



The Cotton Chronicle

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July 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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CCGGA Submits Crisis Section 18 for Transform

After receiving numerous reports from growers, PCA's and Cooperative Extension representatives regarding the severe Lygus populations in California cotton, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** immediately went to work in preparing a Section 18 Crisis



Emergency Exemption for sulfoxaflor (aka Transform®). Given the extended winter season and increased rains, a perfect storm was created to give Lygus the ideal conditions to grow to large populations, many indicating this is the worst they have ever seen. With the assistance from UCCE IPM Specialist **Peter Goodell**, state cotton specialist **Bob Hutmacher** and the representatives at **Dow AgroSciences**, CCGGA was able to prepare and submit an application within a week's timeframe. Throughout the entire process, CCGGA has been engaged in communication with the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to convey the urgency and time sensitive nature of getting this application approved. It is hoped with this particular Section 18 being categorized as a "crisis", DPR and the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) will speed up the process to allow timely access to growers. At this point there is no timeline as to when the product will be able to be used, CCGGA staff

are in contact with DPR on a daily basis conveying the urgency and will provide updates as they become available.

Warning on Diesel Pump Engines

The regulation governing diesel fired irrigation pump engines in the San Joaquin Valley has been in place for a very long time. **The regulation (Rule 4702) banned the use of Tier 0 (pre-1996) engines as of January 1, 2009; and it banned the use of Tier 1 and Tier 2 pump engines as of January 1, 2015 or up to 12 years after they were installed.** This means that any engine older than 2007 probably isn't legal. Unfortunately, during recent inspections, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has been searching for, and has found, engines being used that are no longer legal. **This has resulted in fines exceeding \$100,000.** If you have any engine that is not meeting the current regulation, we urge you to immediately cease operation and replace it immediately. The Air District



takes this type of non-compliance seriously and is specifically on the lookout for these engines. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Roger or Chris at the CCGGA offices at (559)252-0684.

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 carry-out the actual research and promotion activities for U.S. producers and importers of cotton. While Cotton 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 is encouraged to apply. If you are interested, please contact Roger Isom at (559)252-0684 or via email at roger@ccgga.org.

SWB Fees Set to Increase

The State Water Resources Control Board has posted their annual budget for the 17-18 Fiscal Year, and programs are becoming more costly for the agricultural industry. Prior to last year, the fees associated with programs such as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) and the Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) had increased over 130% in the span of 5 years. The Association began putting pressure on staff to look at the fees associated with those programs and develop methods that would limit yearly increases. The last fiscal year saw no increase to those program fees. Unfortunately, staff did not take the same approach this year, and has taken a proposed increase of 22% for the upcoming fiscal year to their board for approval. The ILRP program encompasses irrigated agriculture among the various State Water Board regions throughout the state. The Central Valley Region implemented the ILRP program several years ago, and Water Quality Coalitions were developed in response to the program's development. There are three regions that are on track to begin implementing the ILRP program this upcoming year. Unfortunately, fees will not be collected

from these areas until the representative coalitions are developed to collect the fees and assist in compliance. The regions that are currently regulated under the rule and are assessing fees are set to carry the burden of paying for the appropriate staff for those newly encompassed regions, as well as help pay for the limited staff assigned to the ILRP program. The SWB has also requested \$1 million dollars from the Legislature in order to pay for 5 new employees to assist in compliance with the various programs. The Association continues to remain active in these meetings, and will continue to fight back against any proposed increases. Stay tuned!

Midseason Cotton Field Day, July 11

The Midseason Cotton Field Day will be held on **Tuesday, July 11th** from **10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Pik-A-Lok Farms** in Mendota. The event is co-hosted by the San Joaquin Sustainable Farming Project, UC Cooperative Extension and UC IPM. Presenters include Dr. Pete Goodell providing insight on managing IPM systems for lint yield and quality, Dan Munk presenting on monitoring cotton for improved yield performance and Bob Hutmacher providing an update on Race 4 fusarium, cotton diseases and plant development issues. If you have any questions please contact Marcia Gibbs at (530) 370-5325 or marcia@sustainablecotton.org.

CDFA Seeks Comment on Healthy Soils Program

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is now accepting public comments on Requests for Grant Applications (RGA) for the \$6.75 million Healthy Soils Program (HSP) funded through California's cap-and-trade program. The Healthy Soils Program offers grants to farmers who take action to capture greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, in the soil to help combat climate change. The program is part of California's cap-and-trade California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The cap-and-trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. The Healthy Soils Program will be implemented under two separate components: 1) the \$3.75 million Incentives Program and 2) the \$3 million Demonstration Projects. For the Incentives Program, an estimated \$3.75 million in competitive grant funding will be awarded to provide financial assistance for implementation of agricultural management practices that sequester soil carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emis-



sions. For the Demonstration Projects, an estimated \$3 million in competitive grant funding will be awarded to projects that monitor and demonstrate to farmers and ranchers in California, specific management practices in agriculture that sequester carbon, improve soil health and reduce atmospheric GHGs. The RGA for both the HSP Incentives Program and Demonstration Projects can be found on the CDFA Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) webpage: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthsoils/>. Comments regarding the DRAFT RGA can be submitted to cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

Electronic Injury and Illness Reporting

OSHA is proposing to delay the compliance date for employer's to electronically submit injury and illness data until December 1, 2017. As we previously reported, the rule became effective January 1, 2017 which required certain establishments to electronically submit information from the Form 300A by July 1st. According to OSHA, the delay will "provide the new administration an opportunity to review the new electronic reporting requirements prior to their implementation". Cal/OSHA will have six months from the final approval of the rule to provide guidance on electronic reporting. CCGGA will continue to monitor this rule. Stay tuned!

2017 American Pima Grade Standards Guide Box Review and Standards Matching

Wednesday, July 19, 2017—Visalia, CA Classing Office 9:00am

Please join us to review, comment, and approve the six guide boxes of the 2017 American Pima Grade Standards. Once approved, the guide boxes will be used as the reference to match all of the 2017 American Pima Grade Standards. The guide box review and the standards matching will both take place the morning of July 19th. Industry participation is key to this process and we hope you all can come and be a part of this important annual event.

Employers Required To Provide Notice About Rights For Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Stalking

By: Gregory Blueford—The Saqui Law Group

Effective immediately, employers with 25 or more employees are required to provide employees upon new hire or upon request by other employees with a written notice about their rights to take protected time off for medical treatment or legal proceedings if they are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Under AB 2337, the Labor Commissioner's office was required to develop a

form which set forth the rights and duties of employers and employees under the law for employers to provide to employees by July 1, 2017. Employers were not required to comply with this notice requirement until the Labor Commissioner's office posted the form on its website. The Labor Commissioner's office has now completed the form and made that form available (http://www.laborcounselors.com/files/Victims_of_Domestic_Violence_Leave_Notice.pdf) triggering employers' requirement to comply with this new law.

Updated Cotton Acreages for California Released

The **California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pink Bollworm Program** have released the preliminary acreages for the cotton growing counties in California. The breakdown is as follows:

Updated Cotton Acreages for California	
County	Acres
San Joaquin Valley	
Kern	30,885
Kings	108,845
Tulare	20,650
Fresno	75,895
Merced	45,995
Madera	860
Subtotal =	283,130
Southern California	
Imperial	1,070
Riverside	7,448
Subtotal =	8,518
Northern California	
Sutter	810
Glenn	3,325
Tehama	180
Subtotal =	4,315
Overall Total =	295,963

It's too early for the Pink Bollworm Program to confirm Pima/Upland splits, but current estimates put the split at 75%/25%, but we will wait to confirm what was actually planted, especially given the late announcement on water.

Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir Project Letters of Support

With the wheels set in motion, Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir Project continues to make significant headway towards achieving funding. The **San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJVWIA)** will be submitting the

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complete application package to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017 to compete for monies in the Water Bond. Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir project would create an additional 1.26 million acre-feet to be stored within the upper portion of Millerton Lake, ultimately tripling Millerton's current storage capacity. In this season



alone, it is estimated that Millerton will have released approximately 2.5 million acre-feet out to the ocean. Coming off of years of critical drought conditions, the reality that many dams and rivers in the Central Valley are operating under flood emergencies is troubling. Storage projects like Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir project, to off-set high precipitation years to provide controlled and timely releases is needed now more than ever. Accompanying the pro-

ject's application package to be submitted in August, the California Water Commission would like to hear from those that would benefit from this project. CCGGA is encouraging you to write a letter or email a letter to the members and staff of the California Water Commission.

Below are some bullet points that could be incorporated into your letters:

- Help address the broad negative effects of California's water supply crisis on the valley, which requires much improved surface water availability and reliability south of the Delta — as Temperance Flat's 1.26 million acre-feet of storage would provide — for use by valley farmers, residents and businesses.
- Capture high flows as they are occurring in big water years with surface storage that will permit capacity for gradual conveyance and percolation without which implementing and meeting the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's mandates will not be possible.
- Greatly improve San Joaquin River flood protection and minimize flood release water losses to the ocean.
- Provide San Joaquin River environmental enhancement water.
- Tremendously increase overall regional water management and supply flexibility.
- Provide a south-of-the-Delta source of emergency water supply for Southern California and other parts of California now relying upon fragile Delta water infrastructure.

For more information or to submit your letter of the support please contact our offices at (559) 252-0684 or email Jodi Raley at jodi@ccgga.org.