



The Cotton Chronicle

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June 2017

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Industry Calendar

July 19th
Pima Matching—
Visalia, CA

July 25th—27th
Grower Owned Gins
Meeting—
Lake Tahoe, CA

August 31
SUPIMA Annual
Meeting—
Coalinga, CA

September 13th
Board Meeting—
Fresno, CA

Visit web calendar
for details

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Board Member Don Van Schuyver Retires

Long time Association Board member **Don Van Schuyver** stepped down this past month at the



Association's Board meeting in Monterey. Van Schuyver joined the board of the California Cotton Ginners Association in 1990, and became President of the Board in 1996. Van Schuyver was recognized by the Board at this month's Annual Meeting in Monterey with the Association's Ginner of the Year Award. Van Schuyver worked for Semi Tropic Coop Gin for 29 years as he began his career at Kern Lake Coop Gin and was hired in 1988 by Semi-Tropic Coop to become the Manager. Congratulations to Don Van Schuyver!

Association Voices Concern Over PG&E Rate Increase

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) held a meeting in Merced to discuss the proposed revenue requirements for PG&E's 2017 General Rate Case (GRC). In Phase 1 of the GRC, PG&E asked for an increase of \$85.7 million over present rates, followed by additional increases of \$444 million in 2018 and \$361 million in 2019. While the public testimony was

especially light, **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** was there and voiced the agricultural industry's concerns over the continued increase in rates over the past 15 years. Isom informed the PUC Commissions that average electricity rates for agriculture have increased from an average of 11.7 cents per kilowatt hour in 2000 to over 18 cents per kilowatt hour in 2017. The total amount paid by farmers in the PG&E territory was around \$500 million in 2004 and over \$1.1 billion in 2014! Coming increases in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and further impacts from tightening greenhouse gas regulations will only serve to increase rates even further. Isom told the Commissioners this must be considered and that agriculture cannot pass along the cost and has passed the point of being competitive. The PUC can no longer ignore this!

Hughs and Goodell Honored by Association

Two Distinguished Service Awards were presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association.



The first recipient was **Mr. Ed Hughs**, recently retired Research Leader at the USDA ARS Southwest Cotton Ginning Research Laboratory in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Ed received his B.S. from New Mexico State University in 1972 and his M.S. from the Ohio State University in Agricultural Engineering in 1973. Ed was initially employed in 1973 by Ford Tractor Operations, Detroit, Michigan, in developing and testing experimental agricultural and construction equipment. He joined the USDA ARS Southwestern Cotton Ginning Research Laboratory as a Research Agricultural Engineer in 1976. Ed was appointed acting Research Leader of the Unit in 1980 and Reader Leader in 1981. Some of his major accomplishments include:

- Investigation of interior dust levels in U.S. western cotton gins.
- Coupled lint cleaner
- Conducted scientific investigations that showed that bales of cotton should not have the designation, "flammable solid".
- Developed new cyclone design information that led to enhanced 1D3D cyclone designs with up to 30% lower PM10 emissions
- Collaborated on a study to determine the combustibility of cotton gin dust.

There were many other achievements that Ed oversaw, including the high speed roller gin stand and the cotton gin Particulate Matter Sampling Project. Ed and the Southwest Gin Lab have been integral to the success of the California Cotton industry and we owe Ed a debt of gratitude we know we cannot repay.

The second Distinguished Service Award went to the retiring UC IPM Cooperative Extension Advisor **Dr. Peter Goodell**. Dr. Goodell is revered not just by the cotton industry, but throughout the agricultural industry for his work on integrated pest management. His assistance in uncounted numbers of requests for help with pesticide registrations, pesticide reviews and work with industry and companies to retain materials important for use and for resistance management cannot be quantified. His work on the development of UC-IPM Guidelines are engrained in every PCA and will live on for years to come. Pete received a bachelor of science degree in field biology from San Francisco State in 1974, followed by a Master of Science in 1979 and PhD in 1986 in the field of Entomology and Nematology. Pete's career in the University's cooperative Extension, began in 1980 where he immediately began working in the area of nematology with a particular focus on cotton and cotton rotation systems. During

the mid 80's Pete expanded his area of interest to include numerous cotton pests including thrips, spider mites and lygus. Pete's early contributions to the industry included building understanding of the timing of pest populations through real time heat unit accumulation and cultivated an interest in practical computer modeling that could aid in pest population prediction as well as pest management decision making with tools developed specifically for the industry. Pete has a very long list of accomplishments that will live on for years to come, and he has had an incredible impact on the entire cotton industry. For that we are forever grateful. Both gentlemen will leave a lasting mark on the California Cotton industry and we truly appreciate all they have done.

