



The Cotton Chronicle



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

www.ccgga.org

September 2011

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Industry Calendar

Sept 13 —

Shafter Research
Center Field Day—
Shafter

Sept 14 —

Growers Board
Meeting—
Fresno

Sept 15 —

CA State Support
Comm. Mtg.—
WS Res. Center,
Five Points

Sept 15 —

WS Research Center
Field Day—
Five Points

Sept 21 —

Ginners Board
Meeting –
Fresno**CCGGA Staff**Earl P. Williams
President / CEO
earl@ccgga.orgRoger A. Isom
Executive Vice President
roger@ccgga.orgCasey D. Creamer
Vice President
casey@ccgga.orgShana Colby
Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org**No Sticky Cotton**

Recent reports of building aphid and whitefly populations in some areas are of concern as always. With expanded acres, new growers and a somewhat late crop, 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!

Cameron Named to Science Panel

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross has announced the appointment of **Dr. Amrith Gunasekara** as Science Advisor to the Secretary. Dr. Gunasekara is returning to CDFA after a period as a research scientist for the California Department of Public Health. In his previous assignment at CDFA, he was an environmental scientist in CDFA's fertilizer program. Dr. Gunasekara has also worked for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. He received his PhD from UC Davis. As Science Advisor, Dr. Gunasekara



will be a steward of CDFA's wide-ranging, world-renowned scientific expertise, and he will look to deliver that expertise to help facilitate ongoing review of the regulatory climate for agriculture. Dr. Gunasekara will serve as CDFA's liaison to the Cannella Environmental Farming Act Science Panel. Secretary Ross announced the following appointments to the panel: Jeff Dlott, PhD, CEO, SureHarvest (Soquel);

Ann Thrupp, PhD, Manager of Sustainability and Organic Development, Fetzer & Bonterra Vineyards (Hopland); **Don Cameron, Vice President and General Manager, TerraNova Ranch, Inc. (Fresno)**; Brian Leahy, Resources Agency, Department of Conservation; Mike Tollstrup, CalEPA, Air Resources Board. Ex Officio members will be Daniel Mountjoy, USDA NRCS and Louise Jackson, PhD, University of California Cooperative Extension. The Cannella Environmental Farming Act requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish and oversee an environmental farming program to provide incentives to farmers whose practices promote the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and wildlife and their habitat. In addition, the CDFA is required to assist in the compilation of scientific evidence from public and private sources and serve as a depository of this information and provide it to federal, state, and local governments, as needed. "The work of Dr. Amrith Gunasekara and the science panel will underscore CDFA's commitment to science, to a fair regulatory climate, and to the ongoing documentation of the environmental contributions of farming," said Secretary Ross.

ASABE Honors Isom

Roger A. Isom is the recipient of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' 2011 Mayfield Cotton Engineering Award for his outstanding leadership to the cotton ginning industry and for significant technical contributions to the understanding of cotton and other agricultural air quality and environmental issues.

Isom, executive vice president of California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA), and president/CEO, Western Agricultural Processors Association, Fresno, California, has been directly involved with the cotton industry for more than 22 years. At California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, Isom is responsible for legislative and regulatory issues that affect cotton ginners and growers, and as president/CEO of Western Agricultural Processors Association, he provides critical air quality safety and environmental technical services to the agricultural processing industry.

Isom's technical competence, administrative abilities and personal integrity have earned for him national recognition for his contributions to cotton industry air quality issues, along with other technical engineering issues that affect cotton and agriculture. A few of his many accomplishments include: the development and implementation of safety training programs, materials and sessions that have helped to reduce accidents in California cotton gins by more than 65%; helped to reduce energy rates for California cotton gins and farms; helped in the development of new air pollution controls for California cotton gins that have reduced emissions while minimizing cost impacts; helped to pass legislation to increase module truck weights on highways toward increasing efficiency in the transportation of seed cotton from fields to gins; helped to develop special air quality compliance programs to aid California cotton gins in complying with complex and burdensome regulations.

