

Global Citrus Scan (2017_28)

John Edmonds (28 July 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

AMC makes US citrus donation

AMC North America, part of South Africa's AMC Group, marked Nelson Mandela Day on 18 July by partnering with Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, New Jersey, to spend a morning of service and citrus donation to help feed the hungry... Cathedral Kitchen is the largest food provider in Camden, where the poverty rate exceeds 40 per cent... With 67 cases of Navel Oranges to donate – in honour of Mandela's 67 years of service – the AMC team packed their SUVs and pulled up to the Cathedral Kitchen ready to work, unloading four vehicles full of fresh, sweet oranges, generously donated by AMC's growing partner Goede Hoop Citrus from Citrusdal, South Africa. The group was given a tour by Alex Wills, community relations director, which included a behind the scenes peak at how the operation works diligently to feed between 300-500 people every day. "We are the first 'green' soup kitchen in America, founded by three 20-year olds who just wanted to feed the hungry after hearing Mother Teresa speak," explained Wills. While the AMC team got to work, not five miles away on the Delaware River the third vessel from South Africa was busy unloading nearly 5,000 pallets of citrus to go out to grocery retailers across North America...

[fruitnet.com/americafruit; 21 July 2017]

Argentina to export lemons to Mexico for the first time

Argentina will be able to export lemons to Mexico for the first time after sanitary inspection agencies from the two countries reached a deal... Mexico became the third major export market this year to open to Argentina, the world's largest producer and exporter of lemons. President Mauricio Macri is seeking to reintegrate Latin America's No. 3 economy into world markets after more than a decade of trade barriers and isolation. The United States allowed lemon imports from Argentina's main producing region for the first time in 16 years, beginning last May. In June, Argentina shipped a cargo of lemons to neighbouring Brazil for the first time since 2009, the agricultural ministry said. Last year, Argentina exported nearly 280,000 tonnes of lemons worth some \$289 million.

[reuters.com; 21 July 2017]

"The supply chain is so complex, dynamic and changing"

Don Limón's new office in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, has a very strong focus on South African fruit. "We are happy with the season so far even though we had some quality issues on the Navels earlier this season", says Andreas Schindler, one of the company's CEO's. This office, which has always received goods for the European market, is fully operational and now does its own quality control in addition to the external quality control measures taken... It is mid-season for South African navels. Edrich Burger, who handles Don Limón's international marketing from this country says the decay recently being found in Navels is "more or less expected", therefore they were prepared to handle the situation in the best possible way. "The Navel season has been short due to these quality issues, causing the demand for Navels in the market to be fairly good. We are excited to move over to the Valencia season." Don Limón has been in the fruit distribution business for 60 years, but Andreas says it is a continuous learning curve... "When we start to really focus on a product I am always impressed about the number of details around the supply chain, it is so complex, dynamic and changing. We need to be flexible in order to adapt to the waves of the market and be able to evolve at the same time." Says Andreas...

[Freshplaza.com; 21 July 2017]

Spain: Lemon harvest next season expected to remain stable

The first harvest estimation of the Lemon Organization (AILIMPO) for the 2017/2018 campaign predicts the Spanish lemon production to amount to 1,080,000 tonnes; a very similar figure to that reached in the current campaign, which will come to an end in late August with approximately 1,090,000 tonnes of lemons harvested. The Fino lemon campaign will kick off at the usual time, in September, and will be in full swing in terms of harvesting and exports in October...

[Freshplaza.com; 21 July 2017]

Modification to Russian labelling requirements

Earlier this season the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa sent a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin in an attempt to clarify the labelling requirements for citrus consignments destined for Russia. Justin Chadwick, CEO of the CGASA, has confirmed that a positive reaction has been received from Russian authorities and that a concession regarding the requirements – already discussed and agreed upon a year ago – has now been communicated to all the relevant stakeholders at Russian ports. "There is now a methodology allowed which does reduce the negative impact of the labelling requirements... in essence, rather than requiring a sticker on each carton, there is now a sealed envelope affixed to the outside of the pallet. This envelope contains a batch of stickers which are then fixed to each carton on the receiving end. There is still a risk that the envelope could fall off in transit, but this means that pallets don't have to be re-opened on our side. Ideally, we hope that what's on the original label is satisfactory."...

[Freshplaza.com; 21 July 2017]