



# The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

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## Industry Calendar

Sept 15 –  
Shafter Research Center  
– Field Day

Sept 17 –  
Westside Research Center  
Field Day – Five Points

Sept 22 –  
Calcot Annual Meeting  
– Tempe, AZ

Sept 23 –  
CCGA Ginner Board  
Meeting – Fresno

Sept 29 –  
PhytoGen Field Day  
– Dos Palos

Oct 1 –  
Hazera Field Day  
– Dos Palos

Oct 8 –  
PhytoGen Field Day  
– Tulare

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## Reminder - No Sticky Cotton

Reports are that there have been occasional spots of aphid and whitefly problems, but they are being addressed in an effective and timely manner. Over the past several seasons cotton growers with much guidance and leadership from the PCA community have done an outstanding job in preventing sticky cotton. We appreciate everyone's help and cooperation in this necessary and important effort. This is a small acre-age crop and it would be a real disaster for the high demand markets that we all have worked so hard to develop to be shorted on needs because of sticky cotton in addition to already possible limited supplies. Quality is our reputation and it must be protected. Thanks for all the efforts over the last few years. It's made a difference. Let's keep it up!  
Cotton – Up – No Sticky Cotton!



## Isom Appointed to ARB Advisory Committee on Truck Rule

The Association's Roger Isom was recently appointed to the California Air Resources Board's Truck Regulation Advisory Committee (TRAC). This committee will assist the ARB in implementing the Heavy Duty On-road Diesel Regulation (Truck Rule – see corresponding story). The TRAC will meet quarterly and assist ARB in discussing and providing ideas on reaching and assisting affected fleets. They will also review and provide feedback on re-

porting and compliance planning tools, as well as rule interpretation and guidance documents. Isom was also appointed to the Agriculture and Outreach subcommittees.

## Producers Information Exchange Tour - 2009

Four California producers joined with neighboring producers from Arizona and New Mexico to tour the Southeast region on the 2009 Producer Information Exchange (P.I.E) tour. Brent Gilkey (Hanford, CA), Dustin Mancebo (Dos Palos, CA), Ernest "Bud" Mendes (Riverdale, CA) and Jack Seiler (Palo Verde, CA) joined with Joel and Jaime Belloc, Paul and Richard Heiden, and Randi Johns from Arizona along with James Sloan from New Mexico in touring central and southeast Georgia. The group toured cotton, peanut and corn production in the region along with visiting a cotton spinning mill, various crop processing facilities, an ethanol plant, an alligator farm and a tobacco farm. The group was hosted by local growers in the regions they visited and experienced, first hand, southern hospitality at each and every stop along the way. Among the many hosts were past P.I.E. participants Chuck Coley, Ronnie Lee and sons, Jimmy Webb and Bob McClendon. The western participants learned about issues specific to the region they visited and met and interacted with growers and processors from the Southeast. As has been the case historically, these initial contacts between folks from different regions in the U.S. Cotton Belt usually develop into long-term friendships and/or business relationships. A special thanks to BayerCrop-Science for funding this program by way of a grant to the Cotton Foundation. BayerCrop-Science has supported this program since 2006. The 2009 participants were very grateful for the

hospitality they received from their Southeast hosts and also to Jim Davis, NCC Member Service Representative that worked out the logistics and put together the schedule for the tour. Once again, this proved to be a real learning experience combined with some good fun for the participants involved.

