GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (22/2011)

John Edmonds (17 June 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/$ 6.85	R/€ 9.69	R/£ 11.07
Last Week:	R/$ 6.73	R/€ 9.78	R/£ 11.03
Last Year:	R/$ 7.59	R/€ 9.35	R/£ 11.23

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

Mexico: Sending Montemorelos orange to Canada

Orange is one of the products which authorities from Canada closed and signed buying contracts with Mexico. Starting August, a group of 22 producers and small businessmen from Nuevo León will start exporting to Canada, as the National Chamber of Retail of Monterrey (Canacope) revealed. Catalina Domínguez Estrada, president of the Chamber, informed that one of the products that already counts on the sale commitment with the Canadian authorities is the orange coming from Montemorelos.
[www.freshplaza.com; 16 June 2011]

US (FL): Citrus Department approves $54.8 million budget

The Florida Citrus Commission on Wednesday approved a $54.8 million department budget that includes $10 million for citrus disease research, the biggest program outside marketing. The commission is the Citrus Department's governing body…The Citrus Department budget is $2.2 million higher than a 2011-12 budget proposed at the May 18 Citrus Commission meeting. The difference stems from more carry-over money available from the current department and foundation budgets, said Debra Funkhouser, Citrus Department comptroller.
[www.freshplaza.com; 16 June 2011]

AU: More citrus dumping threatened

South Australian citrus growers fear they will have to dump surplus fruit this year. Navel crop estimates for the state have been put up by 5000 tonne, making it the second biggest crop in 20 years. Citrus growers in the NSW have also threatened to dump citrus, because of oversupply. Chief executive officer of the South Australian Citrus Board, Andrew Green, says the high Australian dollar has made it hard for packers and marketers to export the surplus fruit. "A lot of them have a very broad spread of markets, so they're trying to target the best quality fruit they can for certain markets and spreading their risks as far as they can," he said. "But it's a bit of a juggling act for them and it makes the whole marketing much more complicated."
[abc.net.au; 15 June 2011]

Philippines: After blocking mangoes, Aussies want to sell fruits here

A pending request to bring in a trial shipment of Australian grapefruit and citrus has become the latest chapter in the long-simmering trade war between Canberra and Manila. "Australia is asking us to allow the entry of their grapefuit and different kinds of oranges," Bureau of Plant Industry Director Lito Baron told the Manila Standard Monday. "We have already sent our comments to their request, but we have yet to receive their response. In that case, we cannot allow any trial shipment at this time," Baron said the Philippines was still weighing Australia's request, but it favored asking it to allow the entry of Philippine mangoes, which the Australian agriculture lobby had been opposing for a decade. "We are banking on the principle of reciprocity," he said. "If we allow the entry of Australian fruits, they might also allow the entry of Philippine mangoes."… While the mango issue hangs, Philippine banana growers are pushing the World Trade Organization to compel Australia to allow Philippine bananas, a move that Australia's banana growers have been opposing since 1995. Philippine growers say local bananas are no threat since those could not possibly satisfy the entire Australian demand.
[manilastandardtoday.com; 15 June 2011]

Spain: Growing demand for next orange campaign

The citrus market from Valencia is going through a surprising contradiction these days. While there are difficulties in selling the late oranges from last season…there's also some movement from commercial companies that want to acquire fruit from the next campaign, starting next September. Demand is mainly to assure the provisioning of the Navelina orange, the first of the season, and the buzz is the opposite to the general apathy shown last year about this variety. The difference in behaviour is explained by the different situation of the harvest: last campaign there was a surplus in production of Navelina and for the following one there will be a considerable drop, to be seen already in the orchards of the majority of the areas. Runners from some of those exporting companies are trying to buy it from farmers for prices between the 0,18 and 0,21 Euro cent per kilo. Not startling prices, because they're still behind levels of some previous campaigns, but regarding the closing campaign, they feel like a relief.

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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