



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

November 2012

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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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CCGGA Continues Outreach to Urban Legislators

Partnering with other members of the Agricultural President's Council, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) brought **State Senator Alex Padilla**, and **Congressman-elect Tony Cardenas** to one of our members to see how the cotton ginning industry works and the issues that impact our members the most. This time we visited **Farmers Coop Gin** in Buttonwillow. Issues discussed included air quality, labor, and energy prices. In particular, there was a concerted focus on



the issue of PG&E designating October as a "summer month" for electric rates, which is a major cost factor for gins. In addition to the cotton gin, we visited a table grape operation, a citrus packing house, and an

almond huller. It is through these efforts that we hope to bring awareness on the issues affecting the cotton gin and processing industry to the forefront and educate the decision makers on how their actions impact our members. **State Senator Alex Padilla** and **Congressman-elect Tony Cardenas** is shown in the picture discussing the finer points of ginning cotton with **CCGA Board Member Michael Hooper of Farmers Cooperative Gin**.

Air District Rolls Out Next Round of Tractor/Loader Incentive Monies

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has opened the next round of incentive funds for the replacement of tractors and loaders. This program provides incentives for re-



placement of in-use, off-road tractors that are engaged in agricultural operations as defined by the California Air Resources Board. Eligible equipment includes but is not limited to wheel loaders, balers, combines, graders or tractors. Funding amounts are based on a dollar per horsepower table as determined by the horsepower of the engine in the new tractor, not to exceed 80% of the eligible costs. Average reimbursement is around 50%. The program reflects the sole effort of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) and Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) to increase the incentive amounts for loaders to achieve the 50% incentive funding. This program will be different than last year's program in that it is now first come, first served and will be funded on a continuous basis year round. As money becomes available, more tractors will be funded. To obtain an application please visit the Air District's website at http://www.valleyair.org/Grant_Programs/GrantPrograms.htm#HeavyDuty. The application and guidelines are also posted on our website at www.agprocessors.org. If you need assis-

tance, please call our office. we can help complete the application and work directly with the District's administration to resolve any issues as they arise with the applications!

Air Resources Board Implements 'Strike Force' to crack down on polluting trucks

This past month the California Air Resources Board (ARB) partnered with the CA Highway Patrol and the Los Angeles Port Police to conduct inspections on heavy duty trucks traveling in and around the Port of Los Angeles. The effort was a follow-up to ARB's "Gear Up For Clean Trucks" campaign in August, which saw 4000 inspections on vehicles at 40 locations throughout the state, including a very similar event at the Port of Oakland. The purpose was to conduct truck inspections to check for compliance with state air pollution laws. This "Strike Force", as ARB is calling it, is clearly sending a message to truck owners in the state that ARB's Truck Rule will be enforced. The most recent example was the fine levied against Ryder System, Inc. of over \$1 million for simply failing to conduct the annual opacity measurements and keep records of such measurements.

FDA Food Facility Registration Renewal – Here's The Latest!

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued further information and guidance regarding registration requirements for manufacturers, processors, packers or holders of food for human or animal consumption based on changes made by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act). **The updated food facility registration system became available at 12:01 a.m. on October 22, 2012.** Food producers and manufactures have long been required to register with the Food and Drug Administration. There is no fee to register or renew the registration of a food facility. Facilities can register online, via mail or fax. FDA encourages online registration as a quick and efficient means for food facility registration. To submit a registration renewal to FDA, a food facility is required to submit required registration information to FDA, including the additional registration information described above. Please visit [FDA's food facility registration website](#) for more information and to register online. If you are unable to register online, please contact our office at (559)445-9272 and we'll assist you in obtaining the registration forms and assist in completing the forms.

Proposal to Delist the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has proposed to remove the *valley elderberry longhorn beetle* from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. This action is based on a review of the best available scientific and commercial data, which indicates that the subspecies no longer meets the definition of endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This proposed rule, if made final, would remove the *valley elderberry longhorn beetle* as a threatened species from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, and would remove the designation of critical habitat for the subspecies. This document also constitutes our 12-month finding on a petition to delist the *valley elderberry longhorn beetle*. The USFWS is accepting comments until December 3, 2012.