Isom has served on numerous national, state, and cotton industry advisory committees, regulatory agencies, and trade organizations to assist in developing cotton ginning industry policy. He was appointed to the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force and served as chair of the Air Quality Standards subcommittee in which he provided leadership to the USDA and EPA toward securing a better understanding of agricultural and cotton air quality issues. He has also been a member of various National Cotton Ginners Association committees whose activities affect the entire U.S. cotton industry.

A 12-year ASABE member, Isom is currently serving on

the PM-23/7/3 Cotton Engineering committee. His awards and honors include a Distinguished Service award from both the National Cotton Ginners Association and the California Cotton Ginners Association. His other professional affiliations include the Air and Waste Management Association and the National Fire Protection Association.

SCE Files for Significant Increase in Electricity Rates

Southern California Edison has filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) a \$3.2 billion increase over the next three years! Agricultural ratepayers could see as much as a 15% increase in their rates if the CPUC were to approve the filing by SCE. The Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA), of which the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) are key members, is already involved in the proceeding to represent agricultural interests. CCAGA Executive Vice President, who also happens to be the current President of AECA, has already met with AECA staff and is working with a coalition of agricultural groups to allow for ag processing facilities such as cotton gins to be eligible for ag rates. This is something that is currently allowed under PG&E rates, but not under SCE rates. Rest assured AECA, with CCGA's direct support and assistance, will be working hard to resolve this inequity and bring lower rates to our members in the SCE territory!

CCGGA Meets with New Secretary of CalEPA

This past month, CCGGA Executive Vice President Roger Isom as part of a small contingent of agricultural organizations met with Matt Rodriquez, 58, of Castro Valley, who was recently appointed secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). The purpose of the meeting was to meet Rodriquez and introduce him to the agricultural community. The group raised several issues, with Isom raising the issue of the upcoming "ARB Farm Rule", which would include loaders, and how successful the incentive programs have been. Rodriquez has served with the California Department of Justice since 1987, currently serving as chief deputy attorney general and chief assistant attorney general. As a deputy attorney general from 1987 to 1999, he represented the Attorney General and clients of the Land Law Section of the Attorney General's Office, including the California Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. As a senior assistant attorney general from 1999 to 2008,

Rodriquez oversaw the Land Law Section of the Attorney General's Office and as a chief assistant attorney general since 2008 he has overseen the Public Rights Division of the Attorney General's Office.

CCGGA Joins AECA at the CPUC

CCGGA Executive Vice President Roger Isom and AECA Executive Director Michael Boccadoro met with the new Commissioners of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) this past month in San Francisco. Isom, who is also the current President of AECA and Boccadoro held these meetings to introduce AECA to the new Commissioners and being raising some of the critical energy issues facing agriculture and agricultural processing operations. They met with Commissioner Michel Peter Florio, Commissioner Catherine Sandoval, and Michael Colvin, Advisor to Commissioner Farron. Topics included continuing increases in ag rates, biogas and biomass operations, and uses for the public goods charges, which is currently being considered for reauthorization. Future meetings will be held as we work to increase the presence of agriculture, and in particular AECA, in upcoming general rate cases.

