

“The only thing that scares me more than space aliens is the idea that there aren’t any space aliens. We can’t be the best that creation has to offer. I pray we’re not all there is. If so, we’re in big trouble” Ellen Degeneres

CRIMINALITY ON OUR ROADS

Mitchell Brooke’s analysis shows that there are 2 200 trucks on the road per week transporting citrus from the northern regions, with a further 1 200 in the Eastern Cape and 1 000 in the Western and Northern Cape. It is concerning that as we approach the peak of deliveries of citrus to the port, criminals are now torching trucks on our major routes. The President has termed this economic sabotage, and the police have made some arrests. In addition, it is reported that SANDF personnel will be deployed to protect road users. This strong response is welcomed. It is important that the root cause of this criminality is determined and addressed so that those using the road infrastructure can do so without fear. What this economic sabotage does, is increase the cost of transport – through higher insurance premiums, additional security measures, and replacement of vandalised equipment. These increased costs are passed on to consumers of the transported goods. In the case of citrus, exporters now have to pay more impacting on already strained returns to the farm; and in the worst case, some trucking companies are refusing to operate under these circumstances.

There is a strong case to be made for moving a good tonnage off the roads and onto the rail. Here again, criminality is an issue as cable theft impacts rail reliability. The perishable nature of fruit as a cargo means that it must move seamlessly through to the port, with no delays en route. In order to see significant volumes shifted from road to rail the issues around reliability will need to be addressed, as will investment in equipment and infrastructure.

The CGA will continue to engage with Transnet Freight Rail and the government to address these challenges, especially in light of additional volumes and Vision 260.

LEMON TRACKING

Those interested in the lemon sector, and in particular in lemon exports to the EU, are reminded of the lemon tracking presentation on 19/7 @ 15h00. Contact Precious@cga.co.za for the link.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

As we reach the halfway point in total volumes, the Focus Groups continue to reassess the predicted crop for 2023 – now dropping to below 160 million cartons. The Orange Focus Group reduced the prediction by a further 1.5 million cartons, lemons by 500 000 cartons and both Valencia and mandarin by 100 000 cartons.

End of Week 27 Million 15 kg cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023	2023	2023	2022
Grapefruit	17.6 m	14.5 m	12.m	12.m	10.4 m	14.4 m	13.8 m	16.7 m
Mandarins	16.6 m	16 m	18 m	12.1 m	15.6 m	34.1 m	34.2 m	31.8 m
Lemons	22.3 m	24.3 m	27 m	20.5 m	23.7 m	37.3 m	35.2 m	34.7 m
Navels	17.7 m	16.6 m	14.1 m	11.4 m	10.6 m	25.3 m	23.3 m	27.8 m
Valencia	9 m	6.6 m	7.7 m	2.9 m	4.7 m	54.5 m	53 m	53.8 m
Total	83.2 m	78.0 m	78.8 m	58.9 m	65.0 m	165.6 m	159.5 m	164.8 m