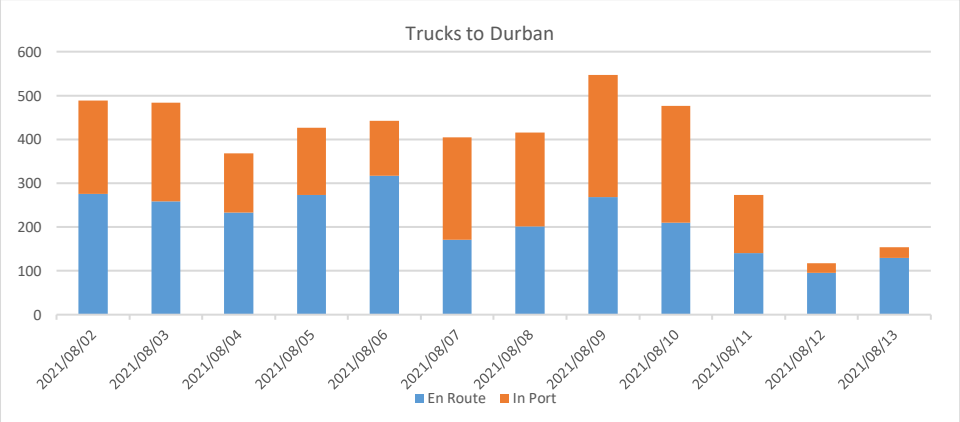
FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (30/21)
(Follow me on Twitter justchad_cga)
Justin Chadwick 13 August 2021

"When ignorance screams, intelligence is silent" Fable (as quoted by Rassie Erasmus)

THANK YOU TO GROWERS FOR RESPONDING TO PORT OPERATORS PLEA TO STOP PACKING

The havoc wrought by the insurrection, followed closely by the Transnet cyberattack, meant that South African ports were extremely congested. Cold stores were blocked out and the movement of containers and cargo in and out of the port was constrained. Reefer plug in points capacity was also constrained. As a result, a call was made to growers in the north to consider a temporary hold on harvesting, packing and transporting fruit to Durban from Friday 6/8 to Thursday 12/8. One does not just turn the "sausage machine" off – there was still considerable fruit to be moved, and hence the trucks carried on arriving into this week. From the figures obtained by Faisal Asmal of trucks on route to Durban, and those already in Durban, growers clearly heeded the call. This allowed the cold stores to load out, and the port environment to normalise. Industry and Transnet are holding regular virtual meetings with all stakeholders (over 170 participants attended) to monitor the situation and keep all appraised of the latest situation. A similar call was made to Eastern Cape growers as the ports in that region also faced congestion issues. This voluntary action from growers illustrates how united the industry is in facing joint challenges – and industry taking the responsibility without needing regulation or enforcement.



JOAN SADIE: MAKING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITRUS INDUSTRY

In July 2021 Joan Sadie retired from the DALRRD. While many growers may not be familiar with Joan Sadie, CGA would like to recognize the valuable role Joan played as Registrar of the Plant Improvement Act, especially where it directly impacted on the future viability and competitiveness of the citrus industry. Joan has been instrumental in ensuring the recent update of the Plant Improvement Act – providing the regulatory basis for a well-functioning Citrus Improvement Scheme (CIS). Moreover, Joan played a key role in the proposal that the CIS be promulgated as a compulsory statutory scheme. This was not an easy process but through Joan's expertise, patience, humility and positive outlook the key stakeholders have been brought together to reach a robust regulatory framework and consensus on the way forward. Joan was a member of the CIS Advisory Committee since 2008. We thank Joan for all her hard work and the best for her retirement.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 31 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2020**	**2021**	**2021**	**2021**	**2020**
Grapefruit (17kg)			14.5 m		12.6 m			
Grapefruit	15.8 m	14 m	16.5 m	12.8 m	14.3 m	18 m	17.2 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	14.3 m	18.7 m	22.8 m	15.9 m	17.3 m	30.5 m	30.1 m	23.6 m
Lemons	19.4 m	24.9 m	26.7 m	22.5 m	23.3 m	30.2 m	27.7 m	29.6 m
Navels	20.3 m	22.4 m	23.4 m	19.9 m	18.6 m	26.3 m	25.3 m	26.2 m
Valencia	16.5 m	21.7 m	21.3 m	14.3 m	11.7 m	58 m	55.4 m	55.1 m
Total	**86.3 m**	**101.7m**	**110.7m**	**85.4 m**	**85.2 m**	**163 m**	**155.7 m**	**150 m**