in their practices. Unfortunately the lack of attention on one farm can impact on another as pests and diseases do not respect farm boundaries. In one region all growers agreed to spray Cryptogran – EVERY GROWER!!! Now that's showing a proactive response to biosecurity – these types of regional actions need to be considered throughout the industry. We all know it's difficult to get 100% commitment from all growers – but this region did it – and the results in lower pest interceptions were noticeable.

And how many growers have trained field and packhouse staff on pest and disease identification? These are the eyes in the field and they cover far more fruit than the grower or PPECB will ever be able to. How many growers have posters of the present and threatening pests and diseases where field workers and packhouse employees can see them on a daily basis? Surveillance is not just about pest trapping.

FOSKOR

Foskor increased their profit by 128% to R1.9 billion – on the back of 200% fertilizer price rises in 2008. Talk about milking the farmers when there is no competition. In the light of these huge profits, was it really necessary to increase prices as they did in 2008? Foskor is 85% owned by IDC (read government) – with government as such a big shareholder would it not have been more astute to keep fertilizer prices affordable – government is therefore directly responsible for the food price hikes experienced by consumers.

PACKED AND SHIPPED 2009

Only the Lemon Focus Group met during this week – dropping their estimate by 400 000 cartons due to a poor third pick in the Eastern Cape. Clementines are basically finished – falling short of the 2.9 m estimate (to date 2.5 m packed). The soft citrus spotlight now falls on mandarins – with 1.6 m of the estimated 2 m packed. With Satsuma's falling 300 000 short of estimate, and now clementines 400 000 short it is likely that the prediction will be reviewed downwards when the Soft Citrus Focus Group meet next week.

To Week 31 – Million 15Kg cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Final Shipped
Source : PPECB	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008
Grapefruit	13.4 m	12.3 m	13.1 m	11.3 m	12.1 m	15.1 m	13.5 m	12.8 m	12.4 m
Soft Citrus	6.3 m	6.7 m	6.2 m	5.6 m	5.1 m	7.4 m	7.1 m	7.3 m	6.5 m
Lemons	5.9 m	8.6 m	7.3 m	7 m	5.7 m	9.4 m	8.2 m	9.6 m	8.8 m
Navels	17.4 m	19.6 m	18.2 m	15.6 m	16.9 m	21.6 m	19 m	21.5 m	21.2 m
Valencia	15.4 m	17.4 m	14.4 m	10 m	8 m	43 m	39.5 m	42.8 m	40.4 m
	58.4 m	64.6 m	59.2 m	49.5 m	47.8 m	96.5 m	87.3 m	94 m	89.3 m

YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA, CRI AND THE CITRUS ACADEMY