



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

January 2014

Volume 25, Issue 1

Industry Calendar

February 7-9

NCC Annual Mtg—
Washington, D.C.

February 26

JCIBPC Mtg—
Memphis, TN

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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Williams Says Goodbye After 20 Years!

After an incredible career that has spanned two decades at the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, **Earl P. Williams** has retired. For more than twenty years, Earl has seen many successes, not the least of which was achieving 100% membership in both the Ginners and Growers Associations on a voluntary basis. When Earl started at the Association in 1993, only 60% of the cotton growers in the state were

members and only 85% of the cotton gins were members. The achievement of 100% membership, unheard of with organizations that aren't mandatory check-off programs, in the two associations is a testament to the success the Associations have enjoyed under Earl's leadership. Preparing and submitting numerous Section 18's for critical crop protection chemicals, the passage of several industry related legislative bills (module truck axle weights, truck tractor/trailer type vehicles as implements of husbandry, etc.), getting the gins on agricultural rates in the PG&E and SCE territories, and the passage of the partial sales tax exemption for tractors, parts and fuel for agriculture are just a few of the critical highlights that occurred during his storied career. Earl had the uncanny

ability to bring diverging opinions together and unite them towards a common goal. This characteristic was evidenced in the opening of the one variety law, and dealing with tough issues like sticky cotton, pima prep and seed coat fragments. To highlight these successes, a special retirement celebration was held on December 20th in Fresno. Close to 300 people attended the evening event, highlighted by comments and a presentation of a resolution by **State Senator Leland Yee**. Also making presenta-



Williams shown here receiving the CCGGA Lifetime Achievement Award from Growers' Chairman Cannon Michael and Ginners' Chairman Greg Gillard.

tions were **Congressman David Valadao** and **Shelly Abajian** on behalf of **US Senator Dianne Feinstein** and **Congressman Jim Costa**. At the end, Williams was recognized for his outstanding career with the first ever California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations' Lifetime Achievement Award.

On behalf of the entire membership, staff and Boards of Directors of these Associations, we wish to thank Earl for all that he has done for the California Cotton Industry and wish him the very best in his future! You will be missed!

State Releases Updated Comprehensive Water Reliability and Ecosystem Restoration Plan

The Bay Delta Conservation Program, which aims to restore ecosystem health and secure

reliable water supplies for California has been released for formal public review. In addition to stabilizing water deliveries from the Delta, the plan details the recovery of 56 species of plants, fish and wildlife over the 50 year life plan. These “co-equal goals” were delineated by the Legislature in the 2009 Delta Reform Act. The 9,000 page plan and its corresponding Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement have undergone several revisions since the administrative drafts that were released last spring and summer. Some revisions include:

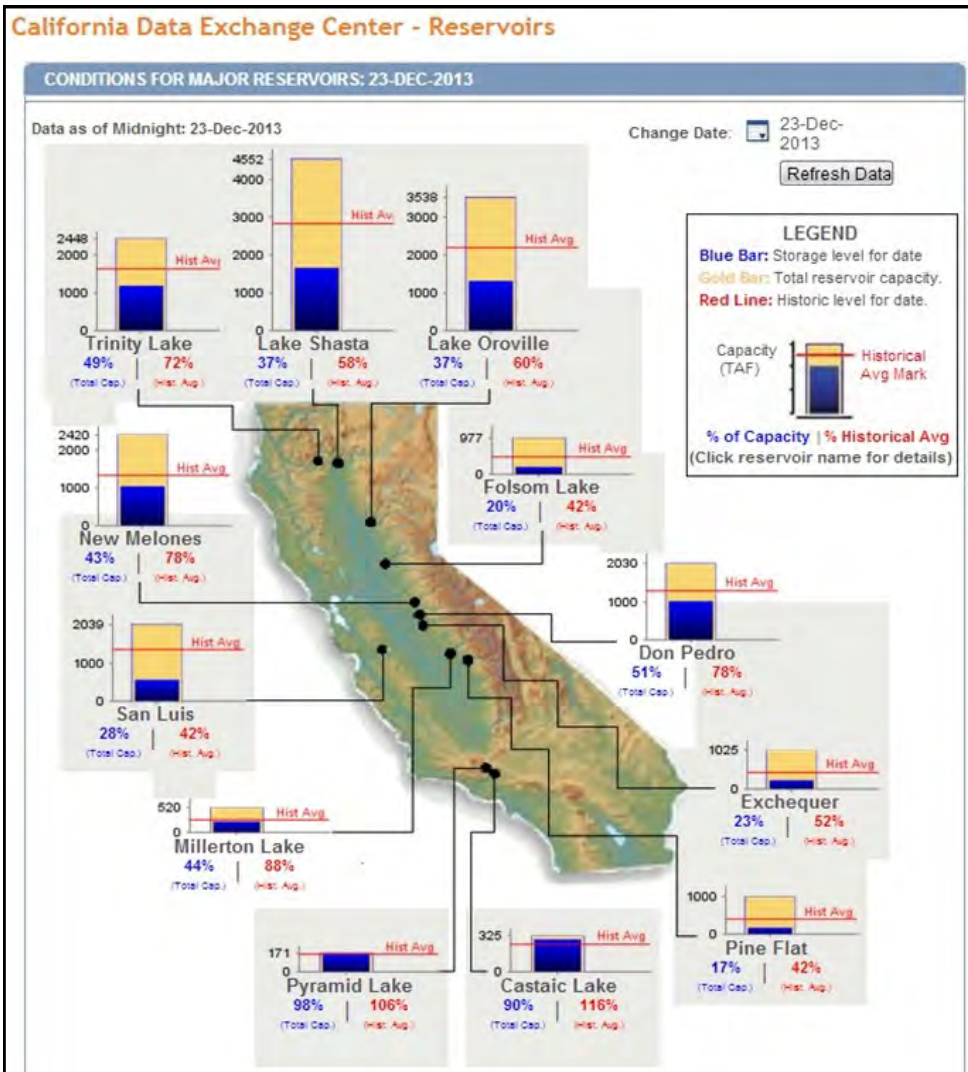
- Changes to the alignment of the conveyance tunnels for a smaller environmental footprint
- Details that ensure the critical adaptive management process accurately measures species recovery
- Detailed changes on how the plan would be governed
- Tools and funding available to support adaptive management if more Delta water is needed
- Additional design criteria and operational constraints for proposed Delta intake
- Additional measures to further protect the greater sandhill crane, giant garter snake, and saltmarsh harvest mouse

The BDCP has been developed through seven years of analysis and hundreds of public meetings. The plan describes 22 separate conservation measures that are administered by CDWR, operator for the SWP and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, operator of the CVP. The plan aims at providing these entities with a stable regulatory environment that works towards the recovery of imperiled fish species. Only in the last paragraph of the State’s press release is any real mention of the water users that so desperately need a workable plan. It states that water users (Southern California, the Santa Clara Valley, and the San Joaquin Valley) will bear most of the costs of the plan, including the new intakes and tunnels which will total around \$16 billion. The public review draft of the BDCP is available at www.baydeltaconservationplan.com. Also available is guidance for comments and a schedule of public meetings. Comments will be gathered until April 14, 2014. CCGA will be actively involved in commenting on the plan and attending public meetings as to address our concerns with

the proposed plan, including avoiding damaging impacts to our ag economy, ag jobs, and business climate.

2013 – Another Dry Year

As the year comes to a close, California is faced with the grim reality that we are in the midst of another devastating drought. With pima prices high and demand fairly strong, growers would hope to plant significant acres. But with water storage levels significantly below historical averages, and rainfall for 2013 close to being the driest on record, the outlook for cotton acres in California in 2014 looks bleak. Rainfall in Fresno will barely be over 3 inches for the entire year, which is about 35% of normal, while San Francisco has had about 3.38 inches of rain (16% of normal) and Los Angeles has had 3.6 inches of rain (24% of normal). On the positive side, this is exactly what is needed at the statewide level to get movement on the water bond and solving the issues with water in the delta. The concern over the drought situation has hit the Governor’s office with the announcement of the formation of a



task force to determine whether a statewide drought declaration is warranted. This follows the release of the draft California Water Action Plan, which calls for increased “water use efficiency” and possible groundwater pumping restrictions as potential measures necessary to address critical water supplies in the coming years. While not having significant rainfall this season is a setback, we need significant movement...as in the physical moving of dirt to solve these problems. In 2010, the water bond was on the ballot that would have paved the way for additional storage, and a fix in the delta. But then it rained and the political will to move something in a tough budget year led to the withdrawal of the water bond from the ballot. Similarly, it was pulled from the ballot in 2012 as well. Another two years with no action to create additional water supply. Unfortunately, another dry year might be a bitter, but necessary, pill to swallow.

AgSafe to offer Worker Protection Standards and Hazard Communications

AgSafe will be offering their Safety Essentials workshop that includes both Worker Protection Standards and Hazard Communication courses. These courses are excellent opportunities to continue effective safety programs, brush up with new skills and learn new requirements. The Worker Protection Standards class is designed for supervisors, crew leaders, and workers and teaches where and how workers may come into contact with pesticides, how workers can protect themselves from exposure, signs and symptoms of poisoning from pesticides including first aid procedures, restricted entry intervals, postings, warnings, pesticide use reports, protection from employer retaliation and much more. This class is held from 8:00 AM-12:00 PM. The second course offered is Hazard Communications from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM. The course is ideal for managers and supervisors and aims to teach them state and federal regulations requirements, including requirements for a hazard communication plan, and will review the Global Harmonization System and documentation and training. The courses can be taken individually or together. Classes are available in both English and Spanish. Cost per class is \$20 for members and \$30 for Non-Members. A \$10 late fee will be assessed for those that register less than 5 days prior to the event. Questions can be directed to AgSafe at 209-526-4400 or safeinfo@agsafe.org. Registration is available on their website at www.agsafe.org by selecting their calendar and choosing the event you

CLASSING AVERAGES
December 26, 2013
Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2012	2013
CA Saw Upland	309,785	207,727
CA Roller Upland	134,286	79,748
Pima	552,058	499,265
CA Saw Upland	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.28	4.32
Color Grade % 21+	83.9	74.2
Color Grade % 31	13.8	17.3
Color Grade % 41	0.4	6.8
Length Avg.	36.75	37.04
Strength Avg.	33.22	33.90
Uniformity Avg.	81.66	81.89
Leaf Distribution 1	12.5	11.2
Leaf Distribution 2	57.3	50.9
Leaf Distribution 3	27.7	34.8
Leaf Distribution 4	2.2	3.0
CA Roller Upland	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.35	4.44
Color Grade % 21+	76.8	61.0
Color Grade % 31	19.0	34.7
Color Grade % 41	0.4	0.4
Length Avg.	38.85	39.32
Strength Avg.	33.96	34.09
Uniformity Avg.	83.23	83.22
Leaf Distribution 1	9.8	8.4
Leaf Distribution 2	61.0	64.6
Leaf Distribution 3	27.0	25.5
Leaf Distribution 4	2.0	1.3
All Pima	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.03	4.0
Color Grade % 1	56.2	59.3
Color Grade % 2	39.8	38.4
Color Grade % 3	3.7	2.2
Color Grade % 4	0.2	0.1
Length Avg.	47.50	48.04
Strength Avg.	42.67	43.38
Uniformity Avg.	85.45	85.40
Leaf Distribution 1	30.2	32.4
Leaf Distribution 2	56.6	59.7
Leaf Distribution 3	12.0	7.4
Leaf Distribution 4	1.0	0.5

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
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PRESORTED STANDARD
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Happy New Year

would like to attend. The courses will be offered in five different locations:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
Bakersfield, CA	01/16/2014
Salinas, CA	02/06/2014
Fresno, CA	02/11/2014
Oxnard, CA	02/12/2014
Santa Maria, CA	02/13/2014

CCGGA Testifies at ARB Truck Rule Workshop!

CCGGA Executive Vice President Roger Isom spoke out against the proposed changes to the California Air Resources Board's Heavy Duty On-road Vehicle Regulation (aka The Truck Rule), saying the proposed changes don't go far enough! ARB is currently proposing changes to the rule designed to lessen and/or delay the impact of the current rules. The proposed changes include:

- Re-opening the opt-in period to register existing low mileage agricultural vehicle extension
- Re-opening the opt-in period to register for the existing PM phase-in requirements
- Increase the thresholds for the low-use exemption for trucks that are operated a total of less than 5,000 miles per year
- Expand "NOx exempt" areas to include additional counties including Butte County!

Isom specifically stated that the proposed changes to the NOx exempt areas were too limited and placed unfair advantages on farmers in the San Joaquin Valley. Isom also commented that the extensions on the filter requirements would do nothing for individual owner/operators and small fleet owners that simply can't afford a diesel particulate filter (DPF) especially when the filter costs more than the truck is worth! Finally, Isom blasted the ARB for the filter requirements in general emphasizing the repeated problems with retrofit filters, including the over 100 trucks in ARB's own Proposition 1B program where there was not a single truck that could be found with a "working filter." Isom also asked why ARB was doing a survey to fleet owners asking if the filters worked or not, to which ARB indicated that the survey was unauthorized and that a new one will be going out in early spring. Isom requested that the survey be conducted by an "unbiased" third party to get to the truth. WAPA continues to press ARB on one of the most costly and impactful rules for its members to comply with, and encourages all of its members to weigh in now on the impact of the truck rule and cost of compliance! For details or if you have any questions, please contact our office at (559)252-0684.