**Alliance with General Petroleum**

As the harvest season rolls around, the Association would like to remind its members of the recently approved alliance with General Petroleum by which our regular Ginner and Grower members, our Associate members and both Associations can benefit as a customer of General Petroleum. The benefits are provided in the following table:

Alliance Benefits			
Product	Delivery Type	Member Rebate	Association Rebate
Diesel/Gasoline	Tank Wagon (bobtail)	\$0.025 per gal	\$0.025 per gal
Diesel/Gasoline	Truck & Trailer	\$0.0025 per gal	\$0.0025 per gal
Lubricants	Bulk Lubricants	\$0.10 per gal	\$0.10 per gal

General Petroleum is a full service petroleum product marketer and provider throughout California from Sacramento to San Diego. A full description of GP’s services, products and locations together with a full description of the benefits offered to our members is available at the Association’s office or your nearest General Petroleum Supplier (San Diego, Los Angeles, Ventura, Long Beach, Bakersfield, Corcoran, Fresno, Firebaugh, Modesto, Sonora, San Francisco and Sacramento). An application form is on the back of the information piece. If you already do business with GP to become eligible for the program benefits on all purchases beginning June 1, 2009, simply fill in Existing Account # at the top of the form and fax to (310) 356-2424. If you do not have an established account with GP and would like to get established, fill out application provided and fax to (310) 356-2424 to become eligible for program benefits on future purchases beginning June 1, 2009. We hope our members will take the time to check this program out and contact GP for more information if needed regarding their business and services. When you find the need for their services needed and their prices competitive, a decision to do business with GP can be a win-win for everyone in-



involved including your Associations.

**AB 32 Fee Regulation set for Adoption**

The California Air Resources Board will consider a rule on September 25<sup>th</sup> to charge a fee on fuels. AB 32 statute requires ARB to adopt a rule to cover the costs of implementing and enforcing AB 32. The proposal would charge 0.0018 cents per gallon for diesel and gasoline, 0.00088 cents per therm of natural gas, and 0.088 cents per MWh for electricity. The amount of the fee would vary from year to year as the cost to implement the program changes. ARB staff is also considering a potential change to the rule that would switch the collectors/payers of the fee from fuel refineries to the fuel suppliers. This change was floated at a workshop on August 25<sup>th</sup> and without draft language for review. The rule was originally set for adoption in June, but was postponed.

**Cal/OSHA Proposes New Heat Illness Standard**

The Cal/OSH Standards Board has proposed revisions to California's Heat Illness Prevention Standard. This is the third attempt by the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to make changes to the landmark standard; two other emergency proposals were failed before the Standards Board this summer. The new proposal is similar to one that ended in a 3-3 tie in a July board vote. After the failed vote, Governor Schwarzenegger criticized the board for not adopting the new protections. The permanent revisions would require employers to have shade erected and ready for workers when temperatures exceed 85F and accommodate at least 25% on the shift at any one time. Shade would be required to be available below 85F and employers would have to provide "timely access" if a worker requests it. Additionally, it establishes "high-heat" procedures, triggered at 95F. They include:

- Effective communication so that employees can contact a supervisor if necessary
- Observing employees for symptoms of heat illness
- Reminding employees to drink plenty of water
- Close supervision of new employees

The proposal also eliminates the term "preventative recovery period," but adds a provision stating that employees "shall be allowed and encouraged to take a cool-down rest in the shade" for at least five minutes when they feel the need to do so to prevent overheating. The training provisions are being strengthened as a result of

these revisions.

### **Humidifiers Under Fire!**

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is proposing to revise Rule 4308 – Boilers, Process Heaters and Steam Generators to require replacement of existing in-use units. At the same time the District is proposing to remove the exemption for humidifiers, including those used at cotton gins. As currently proposed, any existing humidifier that is at least ten years old would have to be replaced by January 1, 2011. This means that any gin operating into January of 2011 will have to replace their humidifier next year. The Association has submitted comments opposing this action.

