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News

Size Does Matter - 01/08/2013

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Avocados Australia's Quality program launches in North Qld

QUALICADO - Avocados Australia Ltd's (AAL's) new best practice program will be rolled-out to the avocado industry across the nation over the next 12 months and its launch is set to take place in North Queensland. And one of the topics for discussion is what determines the size of avocados.

The **North Qld QUALICADO Workshop** is to be held from 9.00am till 3.00pm on **Thursday the 15th of August at Koci Avocados in Dimbulah near Atherton** (RN 4030 Mareeba/Dimbulah Road). All avocado growers in the region and surrounding areas are invited to attend. This launch is the first of series of FREE events that will outline and demonstrate the value of the QUALICADO program to industry.

Simon Newett, Principal Extension Horticulturist from the Queensland Department of Forestry and Fisheries (QDAFF) will be delivering the presentation about what determines the size of avocados with his presentation "Size does matter! Understanding fruit size and how to improve it". Other topics covered on the day are: Fruit Spotting Bug research, updates on Avocados Australia R&D and marketing activities, best practice, and how to optimise Phosphorus Acid applications.

The North Qld QUALICADO Workshop program includes presentations from: Ian Newton a Senior Entomologist and Matt Weinert a Senior Extension Horticulturist both from QDAFF, Dr Ruth Huwer an Entomologist with the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, Karel Lindsay a PhD Student from University of Queensland, and Julie Petty and John Tyas from Avocados Australia. The day ends with an orchard walk with our event host, Sony Koci.

Qualicado represents a program of continuous improvement for avocado industry members. Growers, packers, wholesalers, ripeners and transporters are encouraged to participate in this program with the overarching goal being to improve the quality of avocados for the end consumer and business profitability. Events will be happening in each of the eight avocado growing regions (in North, Central and Southeast Queensland, Northern and Central New South Wales, the Tristate area (South Australia, Victoria and South Western New South Wales) and Western Australia. In addition, wholesalers and ripeners will be targeted by events happening in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Adelaide.

"Qualicado is a program aimed at driving fruit quality and best practice so it benefits the entire avocado industry. The first Qualicado workshop will focus on issues such as Fruit Spotting Bug, Phosphorus Acid applications and crop nutrition," said John Tyas, CEO of Avocados Australia Ltd.

All avocado growers and industry members in the region are welcome to attend.

To register to attend the NQ QUALICADO Workshop call Avocados Australia's toll free phone number **1300 303 971** or email supplychain@avocado.org.au before **Friday the 9th of August**.

To find out more about the QUALICADO program view the Fact Sheet by [clicking here](#).

- ENDS -

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