

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (49/12)

Justin Chadwick (14 December 2012)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK *"It is a far, far better thing to have a firm anchor in nonsense than to put out on the troubled sea of thought"* J K Galbraith

MINISTER APPROVES CITRUS LEVY

Earlier this year CGA applied to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for renewal of the levy on export citrus fruit, administered by the CGA. This levy application included continued funding of research work carried out by the CRI and its alliance partners, transformation carried out by Citrus Academy and the Transformation Manager, and market access, information, representation, logistics, market development and administration work carried out by CGA.

After going through a rigorous process at DAFF the **Minister approved the levy this week**; thus securing funding for these activities for the next four years.

EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The portal for electronic registration of production units with the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) is now open and producers of exported foods are required to register their facilities on line with FDA, **before end of December 2012**, using the following website: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm314178.htm>

This requirement is based on the Food Safety Modernization Act. If the facilities are already registered, they will have to be re-registered every two years during the period of 1 October to 31 December in even numbered years (2012, 2014 etc).

There is no fee payable for the registration and re-registration. It requires an e-mail address for the contact person of the facility or for the US agent of the facility and assurance that the FDA representative will be permitted entry to inspect the facility upon request.

For further information, the industry can communicate by email with the head of office of FDA/Pretoria, Ms Beverly Corey at Beverly.Corey@fda.hhs.gov.

GLOBAL CITRUS WORLD

Only three countries in the world feature in the top ten exporters of all four citrus types (oranges, soft citrus, lemons and grapefruit) – being Spain, South Africa and Turkey. This highlights the ability of South Africa to supply the full basket of citrus requirements.

South Africa ranks as the second largest exporter of citrus in the world (by volume) – is second largest orange and grapefruit exporter; fourth largest lemon exporter and seventh largest soft citrus exporter.

In the southern hemisphere South Africa holds number one spot for oranges and grapefruit, and number two for lemons and soft citrus. (Source Fruitrop CIRAD).

ORCHARD INSPECTIONS

Growers of early varieties must take note that DAFF will start orchard inspections early in the new year. Prior to exporting to the EU the relevant orchards must have been inspected by DAFF.

DATES FOR 2013

CGA ROADSHOWS 18 February **Zimbabwe and Nkwalini**; 19 February **Pongola, Swaziland and Limpopo River**; 20 February **Letsitele, Hoedspruit and Nelspruit**; 21 February **Senwes and Onderberg**; 26 February **Boland, Western Cape and Patensie**; 27 February **Oranje Rivier and Sundays River**; 28 February **Vaalharts and East Cape Midlands**; 5 March **Southern KZN Venues and times to follow.**

CRI PACKHOUSE WORKSHOPS 29-30 January **Limpopo – The Ranch, Polokwane**; 31 January – 1 February **Mpumalanga, Loskopdam Resort**; 12-13 February **KZN & Swaziland, Blue Waters Hotel, Durban**; 14-15 February **Eastern Cape, Summerstrand Hotel, Port Elizabeth**; 19-20 February **Western Cape, Protea Hotel, Stellenbosch**. Registration starts at 12h00 of the first day and workshops finish at 13h00 on second day.

VARIETY FOCUS GROUPS Suggested Tuesday 12 March **CITRUS GROWERS' DEVELOPMENT CHAMBER**
Suggested Tuesday 12 March **CGA BOARD** Suggested Wednesday 13 March **CITRUS MARKETING FORUM**
Suggested Wednesday 14 March.