4th Annual Aquatini Shakedown

The California Water Alliance will be holding the CalWA's Annual Aquatini Shakedown on November 15, 2012 at the Visalia Convention Center. The Shakedown will take place in the San Joaquin Ballroom beginning at 6:00 pm. The annual martini competition & auction is rapidly becoming one of Central California's premier events, and this year's profound water actions will make it one of the best yet. Martini mixology will entice Central Valley restaurants to compete for the coveted titles of 2012 Fan Favorite Martini and 2012 CalWA's Choice Martini. Accompanying the artisanal martinis will be Chef David Vartanian of the Vintage Press' awarded cuisine. The evening brings agriculture intertwined with music, auctions offering unique trips, tickets, and events, and delectable food and drink. Come hear leaders in water advocacy from throughout the Valley & California, keeping you always informed with the latest water news in California. Honored guests include state and federal elected officials, state agricultural & industry leaders, water & policy specialists, and the next generation of California water leaders that make up the active & educated CalWA membership. Two hundred are expected to attend and tickets are \$75 per person. All funds raised go to the California Water Alliance's continued efforts in making sure California voters & politicians realize a comprehensive solution



CLASSING AVERAGES

November 2, 2012
Visalia Classing Office

to our state’s current water crisis. Tickets can be purchased through any one of our committee members or by emailing Info@ CaliforniaWaterAlliance.org. Due to the very nature of the event, a martini tasting competition, Aquatini is not available to individuals under the age of twenty-one.

Long-Term Irrigated Lands Informational Meetings

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board is currently developing a long-term General Order for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program that will include huge changes in how irrigators are regulated. One of the most significant changes is a proposal to include regulation of discharges to groundwater. The major agricultural groups and the watershed coalition leadership that represent growers have developed alternative proposals to amend certain elements of the General Order and are seeking input from growers who will be impacted by this new regulation. The meetings are to inform growers on progress that has occurred since the Regional Board Workshop in Tulare. Meetings in Fresno and Tulare have already been set along with the CVRWQCB’s Board Meeting Workshop that will take place in Kern County on November 30th. Additional informational meetings in the South San Joaquin Coalition area are being scheduled as well and we will send out that information when available. Please plan on attending one of these important meetings, which will include representatives from the agricultural groups, watershed coalitions, and regional water board staff.

Fresno County Informational Meeting

Date: Friday, November 16, 2012
Time: 2:30 – 4:30 pm
Location: Fresno County Farm Bureau
1274 W. Hedges
Fresno, CA 93728

Tulare County Informational Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012
Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Location: Tulare County Farm Bureau
737 N. Ben Maddox Way
Visalia, CA 93292

Kern Central Valley Regional Board Workshop

Date: Friday, November 30, 2012
Time: TBD
Location: TBD- Bakersfield area

Bales Classed	2011	2012
CA Saw Upland	23,549	63,881
CA Roller Upland	27,002	47,372
Pima	CA 54,653	ALL 108,055
CA Saw Upland	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	4.03	4.21
Color Grade % 21+	54.4	93.8
Color Grade % 31	43.9	5.4
Color Grade % 41	0.9	0.0
Length Avg.	37.24	36.72
Strength Avg.	33.72	33.50
Uniformity Avg.	81.75	81.63
Leaf Distribution 1	2.0	15.7
Leaf Distribution 2	35.2	63.2
Leaf Distribution 3	50.4	20.5
Leaf Distribution 4	9.7	0.6
CA Roller Upland	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	4.19	4.32
Color Grade % 21+	44.6	77.9
Color Grade % 31	47.8	20.7
Color Grade % 41	4.8	0.1
Length Avg.	39.38	38.90
Strength Avg.	34.09	34.09
Uniformity Avg.	83.40	83.25
Leaf Distribution 1	8.4	13.4
Leaf Distribution 2	55.1	68.9
Leaf Distribution 3	32.1	17.5
Leaf Distribution 4	3.9	0.3
All Pima	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	3.91	4.06
Color Grade % 1	39.2	53.5
Color Grade % 2	57.2	44.2
Color Grade % 3	3.6	2.2
Color Grade % 4	-	-
Length Avg.	47.70	47.20
Strength Avg.	42.09	42.59
Uniformity Avg.	85.64	85.36
Leaf Distribution 1	13.7	42.3
Leaf Distribution 2	59.8	53.5
Leaf Distribution 3	23.9	4.1
Leaf Distribution 4	2.5	0.1

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The East San Joaquin Coalition will be holding similar informational update meetings in conjunction with the Coalition's Annual Meetings. Lunch will be served at the ESJ meetings so please RSVP.

Modesto (Please RSVP to 209-522-7278)

Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012
Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Location: SOS Club
819 Sunset Ave
Modesto, CA

Merced (Please RSVP to 209-522-7278)

Date: Thursday, November 28, 2012
Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Location: Merced County Fair – San Joaquin Hall Bldg.
900 MLK Jr. Way
Merced, CA

Madera (Please RSVP to 559-674-8871)

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012
Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Location: Madera District Fairgrounds –
Women's World Pavilion
1850 W. Cleveland Ave.
Madera, CA 93637

