



# The Cotton Chronicle

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[www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org)

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## Industry Calendar

Nov 9

Ginner Director  
Nominations Deadline

Nov 12

Grower Director  
Nominations Deadline

Nov 12

Veterans Day—  
Offices Closed

Nov 22-23

Thanksgiving—  
Offices Closed

Dec 5

Grower Board Mtg—  
Fresno

*(Visit web calendar  
for details)*

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## Irrigated Lands Staff Visits Farms

The Association continues to work heavily on the upcoming Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and recently conducted a tour of agricultural operations with the lead staff including Clay Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer and Joe Karkoski, Manager of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

The group visited a tree fruit grower in Kerman, a small farm in Easton, and CCGA Director Don Cameron's operation in Helm. The Association will be hosting a second tour with CVRWQCB Board Members and executive staff on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The educational farm tours are a part of a bigger effort coordinating the agricultural and coalition groups working on changing the Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program as currently proposed.



Don Cameron (center) speaking with CVRWQCB Staff (from left) Joe Karkoski and Clay Rodgers, also Chris Valadez, CGTFL and Dan Munk, UCCE—Fresno County.

## 2012 Conservation Tillage Farmer Innovator Award Goes to Gary Martin

In 2005, the University of California and NRCS Conservation Tillage Workgroup, now the Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation Workgroup, established the Conservation Tillage Farmer Innovator Award as a means for providing greater visibility to CT pioneers in California. The criteria for this award are – demonstrated innovation and leadership in the development, refinement and use of conservation tillage systems within the California crop production environment. Nominations are received and carefully reviewed by a Workgroup panel and recipients are announced in the

Workgroup's annual meeting which took place on September 13<sup>th</sup> in Five Points, CA as part of the 2012 Third Annual Twilight Precision Irrigation and Conservation Agriculture Field Tour and Barbeque. The 2012 recipient of the Conservation Tillage Farmer Innovator Award is Gary Martin.

Gary Martin is the manager of Pikalok Farming, a 1570-acre diversified farm in Firebaugh, CA. He has been a true pioneer in the development of minimum tillage practices for cotton which he began over 18 years ago – before much of the more recent interest in these approaches became popular and more widespread. The approaches that he has refined reduce the total number of operations and passes over a field significantly and have also resulted in considerable savings in labor and fuel. Gary has been a stalwart CT Workgroup member and contributor for a number of years and is ever-ready to share his experience and innovations with others. Gary and the family partners and crew at Pikalok have made truly stunning advances in cotton tillage management through sheer persistence,

innovation and hard-earned experience. Early on, they experimented with a number of ‘pass combining’ implements for reducing overall tillage for cotton systems and during this time they have pretty much perfected a state-of-the-art very minimum pass sequence of operations with equipment they designed and modified. Their post-harvest cotton stalk management and bed preparation operations now rely on a very limited array of relatively light-weight tillage equipment and they have also pioneered systems that deal with or can manage the existence of greater amounts of surface residues, - unlike most conventional cotton farmers.

Gary is always ready to share his experiences with these CT systems and has hosted Workgroup members at Pikalok on a number of occasions. He and his wife, Mari, are frequent contributors to CASI meetings in Five Points and he was recently featured in the CASI video “The Value of Residues,” which is now being featured at our website. The accomplishments of Gary Martin at Pikalok Farming have been significant and profound advances in improved tillage management in California cotton production systems. He is a most deserving CT Farmer Innovator Award Recipient.

### **Premier Center for Cotton Fiber and Textile-Processing Research**

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are completing a major upgrade of the cotton textile pilot plant located at the Southern Regional Research Center (SRRC) in New Orleans, La. The wide-spectrum facility includes a model textile mill where new technologies are tested and made transferable to industry. The SRRC is headed by Center Director Thomas (“Ed”) Cleveland. The upgrade involves the transfer of state-of-the art textile equipment and some staff from the now-closed ARS Cotton Quality Research Station at Clemson, S.C.

