GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (35)

John Edmonds (27 September 2013) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Fallen citrus numbers improving, despite greening

While Florida citrus continues to lose ground to the disease citrus greening, the latest US Department of Agriculture numbers show the industry may be turning the corner in the war against arguably the most serious threat in its history. "It looks like the decline in acreage is slowing down, which is good news," said Bob Behr, chief operation officer at Florida's Natural Growers in Lake Wales, a growers' cooperative and the nation's third-largest orange juice retailer. "Clearly, the effect of greening is still clear in the data. We need to see solutions to greening so growers can be confident about planting trees again." …Total commercial citrus grove land in Florida stands at 524,640 acres, down from 531,493 acres a year ago, the USDA reported. That continues the trend of declining acreage that started in 1996 and is the lowest total since the USDA adopted its current aerial survey method in 1966. However, the 1 percent loss is also the smallest loss in the last decade, Erick said, and the net loss of 15,115 acres during the past year is the smallest loss since 1968. Still, new grove plantings in the past totaled just 8,262 acres, the fewest since 1966.
[theledger.com; 20 September 2013]

South Africa: 2 million boxes of oranges less to EU

There have been further developments in the issue of Citrus Black Spot in South African citrus. Eight cases have now been found and after a meeting last Friday with the EU and South African Authorities, South Africa has decided to stop the export of oranges to Europe from CBS infected areas…CEO of the Citrus Exporter's Association Justin Chadwick explains that they looked at all options but given the very short time frame, there was no option but to stop packing oranges for Europe, he did stress that the pest free regions of West and Northern Capes would continue packing for Europe. It was a bit early to be exact but he estimated that it would mean as much as 2 million cartons less going to the European market this season.
[www.freshplaza.com; 20 September 2013]

US (CA): Production of navel oranges expected to be down

The California Agriculture Statistics Service says California's 2013-2014 season will be about two percent lower than last year's production. That's bad news for growers in the Central Valley since the majority of the state's navel oranges come from here. However, the size of the fruit is expected to be good this year with growers saying they're the largest they've had since 2005.
[abclocal.go.com; 20 September 2013]

Spain: Murcia's citrus production to increase by 12%

Murcia's Council of Agriculture and Water expects a 12.1% increase in the Region's citrus harvest volumes for the coming campaign, with a production expected to reach 680,100 tonnes, compared to the 606,484 harvested last year. This was reported by the general director of Agro-Food Industry and Agricultural Training, Ángel García Lidón, during the presentation of the citrus harvest results for the 2012/2013 campaign and the prospects for next year.
Regarding lemons, the general director stressed that the availability of water will lead to the harvest being advanced," and the mild Spring and Summer temperatures will cause an increase in production, with a fruit in perfect conditions of health and outer appearance." The lemon production is expected to reach 390,000 tonnes, from which 300,000 will correspond to the Fino variety and the rest to Verna.
As for mandarins, a total production of 88,900 tonnes is expected. Regarding varieties, Clementine production volumes will increase by around 23.7%; Other mandarins by 23.2% and Satsumas by around 41%. He clarified that, "these increases are due to the expansions of crop acreage and the varietal conversions through regrafting."
He also highlighted the increase in production volumes of the late varieties, like the Nadorcott, Murcott and others, as a consequence of the entry into production of new plantations. In contrast, varieties such as the Marisol, Fortuna and Nova will see lower volumes. The production of oranges for the coming campaign is expected to reach 169,400 tonnes. By groups, there will be an increase in the production of the Navel type, by around 13.1%, as well as of late and sanguine varieties. The growth of the Naveline, Navelate, Lanelate and Navel Powel will be particularly noteworthy. In contrast, Salustianas will drop. Regarding grapefruits, the crop acreage has experienced a small drop over the past year, and thus the production for the coming 2013/2014 campaign will drop by around 6.2% compared to the previous one. Production volumes are expected to reach 31,220 tonnes.
[www.freshplaza.com; 23 September 2013]

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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