GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (23)

John Edmonds (20 July 2012) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

AU: Despite good harvest still problems for citrus

The predictions for this year's citrus harvest are good, though the industry is not out of the woods yet. There is still a hangover from last year's oversupply and this is coupled with a high dollar, making export trade very difficult. Hugh Flett, chief executive of Murray Valley Citrus Board said, "We'd love the dollar to continue to devalue, in terms of the US of currency, because ultimately at the end of the day, it's one of the major determinants of how much money growers will make in any export destination."
[abc.net.au; 19 July 2012]

Complex situation for Argentinian citrus sector

Citrus producers in Entre Ríos anticipated a "very complex situation" due to recent frosts and expected the government to declare a national emergency. In this context, the president of the Citrus Federation in Entre Ríos, Elbio Calgaro, pointed out that "the situation is getting worse" and highlighted that "it is like burn injuries; only time will reveal the extent of the damage." …Additionally, he highlighted that the state of emergency in the citrus sector was already declared at provincial level and pointed out that "it will be in place until December 2013."…"At the moment we are trying to recover the fruit that was already ripe and did not burn. What could be consumed and taken to factories was taken," he added.
[Laprensa; 19 July 2012]

Mexico: Collapse on the citrus production

After the conclusion, last June, of the orange harvest, the results obtained weren't that encouraging, as there was a critical collapse on the production of this fruit, meaning that from the 500,000 tons that are regularly obtained, now only 50% of it was harvested due to the strong drought and consequent lack of water. The president of the Regional Union of Citrus producers in the central area of Tamaulipas, Luis Lauro Carrillo Soto, said that this drop in production corresponds to the 2011-2012 cycle, ended recently...
[La Capital 2012; 18 July 2012]

Argentina complains to WTO over US citrus refusals

Argentina's Foreign Ministry has released a statement that reveals it has made complaints about the US to the WTO. The complaints relate to the US's alleged refusal to allow Argentinian exports of beef and lemon into the country. Argentina says it has been negotiating entry of its citrus products to the US for the last seven years. The complaint alleges that the US has no biosecutiry reasons for the delay in imports and accuses the country of protectionist practices.
[mercopress.com; 13 July 2012]

US (CA): California Navel, Valencia orange forecasts down

The most recent production estimates for the 2011-2012 season have California orange production down from last year. The most recent estimates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture predict Navel orange production will finish at 88.0 million cartons. That's eight percent less than last year's total production. Valencia orange production was forecast at 28.0 million cartons, which is down from last year's totals by three percent.The 2011-2012 lemon forecast for the state, at 40.0 million cartons, is down five percent from last season. Estimated production of grapefruit is significantly less than last year's production. At 6.80 million cartons, the grapefruit forecast for the current season is down 21 percent from last year's totals. At 28.0 million cartons, the tangerine forecast is the only citrus crop in California which is expected to have higher production totals than last year's crop. It's anticipated total tangerine production for the state will be 10 percent higher than last season's production.
[freshplaza.com; 13 July 2012]

Russia: Citrus prices hit rock bottom due to oversupply

Stas Poluektov, representative of the Russian importer Eurofruit-SPb, assured that the citrus market in Russia (particularly mandarins and limes) is in a much worse situation than last year. Stas says that "due to an oversupply of citrus in the Russian market, prices have been too low. There is too much fruit in the market, which has had a great impact on prices."

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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