



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

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Industry Calendar

**April 1—
Ginners School
Corcoran**

**May 27-29—
Ginners Annual
Meeting
Monterey**

*(Visit web calendar
for details)*

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Adams Elected NCC President/CEO

Dr. Gary Adams, who has served as the NCC's vice president of Economics and Policy Analysis since '02, was elected by the NCC's board at the '15 Annual Meeting to be the organization's president and chief executive officer. He replaces retiring NCC President/CEO **Dr. Mark Lange**, who served in that role since '03 and had worked for the NCC since '90. In addition, the NCC board re-elected **Reece Langley** as the NCC's vice president, Washington Operations. Langley, who has been serving in that position since last fall, will be responsible for coordinating the NCC's Washington activities, including working with Congress and the Administration. He replaces the retiring **John Maguire**, who served in that role since '86 and had worked for the NCC since '79.



CCGGA Interacts with State Representatives at Annual Kitchen Dinner

On Wednesday, February 18th, members of the Agricultural Presidents Council met with State Legislators for the annual Kitchen Dinner in Sacramento. The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, as well as various members of the APC, were given a chance to discuss upcoming events and bills with state representatives, members also took the time to discuss issues that are affecting agriculture currently. This dinner is held at the "Kitchen Restaurant" in Sacramento, and it gives an opportunity for agricultural leaders to interact with state representatives in a more personal setting. The California Cotton Ginners and Growers As-

sociation hosted representatives **Freddie Rodriguez** (D-52nd district), **James Gallagher** (R-3rd district), and **Bill Dodd** (D-5th district). Representing CCGGA was President **Roger Isom**, Director of Technical Services **Chris McGlothlin**, Ginners Chairman **Greg Gillard** as well as Growers Chairman **Steve Wilbur**. Both chairmen got the opportunity to speak with the representatives on the declining acreage, as well as the status of the crop over the last couple of years. Both Assemblymen Rodriguez and Gallagher asked questions as to how they could help the industry in California. After a brief intermission, the CCGGA table was paired with State Senator **Andy Vidak** (R-14th Senate District) as well as **Adam Gray** (D-21st District). Both State Senators took the time to discuss the victory of the Water Bond from the last year. Ag President's Council member associations include the Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Fresh Fruit Association, California Citrus Mutual, California Rice Commission, Western Plant Health Association, Far West Equipment Dealers, California Strawberry Association, and the California Agricultural Aircraft Association. The APC understands that not even-



ry representative comes from an agricultural district, however, there are plenty of ways to find and discuss common issues among the differing associates in attendance. Along with the meal, representatives were given an agriculture gift bag, which included miniature cotton bales for display in their offices.

Forklift Training Underway

The Association is once again leading a coalition of agricultural groups to provide Forklift “Train-the-Trainer” sessions throughout the state. Besides the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, the Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Citrus Mutual, California Fresh Fruit Association, Far West Equipment Dealers Association and AgSafe** have all partnered with us to bring this specialized training to agriculture at an incredibly affordable rate. This is partly due to the tremendous partners helping actually conducting the training, including **The Zenith, Cal/OSHA Consultation, JM Equipment and CalCoast Machinery**. They are the

source of the trainers for each session! The Association was able to keep the cost down due to the use of all of our host sites, who we would like to thank and recognize here. These sites include **Saticoy Lemon, Peters Packing, Fresno County Farm Bureau, CalCot, Superior Almond Hulling, JM Equipment, Howard Dryer, and Exeter Specialties**. The trainings continue into April. For details on the remaining trainings, please visit our website at www.ccgga.org.



JCIBPC Reviews Materials Specifications

During its 48th annual meeting in Memphis, TN, the **NCC's Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee (JCIBPC)**: 1) approved modifications to the construction for 8x8 polypropylene bags for the '15 JCIBPC Specifications for Cotton Bale Packaging Materials and 2) added additional firms to the JCIBPC List of Approved Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Plastic Strapping Manufacturers. In another action, **JCIBPC Chairman Ben Evans**, a Georgia ginner, reported on a JCIBPC Executive Committee action directing NCC staff to assess spiral-sewn burlap bagging's status as an approved material and to

report those findings to the full JCIBPC at its '16 meeting. Six requests for approvals or testing were reviewed during the JCIBPC's executive session. Granted were requests for continued testing of two light-weight cotton bale bags, approval of a modification to the 8x8 bag construction (as previously mentioned), and continued testing of a new category of woven PET bags along with that bag's automated bagging stuffing system.

