Global Citrus Scan (2018_12)

John Edmonds (29 March 2018)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spain mulls Chinese citrus opening

China's threat to impose a 15 per cent duty on US citrus in the escalating trade dispute over aluminium and steel tariffs could benefit Spanish exports in what remains of the current season, according to one shipper. Nacho Juárez of Anecoop, one of the leading suppliers of Spanish citrus to the Chinese market, said oranges would be the main beneficiary of the dispute since the mandarin season is almost over. He noted that the Chinese market had become somewhat complicated in recent weeks due to the high price of Spanish and US Navels, abundant arrivals of Valencia Late oranges from Egypt and the presence of domestic oranges on the market…Lane Late and other Navels such as Powell, Chislett and Barnfield are the varieties most likely to benefit, Juárez said, since "the Chinese market places a greater value on Navels than it does on Valencias". Spanish citrus exports to China have risen sharply during the past three years as their popularity among Chinese consumers continues to grow. Navelina and Navel oranges account for the bulk of shipments, which this season are on course to reach 40,000 tonnes. The US has also increased its presence in China and the market now ranks as the third destination for California citrus behind Canada and South Korea.."

[www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 26 March 2018]

China proposes 15% tariff on U.S. fruit imports

China has announced plans for reciprocal tariffs on US$3 billion of imports from the U.S., including a 15% duty on U.S. fruit. The move came soon after U.S. President Donald Trump instructed U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to impose tariffs on at least US$50 billion in Chinese imports…The Ministry said it will also pursue legal action against the U.S. at the World Trade Organization and called for dialogue to resolve the dispute. On Thursday Trump instructed the U.S. trade representative's office to publish a proposed list of products and tariff increases within 15 days. The move sent U.S. equities tumbling, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 724 points, almost 3%, its biggest drop in six weeks…

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 23 March 2018]

Peru expects China-bound mandarin exports to rise 15% in 2018

South America's leading soft citrus exporter is expecting more strong growth to China this year, although the rise is not set to be as big as 2017 when volumes rose around six-fold to 6,500 metric tons (MT). ProCitrus general manager Sergio del Castillo told Fresh Fruit Portal that Peru has become the largest soft citrus exporter in the region by volume, and he expected it to be on par with South Africa in a few years' time. He was these expectations were based on factors including demand from Chinese consumers, the management of the exporting companies sending shipments to Asia, and the arrival of good-quality products. Del Castillo said: "W. Murcott is the variety which is standing out as it is traveling well, it is highly regarded, it has great flavor, and it is being welcomed by the Chinese market". "We think we are going to continue increasing exports of these late varieties". He said that Peru produced around 120,000MT of W. Murcott mandarins last year, and the volume exported was between 50,000-70,000MT. This year, he said that hope was to produce around 140,000 MT while aiming to export about 85,000 MT. At present around 85% of current exports go to the U.S., The Netherlands, Europe and Canada, according to Del Castillo. "China takes around 2% compared to Canada which takes around 9-10%, so China is still a long way behind replacing them in fourth place, but in terms of growth, it is becoming an attractive market." His expectations are that growth will be smaller in the Chinese market this year. "Last year we exported 6.5 million kilograms, while this year it could be around 7.5 million, so it probably won't be as big a jump as 2017 but there will be a growth of around 15%," he said. Del Castillo said that the country's fruit and vegetable producers were looking towards the Asian market and China in particular. "They demand the same quality as others, so the only thing we need is to have the correct varieties that are able to travel well, arriving in good quality after the long journeys," he said.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 27 March 2018]

Spain: Drone prevents theft of oranges in Valencia

Last Friday, the Local Police of Algemesí prevented the theft of more than 2,000 kilos of oranges that had already been harvested in a field in Pardines. Damage to the truck that had to carry them had resulted in the fruit being temporarily stacked in boxes next to the plot, according to police sources.The images transmitted by a drone made it possible to detect the presence of a suspicious van about 300 metres down a rural road. It caught the eye of the agents especially when it left hastily, leaving at least two people among the orange trees. The police arrived quickly, and despite losing track of the people, who had fled across the fields, they found 103 boxes of oranges which they had tried to steal.It is the second time that this unit of the Local Police of Algemesí, which uses a drone that flies 40 metres over the fields, prevents a theft of fruit. This new aerial surveillance service has been implemented by the Local Police of Algemesí to tackle the rising number of thefts in rural areas..

[freshplaza.com; 28 March 2018]