



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (16/2010)

John Edmonds (28 May 2010)

Exchange Rate at 14:45 R/\$ 7.61 R/€ 9.40 R/£ 11.07

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Strike disrupts Peruvian citrus advantage

Peruvian citrus growers' hopes to take advantage of an early season market gap have been dashed by a labor strike at the country's largest port. Delays in shipments of early satsumas and clementines are expected from the Port of Callao, west of the capital city of Lima...Peruvian media reports indicate workers are calling for higher wages and better work conditions. Mark Greenberg, vice president of procurement for Montreal-based Fisher Capespan, believes a contributing factor is the increased mechanization at the port, which has recently come under the management of Dubai Ports World...Peruvian Export Association President Juan Varillas indicated losses had reached \$400 million by mid-May as the strike stretched into its second week. At that point, the Peruvian government replaced striking workers with navy troops to re-start port operations...“We're hoping this has a quick resolution as Chilean clementines are a little bit late, and South Africa is a little bit late,” Greenberg said. “It would have been nice to have the Peruvians on time. The strike seems to be preventing that from happening.”

[ThePacker.com; 24May2010]

Florida orange juice industry worried by obesity campaign

As part of first lady Michelle Obama's campaign against childhood obesity, the American Beverage Association has come out in support of her effort to prominently display calorie counts on the front panels of U.S. beverage products. Citrus Department officials are concerned that such a requirement would drive down orange juice sales, already in a three-month slump since the beginning of the year...Ken Keck, the Citrus Department's executive director, agreed the focus on calories alone and the exclusion of orange juice's health benefits could drive consumers away. An 8-ounce glass of orange juice has about 110 calories but also significant amounts of Vitamin C, folic acid and potassium.

[The Ledger.com; 25May2010]

South African citrus to be shipped on Railex cars

South African citrus will be more readily available west of the Mississippi this summer, thanks to an agreement between the industry and a leading produce rail service. Riverhead, N.Y.-based Railex LLC will ship South African citrus west from the East Coast, according to a news release from the Citrusdal, South Africa-based Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum. Western retailers will have South African fruit six days after it reaches the Port of Philadelphia, according to the release. In 2009, South African citrus sales from the Midwest and West made up about 35% of the industry's U.S. total, according to the forum. For 2010, officials expect it to be 50% of all sales.

[ThePacker.com; 24May2010]

SA: FPT strikes a new record

FPT set a new world record for productivity with the successful loading of 4,738 pallets of fruit within a 24-hour loading period on specialized reefer vessel 'Ice Rose' destined for Japan at its terminal in Durban. Clinton Smart, Operations Manager for NYKCool South Africa comments, 'When loading sterilization cargo it is of utmost importance to load efficiently so that the decks can be closed and cooling started in order to protect the cargo and to ensure not to exceed the protocol. The ship was able to bring all pulp sensors below 0.0 C in a very short time which is the fastest any vessel has taken to stabilize since the start of citrus export to Japan.' FPT MD, Danie Maartens, says 'FPT offer customers the option to ship their cargo in either containers or specialized reefer vessels thereby offering a export solution to container customers affected by the national Transnet strike and seeking an alternative export solution.'

[www.fpt.co.za; 26May2010]

China opens to Moroccan citrus

Clementine and Maroc-Late varieties may be exported from this year from the 18 citrus groves that have been approved by Chinese phytosanitary officials.

[ReeferTrends; 26 May 2010]

**If you need more information on any of these issues, or if there is anything else that CGA can assist with, please contact us at 031 7652514, or johne@cga.co.za
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