

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better” Maya Angelou

AGRI'S GOT TALENT (AGT)

The Agri's Got Talent competition, showcasing singing talent in the fruit industry, has announced the top ten finalists – and two of them come from the citrus sector! The citrus industry will be rooting for Sandile Mathebula from Macdarin Farm in the Mbombela area and Lungelo Sithole from KMI Farming, also in the Mbombela region. The final event will be held on 11 October at Dawn Mountains in Klapmuts. The CGA will be there cheering for our talented finalists.

US INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday this week the US Embassy held Independence Day celebrations in Pretoria – and the Ambassador is correct, the weather in September is much better for the celebration than July. It was a fantastic event with all the ceremony required to celebrate 248 years of independence. The invitation and the opportunity to meet with Embassy staff and other guests is greatly appreciated. About 10% of our citrus is exported to North America. It is a significant market and shows great potential for growth.

SNAP SURVEY ON MINIMUM WAGE

The National Minimum Wage Commission has invited stakeholders with an interest in the national minimum wage to make a representation of possible adjustments in the policy instrument for 2025. Please see the link below to a snap survey regarding the wage. We need to send this information out to Agbiz by the 16th September and your assistance would be highly appreciated. We will, of course, keep all information confidential.

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/BI0JdA>

For any enquiries, please contact Sive Silo on sive@citrusacademy.org.za

CGA CITRUS SUMMIT

Growers of the CGA are reminded that registrations for the CGA Citrus Summit to be held in March 2025 are open for members during September, with registrations open to all from October. Please register early as space is limited. Growers will be sent a speaker line up and other information via the CGA Communication Tool – if you do not receive it, please contact tanya@cga.co.za

CITRUS SUSTAINABILITY FORUM (CSF)

The next CSF is scheduled for 4 October from 09:00 - 10:30. At the recent CRI Symposium, members of the CSF got together and reworked the CSF format. Future meetings will be more topic-focused, shorter but held more regularly (every two months), which is expected to help expand the participation in this important platform dealing with sustainability matters. Please RSVP to Paula Bester should you wish to attend (pb@cga.co.za) the next meeting – which will focus on crop protection (MRL) matters.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

After many downward revisions by the Variety Focus Groups as the season unfolded, recently the trend has been for upward revisions as favourable market conditions encourage late season exports. The total packed and passed for export volume for 2024 is now slightly above 2023 levels, but well below the initial estimate and the Vision 260 levels.

End of Week 36 Million 15 kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Vision 260
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2022	2023	2024	2023	2024	2024	2024	2023	2024
Grapefruit	17.7 m	14.4 m	14.6 m	13.6 m	13.6 m	16.8 m	15.2 m	14.7 m	16.2 m
Mandarins	32.9 m	37.6 m	40.6 m	35.2 m	35.7 m	43 m	41.7 m	38.0 m	39.6 m
Lemons	36.7 m	35.6 m	34.4 m	35.2 m	32.2 m	37.9 m	34.6 m	35.6 m	39 m
Navels	29 m	24.8 m	24.6 m	24.3 m	21.4 m	25.7 m	24.9 m	24.8 m	22.3 m
Valencia	48.5 m	47.2 m	41.4 m	37.8 m	30.4 m	58.3 m	49.1 m	52.0 m	55.4 m
Total	164.8 m	159.6 m	155.6 m	146.1 m	133.3 m	181.7m	165.5 m	165.1 m	172.5 m