

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (42/2011)

John Edmonds (11 November 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentine president presses Obama to lift citrus tariffs

Argentina's president Cristina Fernández has asked Barack Obama to lift U.S. citrus import tariffs during a bilateral meeting in Cannes after the G-20 summit, website Aimdigital.com.ar reported. Fernández was responding to pressure by Entre Rios Governor Sergio Urribarri, whose state produces 60% of all Argentina's citrus exports... Industry sources estimate that if tariffs were lifted Argentina would aim to export about 2,250 metric tons (MT) in the first year to the U.S
www.freshfruitportal.com November 9th, 2011

Uruguayan citrus could hit U.S. shelves in 2012, says ag minister

A Uruguayan politician expects the country's citrus fruits could be able to enter the U.S. market in mid-2012, website Elobservador.com.uy reported. Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) Minister Tabaré Aguerre, told the website the U.S. would likely publish a public consultation notice by the end of 2011, with shipments expected to follow if final approval is given.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 8 November 2011]

Morocco: 75.000 tons of citrus expected for export

The expected production of citrus in the Moroccan region Moulouya for the 2011/2012 season is 255,000 tons, of which 132,000 tons is clementines. The export quantity is estimated at 75,000 tons... The citrus in the Moulouya area is produced on an area of 17,250 HA. An increase to 18,900 HA is expected in 2013 to finally reach an area of 19,400 HA in 2020. This would result in an annual production increase of 164% (from the present 220,000 tons to 580,000 tons in 2020). In the action plan for the development of agriculture in Morocco is also mentioned that the expected export quantity in 2020 is 265,000 tons.
[www.freshplaza.com; 8 November 2011]

Tunisia: Citrus could reach 260,000 tons in Nabeul

A record production of 260 thousand tons of citrus fruit is expected this year in Nabeul, according to estimates provided by relevant agricultural services. The latter explained the increase in production by the entry into operation of 900 additional hectares of young citrus groves. Exports of clementines (variety of mandarins), which begins each year in mid-January, ranges between 20 and 35 thousand tons, generating revenues of 30 million dinars.
[africanmanager.com; 9 November 2011]

US (FL): Speculators take a sip of orange juice

At about \$1.75 a pound, orange juice prices are threatening to break through to levels not seen since the great commodity surge that peaked in mid-2007. What's driving OJ? Well, the move is primarily a function of struggling supply. A hard frost has stunted the harvest in the crucial orange growing regions of Florida over the past two seasons. High nitrogen fertiliser prices have discouraged, on the margin, some output-boosting applications. The spread of "greening" disease has also forced farmers to uproot some trees and is expected to crimp production further. The world's biggest citrus grower is Brazil but the strong real has discouraged farmers from selling into a market priced in dollars. Orange juice inventories monitored by ICE Futures have fallen 46 per cent during the past year. Consumption has remained steady, and buyers have been fretting about the possibility of more cold weather this winter. Furthermore, OJ is not immune to broader risk appetite swings, and the recent better-than-expected US economic data have been encouraging some speculators to take a sip.
[ft.com; 9 November 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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