ARB Holds Hearing on PM2.5 Plan – Association Continues Fight

While activists outnumbered agricultural representatives 10 to 1, the Association yet again spoke out against the mandate to tractors, harvesters and pump engines at the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Hearing this past month in Sacramento on the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for attaining the PM2.5 Standard. Once again, **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** testified before the



Board to ensure agriculture's accomplishments were recognized. The plan will have a hearing in August or September, but CARB demanded an update from staff on the development of the plan and what will be included. The Association, along with the Nisei Farmers League, were the only ag organizations to testify at the hearing where environmental advocates and some ARB board members called for a mandatory farm equipment and harvester replacement rule. Isom highlighted the 12.65 tons of NOx

Inaugural Joint Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association

Members and interested parties gathered in Monterey, CA from May 31- June 2 for the Inaugural Joint Annual Meeting of the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association**. Gin managers, growers, cotton organizations and Associate members were in attendance for this year's meeting.

Attendees kicked off the meeting overlooking the beautiful Monterey Bay during the Association's Welcome Reception. The following morning, the CCGGA Golf Tournament was held at Carmel Valley Ranch, offering stunning views of Carmel Valley throughout the day's tournament. Following the conclusion of the tournament, golfers gathered in the clubhouse for an awards ceremony. This year's winning team was made up of Niki Gallian, Jim Razor, Tom Haggard and Darren Brown. Later that evening attendees gathered in the Ferrantes Bay View Room for the CCGGA Awards Reception and Dinner. There were plenty of laughs from attendees as they enjoyed the comedic entertainment from Bill Martin, a.k.a. Cowboy Bill, a new addition to the evening's traditional program.

Chairman Phil Hansen took a moment to recognize outgoing **Chairman** of the **California Cotton Ginners Association Tom Pires** for his service and commitment to the Association. In addition, **President/CEO Roger Isom** awarded **Don Van Schuyver** (Semi-Tropic Gin and Almond Huller) with **Ginner of the Year** as well as **Pete Goodell** (UCCE) and **Ed Hughs** (USDA-ARS) with the industry's **Distinguished Service Award**. All three awardees will be retiring from the industry within the coming months. Isom recognized each individual for their work and leadership in the industry and noted how sorely they will be missed. Attendees observed a moment of silence for an industry friend, leader and researcher **Dr. Larry Godfrey** who passed away earlier this year.



The Annual Meeting concluded with a Business Meeting Friday morning. Given the attendance of members from both the ginning and producing segments of the industry, the first half of the morning was divided into a "Grower Track" and "Ginner Track" presentations.

On the Growers Track **Pete Goodell** with UCCE spoke on cotton insect pressures, **Dan Munk** with UCCE presented on storage projects and the difference between on farm and dedicated storage, and **John Dickey** with Plan Tierra did an MPEP Introduction and Overview.

The Ginners Track had **David Blakemore**, **President of National Cotton Ginners Association**, speak on NCGA activities, **Paul Funk** with USDA-ARS provided a Cotton Ginning Lab Research Update and **Greg Townsend** with USDA AMS provided an update on 2016 Cotton Classing and upgrades in the Visalia office.



The group gathered together to receive an update on the legislature in Sacramento from **George Soares** of Kahn, Soares & Conway along with CCGGA staff providing an overview of the Association's activities on the regulatory and legislative front. **Mike Brueggemann** from the National Cotton Council briefed attendees on the Council's current legislative efforts and survey needs. Concluding the day's business meeting **Victoria Hornbaker** of the California Cotton Pest Control Board presented the activities and next steps for the Pink Bollworm Program and their facility. **Chairman Phil Hansen** provided some closing remarks before adjourning the meeting.