SRRC provides model industry machinery for conducting cotton research from fiber to fabric. The center’s cotton research includes using genetic methods for breeding cotton varieties; evaluating technologies and instrumentation for measuring fiber and yarn quality; processing and studying the performance of nonwoven fibers; spinning small quantities of fiber for quality-assessment; finishing and testing end products, and more. The SRRC cotton fiber research facility’s upgrades increase processing speeds through use of modern cleaning and yarn-production equipment. Work is estimated to be completed in late 2012. The pilot plant upgrade takes place

at a time when there has been an uptick in the processing of U.S.-grown cotton by U.S. textile mills. For the first time in many years, a new U.S. textile mill—located in Louisiana—has opened. Cotton grows and performs differently based on geographic region and seed variety. Because its processing is customized to such features, the type of equipment used also is customized. For example, a small change in seed genetics can greatly affect the quality of a fiber’s processing through finished fabric. ARS cotton program researchers test the performance of cotton fibers through breeding, harvesting, ginning, cleaning, carding, spinning, and weaving to inform industry. For more information, please contact Christopher Delhom, ARS Cotton Structure and Quality Research, New Orleans, La., at (504) 286-4228, or via email at [Chris.Delhom@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Chris.Delhom@ars.usda.gov).

### **Governor Vetoes Heat Stress Legislation!**

On the last day to take action, the Governor vetoed both pieces of legislation related to heat stress. AB 2346 (Butler) would have prescribed specified duties on employers to reduce the risk of heat illness among agricultural employees, including the adopted heat illness prevention regulatory requirements. The bill would have also imposed specified civil penalties, and created a private right of action, for violations of these requirements. AB 2676 (Calderon) would have made it a crime for any person who directs an agricultural employee to perform, or supervises an agricultural employee in the performance of, outdoor work without providing the employee with shade and potable water, punishable by imprisonment not exceeding 6 months in a county jail, by a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or by both the imprisonment and fine, or if that violation results in injury to an agricultural employee, by imprisonment not exceeding one year in a county jail, by a fine not exceeding \$25,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment. In his veto messages, the Governor cited the fact that California already has the most stringent heat stress regulations in the country and these bills would single out agriculture as reasons for not signing them.



### **Cotton Gin Safety Materials**

In preparation for the upcoming ginning season, we wanted to remind folks of the safety training materials

we have available here at the Association. Whether you need to replace some of the older cottonseed pile signs or order new cotton gin safety booklets we have them in stock. We also have gin equipment safety decals, safety posters for eye protection and electrical safety, as well as the five (5) safety videos in the National Cotton Ginners Association Safety Video Series. To order, just visit the “Available Resources” section of the Association’s website at [www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org) or call our office at (559)252-0684 and we will help you fulfill your needs.

### **FDA Food Facility Registration Renewal “Update”**

In a surprise announcement only three days before the requirement was to kick in, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has delayed the opening of the “re-registration period” for food facilities. No explanation was provided only an advisory to check back at a later date. Originally, as part of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), all facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold food for human or animal consumption within the United States or foreign facilities that export to the United States must re-register in even numbered years beginning with 2012. Facilities were required to re-register between October 1 and December 31, 2012, and bi-annually thereafter. The Association will closely monitor the situation and will advise its membership as soon as FDA makes an announcement.

### **NRCS Conservation Program Application Deadline is Coming!**

For those producers who are interested in applying for Fiscal Year 2013 Farm Bill conservation program financial assistance, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California has set Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, as the deadline for future funding consideration. This deadline has been established contingent on Fiscal Year 2013 funding being allocated pending passage of a new Farm Bill or reauthorization of the existing 2008 Farm Bill. The application deadline applies to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) initiatives and the Co-operative Conservation Partnership Initiative program. Eligible producers with a conservation plan for their operation receive priority for financial assistance. Applications can be submitted throughout the year. Applications received by November 16 will be evaluated for funding priority for the pending 2013 funding. Applications received after November 16 may be considered for future funding. NRCS's conservation programs cover soil erosion,

air quality improvements in irrigation efficiency, improve water quality and wildlife habitat. EQIP, NRCS’s largest conservation program, helps eligible producers plan and implement conservation practices that address a wide range of natural resource concerns and provide opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. For additional information, eligible producers are encouraged to contact their local NRCS Service Center. Service center locations and more information on the programs can be found at [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov).

## **Every Major Daily Newspaper in California Agrees: No on 37**



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### No Sticky Cotton

Recent reports of building aphid and whitefly populations in some areas are of concern as always. It's very important to watch these developments closely to make sure that these problems are being addressed in the fields in a timely manner to avoid any sticky cotton

problems in this crop. We've continued to do an outstanding job over the past several years preventing sticky cotton. With everyone's help, growers, PCA's and all others involved in this industry we can continue this necessary and

important goal. Our future depends on it! Quality is our niche and our reputation and it must be protected. Let's all do our parts. Keep up the good work of the past several years! It's made a difference. Cotton – Up!  
No Sticky Cotton!

