



The Cotton Chronicle

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November 2013

Volume 24, Issue 11

Industry Calendar

December 3
Growers Board Mtg—
Fresno

December 13
Ginners Board Mtg—
Fresno

January 6-8
Beltwide Cotton
Conference—
New Orleans

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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APC, CCGGA Tour with Susan Eggman

The Agriculture President's Council hosted **Assemblywoman Susan Eggman** for a tour that included a few agricultural industries in the Sacramento Valley. CCGGA was proud to be one of the associations involved. **Assemblywoman Eggman** represents the 13th Assembly



District, which includes the San Joaquin Delta communities of Stockton, Tracy, Thornton and Mountain House. Assemblywoman Eggman is also chairwoman of the Assembly Agriculture Committee and has a family history of bee keeping and almonds.

Along with representatives from other agriculture organizations, CCGGA's **President Roger Isom** and **Director of Regulatory Affairs Aimee Brooks** accompanied the assemblywoman on the group tour on the 23rd. Stops included Green Acres Nursery, Wilbur Ellis, and even a rice harvest with **Assemblywoman Eggman** behind the combine! After touring a rice processing mill, **Eggman** had the chance to walk a walnut orchard, huller, and processing plant at Dixon Ridge Farms. Owner, **Russ Lester** spoke to the many issues he faces not only as a grower, but also as a processor, a land owner, and an energy consumer. In addition he showed the assemblywoman his bio energy

operation that runs entirely from cracked walnut shells. He then shared his plans to be energy self-sufficient for his whole farm, including his processing plant! The tour concluded with dinner in Sacramento. In addition to driving the rice combine and walking through the walnut orchard, and all of the facts and troubles our California producers face, the tour also helped continue to build an important relationship that CCGGA will certainly need in the upcoming legislative year.

CCGGA Executive Vice President Isom Testifies at ARB Hearing on Tractors

Once again, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) were at the forefront of an issue affecting California agriculture, including our hullers and processors. In this case it was the California Air Resources Board Hearing on the Proposed Regulation for State Implementation Plan Credit from Mobile Agricultural Equipment. This particular rulemaking is extremely important because it allows the local air districts and the state to take "credit" for the voluntary emission reductions that have occurred through the voluntary replacement of tractors and harvesters by the agricultural community. Without the passage of this particular rule, the emissions reductions generated by the replacement of over 2,500 tractors and harvesters in the past four years would have been lost and gone unaccounted for. This rule is precedent setting and as a result has raised the ire of the environmental community who not only testified in op-



position to the proposed rulemaking, they submitted written comments as well and have threatened a lawsuit if ARB were to move forward. This regulation is contrary to the construction equipment regulation and the CARB Truck Rule, which required mandatory replacement. CCGGA Executive Vice President Isom was the only industry representative to testify, but the regulation was passed unanimously. It now moves to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their approval. While this does not eliminate any future regulations on tractors and harvesters, it does slow it down somewhat.

CCGGA Meets with Assemblyman Perea

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations and four other agricultural groups recently met with **Assemblyman Henry T. Perea** to discuss AB 69, a bill that could potentially impose additional fees on the use of fertilizer to help fund the clean-up of drinking water in California. Along with the Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Citrus Mutual, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, and the Nisei Farmers League, CCGGA expressed concerns with moving forward with new fees on the agricultural industry in the midst of a major regulatory movement to address the impact of agriculture on surface and ground waters. CCGGA's Roger Isom and Casey Creamer spoke specifically on the Long Term Irrigated Lands Program and the significant impact it will have on growers, both financially and practically. While the participants recognized the need to address drinking water issues in the state, it was emphasized that agriculture cannot bear the sole brunt of such a fee. There are also other developments in the drinking water situation that could significantly help including the allocation of existing funds used for cleanup. AB 69 did not pass this past legislative session, but will be up for discussion again in 2014.



