



Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held on 2 November 2018. Contact details are listed at the bottom of the Fresh Notes

Moratorium on High-Cube Containers Contact Andy Connell

A one year moratorium has been granted and the CSIR tasked to conduct research on, amongst others, safety of the 4,3 m height and social impact, and benchmark against existing protocols.

Revised cold steri market protocols for newer cultivars Contact Henk Griessel

It has been observed that some of the newer cultivars are sensitive to the cold steri protocols, which were originally established for the standard varieties. A shipping trial run will be conducted to confirm shipping at a higher temperature.

CA Research Facilities Contact Elke Crouch

The new CA research equipment was inaugurated at Stellenbosch University, after the CA meeting on 6 November. Please find the presentations given on the day on the Hortgro Science website: <https://www.hortgro-science.co.za/presentations/hortgro-pome-ca-meetings/>

There are also some photos on Hortgro's Website and Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.2130779613639548&type=1&l=a7d2cb35b4>
<https://www.hortgro.co.za/news/state-of-the-art-ca-facility-launched-at-us/>

Pink Lady Browning Contact Elke Crouch

Radial browning was particularly prevalent this season, although diffuse browning was also encountered. Radial browning is linked to pre-harvest climatic factors, and diffuse browning is a chilling injury which is exacerbated by advanced maturity and over storage.



Dr Ian Crouch of Experico is scheduled to conduct an annual survey over the next number of years, in order to try and pinpoint high risk factors. A long storage trial, using higher temperatures in conjunction with 1-MCP, is underway at Experico. In addition, Dr Elke Crouch will be looking at additional student capacity to investigate the links between climate and browning.

Packhouse Benchmarking Contact Dawid Malan

Below the average of 19 sets of data compared for Q2.

"Benchmarking" berekeninge 2018 - Q2		
Pakhuis kode	Gemid	Std Dev
Kg vrugte getip/ Totale persoon /uur	56.62	12.76
Kg gepak/ Totale Persoon/ uur	42.49	8.94
Kg pere getip/ pakhuispersoon /uur	60.30	10.98
Kg appels getip/pakhuispersoon/uur	70.02	22.70
Kg pere gepak/pakhuispersoon/uur	53.84	20.97
Kg appels gepak/pakhuispersoon/uur	50.42	12.17
% Pere	35.85%	0.31
% Appels	79.66%	0.26
Afwesigheid %	5.39%	0.02
Bestuurstaantyd%	6.63%	0.03
Elektriese staantyd%	0.76%	0.01
Meganiese Staantyd%	2.42%	0.03
Totale Staantyd%	11.07%	0.06
PPECB Afkeuring %	3.38%	0.02
Karton waste %	0.66%	0.01
Sakkie pak %	29.26%	0.14
Sakkie waste %	0.83%	0.01



Defect analysis started with 4 organisations on Golden Delicious. Participants are sending information to Productivity SA, who will analyse the data and propose a model that the Industry can use to benchmark defects. The aim is to finish this by the end of 2018 to be in a position to start defect benchmarking in 2019.

Market Access Feedback

Contact Lindi Benic / Jacques du Preez

DPA Feedback

The EU has voted for a reduction of the DPA MRL from 0,1 to 0,05 ppm, to implemented on 1 May 2019. In the light of this, please be aware of the potential risks if you do use DPA. Exceedances are likely to affect the industry as a whole. It should be kept in mind that initial research by Anel Botes has shown that DPA does not reduce the risk of diffuse internal browning, but may play a role with controlling CO₂ internal browning.

Attached, please find a previous Fresh Notes on DPA cross-contamination.

Mexico

Appointments have been finalised.

Taiwan

The PhytClean protocols allows for self-control at various points in the production and packing operations.

India

India is awaiting access to SA for certain of their products.



Insurers' requirements for smoke detectors/sprinklers in packhouses and CA stores
Contact Koos Bouwer

Individual circumstances dictated the requirements, and these were premised on:

- Fire prevention plan
- Building regulations plan
- Personnel safety

Packhouses can approach the Association of Fire Engineers if they require advice. Visit www.fire.co.za or contact INFO@FIRE.CO.ZA.

Circulation to Packhouse Interested Persons Contact Jacques du Preez

Due to the Pome Packhouse list becoming somewhat outdated, it was circulated to regional offices for updating. One of the difficulties with circulation lists is that the contact person changes without providing notification, or does not always forward the information to interested parties. If you come across this information and would like to receive it first-hand, please let us know.

Projects for 2019

- Water management
- Benchmarking

Strategic Objectives for 2019

- Logistical co-ordination
- Revised steri market programmes
- Minimum packaging specifications
- Plastics strategy



PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

Please contact the relevant person if you have any queries regarding the PAG.

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