### **Conservation Stewardship Program is Finally Here**

A new program is available to California agricultural and forestry producers offering financial incentives to adopt additional conservation activities on their land. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that encourages producers to maintain existing conservation activities and add new ones. "This program is for those willing to do additional conservation activities over and above their current stewardship levels," says Gayle Norman, NRCS Acting State Conservationist in California. The program was authorized by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill and will be available through 2017. It replaces the former Conservation Security Program, which Congress renamed and completely revamped to improve its availability and appeal to producers. It is being administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Producers interested in applying are encouraged to review program details online at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/csp.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html) before making an appointment with their local NRCS field office. Applications must be submitted by September 30 to be considered for funding in the first ranking period. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, improved pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forestland, and agricultural land under jurisdiction of an Indian tribe. Eligible applicants include individual landowners, Indian tribes, and legal entities. "The program will reward producers who manage their operations to prevent soil erosion, prevent water contamination, and manage dust from roads," adds Norman.

Producers doing a variety of other practices can also profit from the program. Such practices include controlling wind erosion, conserving energy, using high efficiency pumps,

growing high residue-producing crops, using minimum tillage, growing cover crops, installing buffers to prevent runoff from going directly into lakes and streams, managing non-cropped areas for wildlife, providing food plots and flooding fields for wildlife, avoiding nesting periods when mowing hay, using integrated pest management, applying fertilizer according to soil and tissue tests, following a nutrient management plan, and following a grazing management system that maintains soil and water quality and provides adequate forage to meet livestock demands. The producer's current and proposed conservation practices are entered into a computerized conservation measurement tool to estimate the level of environmental benefits that will be achieved. The performance estimate will be used to rank applications. Payments will be made for installing and adopting additional conservation activities; improving and maintaining conservation activities in place at the time the contract offer is accepted; adopting resource-conserving crop rotations to achieve beneficial crop rotations; engaging in activities related to on-farm conservation research and demonstration activities; and pilot testing of new technologies or innovative conservation practices. CSP payment rates will be based on a combination of points determined by the producer's current and planned conservation enhancements. Final payment rates for the 2009 CSP sign-up have not yet been established. The estimated range of payments is expected to be: \$5 to \$35 an acre for cropland; \$3 to \$21 an acre for pasture; \$2 to \$14 an acre for range; and \$1 to \$14 an acre for forests. Payments are based on cost of stewardship/conservation activities, forgone income, and environmental benefits achieved. To receive the high-end of payments participants will need to commit to do several additional activities. NRCS staff will conduct on-site field verifications of applicant information. Once the participant has been field verified and approved for funding, he or she must develop a conservation stewardship plan and commit to implementing the plan. Contracts will cover the entire agricultural operation and be for five years. Payments to an individual or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 per year and \$200,000 in a five-year period.

For information about CSP, producers can visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/csp.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html) or contact their local NRCS field office.

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**Most Frequently Cited OSHA Standards**

The following were the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards in fiscal year 2008 (October 2007 through September 2008):

1. Scaffolding, general requirements, construction ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1926.451</a> )
2. Fall protection, construction ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1926.501</a> )
3. Hazard communication standard, general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.1200</a> )
4. Control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout), general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.147</a> )
5. Respiratory protection, general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.134</a> )
6. Electrical, wiring methods, components and equipment, general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.305</a> )
7. Powered industrial trucks, general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.178</a> )
8. Ladders, construction ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1926.1053</a> )
9. Machines, general requirements, general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.212</a> )
10. Electrical systems design, general requirements, general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.303</a> )

The following are the standards for which OSHA assessed the highest penalties in fiscal year 2008 (October 2007 through September 2008):

1. Fall protection, construction ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1926.501</a> )
2. Scaffolding, general requirements, construction ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1926.451</a> )
3. Electrical, hazardous (classified) locations ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.307</a> )
4. Control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout), general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.147</a> )
5. Excavations, requirements for protective systems, construction ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1926.652</a> )
6. Machines, general requirements, general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.212</a> )
7. General duty clause ( <a href="#">Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act</a> )
8. Powered industrial trucks, general industry ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.178</a> )
9. Walking-working surfaces, general requirements ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.22</a> )
10. Process safety management of highly hazardous chemicals ( <a href="#">29 CFR 1910.119</a> )