

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (4/12)

Justin Chadwick (3 February 2012)

MAKES YOU THINK "If people from Poland are called Poles, are people from Holland called Holes?"

MAKE SURE YOUR CARTONS PROTECT THEIR PRECIOUS CARGO

Since deregulation there have been numerous examples of cartons being made to sub standard specifications or with sub standard material, resulting in collapsing of pallets and damage to fruit. The increased usage of high cube pallets has exacerbated the issue, as cartons were not designed to take the additional weight. After years of discussion the Packaging Workgroup (PWG) was established in 2007.

When the PWG started with their activities the two most important instructions were the compiling of full sets of specifications for cartons and pallets and palletisation protocols for the full range of export cartons. With the establishment of the PWG all carton manufacturers who were actively involved in manufacturing and distribution of cartons were automatically part of the PWG. The first document with complete sets of carton- and pallet specifications and palletisation protocols was finalised and distributed in January 2008. **This document is revised and distributed to all role players in February each year.**

When all the specifications were accepted and implemented the PWG was requested by the Citrus Industry to investigate the possibility of testing cartons on an ad hoc basis. Various options were investigated with the PWG deciding to make use of the SANAS fully accredited laboratory at the Sappi Technology Centre (STC) in Pretoria. Sappi offered to test the cartons at their costs (**THANK YOU SAPPI**). The testing of cartons on an organized basis started during the 2009 season again.

At the end of the 2010 season the Citrus Industry requested the PWG to investigate the accreditation of carton manufacturers. During a PWG meeting in January 2011 this request was discussed and all carton manufacturers agreed unanimously that this investigation must continue. During March 2011 the PWG, in close co-operation with the STC staff agreed on a testing procedure for the 2011 season. A schedule was distributed and according to the schedule cartons were tested at the STC. On request of various growers and export organisations, additional cartons were also submitted for testing.

At the PWG meeting in August 2011 the progress and the way forward was discussed. Everybody agreed that the progress made was remarkable and that the PWG must meet in November again to finalise implementation of the accreditation process. After analyzing all the test results very critically it was agreed that the following carton manufacturers (in alphabetical order) will be accredited for the 2012 season:

APL Cartons, Coruseal, Houers Koöperatief, Mpact, Nampak, New Era, Sunnypacks.

For more information on this contact Dawid Groenewald, CRI; Coordinator: CCCF and PWG dawid@cri.co.za

LAUNCH OF "FRUITS OF SUCCESS"

On Tuesday CGA launched its latest transformation publication "Fruits of Success". The DG DAFF took some time out from his busy schedule to join in celebrating the advancement of transformation in the citrus industry – and he only had good things to say about the sector's commitment to true grower development. A copy of the publication has been sent to every citrus grower – and I would urge you to read the stories (not just look at the great photos!!!). Should anybody wish to get a copy of the publication please mail Gloria (gloria@cga.co.za) with your postal address.

NEW CEO AND CHAIRMAN TAKE THE HELM AT THE FRESH PRODUCE EXPORTERS FORUM (FPEF)

Anton Kruger swops ostriches for fruit as he moves from the S A Ostrich Business Chamber to take up his role as CEO of FPEF on 1 March 2012. At the last FPEF Board meeting Mark Jensen was elected as the new Chairman of FPEF. The CGA wishes Mark and Anton all the best in their new positions.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012 CALENDAR

The **packhouse workshops** organized by CRI will be held as follows: 14-15/2 Limpopo, Forever Resorts, Tshipise; 16-17/2 Mpumalanga, Forever Resorts, Loskop Dam; 21-22/2 KZN/Swaziland, Shakaland, Eshowe; 23-24/2 Eastern Cape, Summerstrand Hotel, PE; 28-29/2 Western Cape, Villa Via Hotel, Gordon's Bay. For more information on how to register and the agenda etc. please contact HannesBester@cri.co.za.

The **CGA Road Shows** will be starting the week after next – please make sure the date is in your diary:

13/2 14h00 **Nkwalini** Farmers Hall; 14/2 08h30 **Pongola** Mvutshini Estate; 14/2 14h00 **KZN Midlands** Sinodale Centre Pietermaritzburg; 14/2 14h30 **Swaziland** Tambuti Estates; 15/2 09h30 **Nelspruit** CRI; 15/2 14h00 **Onderberg** Malelane Citrus Coop; 20/2 14h00 **Patensie** Church Hall; 20/2 14h00 **Senwes** Kingdoms Lodge; 21/2 14h00 **Sundays River** Kirkwood High School; 21/2 14h00 **Hoedspruit** Hengel Klub; 22/2 14h00 **East Cape Midlands** Kat River Citrus; 22/2/ 14h00 **Letsitele** The Junction; 23/2 15h00 **Zimbabwe** Bristow Farm; 24/2 08h30 **Limpopo River** Noordgrens Lapa; 27/2 14h00 **Western Cape** Goedehoop Offices; 28/2 09h00 **Boland** ARC Infruitec; 29/2 16h30 **Oranje Rivier** Lake Grappe; 1/3 14h00 **Vaalharts** Die Voordeur.

The first CGA Board meeting is planned for 13 March, followed by the Variety Focus Group meetings on 14 March and the first Citrus Marketing Forum meeting on 15 March.

NOTICES OF THESE MEETINGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO GROWERS TODAY. ANY OTHER CITRUS STAKEHOLDER WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND IS WELCOME – RSVP GLORIA@CGA.CO.ZA

**GROWER FUNDED ACTIVITIES OF THE CGA, CRI AND CITRUS ACADEMY
ENSURE A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY**