



# The Cotton Chronicle

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

*Just Pima*

February 2012

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## Industry Calendar

Feb 10-12—  
NCC Annual Mtg—  
Fort Worth, TX

Feb 20—  
President's Day—  
Office Closed

Mar 1—  
Cotton Price Risk Mgmt  
Seminar—  
Harris Ranch

Mar 8—  
Growers Board &  
Annual Mtg—  
Harris Ranch

Mar 29—  
Ginners Board &  
Membership Mtg—  
Fresno, CA

*(Visit web calendar  
for details)*

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## Forklift "Train-the-Trainer" Sessions on Tap

Once again, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) is partnering with several agricultural organizations to bring our members Forklift "Train-the-Trainer" Sessions to locations throughout the State. Coordinated by WAPA, and conducted by several agricultural organizations including the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA), AgSafe, the Nisei Farmers League, Zenith, CalOSHA Consultation, Far West Equipment Dealers Association, JM Equipment and many others, sessions located near cotton growing areas include Bakersfield, Madera, Huron, Dos Palos, and Exeter. For registration information, please visit our website at [www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org), or call our office at (559) 252-0684.



## Ginners Director Elections Report

Every year, 5 director positions are up for election to 3 year terms. Nomination forms were mailed to all members in October of 2011. Only five nominations were received to fill the 5 vacancies so the board of directors at their December meeting waived the need for a ballot election and confirmed the re-election of **John Colbert, Modern Ginning Co., Stan Creelman, Mid Valley Cotton Growers, Michael Hooper, Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc., Matt Toste, Huron Ginning Co., Don Van Schuyver, Semi Tropic Cooperative Gin.** Congratulations to the 5 returning directors.

## Growers Director Election Report

The three year terms of directors from Kern and Riverside Counties expired at the end of 2011 so nomination petitions were mailed to all cot-

ton growers of record in those respective counties in October. Kern County has 3 director positions and Riverdale County has 1 director position. Filing official nomination petitions for re-election with the required signatures from 10 Kern County cotton growers were current directors, **Jim Neufeld and Bryan Bone.** Filing a petition for the first time was **Catherine Fanucchi.** Filing official nomination petition with the required signatures of 10 Riverside County cotton growers was current director **Tim Cox.** With only 3 official nomination petitions filed for the 3 positions to be filled in Kern County and 1 official nomination petition filed for the 1 position to be filled in Riverside County, the board of directors waived the need for a ballot election at their December board meeting confirming the election of **Jim Neufeld, Bryan Bone and Catherine Fanucchi** of Kern County and **Tim Cox** of Riverside County to 3 year terms beginning in 2012. Congratulations to the returning directors and to the new Kern County director, and first ever female director, Catherine Fanucchi of Bakersfield.

## Biodiesel Use on the Increase

According to US EPA, the biodiesel industry in the United States reached a significant milestone by producing more than 1 billion gallons of fuel in 2011. This is a huge increase over the previous production record of 690 million gallons in 2008. Much of the increase in production can be attributed to the \$1-per-gallon tax credit that was reinstated in December 2010 and the first full year of implementation of the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard program. In other news, the US EPA recently published a proposed rule approving camelina oil as a feedstock under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2). Under the RFS2 program each feedstock, or raw material, for bio-

diesel production must go through an approval process to qualify for the program. As it has with other biodiesel feedstocks such as animal fats, recycled cooking oil, soybean oil and canola oil, the EPA's proposal shows that biodiesel produced from camelina oil reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent compared with diesel fuel. This lifecycle reduction in emissions qualifies biodiesel as an "Advanced Biofuel" under the program. According to the National Biodiesel Board, biodiesel is the first and only commercial-scale fuel produced across the U.S. to meet the EPA's definition as an "Advanced Biofuel".

### **Association Pushes for Ag Rates for Cotton Gins in SCE Territory**

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association's Executive Vice President, Roger Isom, filed a declaration to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) citing the economic disparity with cotton gins not being allowed to operate under agricultural rate tariffs for those operations located within the Southern California Edison (SCE) territory. These comments are part of a comprehensive set of comments being developed by the Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA) as part of SCE's 2012 General Rate Case, where SCE is requesting a \$3.2 billion increase in rates. AECA's efforts to allow for cotton gins to be ag rates follows the move by SCE to put gins on the ag rates in November/December of 2010, only to move them back to commercial/industrial rates in April of 2011. Cotton gins within the PG&E territory were converted to agricultural rates in the late 1990's. The difference in electricity bills is significant, and more reflective of the seasonal nature of cotton gin operations.

### **Truck Mileage Reporting Deadline Extended**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has extended the deadline for reporting the January 1, 2012 odometer reading to **March 30, 2012**. This applies specifically to those trucks taking advantage of the "agricultural provisions", which requires annual mileage reporting. To report your annual mileage, you must log onto the CARB Diesel Truck Webpage at [www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck](http://www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck). The Association recommends its members check their trucks online to ensure that the currently reported data is accurate as we have found many errors online in the past two months, and the Association has been helping its member's get the data corrected.

**Don't Forget - It's OSHA 300A Posting Time!**  
**Employers must post the OSHA Form 300A beginning February 1, in a common area where notices are typically displayed. The form must remain up through April 30.**



Form 300A is the summary of all job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in 2011, and entered on the 300 log. If there were no recordables in 2011, the form must be posted with zeros in the total line. Also required is the information about annual average number of employees and hours worked, and all summaries must be certified by a company executive.

### **New Employer Notification Requirements**

With the passage of AB 469 (Wage Theft Protection Act) this past year, employers must now disclose a detailed list of information to all non-exempt employees. This information includes:

1. The rate of pay and the basis, whether hourly, salary, piece commission or otherwise, including any overtime rate;
2. Allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage, including meal and lodging allowances;
3. The regular pay day designated by the employer as required under the Labor Code;
4. The name of the employer, including any "doing business as" names;
5. The physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business and any mailing address, if different;
6. The telephone of the employer; and
7. The name, address and telephone number of the employer's workers' compensation carrier.

Please note that this notice must be a standalone document and not part of any other letter or other document. For a sample notice, please visit the "Industry Issues" section of CCGGA's website at [www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org).

### **Confined Spaces Training**

On the heels of three tragic deaths in the past couple of months, CalOSHA has indicated that they are going to place special emphasis on Confined Space compliance this year. With that in the background, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) and the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) have partnered with CalOSHA Consultation, AgSafe and Zenith to bring our members Confined Spaces Training for Agri-



cultural Processing Operations. This is a very special training focused on confined spaces in an agricultural processing setting. Some of the classes will actually take place at our member's sites for the most effective training possible, including Wasco, Turlock, Stockton and Chico. The training will take place in the month of April. The official announcement and registration information will come out in the next couple of weeks, so look in the mail and look for a Latest News Bulletin in your email in the coming days! For details, please visit our website at [www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org) or call our office at (559) 252-0684.

**Educating Sacramento One Legislator at a Time**

Continuing its efforts to educate the California legislature on issues affecting the cotton industry, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) hosted **Assemblyman Mike Gatto, (43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District – Burbank)** on a tour of Olam Cotton's Silver Creek Gins in Firebaugh. This stop was part of a tour for the Agricultural President's Council (APC) that included a stop at a citrus packing house and an almond processor. This is part of a continuing effort by the Association, as well as the APC to educate urban legislators on rural agricultural issues. **Olam Cotton's Greg Gillard** is shown here discussing cottonseed with **Assemblyman Gatto**.



**Central Valley Water Board Changes Leadership**

At the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Karl Longley** replaced **Kate Hart** as Board Chairman. Dr. Longley, a Professor and Dean Emeritus of engineering at CSU Fresno and currently a research engineer with the California Water Institute, was previously Chair from 2006 to 2010. **Jon Costantino**, a former Air Resources Board staffer was named Vice Chair. Costantino was attending his second board meeting after his recent appointment by Governor Brown. Attending their very first board meeting were two other recent appointments; **Jennifer L. Moffitt** of Yolo and **Carmen L. Ramirez** from Atwater. Moffitt, a managing director of Dixon Ridge farms, fills the Irrigated Agriculture seat. Ramirez, an attorney at the Law Offices of Fagalde, Albertoni, & Flores, serves as the Public member. Board appointment categories from the Municipal Government and Industrial sectors remain vacant.

**CLASSING AVERAGES**

January 20, 2012  
Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2010	2011
CA Saw Upland	259,468	351,221
CA Roller Upland	107,681	159,819
Pima	CA 436,512	ALL 674,861
CA Saw Upland	2010	2011
Mike Avg.	4.0	4.08
Color Grade % 21+	45.1	47.3
Color Grade % 31	47.0	47.6
Color Grade % 41	5.7	4.1
Length Avg.	37.46	36.94
Strength Avg.	32.81	32.74
Uniformity Avg.	81.60	81.29
Leaf Distribution 1	5.3	8.4
Leaf Distribution 2	56.3	47.3
Leaf Distribution 3	34.3	37.5
Leaf Distribution 4	3.5	5.6
CA Roller Upland	2010	2011
Mike Avg.	4.24	4.23
Color Grade % 21+	21.0	35.1
Color Grade % 31	49.6	51.3
Color Grade % 41	18.4	8.7
Length Avg.	39.48	39.40
Strength Avg.	34.29	33.89
Uniformity Avg.	83.75	83.34
Leaf Distribution 1	1.7	7.6
Leaf Distribution 2	56.7	50.2
Leaf Distribution 3	36.3	34.9
Leaf Distribution 4	4.0	5.8
All Pima	2010	2011
Mike Avg.	3.82	3.92
Color Grade % 1	27.1	43.0
Color Grade % 2	58.3	49.3
Color Grade % 3	11.9	5.6
Color Grade % 4	2.1	1.3
Length Avg.	48.0	47.90
Strength Avg.	41.58	42.24
Uniformity Avg.	85.58	85.68
Leaf Distribution 1	17.0	24.1
Leaf Distribution 2	60.9	59.4
Leaf Distribution 3	18.7	13.7
Leaf Distribution 4	3.0	2.4

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## **California Cotton Growers Association**

**Thursday, March 8, 2012**

**9:30am**

**Harris Ranch**

Registration and Coffee at 9:00am

Program Starts at 9:30am

Please plan to attend!

There will be Association reports together with important industry issues discussions and updates.

A sponsored luncheon for all guests will follow program.

See you at Harris Ranch on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Cotton-Up!

# **2012 Annual Meeting**