



The Cotton Chronicle

1785 N. Fine Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727 • Telephone: (559) 252-0684 • Fax: (559) 252-0551

www.ccgga.org

Just Pima

January 2012

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Industry Calendar

Jan 24—
PhytoGen Field Day—
Blythe, CA

Feb 10-12—
NCC Annual Mtg—
Fort Worth, TX

Feb 20—
President's Day—
Office Closed

Mar 8—
Growers Board &
Annual Mtg—
Harris Ranch

Mar 29—
Ginners Board &
Membership Mtg—
Fresno, CA

*(Visit web calendar
for details)*

CCGGA Staff

Earl P. Williams
President / CEO
earl@ccgga.org

Roger A. Isom
Executive Vice President
roger@ccgga.org

Casey D. Creamer
Vice President
casey@ccgga.org

Shana Colby
Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org

Urgent Advisory

The California Department of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) has just released the Notice to Employee Form as required by the passage of AB 469, known as the Wage Theft Protection Act. This new law, which became effective January 1, 2012, requires that all employers must provide each employee with a written notice that contains specified information and must be provided in the language the employer normally uses to communicate employment-related information to the employee. For copies of the new "Notice to Employees" that must be provided to each employee at the time of hire, please visit the "Industry Issues" portion of the Association's website at www.ccgga.org or call our office at (559)252-0684.

Cameron – 2012 High Cotton Award Winner for West

In recognition of his leadership in California agriculture, and his accomplishments in cotton production, **Don Cameron**, Helm, Calif., was selected as winner of the 2012 Farm Press/Cotton Foundation High Cotton Award for the Western states.

His farming career has been an ongoing initiative in reclamation, over time fostering a cornucopia of crops. Soil amendments – gypsum, soil sulfur and occasionally sulfuric acid – along with persistent salt leaching and application of 35,000 tons of chicken litter annually from nearby poultry operations, have created land that will grow just about anything.

Don Cameron's three decades of farming on the West Side of California's San Joaquin Valley can be defined by the numbers 3 and 26.

When the 59-year-old California native started farming near Helm in 1981, his crop list totaled three: cotton, small grains and alfalfa (and two of those were iffy on some fields at Terranova Ranch). "We had fields where alfalfa and wheat wouldn't grow" because the white soils were virtually devoid of nutri-



ents and loaded with salts, says Cameron, who grew up in Redding and Fresno, where he graduated from high school, then went to California State University, Fresno to obtain a degree in biology.

Today, his crop maps identify 26 crops on the 7,000 acres he farms under the banners of Terranova and Prado Farms.

Crops like carrots, a multitude of seed crops, 1,000 acres of wine grapes, onions, 1,600 acres of processing tomatoes contracted to four canneries, prunes, pistachios, almonds, walnuts, and many more now flourish where wheat would once not germinate.

"It takes a lot of time to reclaim ground," Cameron says, but it has resulted in limitless cropping options today. Congratulations Don!!

Special Advisory

Your 2011 State and Federal employment notice posters may be out of compliance. In response to new legislation, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing has updated the Discrimination and Harassment Notice, Family & Medical Leave Notice and the Pregnancy Disability Leave Notice. The California poster 'Operating Rules for Industrial Trucks' has also been updated to include additional Part 33 to GISO 3650 Industrial Trucks. In order to remain compliant with State and Federal required employee postings regulations, employers must update their postings. Check our website at www.ccgga.org for required employer postings or check with the Nisei Farmers League if you have one of their "poster packet clipboards".

Agriculture Gets Representative on Regional Water Board

Jennifer Lester Moffitt, of Yolo, has been appointed to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. She has been managing director of Dixon Ridge Farms, an organic walnut farm and processor, since 2006 and marketer at Dixon Ridge Farms from 2004 to 2006. Moffitt served as an education, outreach and research specialist for the American Farmland Trust from 2002 to 2005. She was appointed to the food safety working group of the California Walnut Board in 2009.

Christine Baker to head DIR

Christine Baker has been appointed to Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations, which oversees the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), Cal/OSHA, the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), the Division of Workers Compensation, among others. Baker has worked for DIR in various positions since 1984, most recently as executive officer of the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation.