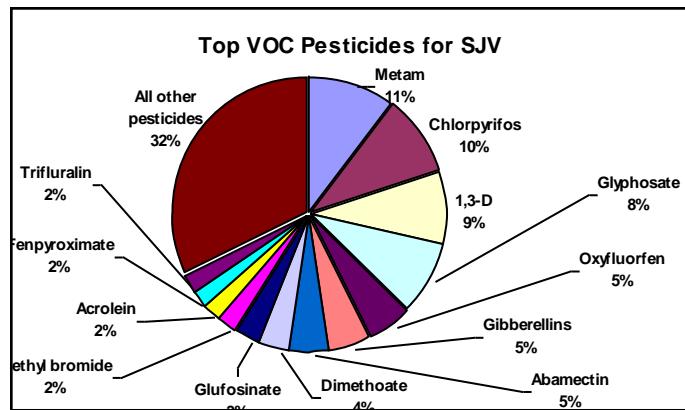
CCGGA Conducts I-9 Webinar

This past month the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) conducted a Webinar on I-9s. The webinar was conducted by **Michael Saqui of the Saqui Law Group** and focused on helping our members understand the do's and don'ts of handling I-9s as they hire the employees for this new season. The webinar covered everything you need to know with regards to the I-9 Form including what it is, what the requirements are, what the process is, and what to do in situations that may arise. This particular session was free to everyone as CCGGA explores new opportunities and avenues to bring critical information to our members on a timely basis.

State to Address Non-Fumigant VOC Emissions from Pesticides

At a meeting held at the Association offices in Fresno this past month, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) reiterated its plans to implement a plan to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from pesticides. Cotton is one of seven commodities being considered including citrus, grapes, almonds, and other crops. Specific chemicals are being looked at including chlorpyrifos (Lorsban), oxyflourfen (Goal), trifluralin (Treflan) and others. DPR is committed to looking at non-fumigant

emissions after instituting restrictive fumigant emission controls in 2008. Now DPR is committed to reduce pesticide emissions during May through October peak ozone season down to a level of 18.1 tons per day in the San Joaquin Valley. DPR is proposing several options to achieve this goal and will finalize a proposal in early 2012 with the plan to adopt a final regulation in the summer of 2012. Implementation will begin in 2014, although some of the listed chemicals already have low-VOC formulations such as Lorsban and Goal. The Association will be working over the next few months considering the various options.



Think Cal/OSHA Won't Address Indoor Heat Stress?...

Think Again!

This past month, Cal/OSHA opened an investigation at a tomato processing operation in the Sacramento Valley after receiving complaints working in excessive heat and fainting. While there is not a specific heat illness standard for heat illness, employers must provide a safe workplace. More on this particular case as it unfolds... stay tuned!

PhytoGen Field Day

PhytoGen Cottonseed will be holding a Field Day on **September 28th** at McDonald Farms (Midway Rd. & McDonald Road, North of 152) in Los Banos. Check-in will be at 10:45 am and the meeting will start at 11:00 am. Lunch will be served at noon at Wool Growers at 609 H. Street in Los Banos. Late-season crop management will be discussed at this field day. The meeting will also focus on seed availability for 2012. The group will meet at a field planted to PHY 802 RF, a new GenuityTM Roundup Ready® Pima variety with an earlier maturity. Nearby fields include PHY 725 RF Acala and PHY 805 RF Pima. To attend this meeting please **RSVP** for lunch by contacting **Daniel Abruzzini (209) 338-7405 or Nick Higgins (559) 289-1586.**

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
1785 N. Fine Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

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Cotton Is Back!

Pink Bollworm Program 2011 acreage mapping numbers are now complete with splits between uplands and pima. While not meant to be official these numbers have been generally accepted by industry as being the most accurate of all methods of determining acres planted each year.

Total acres of cotton statewide – 454,595, Total acres of pima – 273,020, Total acres of upland – 181,575

Breakdown by Region and Counties below:

San Joaquin Valley – 431,500			
	Total Acres	Pima Acres	Upland Acres
Fresno	140,645	105,735	34,910
Kern	67,295	45,435	21,860
Kings	132,880	110,715	22,165
Merced	55,605	8,595	47,010
Tulare	29,600	2,540	27,060
Madera	5,475		5475
Totals:	431,500	273,020	158,480
Sacramento Valley - 3,895 Acres (All Upland)			
Colusa	915		
Glenn	2,240		
Sutter	740		
Southern California - 19,200 Acres (All Upland)			
Imperial	5,870		
Riverside	13,210		
San Bernardino	120		