CCGGA Hosts ARB Greenhouse Gas Scoping Plan Meeting

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) hosted a special meeting with the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to discuss the impacts to agriculture from the ARB's Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan. Several agricultural organizations participated in the meeting including the

Western Agricultural Processors Association, Nisei Farmers League, California Citrus Mutual, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, Milk Producers of California, California Independent Oil Marketers Association, and others. Agriculture has several concerns with the proposed scoping plan including the legal basis for such a plan, requirements to address fertilizers and water use efficiency and additional impacts to fuel and electricity costs. **WAPA President/CEO Roger Isom** specifically hammered ARB on competitiveness and the increased costs for electricity due to the potential requirement to increase the requirements for utilities to purchase more "renewable energy". **CCGGA Vice President Casey Creamer** highlighted the importance of keeping ag in production in order for ARB to achieve their stated goals. Forcing farms and ranches out of business due to exploding input costs will force conversion of ag lands out of production when we are already the most efficient in the world. Representing ARB in the meeting was Steve Cliff, Asst. Division Chief of the Stationary Source Division; Michael Tollstrup, Manager, Project Assessment Branch; David Mehl, Manager, Energy Section; and David Mallory, Manager, Climate Change Policy Section.

Blythe takes Action Against Brown Stink Bug

CCGGA's **Director of Regulatory Affairs, Aimee Brooks** attended and spoke at a University of California and Arizona Cotton Workshop in Blythe, CA. The meeting was well attended and included presentations **from Dr. Larry Godfrey UC Cooperative Extension Specialist & Professor; Dr. Jeff Silvertooth, Associate Dean and Director, Extension & Economic Development, University of Arizona; Dr. Phillip Roberts, Extension and Entomologist Professor, Department of Entomology, University of Georgia; and Dr. Peter Ellsworth, IPM Specialist & Professor, Department of Entomology, University of Arizona.** Various topics included managing spider mites and late season aphids and agronomic practices to make up for early season fruit loss and maximizing the top crop, the highlight of the meeting was focused on dealing with a new and dangerous pest that found its way into Western cotton--the brown stink bug (BSB). **Dr. Roberts** who spoke about the brown stink bug is no stranger to the pest, as it is fairly common in Georgia cotton. The brown stink bug is highly mobile and can survive on a broad



Brown Stink Bug

spectrum of hosts. While there is not a reliable indicator some symptoms of BSB damage include boll shed, boll wall warts, and stained lint. Both **Dr. Roberts** and **Dr. Ellsworth** spoke to the success of the pesticide Bidrin 8 in helping control the BSB. The only hang up is that Bidrin 8 is not registered for use in California...yet. CCGGA's **Aimee Brooks** addressed the issue at the meeting and informed the group that



Evidence of Brown Stink Bug: Wart

“CCGGA has filed a 24(c) or *Special Local Needs Registration* application to DPR for Bidrin 8 and concurrently the registrant is applying for full registration with CDPR. CCGGA expects the 24(c) application to be accepted sometime in January and will not expire prior to Bidrin 8 receiving full registration.” While the 24(c) must travel through several other stages to be approved, CCGGA is confident that the need for Bidrin 8 is essential for the California cotton industry and DPR’s decision will reflect that.

VOCs and the SJV: What you need to know

A meeting and discussion session was held at the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center to address a new VOC regulation that aims to cut smog producing emissions from pesticides. In addition to reviewing the regulations and its new requirements for growers, PCAs, pesticide dealers, CDPR staff engaged in discussion with these interested parties to address potential problems and economic and environmental impact. The regulation goes into effect on November 1st and aim to lower the use of high VOC active ingredients in the SJV on specified crops from May 1st to October 31st. These products include Abamectin, Chlorpyrifos, Gibberellins, and Oxyfluorfen and the specified crops include Alfalfa, Almonds, Citrus, Cotton, Grapes, Pistachios, and Walnuts. Very few exceptions are listed but some include limiting application rate of certain active ingredients and allowing Chlorpyrifos to treat cotton aphids as low VOC products have proven ineffective. CDPR will track pesticide VOC emission levels in the SJV and if an exceedance of 17.2 tons of VOCs a day is detected, additional restrictions go into effect. CDPR will notify interested parties if restrictions go into effect through email or their website during the fall after review of the previous year’s data. Such restrictions include restricting the use of ANY high VOC product containing Abamectin, Chlorpyrifos, Gibberellins, and Oxyfluorfen on the above specified crops for two years in the SJV! Specific requirements exist for growers, dealers, and PCAs. It is

