



# The Cotton Chronicle

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[www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org)

December 2013

Volume 24, Issue 12

## Industry Calendar

December 13  
Ginners Board Mtg—  
Fresno

January 6-8  
Beltwide Cotton  
Conference—  
New Orleans

*(Visit web calendar  
for details)*

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## CCGGA Comments on California Water Action Plan

The California Natural Resources Agency, State Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Food and Agriculture collaborated on the release of a detailed draft action plan to help guide state efforts and resources on one of California's most important resources, water. The California Water Action Plan focuses on the reliability of the state's water supply, the needed ecosystem restoration to bring the water system back into balance, and the resilience of the state's water infrastructure. In May, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. directed the agencies to identify key actions for the next one to five years that address urgent needs and provide the foundation for sustainable management of California's water resources. Some of the actions are new proposals, such as a greater focus on water recycling for potable reuse. Other actions reflect work that state agencies are already planning or engaged in, such as enhanced conservation measures for urban and agricultural water users, accelerated habitat restoration efforts, and adding water storage capacity. The plan focuses on ten key actions:

- Make Conservation a California Way of Life
- Increase Local and Regional Self-Reliance
- Achieve Co-Equal Goals for the Delta
- Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems
- Manage and Prepare for Dry Periods
- Expand Water Storage Capacity
- Provide Safe Drinking Water for All Communities
- Improve Flood Protection
- Increase Operational and Regulatory Efficiency
- Identify Sustainable and Integrated Financing Opportunities

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) submitted comments on the proposed plan, and focused our comments on

the priority for additional water storage in the state and expressed concerns over possible regulation of water use efficiency and groundwater pumping restrictions for agriculture. A final plan is expected later this year.

## CCGGA Hosts Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen on Tour

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) hosted **Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen**



*Mike Davis of Dos Palos Cooperative Gin, Inc. explains the cotton ginning process to Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen*

**tin Olsen** this past month on a tour of an almond huller, farm, and a cotton gin. The Assemblywoman toured **Dos Palos Cooperative Gin, Inc** in Dos Palos and **Bowles Farming**. Assemblywoman Olsen is the Vice Chair for the Assembly Ag Committee and sits on the Select Committee for Ag and the Environment, and the Select Committee on Regional Approaches to the State Water Crisis. While educating the Assemblywoman on the finer points of farming cotton and cotton ginning, considerable time was spent discussing the critical issues facing the cotton industry including water availability, water quality, and air quality.

The Assemblywoman met with California Cotton Growers Association **Chairman Cannon Michael of Bowles Farming** for lunch along with CCGGA staff, including **Executive Vice President Roger Isom and Director of Regulatory Affairs**



Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen driving a tractor at Bowles Farming

**Aimee Brooks.** The tour was a huge success with the Assemblywoman “tweeting” about her stops along the entire tour! The tour was part of CCGGA’s ongoing program to bring legislators and regulators to our operations to educate about them on the critical issues affecting our industry.

### **ARB Reopens Ag Truck Registration**

Succumbing to continued pressure, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) is proposing to make some changes to the Truck and Bus Regulation to ease compliance. ARB is proposing the following changes:

- The opt-in period will be reopened for vehicles to newly register for the existing low mileage agricultural vehicle extension
- The opt-in period will be reopened for vehicles to newly register for the existing low mileage construction truck extension
- The opt-in period will be reopened for vehicles to newly register for the existing PM phase-in requirements
- The thresholds for the low-use exemption will be increased for all trucks that are operated a total of less than 5,000 miles per year, and for trucks that are designed to perform work while stationary, the limit will be increased to 200 hours per year
- The definition of “NOx exempt” areas will be expanded to include additional counties including Butte County!

To take advantage of these changes in compliance, you must be registered with the online ARB truck registration program by January 31, 2014. For details, please see the attached Compliance Advisory. If you have any questions or need assisting in registering your trucks, please contact our office!

### **Chlorpyrifos Watch**

Growers and PCAs alike know Chlorpyrifos is a valuable tool essential to any effective IPM program in several different crops. Regardless of its importance in safely preventing crop loss, it is still subject to scrutiny. Such is evidenced by CDPR Director Brian Leahy’s testimony at his

confirmation hearing in January 2013, in which he voiced concern about the use of Chlorpyrifos. Such comments initiated a research contract with CDPR and UC IPM to identify and manage critical uses for Chlorpyrifos against key pests of Alfalfa, Almonds, Citrus, and *Cotton*. Associations, UC Representatives, Growers, PCAs, and Crop Production Specialist from the differing crops will team together in the upcoming year to develop and extend guidelines and practices that demonstrate the necessity of use and good stewardship in critical situations. Specific goals include:

- Identifying Critical Uses for Chlorpyrifos in Cotton (and others)
- Determining best practices for critical Chlorpyrifos applications to help prevent and mitigate risks
- Documenting grower uses of best practices
- Creating and extending educational awareness and decision support tools for decision makers
- Providing training and outreach
- Describing gaps in research for extension to fill

It is the intention of such goals to maintain critical uses of Chlorpyrifos while mitigation the risk associated with it. From the association’s standpoint we hope this will allow Chlorpyrifos to remain available to growers who need it in critical use situations!

### **EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Visits Valley**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy** visited Fresno on Wednesday, as part of a day long visit to the valley to meet with agricultural stakeholders. **CCGGA staff Roger Isom, Casey Creamer and Aimee Brooks**

attended a special meeting to discuss air quality issues at **Melkonian Farms** near Fresno. CCGGA Executive Vice President Isom specifically addressed the success of “incentive programs” to address air quality issue citing the recent success of the tractor replace-



CCGGA Executive Vice President Isom speaking to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and EPA Region IX Administrator Jared Blumenfeld

ment program through the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Isom also mentioned the success that happens when the agencies work with agriculture including the success of the Conservation Management Plan

(CMP) program to address PM10 emissions from agriculture that resulted in more reductions in emissions than originally proposed. **EPA Region IX Administrator Jared Blumenfeld and Associate Air Director Kerry Drake** were also in attendance with the Administrator. Joining CCGGA was the Nisei Farmers League, the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, California Citrus Mutual and the Western Agricultural Processors Association.

**New Regs Coming for Closed Mixing Systems**

At a recent PREC meeting, DPR discussed possible changes coming for closed mixing systems. As the regulation stands currently, a closed mixing system must be provided for employees who mix or load pesticides in toxicity category one. Proposed changes aim at requiring the closed mixing system based on the precautionary statements on the label, more specifically pesticides which present dermal toxicity. Other changes discussed included specified design criteria, covers to prevent splashing/spills, protection for gauges, training employees, written instructions or procedures for safe operation and many other changes. DPR has proposed splitting up pesticides into two categories, Tier 1 and Tier 2. Each Tier would require separate, specific requirements. The notable difference between the two is that Tier 1 vessels have the capability to rinse containers thoroughly, with adequate water volume and pressure. Very few exemptions exist but include labeling conflicts and very low use exemptions. DPR is currently waiting for additional information from OEHHA to finalize the proposed changes. Rulemaking is set for early 2014 and CCGGA will be a part of the discussion.

**CCGGA Hosts State Water Board Chair**

CCGGA along with the **Nisei Farmers League, California Citrus Mutual, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, Kings River Conservation District,** and the **Western Agricultural Processors Association** recently hosted State Water Resources Control Board Chair **Felicia Marcus** for a visit and tour of our member’s operations. In a pre-tour meeting, the groups stressed the importance of incentive funding to help growers comply and advance water quality goals. Continuing fee increases on processing facilities and irrigated lands program acreage fees was also a focus during the meeting. During the tour we visited with two small farm operations, **Grower Director Mark McKean’s** farm, and a tree fruit and vine grower. The tour highlighted the diversity in agricultural and the importance of using a variety of farming approaches that fit the needs of specific growers in specific regions and on specific soils. Ms. Mar-

