



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

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Industry Calendar

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

Jan 15
Jess Smith & Sons
Grower Mtg—
Visalia

Jan 17
Jess Smith & Sons
Grower Mtg—
Harris Ranch

Feb 8-10
National Cotton Council
Annual Mtg—
Memphis, TN

*(Visit web calendar
for details)*

CCGGA Staff

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Safety Training – 2013

Once again, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) will lead the agricultural industry in safety training, bringing two new topics to the tree nut hulling and processing industry: Aerial Lift Training and Fall Protection Training. Each of these will be separate classes held at the same location with Aerial Lift Training being held in the morning and Fall Protection Training being held in the afternoon. Details are being worked on, but here are the tentative dates and locations:

Aerial Lift & Fall Protection Training		
Date	Location	Site
March 6 th	Visalia	Tbd
March 13 th	Denair	Tbd
March 14 th	Kerman	Central Calif. Almond Growers Assn.
March 19 th	Wasco	Semi Tropic Coop Cotton Gin
March 27 th	Santa Maria	Tbd
April 9 th	Ripon	Travaille & Phippen
April 23 rd	Chico	Tbd
April	Salinas	Tbd

These classes will be conducted in partnership with Cal/OSHA Consultation, The Zenith, CCGGA and WAPA. Co-hosting the classes will be the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, Nisei Farmers League, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, Western Agricultural Processors Association, and AgSafe. The actual locations and a registration flyer will be coming out shortly.

Water Board Adopts East San Joaquin Order

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board unanimously adopted the waste discharge requirement for the East San Joaquin River at their scheduled board hearing on De-

ember 7th. The order is the first adopted under the new Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Long-term program expands the original Irrigated Lands program from a surface water only program to now including groundwater quality. The expansion to groundwater brings additional costs and requirements to the watershed coalitions and individual growers. All farm irrigation within the East San Joaquin River area will need to request coverage from the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition for group coverage or seek coverage as an individual. There are no longer exclusions for those growers who do not discharge to surface waters! Individual grower requirements within the coalition group will vary to some degree based on the coalition groups future determination of high and low vulnerability areas, but all growers will at some point in the near future be required to complete Farm Evaluations and Nitrogen Management Plans. Sediment and Erosion Control plans will also be required in some areas. The Association led an effort to push back on many of the burdensome requirements along with the various watershed coalition and agricultural organizations and the group was successful in many areas. Including last minute efforts by some to request full nitrogen use reporting and further coalition reporting by section instead of by township. However, the Long-term Irrigated Lands Program will indeed require growers join a coalition and complete the required elements under the program. The East San Joaquin River Order was the first area up and will be followed by every other coalition group region prior to the end of 2013. Next up on the schedule will be the Tulare Lake region which is also known as the Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition area. That order is

scheduled to be heard by the board in April of 2013. The Association will continue to be heavily involved in all of the coalition areas as the Long-term Irrigated Lands Program is further developed and implemented. If you have any questions about the specifics of the program, please do not hesitate to contact **Casey Creamer** or **Roger Isom** at **(559) 252-0684** or your local coalition group lead.

Update: Food Facility Registration Renewal Period Extended

FDA announced in December that they are extending the Food Facility Registration Renewal for 31 additional days. Due to a delay in the ability to perform the online registration renewal until October 22, 2012, FDA has moved the deadline to **January 31, 2013**. The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), registration requirements apply to domestic and foreign food facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States. Section 102 of FSMA now specifies that food facilities required to register with FDA must renew their registrations with FDA every other year, during the period beginning on October 1 and ending on December 31 of each even-numbered year. For assistance in completing the registration, please call our office at (559)252-0684.

Statewide Sales & Use Tax Rate Increases Jan. 1, 2013

The statewide sales and use tax rate will increase one quarter of one percent (0.25%) from 7.25 percent to 7.50 percent on January 1, 2013. This rate increase was approved by California voters when they approved Proposi-

tion 30 on November 6, 2012. Among other things, Proposition 30 increases the statewide sales and use tax rate for four years—January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2016. Across California, the sales and use tax rate will range from 7.50 percent to 10.00 percent because in some cities and counties, voter-approved district taxes are added to the statewide base rate. California sales tax generally applies to retail sales of goods and merchandise except those sales specifically exempted by law. Use Tax is the same rate as the sales tax and generally applies to the storage, use, or other consumption of goods in California purchased from retailers in transactions not subject to the sales tax. Use tax may also apply to purchases shipped to California consumers from other states, including purchases by mail order, telephone, or Internet. The sales and use tax rate increase does not apply to purchases of gasoline. However, the sales and use tax rate increase does apply to purchases of diesel fuel.

CCGGA Executive Vice President Isom Speaks Out Against More Air Quality Regulations

In a hearing in December of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) Executive Vice President Roger Isom testified against the adoption of an air quality plan for PM2.5. Citing numerous regulations already imposed on agriculture, Isom testified that California agriculture is already at a huge competitive disadvantage to other agricultural areas in the US and the world. The plan was eventually passed by the District, but the focus of the plan will be on fireplaces and charbroilers. However, the farm equipment rule being developed by the California Air Resources Board will be included in the plan. For news coverage, see: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/12/20/3108922/new-valley-air-plan-will-cut-fireplace.html#storylink=cpy>.

ARB Truck Rule Update – Next Compliance Date is Here!

For those trucks not eligible for the “ag provisions”, the second round of actual equipment modifications will be required as of January 1, 2013 for certain model year engine trucks. **Trucks with engine model years 2000 – 2004 must have installed diesel particulate filters as of January 1, 2013.** Remember, any truck moving between the huller and the processor or any truck exceeding the mileage thresholds for the specific model years must comply with the standard provisions set forth in the regulation.

Detailed Description of the California Sales and Use Tax Rate		
Purpose	Jurisdiction	Rate
State’s General Fund	State	3.6875%
State’s General Fund	State	0.25%
State’s Fiscal Recovery Fund (2004 Economic Recovery Bonds)	State	0.25%
Goes to Local Public Safety Fund (1993)	State	0.50%
Local Revenue Fund (Health and Social Services)	State	0.50%
Local Revenue Fund 2011 (Public Safety)	State	1.0625%
Education Protection Account (2012 Proposition 30)	State	0.25%
0.25% County transportation funds 0.75% City or county operations	Local	1.00%
Total Statewide Base Sales and Use Tax Rate on January 1, 2013		7.50%

**Retrofit Dates for Trucks Not Under the
“Ag Provisions”**

Phase 1 – PM BACT

Engine Model Year	Compliance Deadline as of January 1
1996 – 1999	2012
2000 – 2004	2013
2005 – 2006	2014

Phase 2 – NOx BACT & PM BACT

Pre 1994	2015
1994 – 1995	2016
1996 – 1997	2017
1998 – 2000	2020
2001 – 2004	2021
2005 - 2006	2022
All Vehicles	2023

State Water Board Policy on Septic Tanks is Approved

On June 19, 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy) for septic tanks. This Policy establishes a state-wide, risk-based, tiered approach for the regulation and management of OWTS installations and replacements and sets the level of performance and protection expected from OWTS. **This policy was recently approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) in December and will become effective on May 13, 2013.** The OWTS Policy sets standards for OWTS that are constructed or replaced, that are subject to a major repair, that pool or discharge waste to the surface of the ground, and that have affected, or will affect, groundwater or surface water to a degree that makes it unfit for drinking water or other uses, or cause a health or other public nuisance condition. The OWTS Policy also includes minimum operating requirements for OWTS that may include siting, construction, and performance requirements; requirements for OWTS near certain waters listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act; requirements authorizing local agency implementation of the requirements; corrective action requirements; minimum monitoring requirements; exemption criteria; requirements for determining when an existing OWTS is subject to major repair, and a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements. The regional water quality control boards are required to incorporate the standards established in the OWTS Policy, or standards that are more protective of the environment and public health, into their water quality control plans within 12

CLASSING AVERAGES

December 28, 2012

Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2011	2012
CA Saw Upland	302,120	309,785
CA Roller Upland	134,218	134,286
Pima	CA 523,527	ALL 552,058
CA Saw Upland	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	4.07	4.28
Color Grade % 21+	50.0	83.9
Color Grade % 31	45.8	13.8
Color Grade % 41	3.3	0.4
Length Avg.	37.01	36.75
Strength Avg.	32.91	33.22
Uniformity Avg.	81.38	81.66
Leaf Distribution 1	8.6	12.5
Leaf Distribution 2	46.6	57.3
Leaf Distribution 3	37.6	27.7
Leaf Distribution 4	5.9	2.2
CA Roller Upland	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	4.24	4.35
Color Grade % 21+	36.3	75.5
Color Grade % 31	50.6	19.0
Color Grade % 41	8.5	0.4
Length Avg.	39.43	38.85
Strength Avg.	33.97	33.96
Uniformity Avg.	83.42	83.23
Leaf Distribution 1	7.7	9.8
Leaf Distribution 2	50.0	61.0
Leaf Distribution 3	35.0	27.0
Leaf Distribution 4	5.8	2.0
All Pima	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	3.93	4.03
Color Grade % 1	44.4	56.2
Color Grade % 2	49.4	39.8
Color Grade % 3	4.9	3.7
Color Grade % 4	0.9	0.2
Length Avg.	48.0	47.5
Strength Avg.	42.36	42.67
Uniformity Avg.	85.73	75.45
Leaf Distribution 1	23.5	30.2
Leaf Distribution 2	59.9	56.6
Leaf Distribution 3	14.0	12.0
Leaf Distribution 4	2.2	1.0

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months of the effective date of the OWTS Policy. While many places would have been impacted under the original draft policy, this final policy limits the areas impacted by full extent of this regulation.

Director Election Results

Cotton Growers Association—

5 Director Positions were open in Fresno County and 2 positions were open in Merced County. 5 petitions were filed in Fresno County for the 5 positions. **Andrew Clark, Vince Marshall, Mark McKean, Gary Martin and Bob Wilson** filed petitions and were all re-seated for addi-

tional 3 year terms. 2 petitions were filed for the 2 positions in Merced County. Re-seated for additional 3 year terms were **Robert McDonald** and **Cannon Michael**.

Cotton Ginners Association—

5 Director Positions were open this year. 3 incumbents and 2 vacancies were to be filled. Only 4 official nominations were received by the nomination filing deadline. 4 directors were seated for 3 year terms beginning in 2013. Returning are **Kirk Gilkey and Wayne Gilbert**. New directors elected to fill the vacancies are **Mike Davis, Dos Palos Coop and Ron Nimmo, Pacific Ginning Company**. Not returning and dropping out to late to re-notice to fill his slot was **Guy Schwarz**.