CCGGA Executive Vice President Isom Reappointed as CAGI Chairman

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) Executive Vice President **Roger Isom** has been appointed for a fourth term as Chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Group of Industry (CAGI). CAGI is a coalition of industry representatives from throughout the San Joaquin Valley that meet on a regular basis to discuss air quality issues at the state and local levels. These meet-

ings include the Air Pollution Control Officer **Seyed Sadedrin** and Deputy APCO **Rick McVeigh**, as well as various representatives from the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District depending upon the location of the meeting.

ARB Truck Rule "Finally Finalized"

On Wednesday, December 14, 2011, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved amendments to the Truck and Bus Regulation. The amendments are effective immediately, with the first compliance date being **January 1, 2012**. By that date, fleets with vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 26,000 pounds must do either of the following:

- ◆ Retrofit 1996-1999 model year engines with Air Resources Board (ARB) verified particulate matter (PM) filters, OR
- ◆ Have 30 percent of the heavier vehicles in the fleet equipped with a PM filter (either a retrofitted verified PM filter or an original equipment PM filter installed on a 2007 or later model-year vehicle).

There are no PM filter requirements for trucks with a GVWR of between 14,000 and 26,001 pounds, or for small fleets (1 to 3 trucks). Please note that these requirements do not apply to those trucks used in agricultural fleets that meet the "limited mileage", "low mileage" or specialty vehicle" definitions in the regulations. Be advised that truck owners must report to ARB by January 31, 2012 to take advantage of the PM filter phase-in option or other flexibility provisions in the regulation. Small fleets (1 to 3 trucks) with a GVWR greater than 14,000 pounds must also report to delay compliance for their heavier trucks until January 1, 2014.

EPA Approves Ozone Plans for Areas in Extreme Nonattainment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved the 8-hour ozone air quality plans for the two California areas with the worst air quality in the nation. These plans, known as State Implementation Plans (SIPs), will enable San Joaquin Valley and South Coast to achieve the Clean Air Act's 1997 8-hour ozone standard of 0.08 parts per million by 2024. There have been vast improvements in air quality in California over the previous decades. The worst air quality locations in the SJV and SC have improved for ozone 6% and 23%, respectively, with many locations having even greater air quality improvements.

“Air quality in the San Joaquin Valley and South Coast continues to improve, but much work remains in order to protect the millions of people who live and work in these areas,” said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA’s Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “These plans will spur development of new technologies and will cut NOx emissions by almost 700 tons per day over the next twelve years and help reduce the number of cases of asthma and other respiratory ailments.” Federal, State and District control measures will reduce emissions in these areas. In addition, both plans also rely on development and deployment of new and improved technologies to achieve clean air. The Clean Air Act allows areas, such as the SC and SJV that are classified as “extreme” nonattainment, to rely on new and improved technologies given the magnitude of the reductions needed to attain clean air.

Both the Districts and CARB have research, demonstration, and grant programs underway to identify and develop the needed technologies. The state will meet annually with EPA to discuss strategies to maximize the clean air benefits of emerging advanced technologies and to provide annual summaries of strategies and activities.

Forklift “Train-the-Trainer” Seminars Announced for 2012

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, in conjunction with AgSafe, Cal/OSHA Consultation, Western Agricultural Processors Association, and many other agricultural organizations, insurance companies and equipment companies have announced the schedule of Forklift “Train-the-Trainer” Seminars for 2012. These seminars will be held at 11 different locations throughout

the state from Santa Paula to Rutherford. Many of the locations will have both English and Spanish sessions! The cost is only \$35 for CCGGA members. A copy of the schedule and the registration form can be found on the Association’s website at

www.ccgga.org. If you have any questions, please call our office at (559)252-0684.



Support Ag Warriors Program

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California State University, Fresno and College of the Sequoias (COS) are joining forces with the International Agri-Center in Tulare to develop plans to assist returning service-members seeking training in the agricultural field. In

CLASSING AVERAGES

December 30, 2011

Visalia Classing Office

| Bales Classed | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|
| CA Saw Upland | 231,581 | 302,120 |
| CA Roller Upland | 84,077 | 134,218 |
| Pima | CA 360,347 | ALL 523,527 |
| CA Saw Upland | 2010 | 2011 |
| Mike Avg. | 3.96 | 4.07 |
| Color Grade % 21+ | 44.3 | 50.0 |
| Color Grade % 31 | 48.2 | 45.8 |
| Color Grade % 41 | 5.8 | 3.3 |
| Length Avg. | 37.51 | 37.01 |
| Strength Avg. | 33.02 | 32.91 |
| Uniformity Avg. | 81.66 | 81.38 |
| Leaf Distribution 1 | 5.5 | 8.6 |
| Leaf Distribution 2 | 53.9 | 46.6 |
| Leaf Distribution 3 | 36.6 | 37.6 |
| Leaf Distribution 4 | 3.5 | 5.9 |
| CA Roller Upland | 2010 | 2011 |
| Mike Avg. | 4.24 | 4.24 |
| Color Grade % 21+ | 23.2 | 36.3 |
| Color Grade % 31 | 54.1 | 50.6 |
| Color Grade % 41 | 16.5 | 8.5 |
| Length Avg. | 39.52 | 39.43 |
| Strength Avg. | 34.34 | 33.97 |
| Uniformity Avg. | 83.78 | 83.42 |
| Leaf Distribution 1 | 2.0 | 7.7 |
| Leaf Distribution 2 | 61.1 | 50.0 |
| Leaf Distribution 3 | 32.5 | 35.0 |
| Leaf Distribution 4 | 3.6 | 5.8 |
| All Pima | 2010 | 2011 |
| Mike Avg. | 3.84 | 3.93 |
| Color Grade % 1 | 26.1 | 44.4 |
| Color Grade % 2 | 59.4 | 49.4 |
| Color Grade % 3 | 11.9 | 4.9 |
| Color Grade % 4 | 1.9 | 0.9 |
| Length Avg. | 48.00 | 48.00 |
| Strength Avg. | 41.71 | 42.36 |
| Uniformity Avg. | 85.55 | 85.73 |
| Leaf Distribution 1 | 17.6 | 23.5 |
| Leaf Distribution 2 | 60.3 | 59.9 |
| Leaf Distribution 3 | 18.9 | 14.0 |
| Leaf Distribution 4 | 2.9 | 2.2 |

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Fresno, CA 93727

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an effort to prepare veterans for long-term agricultural careers, these educational institutions will work with the International Agri-Center in its development of the Ag Warriors program.

"We're looking to the experts to help us develop the educational aspect of Ag Warriors," said Stacey Beachy of the International Agri-Center. "With commitments from Cal Poly, Fresno State and COS, we're one step closer to helping veterans get the training they need to secure professional careers in the agriculture industry." Many veterans who might otherwise excel in agriculture lack the requisite training, certification, familiarity or access to initiate careers in agriculture. The Ag Warriors program at the International Agri-Center will facilitate the necessary training and certification for returning veterans to enter the industry.

"We believe the agricultural community is well suited to provide jobs to returning veterans," said Jerry Sinift, CEO of the International Agri-Center. "Many of our friends in agriculture have expressed a need for bright, motivated and hard-working individuals to join their teams-Ag Warriors will be the conduit that connects employers with veterans in search of careers in agriculture."

The program will officially launch at the Ag Warriors

Gala on February 15, 2012 during World Ag Expo in Tulare, California. The event will include a keynote address from the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush. For more information, or to make reservations for the Ag Warriors Gala, visit www.AgWarriors.com or call 800-999-9186.

The Charge of Cotton! Once Under Amours' Biggest Enemy, Cotton Now Big Contributor To Its Success

Sports apparel manufacturer Under Armour is experiencing continued growth thanks in large part to their two lines of performance cotton products – Charged Cotton and Charged Cotton STORM. Third quarter apparel net revenues increased 31% to \$363 Million compared with \$277 million in the same period of the prior year – driven by continued strength across Men's, Women's, Youth and new product offerings including Charged Cotton and Fleece. According to Kevin Plank, Chairman, CEO and President of Under Armour, Inc., "We surpassed a billion dollars in net revenues last year and the Brand has already topped that milestone this year through the first three quarters. During the quarter, we successfully launched STORM Fleece, our Charged Cotton cold weather product."