CLASSING AVERAGES

October 31, 2013

Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2012	2013
CA Saw Upland	63,881	60,628
CA Roller Upland	47,372	31,961
Pima	CA 108,055	ALL 109,054
CA Saw Upland	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.21	4.24
Color Grade % 21+	93.8	84.8
Color Grade % 31	5.4	13.9
Color Grade % 41	0.0	0.2
Length Avg.	36.72	37.09
Strength Avg.	33.50	33.59
Uniformity Avg.	81.63	82.02
Leaf Distribution 1	15.7	14.5
Leaf Distribution 2	63.2	47.5
Leaf Distribution 3	20.5	36.1
Leaf Distribution 4	0.6	1.8
CA Roller Upland	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.32	4.38
Color Grade % 21+	77.9	65.5
Color Grade % 31	20.7	32.1
Color Grade % 41	0.1	0.1
Length Avg.	38.90	39.49
Strength Avg.	34.09	34.05
Uniformity Avg.	83.25	83.33
Leaf Distribution 1	13.4	10.3
Leaf Distribution 2	68.9	67.8
Leaf Distribution 3	17.5	21.3
Leaf Distribution 4	0.3	0.6
All Pima	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.06	4.0
Color Grade % 1	53.5	62.5
Color Grade % 2	44.2	36.6
Color Grade % 3	2.2	0.9
Color Grade % 4	-	-
Length Avg.	47.20	47.87
Strength Avg.	42.59	43.44
Uniformity Avg.	85.36	85.34
Leaf Distribution 1	42.3	41.9
Leaf Distribution 2	53.5	53.3
Leaf Distribution 3	4.1	4.3
Leaf Distribution 4	0.1	0.4

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vital to ensure each party adhere to their requirements to avoid fines and the possibility of more stringent regulations. Resources such as VOC calculators and summarized fact sheets are available on DPR's website at: tinyurl.com/vocregs (CDPR's Website). If you have any questions please feel free to contact **Aimee Brooks** at aimee@ccgga.org.

Industry Stalwart Donavon Heslep Retires

After 30 years in the industry, **Donavon Heslep** is hanging up his tape measure. An industry icon, Donavon has been a tremendous asset to the cotton ginning industry and to this Association. Recognized in 2001 by the California Cotton Ginners Association with our Distinguished Service Award, Donavon has generously donated his time and effort to many of the Association's activities and efforts. From helping with the development of the Association's Cotton Gin Emission Factor Handbook to the many years he served on the Association's Environmental Committee, we are eternally grateful for his service to the industry. We understand that Donavon may be headed back to his birth place in North Dakota, and we wish him the best of luck in his retirement and future endeavors. He has served this industry well, and we are all better off as a result. Thank you, Donavon!

Industry Loses a Leader and Friend

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of **Werner Bieri**, beloved husband, father, and the founding CEO of Buhler Quality Yarns, Corp., who died Saturday at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, GA, after a long fight with leukemia. He was 60. Werner's experience in the global textile market spanned over twenty-five years. He served as the Managing Director of Hermann Bühler AG for eleven years before bringing Buhler to life in the United States. It is thanks to his tireless commitment and his strategic skills that Buhler Quality Yarns, Corp. survived the upheaval of the American textiles industry to become the successful company that it is today. In addition to Buhler, Werner served on the executive board of NCTO (National Council of Textile Organizations), was a board member of CCI (Cotton Council International) and the NCC (National Cotton Council), and was a member of the spinners committee in ITMF (International Textile Manufacturers Institute). He was also a member of the Cotton Board from 2001 until his passing. Werner will be remembered not only for his work with Buhler, but for his leadership in the industry, and for the warmth and wisdom he infused in all that he did. In lieu of flowers, Mr. Bieri's family asks that memorials be made to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA