

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (3/11)

Justin Chadwick (28 January 2011)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant **trees**; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people." Confucius

CITRUS FOUNDATION BLOCK (CFB) NOW SECURE

One of the citrus industry's greatest assets is the CFB. Every citrus tree starts out at the CFB, and it is therefore essential that the CFB is free of pests and diseases. To this end Vaughan Hattingh and his colleagues at CRI have been seeking an exclusion zone around the CFB. This has become a reality with the amendments to the Agricultural Pests Act (government gazette vol 547 Number 33936 of 21 January 2011) which specifies a 5 Km exclusion zone around the CFB.

2011 TREE CENSUS: 5 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME

The tree census conducted by CGA is an important exercise as it empowers the industry with information for decision making and forward planning. It forms the basis of the long term model which gives predicted export volumes some twenty years into the future – the long term projection has proven to be close to the mark.

Growers have been contacted to update details by 31st January 2011. To date 50% of growers have responded. Unless there are wholesale changes the update typically takes less than 4 minutes. You should have received your username and password to access the online Tree Census database. If you have not received your username and password please contact John Edmonds (johne@cga.co.za) or Paul Hardman (ph@cga.co.za) [or 031 7652514] who will send them through to you.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED YOUR TREE CENSUS FOR 2011 – PLEASE DO SO ASAP. EVEN IF YOUR DATA HAS NOT CHANGED YOU NEED TO CONFIRM THIS.

1-CITRUS

Congestion in Durban in the height of the citrus season has been at the top of citrus industry stakeholder's minds for some time. Growers are frustrated by the delays in turnaround in Durban, while some transporters have decided to stop hauling citrus. As a result some growers are faced with exorbitant haulage fees in a "take it or lose it" type scenario. CGA is working with Crickmay on a transport harmonisation system (project name 1-Citrus) that aims to preplan arrivals, optimise cold store capacity usage and speed up turnaround time. The system is based on currently utilised methods in the South African timber industry and Australian sugar industry. On Wednesday representatives of packhouses and cold stores/fruit terminals (being both ends of the journey) met to consider project progress to date, and assist in identifying requirements, challenges and opportunities. The packhouses commitment was illustrated by the presence of packhouse managers from Zimbabwe, Letsitele, and Groblersdal [as well as their KZN counterparts]. There was a full house of cold stores/fruit terminals (bar one), all of whom committed to assist in making this solution work. Although the timelines are fairly tight to get the full system in place before the first harvesting at end March, the aim is to get the system functional and operating in 2011. This year will be a pilot during which problems can be ironed out, effectiveness determined and enhancements planned. More information on this project will be presented by Mitchell Brooke at both the Packhouse Workshops and CGA road shows in February.

GROWER ROADSHOWS AND PACKHOUSE WORKSHOPS

GROWER ROADSHOWS: **Paul Hardman's Group:** 15/2 **Vaalharts** – 14h00: Saamfarm; 16/2 **Oranje Rivier** – 18h00: Augrabies Falls Lodge; 21/2 **Limpopo River** – 13h00: Riamara Lodge; 22/2 **Zimbabwe** – 09h00: B K Cawood Estates (Bristow); 23/2 **Letsitele** – 09h00: The Junction; 23/2 **Hoedspruit** – 15h00: Hengelklub; 24/2 **Senwes** – 10h00: Kingdoms's Lodge; 1/3 **Western Cape** – 14h30: GHS Saal; 2/3 **Boland** – 09h00: Robertson

Justin Chadwick's Group: 22/2 **East Cape Midlands** – 09h00: Kat River Citrus Boardroom; 23/2 **Sundays River** – 09h00: Kirkwood High School Supporters Clubhouse; 24/2 **Patensie** – 09h00: Gamtoosvallei Patensie Kerkzaal; 28/2 **Nkwalini** – 10h00: Farmers Hall; 1/3 **Pongola** – 09h00: Mvutshini Estates; 1/3 **Swaziland** – 14h00: United Plantations Tambuti;

2/3 **Onderberg** – 14h00: MSK; 3/3 **Nelspruit** – 10h00 CRI; 10/3 **Southern KZN** – 14h00: Victoria Club.

PACKHOUSE WORKSHOPS: **Eastern Cape** 7&8/2 Summerstrand Hotel, Port Elizabeth; **KZN/Swaziland** 9&10/2 Blue Waters Hotel, Durban; **Mpumalanga** 14&15/2 Winkler Hotel, Witrivier; **Limpopo** 16&17/2 Forever Resorts Swadini, Hoedspruit; **Western Cape** 2&3/3 Villa Via Hotel, Gordons Bay.

REVIEW OF 2010

Review of volumes in 2010 now available on www.cga.co.za

**GROWERS LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND CGA, CRI AND CITRUS ACADEMY ACTIVITIES.
ENSURING A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY**