



The Cotton Chronicle

1785 N. Fine Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727 • Telephone: (559) 252-0684 • Fax: (559) 252-0551

www.ccgga.org

May 2014

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Industry Calendar

May 27-29
Ginner Industry Mtg —
Monterey

May 29
Ginner Board Mtg —
Monterey

(Visit web calendar
for details)

CCGGA Staff

Roger A. Isom
President/CEO
roger@ccgga.org

Aimee Brooks
Director of Regulatory
Affairs
aimee@ccgga.org

Shana Colby
Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org

Last Chance Enrollment Sessions Scheduled for Growers to Comply with new Water Regulations

All commercially irrigated land in the Kings River service area must comply with the Tulare Lake Basin Waste Discharge Requirements General Order that was adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Action must be taken by growers by **May 19, 2014** to avoid penalties from the Regional Board. To comply, growers can either join the Kings River Water Quality Coalition or apply for an Individual Order through the Regional Board. **The Coalition will hold four enrollment sessions for growers on Friday, May 9 at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office, 1274 W. Hedges, Fresno 93728.** Sessions are scheduled from 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm, 3-4 pm and 4-5 pm. To enroll acreage at a session, growers will need to have with them the physical address and Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) for each property they will be enrolling. They will also need to bring a checkbook for payment of the enrollment fee. Coalition membership forms will be available at the workshop. To find out more about the Coalition go to www.kingsriverwqc.org or call 559-365-7958.

WCSA Elects Kevin McDermott President

Congratulations to **Kevin McDermott**, of Jess Smith and Sons Cotton, who was recently elected as President of the **Western Cotton Shippers Association** during their recent Annual Meeting. Tim North of Ecom Cotton was elected Vice President. McDermott is currently an advisor to the California Cotton Ginners Association and will take over the WCSA seat as an advisor to the California Cotton Growers Association as well.



EPA Approves Planting of 100% Transgenic Cotton in California

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved a USDA APHIS request for a repeat Section 18 Federal Quarantine Exemption, allowing the planting of 100% transgenic cotton in California to target pink bollworm. The request by the USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine department will permit cotton growers in 14 counties in California to plant up to 100% of their cotton acreage to transgenic (Bt) cotton in conjunction with sterile insect release. This quarantine exemption is subject to the following conditions:

1. USDA APHIS is responsible for ensuring all provisions of this quarantine are met, including submitting annual use reports and a final report to EPA within six months of the expiration date of the exemption.
2. The following products may be used under this exemption: Bollgard II cotton, WideStrike cotton, and WideStrike x COT102 cotton, and TwinLink Bt Cotton.
3. All applicable use directions, restrictions and precautions on the EPA-registered product must be followed.
4. Only the following counties may be planted to 100% Bt cotton (no refugia): Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Sutter, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa and Butte.
5. Results of the resistance monitoring program conducted by USDA APHIS must be reported annually to EPA.
6. Interim reports must be submitted by USDA APHIS to EPA Headquarters and Region IX.

Welcome New Associate Members!
DuBose Strapping, Inc.
Goetz & Sons, Inc.
Quality Grain Company, Inc.

CCGGA Emphasizes Water in Trip to Sacramento

Several members of the Boards of Directors of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations talked water, water, water to several members of the California State Legislature this past week in a trip to Sacramento. The California Cotton Growers Association was represented by **Chairman Steve Wilbur, and Gary Martin**, while the California Cotton Ginners Association was represented by **Chairman Greg Gillard of Olam Cotton, 2nd Vice Chairman Russell Patterson of Buttonwillow Ginning and Past**



Dinner with Senator Ben Hueso and Assemblyman Ken Cooley

Chairman Stan Creelman of Mid Valley Cotton Growers. The Association staff included **President/CEO Roger Isom and Director of Regulatory Affairs Aimee Brooks**, along with **George Soares and Louie Brown of Kahn, Soares and Conway**, as well as several Board members of the Western Agricultural Processors Association in this trip to the State Capitol. CCGGA had dinner with **Assemblyman Ken Cooley and Senator Ben Hueso**, and breakfast with **Senators Jean Fuller and Anthony Cannella** to discuss



Breakfast with Senator Anthony Cannella and Senator Jean Fuller

water bond legislation. In addition, the members met with **Senator Andy Vidak, Senator Tom Berryhill, Assemblyman Rudy Salas and Assemblyman Henry T. Perea** individually to discuss water as well. While the group was in Sacramento, they also met the **Director Brian Leahy and Deputy Director Chris Reardon of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)** to discuss Chlorpyrifos, bee

issues, Bidrin for brown stink bugs and neonicotinoids. They also met **with State Water Resources Control Board Member Dee Dee D'Adamo** to discuss the latest information regarding the state water supply situation, poten-



Meeting with Assemblyman Henry T. Perea

tial groundwater actions and the Irrigated Lands Program. In addition, the contingent met with **California Air Resources Board Executive Officer Richard Corey and Emissions Compliance, Automotive Regulations and Science Division Chief Erik White** to discuss the Truck Rule, Tractor Rule and AB32 Scoping Plan. Finally, the group ended the trip with a meeting with **Michael Boccadoro and Beth Olhasso of the Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA)** to discuss energy issues, in particular the latest in the cur-



Meeting with ARB Executive Officer Richard Corey

rent PG&E General Rate Case and the implementation of aggregation for solar installations.

Proposition 65—Big Changes, Big Trouble...

Proposition 65 is also known as the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, requires public worker notice for exposure to toxic chemicals. Several large changes were expected for Proposition 65 last year to address abusive litigation concerns and language that made it difficult for businesses to know if they were compliant or not. Attempts through the governor's office, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and legislation ultimately stalled in 2013. But on March 7, the

OEHHA released proposed “pre-regulatory” changes to the Prop. 65 requirements that will mean significant changes for manufactures, employers, producers, and others who have the potential to expose employees, visitors or customers to a listed Proposition 65 chemical(s).

The current proposal would establish 3-5 minimum required elements for warnings that businesses would be obligated to post, including:

- The signal word: WARNING
- Use of the word “expose” to be consistent with statute
- GHS pictogram for toxic hazards (food, occupational, environmental warnings excluded)
- Disclosure of (up to 12) of the commonly known chemicals in warning
 - o i.e. Mercury, lead
- Link to a new OEHHA website for the public to access more information
 - o Routes of exposure, additional chemicals

The proposal claims the new requirements would provide businesses with more certainty and clarity for their warnings. However, at the recent pre-regulatory workshop on April 14, 2014, a variety of industries banded together to oppose several of the new changes and agreed that the proposal wouldn’t do anything to help with abusive litigation and had the propensity to dramatically increase it! WAPA will make comments on the proposed rule, supporting the changes that need to be made for businesses to have better regulatory certainty but not for changes that increase the chances for frivolous lawsuits. Comments are due to OEHHA May 14th, 2014 and the proposal of a formal regulation will occur sometime in early summer of 2014, with final adoption of the regulations sometime in early summer of 2015.

California Rolls out 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Programs

The 2014 Farm Bill is providing \$3.4 billion for conservation programs administered by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in fiscal year 2014 and \$18.7 billion over five years. All applications received by NRCS last fall will be transitioned and processed using the 2014 Farm Bill programs with little if any additional work required by the landowner, says California State Conservationist Carlos Suarez. Currently, conservation opportunities are being rolled out gradually, using both new and continuing programs, according to California State Conservationist Carlos Suarez. However, most Farm Bill related changes will be reflected in program roll outs in fiscal year 2015, Suarez says. Programs have been combined into

three general categories: 1) financial assistance programs—these continue assistance through the popular Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); 2) easement programs—three programs to protect wetlands, prevent farmland conversion, and conserve grazing lands, have been consolidated into the new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP); and 3) partnership programs—the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) replaces four former programs that allowed partners to apply for special targeted funding to a group of producers with a shared resource protection focus.

“Our partners here in California have been very proactive and successful at using the 2008 partnership programs to make needed inroads addressing issues such as nitrates, dairy water quality, pollinator decline, wildlife habitat, rangeland and forest health, irrigation efficiency and much more,” said Suarez. “We anticipate expanding our joint successes using the new RCPP program,” he added. A federal register notice giving more information on RCPP is anticipated soon. Fact sheets are available on each of the new programs, comparing the 2008 and the 2014 set of conservation programs, and detailing the step by step process for farmers and ranchers to participate in Farm Bill conservation programs. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/newsroom/factsheets/>.

Ginners School and Managerial Seminar—another success!

The 2014 Ginner School and Managerial Seminar was another successful year of safety training put on by the California Cotton Ginners Association. This year the school had over 100 participants take part in the day long schedule that included classes in a variety of areas such as: Electrical Panel Safety, Module Handling, Accident Response, Interlocking and the famous Safety Contest at the Cross Creek Gin! This year’s Safety Contest winners included:

1 st	Ascencion Gomez	Britz Gin
2 nd	Angel Valadez	Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.
3 rd	Armando Avina	Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.
4 th	Arturo Duenas	Farmers Cooperative Gin
5 th	Rick Lemaster	West Island Cotton Growers, Inc.
6 th	Eryc Peck	J.G. Boswell Company
7 th (tie)	Daniel Moore	Dos Palos Coop Gin, Inc.
7 th (tie)	David Correa	J.G. Boswell Company
8 th (tie)	Jim Coberly	Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.
8 th (tie)	Juan Favila	Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.

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The manager session included topics related to labor law presented by Saqui Law Group and human resource requirements presented by The Sobba Group which addressed easy to overlook issues with workplace paperwork including the new requirements for I-9s. The Ginners School and Managerial seminar is an excellent way to further a culture of safety to further a culture of safety in the California Cotton Ginning industry. We at CCGA hope to continue to offer these training courses and the safety contest to keep our most valuable assets, our employees safe from harm. A special thank you to all of our sponsors who have donated time, money, door prize gifts, and set up displays for this year's Ginners School and Managerial Seminar. We couldn't put on such a



Safety Contest Winners

meaningful event without your help! If you have any suggestions or comments

about this year's program or next years, please email aimee@ccgga.org. We hope to see you there next year!

Don't Forget! The Ginners Annual Meeting & Golf Tournament is Upcoming!

The California Ginners Association is proud to be having this year's annual meeting in beautiful Monterey, CA from May 27th- 29th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel & Spa. Please make your hotel reservations by May 6th to ensure the Association's special room rate and space availability. Reservations can be made by calling (831) 372-1234. The group rates for rooms are \$129. In order to get the group rate, you must identify yourself with the group name, CA Cotton Ginners Association by the cut off date. To learn more about the hotel and its accommodations, visit their website at www.monterey.hyatt.com. The Industry Meeting, held on May 29th, will include an update on current issues facing the ginning industry presented by President/CEO; Roger Isom and Director of Regulatory Affairs; Aimee Brooks. The Industry Meeting will also include presentations from National Cotton Ginner Association, USDA-ARS Cotton Ginning laboratory, Supima, USDA AMS Classing Office, and a Solar Energy Update from Thinkwire Energy Solutions. Don't miss out on this action packed agenda!