Global Citrus Scan (2019_14)

(John Edmonds 10 May 2019) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentine lemon export season delayed significantly

Argentina's lemon export campaign has been delayed by around a month due to rains in the Tucumán area, according to an industry representative. However, Jossé Carbonell, president of Federcitrus, told PortalFruticola.com that the delays could be beneficial for exporters are they are likely to enter into markets with lower supply levels. "We have had a very intense rainy season in the Tucumán area that has delayed us greatly. We are one month behind due to the water, and it has affected not only citrus, but all of the harvests around this time," he said. Although normally there would be significant volumes of lemons being exported around this time, Carbonell noted that Spain and Turkey still had heavy supplies in Northern Hemisphere markets. "Having cleaner markets [when our fruit arrives], could mean there is more demand for our fruit and better prices," he said. "We should already be in the middle of our exports to Russia and the U.S. and we're only just starting." Export volumes are expected to be similar to last year, with a greater proportion going to the U.S. and a smaller one going to Europe, due to the large Spanish volumes. Carbonell is also concerned about the weather forecasts over the coming months, saying that could pose a challenge for the fruit industry. "It worries us that there are announcements of quite a hard winter for the whole Southern Hemisphere, … very cold weather is going to affect the fruit and the production of the coming year," he said.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 6 May 2019]

US: California spends $39 mil. to protect citrus

Protecting one of Tulare County's top crops from its deadliest pest is a statewide effort that costs millions. But doing nothing, as a new report points out, would cost the state billions. Earlier this month, the Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP) released its 2017–2018 annual report detailing the expensive, expansive yet essential effort to prevent the fatal citrus disease huanglongbing (HLB) from destroying California's $3.3 billion citrus industry, about one-third of which is grown in Tulare County. The citrus industry provides more than 21,600 jobs and has a $7.1 billion economic impact throughout the state. More than one-third of the $39 million in funding to fight HLB came from growers assessing themselves a per-carton fee, with the rest coming from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Citrus Health Response Program and the state of California…

[Freshplaza; 2 May 2019]

Hail storms cause damage in the Spanish Region of Valencia

The hail storms recorded on April 29 and 30 in the Valencian counties of Ribera Alta and Utiel-Requena have hit between 10,000 and 15,000 hectares devoted to the production of kakis and citrus fruits, causing losses estimated at 2.2 million Euro, according to La Unió de Llauradors…The most affected citrus crop is Valencia oranges, with losses totaling 1.5 million Euro, since the harvest hadn't yet been carried out and the sizes were large…La Unió said that the total value of the losses is still an estimation and that the real figure will be reported in the coming days.

[Freshplaza; 6 May 2019]

Zest Fruit takes leap of faith on citrus break bulk shipment to China

A historic occasion was marked yesterday (Monday) at the Durban quayside facility of Maydon Fruit Terminal (MFT): the first co-loading of citrus for Japan and China on a break bulk or reefer vessel, witnessed by Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Senzeni Zokwana, Deputy Minister Sfiso Buthelezi, Deputy Director-General Mooketsa Ramasodi, as well as other officials from the ministry, the Perishable Produce Export Control Board and the Citrus Growers' Association…The original 2004 protocol that granted access for South Africa's citrus to China specified shipment in containers, but in 2015 the South African industry put in a request for specialised reefer, or break bulk, vessel shipments to be also allowed by the protocol. China was amenable to the idea, but then followed four years of thrashing out the technical details. Zest Fruit which markets citrus from South Africa's northern production regions was the first to take the leap of faith this season. Their fruit makes up 60 to 70% of the parcel. Baltic Summer is the first of six vessels to be co-loaded for China and Japan this season…The first ship will be loaded with 5,200 pallets of grapefruit and depart from Durban Harbour by the end of the week. The protocol requires a transit temperature of -0.6°C for 12 days for Japan, so Tokyo and Osaka will the reefer vessel's first ports of call, thereafter it will move to China which requires 24 days at this temperature. Of the vessel's twelve holds, four will be for China and eight for Japan. It is possible that citrus for South Korea and, perhaps, even India could form part of such shipments in future…Apart from the improved adherence to cold protocols because of better cold air flow management on reefer vessels, this method of shipping can clear large volumes from the port in a short space of time, explained Justin Chadwick, Citrus Growers' Association CEO at the event to mark the occasion…DAFF officials also noted that this mode of shipping significantly speeds up the phytosanitary inspection process and reduces the work load of officials. The quayside Durban facility of MFT where pallets are loaded directly onto a vessel is situated away from the container facilities, further easing the notorious traffic congestion at the Bayhead container terminals in Durban Harbour…

[Freshplaza; 6 May 2019]