GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (15)

John Edmonds (1 May 2014) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

No decision on South Africa CBS

No decision on South Africa CBS The European Commission has delayed a decision on preventative measures until next month by which time heavy volumes of South African citrus will have already arrived.
[reefertrends.com; 30 April 2014]

Italy: Lemon prices to rise this summer

Argentina is talking about a 42-55% drop in production due to last year's freezes, so less produce will be exported. Giuseppe (Pippo) Campisi, coordinator of the Lemon Committee of the Organizzazione interprofessionale Ortofrutta Italia and Fruitimprese advisor, was interviewed on the effects this will have on the domestic market...The 2013/14 campaign went well, as 600,000 tons of produce were harvested, but we had to compete with Spain, which had lower prices. In addition, in order to supply only the lemons of the highest quality, we had to destine a lot of produce to the processing industry." "Our lemons are not really affected by competition from Argentina, but rather by Spain, as it has lower costs..."Summer prices will definitely increase because of the lack of Argentinian produce, provided that South African lemons are not allowed to enter the EU (which we hope, to avoid the transmission of the Citrus Black Spot virus). This increase though will not be to the advantage of producers, as there will not be enough fruit to cover costs." Italian lemons are sold mainly to domestic retailers, Germany and Austria. Lately, the produce has also been sold to France, Czech Republic and Eastern Europe.
[Freshplaza.com; 1 May 2014]

'Fake' oranges seizure becomes Hong Kong's first counterfeit fruit scandal

Customs officers have seized 5,200 oranges with suspected forged Sunkist labels in the first case of counterfeit oranges in Hong Kong. The fruit was seized from two Yuen Long stalls after the buyer complained they tasted sourer than the real thing and had thicker skins. The genuine and counterfeit oranges look similar except for their label stickers - the real ones are made of plastic while the fakes are printed on paper, said Lam Yau-tak, commander of the Customs and Excise Department's intellectual property general investigation division. The owner of the two stalls and three sales staff aged 19 to 62 were arrested. Apart from the oranges, 112,000 forged labels were seized, some not yet stuck on the fruit. The officers launched a two-week investigation after receiving the complaint. The counterfeit oranges were imported from North Africa. Tests by government chemists have found them suitable to eat. Genuine Sunkist oranges, usually imported from South Africa and California, cost HK$3 to HK$4 each and are sold to customers at HK$5 to HK$6. The counterfeit ones cost HK$1 and were sold at HK$3 to HK$4 each...During their investigation, the officers found the staff secretly sticking the forged labels to the oranges...Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, anyone selling or possessing goods with a forged trademark is liable to a fine of HK$500,000 and five years in jail.
[Freshplaza.com; 1 May 2014]

U.S.: citrus groves dry up under California drought

California's citrus industry says it has been left in the dark regarding the state's dire hydric situation, forcing producers in the central valley to abandon production areas. Although Governor Jerry Brown announced expedited water transfers for areas in need Friday, the California Citrus Mutual (CCM) said growers in the Friant service area have been left without water and without security on future supplies. "There have been many opportunities for the state water agencies to communicate with stakeholders the amount of water that will be delivered, yet they consistently fail to provide numbers," CCM said yesterday. President Joel Nelsen called the lack of communication with fruit and vegetable growers "unacceptable." The mutual attributed much of the problem to unwillingness by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to cooperate with lawmakers. "NMFS fails to realize the disastrous impacts of their unwillingness to reevaluate the actual needs of the fish and reach a balanced solution for all stakeholders," Nelsen said…Most citrus production in central California occurs in the Friant service area...If the valley's 50,000 acres of citrus were lost, CCM estimated it would deal a US$3 billion blow to California's economy. "Unless our growers receive their fair share of water from the Friant Canal our communities will suffer without the economic driver of a vibrant citrus industry in the Central Valley," Nelsen said. "I ask, is it worth sending excess amounts of water down the river at the expense of an entire industry and the 20,000 jobs it creates?"
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 29 April 2014]

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
YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA