



# The Cotton Chronicle

1785 N. Fine Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727 • Telephone: (559) 252-0684 • Fax: (559) 252-0551

www.ccgga.org

February 2013

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## Industry Calendar

Mar 7  
Growers Board &  
Annual Meeting—  
Harris Ranch

Mar 22  
Ginners Board &  
Membership Mtg—  
Fresno

Mar 27  
Ginners School—  
Corcoran

Mar 29  
Good Friday—  
Office Closed

(Visit web calendar  
for details)

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## CCGGA Joins Coalition Weighing In On Environmental Justice Tool

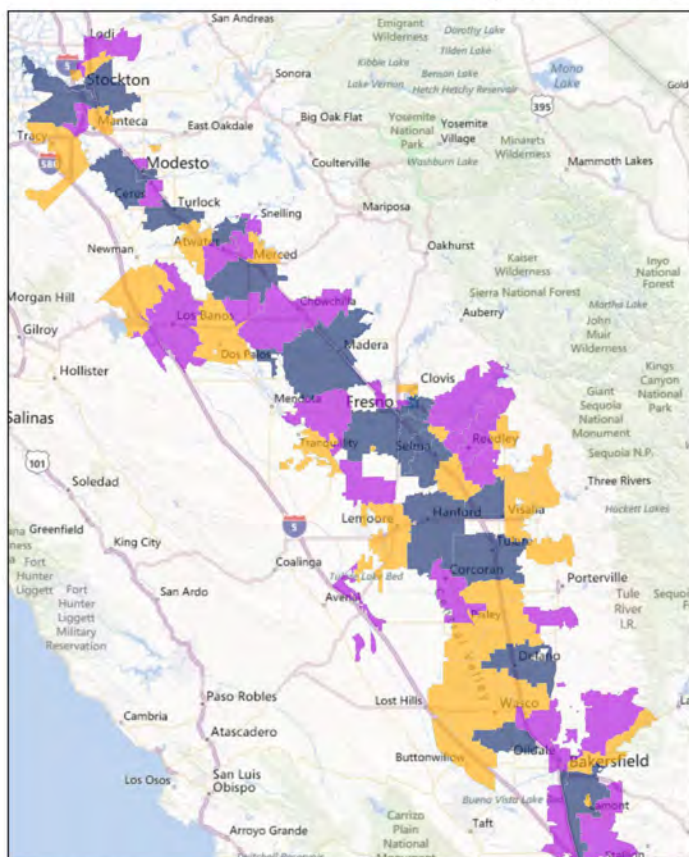
The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) joined 44 other business and agricultural organizations in expressing concerns on the January 2013 Cal/EPA and OE-HHA draft California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen). CalEnviroScreen is a tool that presents an updated screening methodology to identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple

sources of pollution and presents the statewide results of the analysis using the screening tool. The coalition expressed concern with the lack of scientific rigor of CalEnviroScreen -- the scientific indication that the final value derived for each community would clearly distinguish levels of cumulative impact. The coalition also emphasized that CalEnviroScreen cannot be used for any part of the CEQA, permitting, regulatory processes, or land use at the state, regional or local level. The use of this tool to “regulate” businesses further than what they already are is the

biggest fear in this matter. Many of WAPA’s members are located in areas identified by the screening tool!

## CalEnviroScreen Results (Jan 2013)

- Top 5% of ZIP codes
- Top 10% of ZIP codes
- Top 15% of ZIP codes



San Joaquin Valley

Basemap source: (c) 2010 Microsoft Corporation and its data suppliers

## CCGGA Participates in Meeting on ACA

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) participated in a meeting with the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) in San Francisco earlier this month to discuss the current aspects of the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)** and its impact on agricultural operations. Joining CCGGA was the **Western Agricultural Processors Association**, the **Nisei Farmers League**, the **California Grape and Tree Fruit League** and staff from the offices of **Senator Feinstein**, **Senator Boxer** and **Congressman Jim Costa**. Joining HHS were representatives from **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**, **Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCHIO)**, **US Department of Treasury**, **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**,

**Department of Labor (DOL) and Employee Benefit Security Administration (EBSA).** Much of the discussion focused on implementation of the regulations, including draft regulations recently released by Department of Treasury and IRS which explain the shared responsibility provision and lay out the eligibility rules for receiving an exemption and the process by which individuals can receive certificates of exemption. Both agencies' proposed regulations include rules that will ease implementation and help to ensure that the payment applies only to the limited group of taxpayers who choose to spend a substantial period of time without coverage despite having ready access to affordable coverage. Many questions remain including the coverage for "seasonal employees" and those provided by a farm labor contractor. The group discussed additional educational outreach meetings to be held throughout the state for businesses to understand the regulations and the issues that surround them. We would encourage all of our members to make plans to attend one of these meetings. Stay tuned!!

**OSHA Summary Posting Requirement - Reminder**

Don't forget to post the OSHA Form 300A (summary) beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>! Employers must post a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred during 2012. The summary must be posted from **February 1 to April 30, 2013.**



**Aerial Lift/Fall Protection Training Finalized**

Registration forms and information are being mailed out this week on the **2013 Aerial Lift and Fall Protection Training Courses.** The dates and locations have now been set (see below). There are two separate classes: **Aerial Lift Training** in the morning from 8:30 to 12:00, and **Fall Protection** from 1:00 to 4:30 in the afternoon. Cost for each class is \$45 per person or \$80 for both. The early registration deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>, after which the cost of each class will be \$65 per person. Instructors will be from CalOSHA Consultation, The Zenith, WAPA, CH Bull, and MEC. Co-hosting the classes will be WAPA, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, AgSafe, and the Nisei Farmers League.



Aerial Lift and Fall Protection Training		
Date	Location	Site
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dinuba	<i>Wespak, Inc.</i>
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Denair	<i>Monte Vista Farming Company</i>
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Kerman	<i>Central Calif. Almond Growers Assn.</i>
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Wasco	<i>Semi-Tropic</i>
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Santa Maria	<i>Betteravia Farms</i>
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ripon	<i>Travaille &amp; Phippen</i>
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	King City	<i>Rava Ranches/South County Packing</i>
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chico	<i>Hart Farms/ North Valley Nut</i>

**New Food Safety Rules: Is This The End Of The Gin Yard Dog?**

On January 4, 2013, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released two food safety rules for public comment. These rules, required by the Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA) will change the way farmers, and processors, including cotton gins, do business. Make no mistake about it, the two new rules "**Preventive Controls for Human Food**" and "**Standards for Produce Safety**" will have a dramatic impact on most all farming operations! The proposed rule "Proposed Standards for Produce Safety" covers all fruits and vegetables except those rarely consumed raw, produced for personal consumption, or destined for commercial processing that will reduce microorganisms of public health concern. The proposed rule are focused on areas of perceived risk, including agricultural water, biological soil amendments, health and hygiene, domesticated and wild animals, equipment, tools and buildings. What does this all mean? Well, how about no more dogs at the gin, or fencing in the seed barn? How about sanitizing the trailers that haul the seed? Training of any and all personnel that handle produce or conduct supervision of those that do will have to be conducted on these standards, including personal hygiene. That's right, these rules are looking at ways to minimize or even eliminate the possibility of pathogens on food, including animal food. The proposed rule "Preventive Controls for Human Food" would apply to facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold human food. In general, with some exceptions, the new preventive control provisions would apply to facilities that are required to register with FDA

under FDA’s current food facility registration regulations. Cotton gins that have cottonseed that goes to the cottonseed oil mill would be covered here. This program will be in many ways similar to the current Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) programs that many of our processors already have in place. The rule proposes firms have written plans in place to identify potential hazards, put in place steps to address them, verify that the steps are working, and outline how to correct any problems that arise. The rule proposes each covered facility to prepare and implement a written food safety plan, which would include the following: hazard analysis; risk based preventive controls; monitoring procedures; corrective actions; verification; and recordkeeping. The proposed rule “Preventative Controls for Animal Food” has not yet been released, but could contain many of the same provisions. This is in no ways an exhaustive list of the requirements of the proposed rulemaking. It is simply a very brief summary of our initial understanding of the two proposed rules. It should be an eye opener for everyone in agriculture!

**Counties Inspecting Facilities for SPCC Compliance**

Facilities with fuel and oil storage above 1,320 gallons total in 55 gallon drums or greater onsite are required to complete a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure plan. Your local county environmental health department will be checking for compliance during their periodic site review. We know of inspections occurring in Merced, Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Kings, Yolo, and Tehama counties. In a recent inspection a facility was given only 30 days to get in compliance or face penalties! Other counties have given facilities up to 60 days to complete plans after inspections. Enforcement by county may vary, but the compliance date has already passed and you could be subject to penalties at inspection. If you currently do not have a plan, you need to get one completed **ASAP!** Facilities that have storage capacity between 1,320 gallons and 10,000 gallons can complete a simpler template plan. If your facility has 10,001 gallons and above your plan must be signed off by a professional engineer. We can complete both the template and certified plans through the Western Agricultural Processors Association’s consulting services. If you currently have a plan, please take the time to review it and make sure it is up to date as well. If you have any questions about the requirements or need a plan done at your facility, please give **Casey Creamer** or **Roger Isom** a call at **(559) 252-0684**.

**CLASSING AVERAGES**

January 25, 2012  
Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2011	2012
CA Saw Upland	376,643	355,062
CA Roller Upland	174,270	156,519
Pima	CA 786,291	ALL 679,277
CA Saw Upland	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	4.09	4.28
Color Grade % 21+	45.1	79.0
Color Grade % 31	49.5	18.2
Color Grade % 41	4.5	0.8
Length Avg.	36.90	36.70
Strength Avg.	32.61	32.90
Uniformity Avg.	81.23	81.59
Leaf Distribution 1	8.1	11.7
Leaf Distribution 2	47.8	56.0
Leaf Distribution 3	37.3	29.0
Leaf Distribution 4	5.4	2.9
CA Roller Upland	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	4.23	4.35
Color Grade % 21+	34.1	78.6
Color Grade % 31	52.6	17.3
Color Grade % 41	8.4	0.4
Length Avg.	39.35	38.87
Strength Avg.	33.91	34.02
Uniformity Avg.	83.33	83.26
Leaf Distribution 1	7.2	9.4
Leaf Distribution 2	50.6	62.5
Leaf Distribution 3	35.3	26.2
Leaf Distribution 4	5.5	1.8
All Pima	2011	2012
Mike Avg.	3.91	4.02
Color Grade % 1	41.7	56.7
Color Grade % 2	50.1	39.0
Color Grade % 3	5.9	3.9
Color Grade % 4	1.4	0.3
Length Avg.	47.90	47.50
Strength Avg.	42.18	42.64
Uniformity Avg.	85.65	85.47
Leaf Distribution 1	23.9	29.6
Leaf Distribution 2	59.2	57.7
Leaf Distribution 3	13.9	11.5
Leaf Distribution 4	2.5	1.0



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**Fresno, CA 93727**

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**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**  
of the  
**California Cotton Growers Association**

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**9:30am**

**Harris Ranch**  
**Coalinga, California**

Registration and Coffee at 9:00 am  
Program Starts at 9:30 am

There will be Association reports together with important industry issues discussions and updates. A sponsored luncheon for all guests will follow program. Please plan to attend!

*See you at Harris Ranch on March 7<sup>th</sup> and remember to Cotton-Up!*