**CLASSING AVERAGES**

**December 5, 2013**  
**Visalia Classing Office**

Bales Classed	2012	2013
<b>CA Saw Upland</b>	233,708	175,239
<b>CA Roller Upland</b>	103,844	62,218
<b>Pima</b>	413,406	400,167
<b>CA Saw Upland</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Mike Avg.</b>	4.27	4.27
<b>Color Grade % 21+</b>	87.0	84.5
<b>Color Grade % 31</b>	10.8	12.7
<b>Color Grade % 41</b>	0.4	1.5
<b>Length Avg.</b>	36.74	37.21
<b>Strength Avg.</b>	33.36	33.90
<b>Uniformity Avg.</b>	81.67	82.0
<b>Leaf Distribution 1</b>	13.8	12.3
<b>Leaf Distribution 2</b>	58.7	52.7
<b>Leaf Distribution 3</b>	25.5	33.0
<b>Leaf Distribution 4</b>	1.8	2.0
<b>CA Roller Upland</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Mike Avg.</b>	4.34	4.45
<b>Color Grade % 21+</b>	75.6	60.2
<b>Color Grade % 31</b>	21.3	36.0
<b>Color Grade % 41</b>	0.3	0.3
<b>Length Avg.</b>	38.84	39.33
<b>Strength Avg.</b>	33.95	34.12
<b>Uniformity Avg.</b>	83.26	83.22
<b>Leaf Distribution 1</b>	10.7	8.3
<b>Leaf Distribution 2</b>	60.9	64.2
<b>Leaf Distribution 3</b>	26.3	25.9
<b>Leaf Distribution 4</b>	2.0	1.4
<b>All Pima</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Mike Avg.</b>	4.04	4.0
<b>Color Grade % 1</b>	56.6	61.4
<b>Color Grade % 2</b>	40.2	36.9
<b>Color Grade % 3</b>	3.1	1.7
<b>Color Grade % 4</b>	0.1	0.1
<b>Length Avg.</b>	47.40	48.0
<b>Strength Avg.</b>	42.77	43.44
<b>Uniformity Avg.</b>	85.42	85.38
<b>Leaf Distribution 1</b>	32.3	33.8
<b>Leaf Distribution 2</b>	55.7	58.7
<b>Leaf Distribution 3</b>	11.0	7.0
<b>Leaf Distribution 4</b>	0.9	0.5

**California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations**  
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PRESORTED STANDARD  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
FRESNO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 2509

## Merry Christmas

cus was appointed Chair of the SWRCB following former Chair and rice grower Charlie Hoppin's retirement. She is no stranger to the issues faced by agriculture having previously served as the Regional



*CCGA Director Mark McKean (right) discusses current farm management with Felicia Marcus, with Dave Orth, Manuel Cunha, and Bob Blakely observing.*

Administrator of EPA Region 9 headquartered in San Francisco during implementation of the Pesticide VOC program.

### **Industry Leader Passes**

Jack P. Hoover, a friend and industry leader passed away on November 23, 2013 in Fresno, CA. Jack was 86. Born in Dinuba, CA on January 10, 1927. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1944. He then attended Fresno State for one year before enlisting in the Air Force. While in the service he helped build air bases in Europe during the allied occupation. Jack returned to Fresno State in 1947 and graduated in 1949 with a degree in business.

He worked for a local accounting firm for ten years before joining Air-Way Farms, Inc., on July 16, 1959 as an accountant and was eventually named General Manager. He was a long time member of the Fresno Kiwanis Club. He was also a trustee of the Bulldog Foundation and also served that organization as treasurer for two years. Jack joined the California Cotton Ginners Association board of directors in 1979 and was a board member until his retirement in 2001. During his tenure on the Cotton Ginners board he served as Chairman in 1982 and was named the Associations "Ginner of the Year" in 1994. After his service as Chairman he was again elected Secretary/Treasurer and retained that position until his retirement. In 1990, Jack was instrumental in forming the California Cotton Growers Association. His leadership in that effort eventually led to the replacement of the Western Cotton Growers Association with the then newly formed California Cotton Growers Association. Jack was a charter member of the Cotton Growers Association's board of directors and served as Secretary/Treasurer until his retirement in 2001. During his many years of loyal service to the industry Jack also served as a Ginner Delegate to the National Cotton Council and a Director of Cotton Council International. Jack was a true friend of the industry and of all the organizations he served so well. He will be missed.