The JCIBPC granted the requests of two companies to add their names to the "JCIBPC List of Approved Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Plastic Strapping Manufacturers" after completing several successful years in PET strap compatibility test programs. Compatibility testing: 1) provides assurance that PET strap manufacturers provide materials that meet or exceed the current specifications for PET strapping and 2) demonstrates that their PET strap is compatible with approved patented z-weld friction technology® systems and P600 or P361 friction weld technology strapping systems.

CalOSHA Approves Changes to Heat Illness Regulations

Despite extreme opposition from agricultural groups and other employer groups, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board approved significant revisions to the state's heat illness prevention standard.

The Board voted to approve the changes on a 5 to 1 vote. The new revisions include the following major changes:

- **The procedures now kick in at 80 degrees, instead of the current 85 degrees.**
- **Shade must now cover 100% of those employees working during recovery or rest periods, and onsite meal periods, instead of the current 25%.**
- **High-heat procedures now include a mandatory 10 minute cool-down every two hours. High-heat procedures are enacted when temperatures hit 95 degrees.**

That means that employers must revise their heat illness programs and train employees on an accelerated schedule, with barely two months before the changes become enforceable. Normally, these changes would go into effect on July 1st, but Cal/OSHA is asking the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) to move these up to as early as April 1st. Training must be provided and the Association will be working with its members to assist in this effort, and to make sure their Heat Illness Plan are updated.



Port Agreement Reached, Shipping and Loading Resume

With months of negotiations, and millions of dollars in products delayed, an agreement has finally been reached between the International Longshoremen and the Pacific Maritime Association. After threats of taking the negotiations back to DC and federal mediation involvement, both sides were able to agree. Now that a contract has been put into action, it is time for the ports to catch up with the enormous number of backlogged containers that have been stacked over the past few months. It is estimated that the time to fully catch up could take between six weeks and three months. However, with some of the aerial photos that we have provided, the correct estimate appears to be 3 months. As productivity gets back into gear, some shipping companies have expressed their frustration with the West Coast system. Hanjin, a major Chinese shipper, continued a fight with the Port of Portland in regards to a jurisdictional dispute from 2012. Hanjin handles 95% of the cargo containers at the port of Portland, and promised to pull out all operations by March if the dispute is not corrected. Hanjin is not the only shipper voicing its frustration. A survey of many Journal of Commerce shipping companies revealed that 65% of said companies expressed their desire to avoid west coast ports from this point on. With the increase in cost to avoid the west coast port, it would be hard to imagine the boycott lasting long. Although, it is a testament to how the contract negotiations and slowdowns affected the various industries involved. Stay tuned for more up dates!

Association Celebrates 25th Annual Meeting in Visalia

Returning to the site of meetings past, the California Cotton Growers Association held their 25th Annual Meeting at the Visalia Convention Center. The Convention Center held many Growers Association meetings over the years, and provided the perfect venue for a change in format this year. With assistance from the **UC Cooperative Extension** and **UC IPM** folks, the Association kicked off this year's meeting with three important and informative "breakout sessions". **Pete Goodell** of the UC IPM moderated the discussion on ***Pest Management: Challenges & Solutions***, which included presentations by Pete himself, a panel discussion with **Larry Godfrey, UC Davis; Doug Devaney, JG Boswell; and grower Paul Bettencourt**; and several crop protection company presentations by **Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, FMC Corporation, Nichino America, OroAgri, Syngenta, and Valent USA**. **Bob**



CCGGA Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin Speaks on Association Activities

Hutmacher, State Cotton Specialist with UCCE, moderated the ***Advances in Variety Performance & Fusarium Resistance***, which included a discussion by Hutmacher himself, and presentations by **Bayer CropScience, Phytgen Cottonseed, Delta & Pine Land Co./Monsanto and Hazera Seeds, Inc.** The third breakout panel was led by **Dan Munk of UCCE**, and covered water issues including a presentations by **Gary Bardini, of Department of Water Resources; Bill Green of Center for Irrigation Technology, Fresno; Sharon Benes, of CSU Fresno, and Dan Munk himself**. During the business portion of the meeting, presentations were made by **Marc Lewkowitz of Supima, Brent Murphree of the Cotton Board**, and an overview of the Association's activities by the **Association's own Christopher McGlothlin and Roger Isom**. The final speaker of the day was the new **President of the National Cotton Council, Mr. Gary Adams**. Overall, the meeting was very successful, and was attended by over 130 people during the day. The Association would like to extend a very special thanks to all of the meeting's very generous sponsors and all of the speakers who took time out of their busy schedules to come and address the membership at this historic meeting! Thank you!



Grower Paul Bettencourt Discusses 2014 Pest Issues

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