



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

December 2012

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Industry Calendar

Dec 20
Ginners Board Mtg—
Fresno

Dec 24—25
Christmas Holiday—
Office Closed

Dec 31—Jan 1
New Years Holiday—
Office Closed

Jan 7-10
Beltwide Cotton
Conference—
San Antonio, TX

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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Hanford FFA Wins Back-to-Back Cotton State Championships

On Saturday, November 3rd, Fresno State held the 55th Annual Cotton Judging State Finals Contest. Hanford FFA had fifteen members compete at this contest. The competition re-



State Champion A Team. Left to right: Coach Sam Rodriguez, Student Teacher Kayla Wood, Natalie Starich, Austin Harris, Grant Verdegaal, Evie Starich, and coach Brian Combes

quires FFA members to evaluate cotton plants, bolls, seeds, and lint, then justify their assessment of these samples through the presentation of a set of oral reasons to a judge. The students are also given a written examination to test their knowledge of the cotton growing process and the industry itself. Saturdays contest was broken up into two contests, with one being the “A” contest for advanced members, and the “B” contest for intermediate members. Hanford FFA cotton teams, coached by Brian Combes and Sam Rodriguez, won both A and B team state championship titles at this contest. The champion winning A team consist of members Evie Starich (Hanford High), who was 1st high individual, Grant Verdegaal (Hanford High) 2nd high individual, Natalie Starich (Hanford High), and Austin Harris (Hanford West). The state champion B team was made up of Cam-

eron Standridge (Hanford High) 2nd high individual, Zach Barlow (Hanford West) 4th high individual, Hunter Brown (Hanford High), and Marisa Carvalho (Hanford West). Hanford FFA had another B team, placing 4th, with members Gabby Bradley (Hanford High), Jordan Hickey (Hanford High), Katie Vierra (Hanford West), and Megan Borba (Hanford High). Hanford also had a third B team which consisted of Catherine Brasil (Hanford High), Rose Schwaderer (Hanford High), and Richie Silva (Hanford West). -Evie Starich, Hanford FFA Reporter

Long-term Irrigated Lands Update

Since our last update in the October newsletter, much as occurred with regards to the tentative orders for the Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. A group of agricultural organizations and watershed coalitions continued to meet and come up with necessary changes to the Long-term program which expands the regulatory reach to groundwater. The group came up with alternatives and most of those alternatives were accepted and implemented into the



revised East San Joaquin WDR which is scheduled to be adopted on Friday, December 7th at the CVRWQCB's Board Hearing in Rancho Cor-

dova. Progress was made on the scope of the high vulnerability areas, extension of reporting for farms less than 60 acres, coalition reporting at the township level instead of by section, simplification of forms and templates, and a shift away from the proposed groundwater representative monitoring towards a management practices evaluation approach.

We still have outstanding issues on Nitrogen Management Plans for low vulnerable areas and a lot of work still to do on the development of a grower self-certification program for Nitrogen Management planning and the development of the Management Practices Evaluation Program. The Association will continue to lead the effort to modify the regulations forthcoming to reduce the costs and burdens on behalf of the growers impacted.

2013 Beltwide Cotton Conferences on Tap

Cotton producers will find an abundance of information aimed at increasing their profitability at the **2013 Beltwide Cotton Conferences** -- set for **January 7-10 at the Marriott Rivercenter/Riverwalk hotels in San Antonio, Texas**. The National Cotton Council coordinates the annual Beltwide Cotton Conferences. The forum brings together those with a stake in a healthy U.S. cotton production sector, including cotton industry members, university and USDA researchers, Extension personnel, consultants, and service providers, to share timely information. Programming is designed to update U.S. cotton producers on new technology, innovative and effective production practices, and key industry issues. One of the Cotton Production Conference general session's key presentations will be a market outlook from Allenberg Cotton Company CEO Joe Nicosia. Other general session reports will include an update on key legislation/regulations, including farm bill status; a review of the 2012 production season; a discussion of herbicide resistance in Texas; and a presentation on climate trends. The Cotton Production Conference also will offer multiple seminars and workshops that promise to deliver a wealth of information to cotton producers. Among sessions being developed are:

- ◆ **Comparison of conventional and transgenic cotton production systems;**
- ◆ **Irrigation practices and other tools to improve efficiency;**
- ◆ **Discussion of 2,4-D and dicamba tolerant traits and industry efforts to address tank cleanout, volatility, drift, and importance of marking fields;**
- ◆ **Cotton options workshop that demonstrates the use of innovative marketing strategies, crop insurance and ad-**

vanced farm and financial management techniques to develop a strong risk management program;

- ◆ **Social media and a look at its growing use in production agriculture;**
- ◆ **Effective use of fertilizer stabilizers; and**
- ◆ **"New Developments from Industry," including new varieties, new products for pest and disease management, equipment updates, and emerging technologies, including software applications for producers and consultants.**

The 2013 Beltwide Cotton Conferences opens with the 6th annual Cotton Consultants Conference, which will focus on weed resistance, irrigation and an insecticide update, including a review of how various insecticides performed during the 2012 season. Also included will be the 11 cotton technical conferences and The Cotton Foundation Technical Exhibits. Housing and registration instructions, a schedule of events, and general information for the 2013 Beltwide Cotton Conferences are at www.cotton.org/beltwide.

