GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (30/2011)

John Edmonds (19 August 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/$ 7.14	R/€ 10.26	R/£ 11.79
Last Week:	R/$ 6.82	R/€ 9.71	R/£ 11.15
Last Year:	R/$ 7.25	R/€ 9.33	R/£ 11.31

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

Enormous Satsuma arrives at M&S

Marks & Spencer launches this Saturday new citrus offer – the Satsumo. The fruit is of Japanese origin and has been produced by crossing a Japanese Kiyomi – which is a satsuma crossed with an orange and a Ponkan, which is a large Chinese mandarin… and has a sweeter flavour than a satsuma and a clementine. Over the last two years M&S has developed an obsession with size in fruit, with baby pears, tiny tangerines, biggest cherries and baby lemons. "We've scoured the globe with our growers to find new fruits for our customers to enjoy. We introduced the tiny tangerine from China last year and it was a great success so now we have gone bigger and better – the Satsumo is the largest Satsuma on the high street and we think it will really wow our customers'', commented M&S citrus buyer Matt Pudney. M&S sells more than 58 million satsumas a year. The new satsuma variety weighs in at 350g and has an average circumference of 30cm. Satsumas are normally around 68mm in circumference and weighs less than 60g. It will be priced at £1.99 per kilo.
[www.internationalsupermarketnews.com; 19 August, 2011]

World's Highest Port Costs Drive Trade From South Africa

South Africa's port in Durban charges more than any other major dock in the world…State-owned Transnet SOC Ltd. charges an average container vessel $182,151 to dock in the eastern city, according to the Ports Regulator of South Africa. That's more than double a global average of $86,251 and the highest of 100 top harbors. Things may get worse next year with Transnet's application to increase fees for port services and facilities by 18 percent... Exporters and shippers say a lack of competition contributes to high costs. More than 90 percent of goods sold overseas pass through South Africa's harbors, and the National Ports Authority, a unit of Transnet, manages all ports except Richard's Bay Coal Terminal. Durban, the continent's busiest, represents 61 percent of South Africa's container cargo. Because of its near-monopoly, Transnet can charge cargo dues, a fixed cost on containers that pays for road and rail links and lighting at the harbors. Other ports tend to charge only for work on so-called wet infrastructure, such as breakwaters and dredging. Productivity at South African ports also is lower than at other major docks, resulting in congestion and delays, according to a study published by the Ports Regulator in September 2010. Cranes at Durban port move an average 23 containers an hour, compared with 94 in Antwerp, Belgium, the study said. "We're paying first-class prices for economy-class services," Scheder-Bieschin said… South Africa can ill afford to lose trade…"If they charge what they like, they'll end up putting exporters out of business," said Peter Newton, chief executive officer of Cape Town-based Seaboard International Trading Ltd., which ships fruit and vegetables to mainly European customers…Transnet also is spending 31 billion rand ($4.36 billion) in the next five years to expand capacity at its container terminals by almost a third. "Our job is to ensure there's appropriate pricing," Riad Khan, chief executive officer of the Ports Regulator, said in a phone interview from Durban. "Inefficiency in the port system is a brake on the economy and pricing can contribute to that."
[www.bloomberg.com; 10 August 2011]

Argentine province starts citrus census

The Argentine province of Corrientes has begun its first citrus census in six years in a bid to improve industry efficiency, website Ellitoral.com reported. The Ministry of Production is expecting a significant rise from figures recorded in the 2005 census, when 21,900 hectares and 220,000 metric tons (MT) of citrus production were registered. The aim of the Provincial Citrus Census is to improve industry productivity through data gathered from field surveys that take into account planted area, the quantity of producers and various technological indicators, the story reported. Operational Unit of Production (UOP) citrus sector executive director Cecilia Briend, told the website both private businesses and the government were still having to use the old statistics for policy decisions. "With this (new) information, you can make decisions and implement plans or projects aimed at improving the production or trade of citrus," she was quoted as saying… She said the survey itself would take three months, while with the crossing of data forms the results should be available by the end of the year.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 2nd August, 2011]

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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