

March 2005



# Newsletter

## *In This Issue:*

- Market Review
- Freshcare Farm Accreditation
- Voting at AGM
- Growers Estimated Pack-out returns review
- On Farm bin pick-up days

## **NFC Up-date**

Of late we have been sending the newsletter out every second month, but find it necessary to send this issue a little sooner advising you of new accreditation procedures, changes to the 'grower pack-out' form and other yearly housekeeping updates, here at Natures Fruit Company.

## **Market Review – Paul Schramm**



**SHEPARD:** Market leading up to Easter is quite strong, with sales for Premium grade fruit \$16-\$24, with some states recording slightly higher prices.

Second grade sales \$12-\$16 with a fair quantity of 2nd grade fruit on the market at present along with small fruit, which is making quality inconsistent.

**FUERTE:** Prices depend on each market. Sales \$10 - \$16.

Hard to sell, with a fair quantity of anthracnose present.

**HASS :** Some Nth Qld growers have commenced picking hass, and one Bundaberg grower. Hass fruit expected to be offered for sale first week after Easter. Expected sales of \$28-\$30.

## **Freshcare Farm Accreditation**

A reminder that NFC is only able to send fruit to the supermarket chains from farms that have current on farm accreditation. NFC is recommending Freshcare.

NFC will still offer our full range of services to members who choose not to become accredited, which is obviously obtaining the best possible returns for fruit.

Growers who have already undertaken a training course will need to organise a farm audit with an accredited Certifier. NFC has had negotiations with Sci-Qual International (Gary Altmann ph. 0438980838) or S.G.S. (Peter Chandler 0421615 811) on behalf of our members. For growers who have not completed a training course the following trainers have offered their services:

Wally Collins: Ph. 0428743331 or 02.65667944

Ron Tyas: Ph 07 3886 6200 or 0417 068 680

Northern NSW: Paul Moosberger (prefers on farm training) Ph 0266204285.

Please contact NFC office for tentative group training course dates in your area.

Good rates and a tailored

programme can be obtained if NFC can organise training groups of 6 or more. Please contact Andrew or Jennie if you would like to participate. There is potential for FarmBiz funding to be made available towards the end of April, so growers may wish to arrange their training to take advantage of this funding. After audit, could you please fax a copy of certification to NFC office.

**QLD ACCREDITATION  
REQUIREMENTS FOR  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Under requirements for movement of fruit into Western Australia from Queensland, NFC can only send fruit to Western Australia from farms that hold current accreditation for "Area or Property Freedom." Accreditation is free, but the grower must complete an application, which is attached, and return it to DPI to be issued with this accreditation.

Forms may be faxed to DPI (fax no. 54762855) or posted to P.O. Box 5083 SCMC Nambour Q 4560. We strongly recommend that any grower who is looking to take advantage of the strong WA market take the necessary action immediately. NFC must hold a copy of your accreditation on file.

**Spray Diaries**

A further reminder that we must have spray diaries with first consignment of fruit delivered.

**Growers Estimated Pack-out Returns**

In a response to feedback from growers the 2005 season will see a change in the way we report back to growers on their packouts and the estimated returns they can expect to receive. Growers will continue to receive their packout details via the Recipient Invoice (Estimate Only) that reports on the fruit packed and charges incurred. The estimated returns will take the form of a table in which a market range of returns for all sizes will be listed for the pool week. It will be then up to you the grower to do the calculations as to what your estimated return may be by matching your packed fruit with the relevant prices.

**Example:**

**Market Price Range:**  
(For Estimation Purposes ONLY)

**Pool Week:** \_\_\_\_\_

Variety	Size 14-16 \$ range	Size 18-20 \$ range	Size 23 \$ range	Size 25 \$ range	Size 28 \$ range	Bulk \$		
						L	M	S
Hass - Premium	\$15-17.00	\$18-20.00	\$17-\$18.00	\$16 -17.00	\$14-\$15.00	\$20-	\$18-	\$15-
Hass - First								
Hass - Generic								
Other Varieties - Premium								
Other Varieties - First								
Other Varieties - Generic								

## Voting At the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is going to be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

As Chairman, I have decided that all the resolutions for the appointment of directors and all other resolutions will **not** be passed on a show of hands.

All resolutions will be decided by a poll as per 11.12 of the Company's Constitution.

This means that it is absolutely essential that you exercise your right to vote, even if you cannot attend the meeting, by completing the Proxy Form which will be the first page in the Annual Accounts which will be forwarded to you by mail in due course.

Please note that you do not have to name a person to be your proxy. If you leave the area for the proxy name blank, the Chairman **must exercise your vote as you have marked your proxy form.**

What is most important is that you will be posting your proxy form back to the company auditors who act as the adjudicators **and your form will never be seen by the Chairman, members of the Board or any staff member.**

So please take this opportunity and exercise your vote for the benefit of your company.

**FARM BIN PICK UPS : TURNERS TRANSPORT FOR  
NATURES FRUIT COMPANY : 2005 SEASON**

**Bins must be ready no later than 1pm on day of pick up.**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>*SATURDAY</b>
Mt Tamborine	Blackbutt	Mt Tamborine		Hampton	Mt Tamborine
	Hampton			Toowoomba	
	Gatton			Gatton	
	Esk			Esk	
	Toowoomba				

**28 BINS OR MORE - DAYS CAN BE VARIED WITH 24 HOURS NOTICE**

**\*SATURDAY RUNS WILL BE ORGANISED FOR THE BLACKBUTT / TOOWOOMBA / HAMPTON AREA PROVIDED SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF BIN PICKUPS ARE ORGANISED.**

**ALL OTHER AREAS**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>		
---------------	----------------	------------------	-----------------	--	--

**Morning Pick Up to be ready by 9am**

Gympie	Bellthorpe	Gympie	Bellthorpe		
Kandanga	Caboolture	Kandanga	Caboolture		

**Afternoon Pick Ups to be ready by 1pm**

Palmwoods	Beerwah	Palmwoods	Beerwah		
Woombye	Glasshouse	Woombye	Glasshouse		
Range	Peachester	Range	Peachester		

Beerwah Depot bins to be delivered by 4pm

Maryborough Depot bins to be delivered by 3pm

***Note : To keep freight costs to a minimum, we are trying to co-ordinate growers for multiple pick-ups in certain areas.....Please phone Andrew***

