

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (8/14)

Justin Chadwick (7 March 2014)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on"
Winston Churchill

ORCHARD REGISTRATION FOR THE EU

DAFF have been hard at work verifying orchard registration for the EU. As part of that process DAFF determines that appropriate orchard treatment has taken place. Ernest Phoku, deputy director of the directorate inspection services, asked CGA to inform growers that the due date for submission of appeals for EU registration to be 14th March 2014. Appeals can be sent to citrus@daff.gov.za. Their team will communicate via e-mail to decide on the cases taking into consideration the deadline of the 31 March when the final list of registered PUCs for EU should be posted on the DAFF website.

TRAINING AND REGISTRATION OF FREIGHT FORWARDERS, COLD STORE OPERATORS AND EXPORT AGENTS

In order to export to the EU freight Forwarders, Cold Store operators and Export Agents must register with DAFF (closing date for registrations **14 March 2014**). Registration requires that senior staff from these entities attend a DAFF training session. Training dates are as follows; **Durban** – 10 March @ Innovation Centre, Howard College, UKZN (Gate 9 Rick Turner Road). **Port Elizabeth** – 12 March @ Bojangles Corporate Club, St Georges Park. **Stellenbosch** – 14 March @ Olive Grove, ARC Infruitec. All sessions are from 09h00 to 12h00.

In addition, DAFF has taken into account that there are exporters and agents operating inland (Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo) and is now busy making arrangements for the workshop to take place in Pretoria. The dates and venue will be announced once all necessary arrangements have been concluded.

Please be informed that exporters in the Western Cape and Northern Cape that handle only fruits from CBS free areas will be exempted to attend the Compulsory Training. However the exemption will be granted on basis that the company communicates the decision to DAFF prior to the workshop session. The communication will be accepted in the form of a letter signed by the managing director of the company as per registration documents presented, the letter should be addressed to the Director of Directorate Inspection Services then send via email to Citrus@daff.gov.za by the Monday the **10th March 2014**. The letter should state clearly the company will not handle fruit produced in areas not declared as CBS free area, thus the company will not receive any phytos for fruits from CBS areas. For further enquiries please feel free to contact me or Mavis on 0123098763.

GROWER ROADSHOW

Grower road shows for 2014 are now a thing of the past – with excellent turnout at all meetings. The format this year allowed for more networking time which was used to get to the “real” issues. Thanks to **River Bioscience** for sponsoring the eats and drinks in Limpopo, Western and Northern Cape; and **First National Bank** (FNB) for sponsoring the Eastern Cape meetings. Thanks to Gloria for all the venue, travel and accommodation arrangements; and to the CGA Directors for welcoming us into their regions and ensuring that valuable information was shared. While the road shows are fresh on people’s minds; should you have any suggestions as to how to improve for 2015 please let us know.

VARIETY FOCUS GROUP AND CITRUS MARKETING FORUM MEETINGS

Variety Focus Group members will meet on **17th March** at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre (close to O R Tambo airport). The Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF) will be held the next day (**18th March**) at the same venue. At the last CMF a start was made at identifying market access opportunities and obstacles for expanded market access. At the March 2014 meeting we will continue with this theme – all citrus industry stakeholders should attend to assist us in plotting the way forward.

**GROWERS' ENSURE A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY BY
FUNDING AND CONTROLLING THE CGA GROUP (CRI; CITRUS ACADEMY; CGACC; RB AND XSIT)**