



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

February 2015

Volume 25 Issue 2

Industry Calendar

March 5—
Joint Board Meeting
Visalia

March 6—
Growers Annual
Meeting
Visalia

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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Forklift Train-the-Trainer Dates Announced – Register Now!

It's that time again! Every three years, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations** partner with other agricultural organizations to bring Forklift Train-the-Trainer Safety Training sessions throughout the state. Partnering organizations include the **Western Agricultural Processors Association, the Nisei Farmers League, California Fresh Fruit Association, California Citrus Mutual, Far West Equipment Dealers Association, AgSafe, Fresno County Farm Bureau.** Providing speakers for the effort this year includes **CalOSHA Consultation, The Zenith, JM Equipment Co., Inc., Holt of California, and Cal Coast Machinery.** The session is approximately four (4) hours in total and the costs \$45 per person. This year's training will be conducted on the following dates, times and locations;

Event Date	City	Location	Address	Time	English/Spanish
Feb 24	Oxnard	Saticoy Lemon	600 East 3 rd Street	8 am to 12	Spanish
Feb 26	Reedley	Peters Packing	41018 Road 56	8 am to 12	English
Feb 26	Reedley	Peters Packing	41018 Road 56	1 pm to 5	Spanish
Mar 3	Fresno	Fresno Co Farm Bureau	1274 W. Hedges Ave.	8 am to 12	English
Mar 3	Fresno	Fresno Co Farm Bureau	1274 W. Hedges Ave.	1 pm to 5	Spanish
Mar 4	Bakersfield	CalCot	115 Washington	8 am to 12	English
Mar 4	Bakersfield	CalCot	115 Washington	1 pm to 5	Spanish
Mar 10	Madera	Royal Madera	30957 Ave. 8	8 am to 12	English
Mar 10	Madera	Royal Madera	30957 Ave. 8	1 pm to 5	Spanish
Mar 17	Cantua Creek	Superior Almond Hulling	32581 W. Harlan	8 am to 12	English
Mar 18	Manteca	JM Equipment	321 Spreckels Ave.	8 am to 12	English
Mar 19	Yuba City	Howard Dryer	2169 Franklin Rd.	8 am to 12	English
Mar 19	Yuba City	Howard Dryer	2169 Franklin Rd.	1 pm to 5	Spanish
Apr 7	Exeter	Exeter Specialties	301 N. G St.	8 am to 12	English
Apr 7	Exeter	Exeter Specialties	301 N. G St.	1 pm to 5	Spanish

CalOSHA Proposes 1,400 New Inspections

Governor Jerry Brown's proposed budget for the next fiscal year includes a boost for the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) to increase staffing. Overall expenditures by the department are proposed to climb to \$620 million next year from \$608 million this year. The proposed budget includes consideration for 780 positions at Cal/OSHA – an increase of 52 positions over this year and a two-year increase of 129 positions. Department wide staffing will be up 16% over two years if the budget is adopted as proposed. DIR's budget is funded primarily through assessments on California employers. Cal/OSHA is funded through the Occupational Safety and Health Fund, which for 2015 assesses 0.002348 cents per \$1 of assessable premium. A little over half of the increase in positions at Cal/OSHA will go to ramp up staffing for compliance occupational safety and health officers, and the rest for elevator safety engineers. DIR says the new workplace safety inspectors will be able to conduct an additional 1,400 inspections each year!

UPDATE - CCGGA Asked to Make Presentation on Nighttime Light Measurement Results

As a result of submitted comments, CalOSHA has requested the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) to make a presentation on the issue of nighttime activities at an upcoming advisory committee meeting on the issue. This past year, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) proposed to “augment and clarify the requirement to provide work area lighting about agricultural equipment operations and trucking operations during agricultural field operations.” Currently, the regulations call for tractors and self-propelled equipment used between an hour after sunset or an hour before sunrise shall be equipped with at least one headlight that will illuminate the area in front of the equipment at least 50 feet.

There shall be at least one rear light to illuminate equipment at the rear. The proposal from DOSH would require lighting to also be provided where workers may be on the ground within 25 feet of operating tractors, trucks, self-propelled or towed equipment. The minimum illumination in these areas shall be at least 10 footcandles. In addition, the employer shall provide, and require workers to wear, Class 2 high visibility garments for work activities conducted between sunset and sunrise. In attempting to determine the impact of these proposed rules, CCGGA took “light measurements” of an almond loading operation, cotton module unloading operation and a cotton bale loading operation, with all of these activities occurring at night. These measurements clearly demonstrated the inability to comply with the law as proposed, and in the one instance where additional had been provided to help rectify the situation, an air pollution control district violation was also created! It was determined that “10 footcandles” cannot be achieved without supplemental lighting in the form of powered portable light towers capable of providing the necessary light. In this case any diesel fired equipment, such as that used to power the light tower, may need an air pollution permit (as in use at an almond huller), and must meet the latest engine tier requirements and must be registered with either the California Air Resources Board or the local air district. Based upon our measurements, we believe that the requirements for “10 footcandles” may be unnecessary, as our measurements clearly indicated that there was plenty of “light” to perform the tasks in a safe manner at levels much lower than 10



footcandles. As a result, CCGGA has serious concerns with the premise for the proposed revisions, serious concerns with the industry’s ability to meet the proposed requirements for levels of light intensity, and issues with whether or not the standard is necessary based on the measurements we conducted. CCGGA submitted written comments and the measurements in response to CalOSHA’s request for data supporting the industry’s claims that the proposed regulations are not necessary and impractical to meet. Subsequently, CalOSHA has requested that CCGGA present its findings in a presentation in March to an Advisory Committee set up to discuss the proposed revisions. CCGGA will be making the presentation and urging the committee to drop the proposed revisions, or at least drop the changes to the lighting requirements.

International Center for Water Technology receives up to \$1.12M grant

Fresno State’s **International Center for Water Technology** received a grant of up to \$1.12 million from the **Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board** to continue its nationally-recognized research and partnerships with industry and government agencies. “The Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board recognizes that water is the lifeblood for much of our Valley’s economy, and a primary source for jobs,” said **Blake Konczal**, director of the board. “We are pleased to support the work of Fresno State’s International Center for Water Technology in its role with the area water cluster and development of new water technologies”. “The **International Center for Water Technology** is one of several water research organizations located on the Fresno State campus that include the **Center for Irrigation Technology**, the **California Water Institute** and the **Water, Energy and Technology Center**. Fresno State is also a partner in the **Blue-Tech-Valley initiative** – partnership between Fresno State, government, water agencies and private industry to make the San Joaquin Valley the hub of water research and technological innovation to serve worldwide needs. “Over the past 10 years of this contract, the ICWT has developed a reputation as a leader in the field after it created the nation’s first water cluster,” said **Helle Petersen**, director for the **Water, Energy and Technology Center**. “Just like Silicon Valley was an innovative hot spot that fostered the tech boom, we’re trying to create a similar critical mass of companies in the water technology field to gravitate here. Fresno is an obvious choice to build partnerships because of its reputation as a world leader in agricultural production, so we have a unique set

of resources and connections to link companies to a sophisticated network of growers and processors.” Water management research and technology has been a major emphasis under second-year **University President Joseph I. Castro**. His **Commission for the Future of Agriculture** targeted the theme in its May report, while a team of faculty and community members look to publish its report this spring.

OSHA Summary Posting

Reminder – it’s time to post the **OSHA Form 300A Summary**, which lists the total number of job-related injuries and illness that occurred during 2014. The form must be posted between **February 1 and April 30, 2015**. Visit our website for Recordkeeping Forms or contact our office.

Cal/OSHA Form 300A (Rev. 7/2007) **Appendix B**
Annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses

All establishments covered by CCR Title 8 Section 14000 must complete this Annual Summary, even if no work-related injuries or illnesses occurred during the year. Remember to review the Log to verify that the entries are complete and accurate before completing this summary.
 Using the Log, count the individual entries you made for each category. Then write the totals below, making sure you've added the entries from every page of the Log. If you had no cases, write "0".
 Employees, former employees, and their representatives have the right to review the California Form 300A in its entirety. They also have limited access to the California Form 300 or its equivalent. See CCR Title 8 Section 14001.3, or CALOSHA's recordkeeping rule, for further details on the access provisions for these items.

Number of Cases			
Total number of deaths	Total number of cases with days away from work	Total number of cases with job transfer or restriction	Total number of other recordable cases
00	04	08	12

Number of Days	
Total number of days away from work	Total number of days of job transfer or restriction
00	01

Injury and Illness Types			
Total number of ...	(1) Sprains	(4) Poisonings	(7) Other
(2) Skin disorders		(5) Hearing loss	
(3) Respiratory conditions		(6) All other illnesses	

Post this Annual Summary from February 1 to April 30 of the year following the year covered by the form.

Establishment information

Your establishment name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Industry description (e.g., Manufacturer of auto truck radiators) _____
 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), if known (e.g., SIC 3719) _____

Employment information (If you don't have data, open, or the optimal field, enter "0")
 Annual average number of employees _____
 Total hours worked by all employees last year _____

Sign here _____
 Knowingly falsifying this document may result in a fine.

I certify that I have examined this document and that to the best of my knowledge the entries are true, accurate, and complete.

Company executive Title _____
 Name _____ Date _____

leaving exporters without any certainty of a schedule for shipments. With strikes by longshoremen, the closure of receiving lanes, and the constant delays in shipping, productivity at the ports have ground to a halt. While these delays and stoppages have continued, both sides of the argument have remained firm in pointing the finger at their opposition as the true cause of the issue. In an effort to remedy the situation, a federal mediator has been sent in to negotiate a labor contract between the two sides. Unfortunately, the mediator has not been able to bring an agreement forward, and productivity has slowed down tremendously. Trucks are still experiencing wait times of several hours, if not all day, before being turned away due to the port’s closure. Ships are also experiencing long wait times; the number of ships stuck at port each day has risen since last December. Between 15 -20 ships have been anchored outside of the port of LA and Long Beach, waiting for the opportunity to begin their voyage. The wait times experienced by ships is also being felt by producers who have been patiently waiting for their cargo to be loaded. These wait times have resulted in container and storage fees increasing dramatically. The Western Agricultural Processors Association has been a major voice in displaying the effects felt by those in the agricultural industry. WAPA has remained in constant communication with Governor Brown’s office, along with Senator Feinstein’s office. Most recently, **CCGGA President/CEO Roger Isom, met with Wade Crowfoot, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Governor Brown**, and the Governor’s office to press the issue. The updates consist of testimony by individual operations, and the cost for shipping and storing, as well as the wait time associated with shipping goods. With the numerous reports sent, Senator Feinstein’s office went to the lengths of developing and providing a questionnaire that details the amount of stoppages at the port, as well as how much money and jobs are being lost by the ineffectiveness of the ports on the west coast. It appears that the potential job loss associated with the ports inability to sustain a working environment has caught the attention of many of our representatives. CCGGA was even able to lead a conference call with White House staff members to update them on the severity of the situation. CCGGA has already received numerous questionnaires, detailing a specific operation’s total losses and wait times. If you would like a copy of the spreadsheet, or like to have your completed spreadsheet added to the report sent to the Senator’s office please contact Chris McGlothlin at chris@ccgga.org.

Review of DPR Risk Assessment Process for Pesticides

The National Academy of Sciences has released a study on how the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) assesses the safety of pesticides through risk assessments. It found that DPR assessments are thorough, but not very timely. It typically takes six to ten years. The report also says DPR needs to create a clearer process for ranking the hazard of pesticides and identifying which pesticides should take priority. Pesticide activists claim the report confirms their claims that CDPR is too slow, and that CDPR should focus on the most dangerous pesticides. In a statement, CDPR says it’s pleased that the report recognized its risk assessment process is comprehensive, and that its pesticide-exposure assessments are among the most thorough in the world.

Port Delays Continue to Affect Industry

As you are all well aware, the labor dispute between the port authority and the ILWU has dragged on for months

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**25th Annual Meeting of the
 California Cotton Growers Association**

Friday, March 6th, 2015—Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, California

Please RSVP to Shana Colby at (559)252-0684 or via email at shana@ccgga.org.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

8:00 am Continental Breakfast - Registration Opens - Associate Exhibits Open

9:00 am Concurrent Issues Sessions

- Pests Management: Challenges and Solutions
- Advances in Variety Performance and Fusarium Resistance
- Water – Quantity, Quality and New Regulations

10:30 am Associate Exhibits

11:00 am Annual Meeting – Chairman Welcome

11:05 am Growers Financial Report

11:10 am Industry Update Panel (15 min ea.)

- Supima
- Cotton Incorporated

11:40 am Association – Issues Update - CCGGA Staff

12:00 am Lunch

12:30 pm Luncheon Speaker – Gary Adams, NCC

1:00 pm Adjourn

Breakout Session Choice

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pest management: challenges and solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of IPM System in Cotton • Challenges in Cotton Pest Management • Cotton Product Updates
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cotton Variety Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 Variety Trial Results • New Variety Updates
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water – Quantity, Quality and New Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater Update • Nitrogen Issues salinity • Water Quality and Annual Cropping Systems