

“Happiness is the absence of the striving for happiness” Zhuangzi

CITRUS ACADEMY SHORT COURSES ARE COMING BACK

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ROADSHOWS WITH A DIFFERENCE

In the past the highlight of CGA Group staff was the grower roadshow – this afforded us the opportunity to meet with Association members, share our planned activities and get input about grower needs. It also involved good discussion around the braai, and a few lemonades. This year the roadshows will happen – but in a totally different format. As with just about everything else we are going virtual. Grower members of CGA and selected stakeholder groupings are invited to attend the virtual roadshows on **Tuesday 30 March 2021 from 09h00 to 12h00**. There will be three sessions – each session consisting of three 15 minute presentations, followed by 15 minutes Q and A. There will only be one “roadshow” with all regions invited – recordings will be made of the presentations for those growers who could not make the meeting. Details on the roadshows will be shared as soon as finalized.

VARIETY FOCUS GROUPS (VFG)

The Chairmen of both the Lemon (LFG) and Soft Citrus Focus Groups (SCFG) have set dates for their first meetings – the LFG will be on 24 February 2021, while the SCFG will be held on 25 February 2021. The Grapefruit Focus Group will hold their second meeting the next day – 26 February 2021.

CYCLONE ELOISE

Some more feedback from the regions regarding the recent good rains. From Letsitele Director Jan Louis Pretorius: *On the farm in Letsitele during the 23/01 to 01/02 period we had just under 150mm, with another 100mm falling since then. The rain was quite patchy, so other areas in and around Letsitele may have had more or slightly less. Absolutely no damage to infrastructure or orchards – quite the contrary in fact! Dams are filling and fruit is growing.*

Although I don't have official stats, the catchment area for the Ebenezer and Tzaneen dams have had substantial rain. During the 23/01 to 01/02 period probably between 450mm and 650mm depending on area. The Tzaneen dam is now at 67% and the Ebenezer at 67.7%.

WEEKLY STATISTICS

In most statistical sources lemons and limes are grouped into one category. Although Mexico leads this category – the vast majority of the product is limes. Looking at the past six years Mexico produced on average 2,568 million tonnes of limes and lemons per annum. Most sources indicate that Mexican lemon production hovers around 140 000 tonnes; a small percentage of total lemons and limes.

It would seem that the lemon production leaderboard for looks like this: 1. European Union (1,52 million tonnes); 2. Argentina (1,48 million); 3. Turkey (930 000); 4. USA (880 000); 5. South Africa (500 000).

The lemon export leaderboard looks something like this: 1. Turkey (477 000); 2. South Africa (359 000); 3. Argentina (245 000); 4. European Union (76 000).

Source: USDA FAS.