This was an extremely successful event and would not be remotely possible if it weren't for our generous sponsors! We look forward to continuing this tradition of bringing together the entire cotton industry. Please visit the back of this page for a full list of our sponsors, we remind you to **"Support those that support the industry!"**

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

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reductions already obtained on a voluntary basis through the NRCS EQIP program and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Ag Equipment Incentive Program.

Members of CCGGA Board Make Two Day Trek to Sacramento

Members of the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** Board of Directors traveled to the State's capital for a two day trip to meet with regulatory agencies and members of the legislature to speak about the impacts the California cotton industry is facing due to the decisions made in Sacramento. CCGGA was represented by **Chairman Phil Hansen, 2nd Vice Chair Bryan Bone, Secretary/Treasurer Tom Gaffney, and Director Andrew Clark**. CCGGA staff also in attendance was **President/CEO Roger Isom, Director of Technical Services Chris McGlothlin and Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley**. The group met with agencies including the Department of Pesticide Regulation, Air Resources Board and the Department of Water Resources. Discussions with these agencies covered topics related to the Pesticide Use Near Schools regulation, the future of crop protection products, the Sustainable Freight Strategy, critical incentive programs for farm equipment replacement, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and much more. The group ended this day with a dinner with **Senator Toni Atkins**, to more intimately discuss the California cotton industry. The second day started with breakfast joined by **Freshman Assemblyman Heath Flora** where he shared the importance of engaging in cross-party discussion to overcome the issues we are seeing come from the Capital. The group continued the day to meet with **As-**



Assemblyman James Gallagher speaking on water storage and management issues.

sembly Republican Leader Chad Mayes, Assemblyman James Gallagher as well as **Leader of the Moderate Democrat Caucus Assemblyman Adam Gray**. In addition, CCGGA had the opportunity to be joined by **Assemblywoman Anna Caballero**. Discussion with the members of legislature focused in on the importance of engaging in discussion on Cap and Trade, ensuring proper maintenance and operation of future water storage projects, increasing costs of energy and pushing the agriculture industry to better tell "their story" so that legislature can be better informed when crafting policy. This annual trek for provides an invaluable opportunity for regulatory agencies and legislators to hear first-hand how their policy decisions impact the everyday farmer and the cotton ginning industry. CCGGA looks forward to expanding upon the relationships that were developed over the past two days so that there are more voices in the Capital advocating for the California cotton industry!

Cotton Board Seeking Nominees

The **Cotton Board** is currently seeking nominees from California to fulfill a three year term beginning on January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020. Based in Memphis, Tennessee, The **Cotton Board** is the oversight and administrative arm of the **Cotton Research & Promotion Program**, representing U.S. Upland cotton. To fund the Program, The Cotton Board collects a per bale assessment of all Upland cotton harvested and ginned in the U.S., as well as an importer assessment for all Upland cotton products imported into the U.S. To conduct the Program, The Cotton Board contracts with Cotton Incorporated to carryout the actual research and promotion activities for U.S. producers and importers of cotton. While Cotton



ARB Deputy Executive Officer Kurt Karperos speaking to CCGGA leadership.

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Incorporated is consumer and trade focused, it is a charged function of The Cotton Board's mission to keep U.S. producers and importers of cotton informed on the innovative developments coming from the Program. Being a board member of the Cotton Board will help shape cotton's future and play a critical role in the success of the cotton industry for years to come. Growers **Aaron Barcellos** and **Dustin Mancebo** currently represent California. There are 2 to 3 meetings per year, and travel costs are reimbursed. Anyone interested in encouraged to apply. If you are interested, please contact Roger Isom at (559)252-0684 or via email at roger@ccgga.org.

CCGGA Pushes for CTE Funding to be Reinstated

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** worked with Nisei Farmers League, Fresno County Farm Bureau and the Western Agricultural Processors Association to host a press event at Sanger High School, to communicate to the Governor the need to maintain funding for Career Technical Education which supports programs like FFA.

CCGGA was represented by **Chairman Phil Hansen** and **Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley**, both FFA alumni. Both spoke on the values and skills that are instilled in young students. In Governor Brown's latest May Revise budget, the \$15.4 million to be allocated to CTE programs was absent. After the press conference word began to spread that the Governor intends to reinstate those funds. While it appears this issues has been resolved, we will keep you up to date.