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.

Agricultural Laws and Regulations for Growers and Farm Labor Contractors



AgSafe will be conducting a seminar on "Agricultural Laws and Regulations for Growers and Farm Labor Contractors" on December 12, 2012 at the Radisson Hotel located on 2233 Ventura Street in Fresno, California. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. Training topics will be cov-

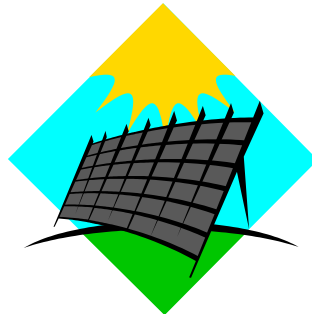
ered for both beginning and advanced farm labor contractors (FLCs) at a level that is appropriate for their experience.

- ◆ Agricultural Labor Relations Act
- ◆ Cal/OSHA Safety and Health Laws
- ◆ Employment Insurance
- ◆ Farm Labor Contractor Requirements
- ◆ Transportation and Housing Laws
- ◆ Sexual Harassment Prevention
- ◆ Wage and Hour Laws
- ◆ Workers' Compensation Insurance

This training meets the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) 8-hour continuing education requirement for farm labor contractors. The classes run from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and will be conducted in English and Spanish. Cost for the class is \$180 for AgSafe members and \$220 for non-members. For more details, please visit the AgSafe website at www.agsafe.org or call the AgSafe office at (209)526-4404.

Solar Equipment May Now Qualify for Partial Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Thinking of putting in solar for your farm or cotton gin? If so, you should be aware that the California Board of Equalization has recently ruled that solar facilities may qualify for the farm equipment and machinery partial sales and use tax exemption. Sales and leases of farm equipment and machinery, including solar power facilities, that meet certain criteria are partially exempt from California's sales and use tax. The farm equipment and machinery partial exemption applies to the state general fund portion of the sales and use tax rate, currently 5.25 percent. Eligible persons who purchase qualifying farm equipment and machinery that is used at least 50 percent in the production and harvesting of agricultural products may claim the partial exemption. If you otherwise qualify for the farm equipment and machinery partial exemption, your solar power facilities that are tied to the local power grid but are not directly attached to qualifying farm equipment may qualify, if they are designed to generate power for such equipment and machinery. For more details, please visit our website at www.ccgga.org or call our office at (559)252-0684.



CLASSING AVERAGES

December 7, 2012
Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2011	2012
CA Saw Upland	181,285	192,142
CA Roller Upland	96,732	94,319
Pima	293,020	346,696
CA Saw Upland	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	40.06	4.25
Color Grade % 21+	53.9	88.9
Color Grade % 31	42.5	9.1
Color Grade % 41	2.8	0.3
Length Avg.	37.12	36.70
Strength Avg.	33.23	33.35
Uniformity Avg.	81.56	81.66
Leaf Distribution 1	6.1	14.6
Leaf Distribution 2	44.9	58.6
Leaf Distribution 3	40.9	24.9
Leaf Distribution 4	6.6	1.7
CA Roller Upland	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	4.23	4.33
Color Grade % 21+	39.2	76.0
Color Grade % 31	49.4	21.3
Color Grade % 41	7.8	0.1
Length Avg.	39.35	38.86
Strength Avg.	33.97	33.98
Uniformity Avg.	83.43	83.27
Leaf Distribution 1	70.9	11.2
Leaf Distribution 2	51.4	61.4
Leaf Distribution 3	33.5	25.3
Leaf Distribution 4	5.4	1.9
All Pima	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	3.94	4.05
Color Grade % 1	46.0	56.7
Color Grade % 2	50.1	40.4
Color Grade % 3	3.6	2.9
Color Grade % 4	0.3	0.1
Length Avg.	48.0	47.40
Strength Avg.	42.59	42.85
Uniformity Avg.	85.87	85.39
Leaf Distribution 1	234	33.4
Leaf Distribution 2	61.5	55.9
Leaf Distribution 3	13.3	10.0
Leaf Distribution 4	1.6	0.7

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