



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

January 2017

Volume 27 Issue 1

Industry Calendar

March 15

CCGGA Board Meeting—
Fresno, CA

Save the Date:
May 31—June 2
Cotton Annual Meeting—
Monterey, CA

Visit web calendar
for details

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Past Ginners President Joe Vierra Passes Away

It is with a very heavy heart that we report on the passing of long time Gin Manager **Joe Vierra**



Joe Vierra (left) pictured here with then Chairman, David Alderete

on December 7th. Joe began his career in the cotton ginning business as a manager for Anderson Clayton at their gin in Waukena. He moved on to Stratford Growers where he worked as office manager from 1960 to 1975. From there he was Gin Manager at Golden State Gins in Madera from 1975 to 1984, when he returned to become the Gin Manager at Stratford Growers until he retired in 2000, and was President of the Ginners Board of Directors in 1992. In 1998, Joe was recognized as the Ginner of the Year for his service to the industry. The industry will sorely miss Joe!

Minimum Wage Changes Coming into Effect for California

On January 1st, the new minimum wage requirements go into effect for employers with 26 or more employees. As of January 1st, minimum

wage is increased to \$10.50 an hour. For those with 25 or less employees, the minimum wage increase does not begin until January 1, 2018. For those that have questions regarding the new minimum wage and how it can and will be changed moving forward, the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) has released a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. It goes into some detail on how the Governor could stall the annual increases given certain triggers, and answers to other pertinent ques-

New California Minimum Wage

Effective Date	26 or more employees	25 or fewer employees
January 1, 2017	\$10.50	\$10.00
January 1, 2018	\$11.00	\$10.50

tions. This is being mailed to you this week and will be posted on our website at www.ccgga.org under Industry Issues. Also, please be sure to post the new minimum wage posters (also in the mail) or you can download them online at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/wpnodb.html>.

Air Resources Board Conducts Workshop on PM2.5 SIP – Ag called on to do more!

This past month the California Air Resources Board (ARB) held a workshop in Fresno on the PM2.5 State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). And as we warned a few weeks ago, agriculture is being called on to do more. Agriculture is being looked at for additional emission reductions from the following categories:

- **Ag Tractor Rule – replace ag tractors and harvesters (particularly almond harvesting equipment) for both NOx and PM2.5 reductions**
- **More stringent engine standards for agricultural**

pump engines (beyond tier 4 and cleaner natural gas engines)

- A new low-NOx standard for heavy-duty diesel trucks (beyond ARB's current Truck Rule)
- Alternatives for ag burning
- Additional Conservation Management Practices (CMPs)
- Additional restrictions under Regulation VIII for fugitive dust

The Association was the only agricultural group in attendance, represented by President/CEO Roger A. Isom and Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin. Isom also testified at the meeting reporting that incentives are absolutely critical and necessary for the agricultural community due to their inability to pass along the additional costs. Isom further commented that USDA NRCS already had a program to incentivize the low emission nut harvesting equipment and that the Association is working to develop a similar program with the Air District. In addition, the Association also pointed to significant research performed recently to more accurately determine PM2.5 emissions from agricultural operations and that data showed that PM2.5 emissions from almond harvesting equipment, cotton gins and other operations are insignificant. Additional workshops and meetings will occur in January and February.

State Proposes Aggressive Water Conservation Plan

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) released a draft plan for achieving permanent conservation measures for water consumption in California in line with the Executive Order the Governor issued in May of 2016. Several key water conservation efforts included in the plan include:

- Permanent bans on wasteful practices, such as hosing driveways and excessively watering lawns.
- Technical assistance and financial incentives for water suppliers to implement leak prevention, detection, and repair programs.
- Collecting information about innovative water conservation and water loss detection and control technologies.
- Requiring agricultural water suppliers to quantify water use in their service areas and describe measures to increase water use efficiency.
- Full compliance with water use targets for urban water suppliers by 2025.

- Planning and preparing for continued and future drought and water shortages.

The draft plan concerning agricultural water is outside of the scope of the Executive Order, so it will require statutory authority. It is anticipated that the administration has already drafted language that will either be run through the process or as a budget trailer bill. The SWRCB has been overseeing much of the implementation of the Executive Order, so it is likely the expanded statutory authority would be given to the Board as well. For agricultural water suppliers, requirements will include:

1. **Develop an annual water budget for the agricultural water service area;**
2. **Identify agricultural water management objectives and implementation plans;**
3. **Quantify measures to increase water use efficiency; and**
4. **Develop an adequate drought plan for periods of limited supply.**

The proposal would expand existing requirements to require agricultural water suppliers providing water to over 10,000 irrigated acres of land to prepare, adopt, and submit plans by April 1, 2021, and every five years thereafter. Agricultural water suppliers would also be required to submit an annual report to DWR by April 1 of each year that documents water budget inflow and outflow components in the water budget for the preceding water year. The draft plan can be found here: http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/conservation/docs/EO_B-37-16_Report.pdf

Discussions Continue on Temperance Flat Reservoir

A meeting was held this past month at the Capitol with the Governor's staff and the **San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJVWIA)** to discuss the latest with the **Temperance Flat Reservoir Project**. The California Natural Resources Agency was represented by **Deputy Secretary Thomas Gibson**, and **Deputy Secretary for Water Policy, Karla Nemeth**, while the Governor's office included **Cabinet Secretary Keely Bosler** and **Deputy Cabinet Secretary Kim Craig**. From the **SJVWIA**, **Chairman Steve Worthley**, **Tulare County Supervisor**; **Vice Chair Buddy Mendes**, **Fresno County Supervisor**, **Executive Director Mario Santoyo**, **Technical Committee Member Roger A. Isom**, **President/CEO of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association** and **Western Agricultural Processors Association** and **George Soares**. The representatives from the **SJVWIA** briefed the Governor's

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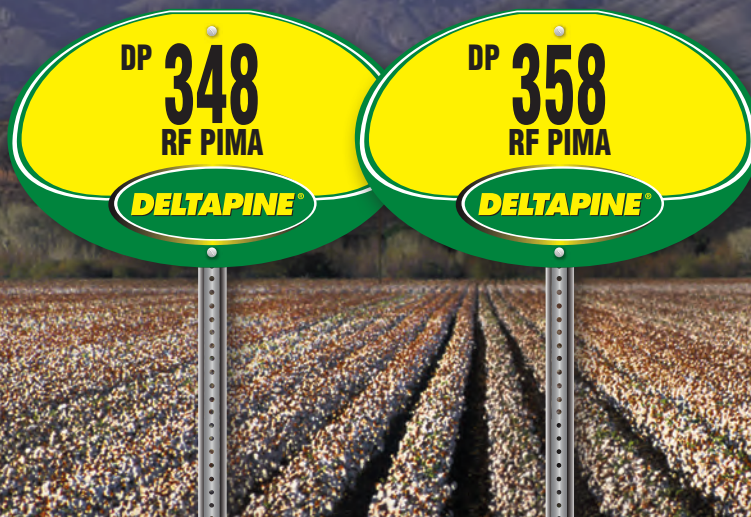
PIMA VARIETY	PLANT DESCRIPTION					FIBER QUALITY AVERAGES					DISEASE RATINGS ²	
	Maturity	Plant Height	Leaf Type	Seed Size (seed/lb.)	Storm Resistance ¹	Turnout (%)	Staple (32nds)	Micronaire	Strength (g/tex)	Length Uniformity (%)	Fusarium-Race 4	Verticillium
DP 348 RF	Mid	Medium	Semi-Hairy	3,300	5	34.0-36.0	48.0	4.2	43.0	86-88	1.5	2
DP 358 RF	Mid	Medium	Semi-Hairy	3,000-3,350	5	34.0-36.0	48.0	4.2	42.8	56-88	1.5	2

1) 1 = tight, stripper-like boll; 9 = loose boll

2) 1 = excellent; 9 = poor

DP 348 RF Pima | Genuity® Roundup Ready® Flex Pima variety with improved yield potential, Pima quality and **excellent tolerance to Fusarium Race 4**. Top performer in University of California Pima trials in 2014.

DP 358 RF Pima | Genuity® Roundup Ready® Flex Pima variety with great combination of yield potential, Pima quality and **excellent tolerance to Fusarium Race 4**. Has shown strong performance in CA, NM, TX and AZ.



2014

BRAND NAME	PIMA VARIETY	LINT YIELD AS % OF PHY CHECK
Deltapine®	DP 348 RF	110%
Deltapine	DP 358 RF	105%
Phytogen®	PHY 811 RF	103%
Phytogen	PHY 805 RF	101%
Phytogen	PHY 802 RF*	100%

*=PHY check, Data Source: University of California Pima Trials, 5 Location Average

2015

BRAND NAME	PIMA VARIETY	LINT YIELD AS % OF PHY CHECK
Deltapine®	DP 348 RF	107%
Deltapine	DP 358 RF	107%
Phytogen	PHY 805 RF*	100%
Phytogen	PHY 811 RF	99%

*=PHY check, Data Source: University of California Pima Trials, 4 Location Average

2014 & 2015 FUSARIUM RACE-4 SURVIVAL TRIALS

BRAND NAME	PIMA VARIETY	2014 SURVIVAL %	2015 SURVIVAL %	2 YEAR AVG SURVIVAL %	VASCULAR STAIN
Deltapine®	DP 358 RF	88%	80%	84%	0.73
Deltapine	DP 348 RF	91%	71%	81%	1.00
Phytogen®	PHY 802 RF	89%	82%	85%	1.20
Phytogen	PHY 811 RF	71%	75%	73%	1.40
Phytogen	PHY 805 RF	55%	45%	50%	1.80

RF=Genuity® Roundup Ready® Flex Data Source: 2014 & 2015 University of California Pima Trials, Dr. Bob Hutmacher, University of California email distribution 01.31.2015 & 01.30.2016

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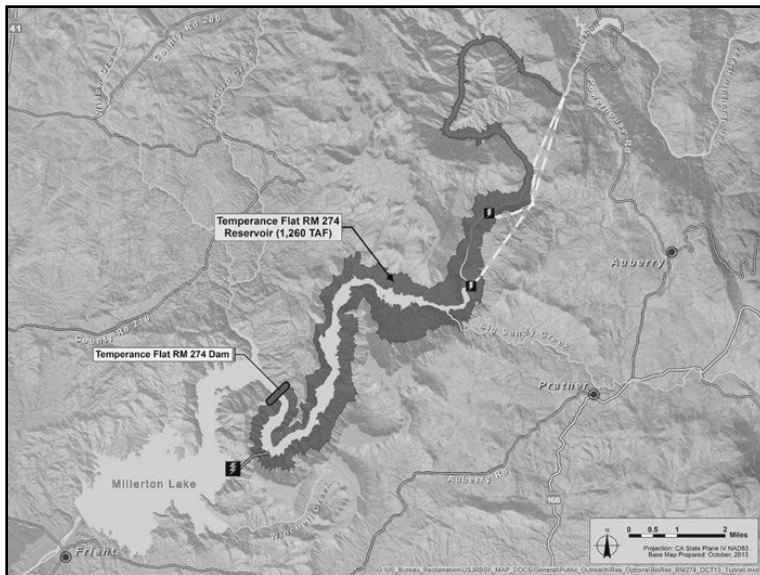
Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible.

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Office on the overall project and how it will integrate with other water projects to provide additional surface water and groundwater recharge throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Applications for Proposition 1 funding will need to be submitted in 2017, and this effort was one of the projects envisioned when the Water Bond was created and passed. The discussions were part of an ongoing effort by the SJVWIA to ensure a clear and complete understanding of the project and the necessity for it to be completed.

New I-9 Form Released by Feds

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) has released the latest revision to the Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification. Beginning January 22, 2017, employers must begin using the revised Form I-9 for new employees. The new form is intended to make it easier to complete electronically. It

does not require any additional information be provided by the employee or employer. You can continue to use the old form until January 21, 2017. The latest version can be downloaded at the USCIS's website and here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-9>.

Reminder: ARB TRURCS Fleet Reporting Now Open

The Association wants to remind you that CARB's TRURCS fleet mileage reporting portal has opened. Every year, mileage accrued over the previous year is required to be reported to ARB as part of their Truck and Bus Regulation. ARB staff is becoming more stringent in their evaluation of compliance, so it is important that you report in a

timely manner. The opportunity to report mileage lasts until January 31st, when it will then be closed and no changes can be made. Cotton Module Movers owned by the gin must be updated to show a **2017 Specialty Vehicle** exemption. To see all of the changes to the Truck and Bus Regulation for this reporting year, please visit ARB's website. If you have utilized the Association to report, or need some help this year, please feel free to contact the Association's Director of Technical Services, **Chris McGlothlin**, at (559)455-9272 or chris@ccgga.org.

CCGGA Comments on CDPR School Regulations

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) submitted formal comments to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) opposing the proposed regulations that would mandate a quarter mile buffer zone restricting numerous applications from 6a.m.-6p.m. including air blast, aerial and sprinkler chemigation around school sites and registered child daycare facilities. CCGGA has been actively engaged in opposing this proposal because of the lack of science that is the foundation for this regulation. CCGGA staff and several growers gathered on Wednesday, Nov. 16 to publicly testify in opposition to the proposed regulations. These public comments were supported on Friday when CCGGA submitted written comments to CDPR staff. With no science or incidents to cite the cause of creating this proposal, CCGGA has been adamant that the current laws put forth by the US Environmental Protection Agency, CDPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners office provide an abundance of protection to human health. CCGGA cited several issues including concerns with the two-tier notification system, lack of flexibility for time sensitive applications and concern with distribution conducted by schools regarding application information. Should CDPR choose to change the regulation in a major way, there will be a reopening of the comment period. We look forward to bringing you an update when we know more.

Millerton Flood Releases Show Need for Water Storage

After significant weather events occurring in the Sierra Nevada's, Friant Dam has begun to release water at the rate of approximately 12,000 acre feet per day. This is being done in preparation for anticipated additional rainfall. Local officials, board members of the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJVWIA) as well as **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association** Director of Regulatory Affairs **Jodi Raley**, gathered at the bottom of Friant Dam to speak on the importance of cre-

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ating additional water storage in the state, including Temperance Flat Dam. The construction of Temperance Flat would create 1,260,000 acre-feet of new water storage, this would be two and a half times the capacity of Miller-ton Lake. Raley expressed that if Temperance Flat were in place the water being released through flood flows would be effectively captured and stored to be used in times of need. The SJVWIA continues to develop an application for submittal by July of 2017 to the California Water Commission to be considered for funding through the Water Bond.

ARB Staff Holds Workshop on Draft 2030 Scoping Plan

Last month, ARB staff held a workshop in Sacramento to discuss the economic analysis currently being conducted on the proposed 2030 Scoping Plan. ARB staff discussed that the economic models would be officially released along with another draft this month. ARB's 2030 Scoping Plan aims to achieve a 40% reduction from 1990 levels in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030, as well as 80% emissions reductions below 1990 levels by the year 2050. The draft plan focuses on reducing emissions generated within the energy, transportation, waste management, and agricultural sector. A majority of the emission reductions will occur in the energy and fuel sectors through updating technologies as well as a reduction in the allowable emissions that facilities are allowed to generate. The agricultural working lands sector aims to achieve emissions reductions through redirecting Ag by-product material from the landfills and sending that same material to newly commissioned biomass and composting facilities. The Association submitted comments in support of the expansion of the biomass industry, as well as a streamlined approach for facilities and operations that wish to compost. A revised draft, along with the economic analysis for all sectors, is set to be released in January.