



# The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org



March 2012

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## Industry Calendar

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

Apr 1-4—  
Western Cotton  
Shippers Annual Mtg—  
Monterey, CA

Apr 4—  
Ginners School—  
Corcoran, CA

May 29-31—  
Ginners Industry  
Mtg—  
Pismo, CA

(Visit web calendar  
for details)

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## Stan Creelman – National Cotton Ginner of the Year!

Stan Creelman, a Tulare, Calif., ginner, was named the 2011 Horace Hayden National Cotton Ginner of the Year. He was recognized on February 11 during the 2012 annual meeting of the Memphis-based National Cotton Ginners Association (NCGA) in Fort Worth.

That award is presented annually to a ginner in recognition of: 1) able, efficient and faithful service to the ginning industry and 2) continuing of those principles exemplified and practiced by Horace Hayden, a former NCGA executive secretary.

A leader in the California ginning industry, Creelman has served as the California Cotton Ginners Association's chairman and was its California Cotton Ginner of the Year in 2001. He also serves on the NCGA's Board of Directors. Creelman has served as a National Cotton Council delegate and has been a NCC board member several times. He has been a longtime member of the important Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee and currently serves as that Committee's chairman.

Creelman grew up on a cotton and grain farm in Lemoore, California. After graduating from Fresno State University with a degree in Agronomy and Ag Business in 1974, he managed a

farm in Burrell. In 1978, he began his career in ginning as the assistant gin manager for J.D. Heiskell Cotton Gin becoming the manager in 1981. In 1989, he went to work for Mid-Valley Cotton Growers Gin in Tulare, where he has been the gin manager there since 1991.

In addition to managing the gin, Creelman raises cotton, corn and alfalfa. He is the past president of the Tulare Chapter of the Rotary Club and also is a member of St. John's Episcopal Church. Congratulations Stan!



(L) Kent Fountain, President of National Cotton Ginners presents award to Stan Creelman

## Cal/OSHA Announces Special Emphasis Program for Confined Spaces

In the wake of seven (7) tragic deaths, on February 14th Cal/OSHA Chief Ellen Widess announced a special emphasis campaign to bring awareness the dangers of confined spaces. According to Widess, Cal/OSHA enforcement staff has been directed to look for confined spaces on every inspection conducted! Employers with confined spaces will be asked for their confined space program and citations will be issued for any noted deficiencies. This follows the announcement by the California Cotton Ginners and Growers



Associations (CCGGA) that special Confined Space Training Sessions for Agricultural Processing facilities will be held in April in conjunction with Cal/OSHA Consultation, AgSafe, and Zenith to educate our members. Classes will be held in Wasco on April 11th, in Linden on April 12th, in Denair on April 17th and in Chico on April 24th. Registration forms for these classes have been mailed to all cotton gins in February.

### **Legislation Introduced to Urge Ban on Neonicotinoids**

California Assemblyman Michael Allen (D-Sonoma) has introduced legislation (AJR 29) that would urge the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to act expeditiously to protect pollinators, especially honeybees, by prohibiting the use, marketing, or sale of neonicotinoid products deemed hazardous to pollinators. Neonicotinoids include products such as clothianidin (Belay). The legislation, which is a Joint Resolution, is based upon the perceived connection between the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in honeybees and the use of neonicotinoids. The premise that these products have not been adequately tested and are detrimental to long-term honey bee colony health is not supported by extensive laboratory and field testing, or by many years of commercial use. Field studies consistently have found no adverse effects on honey bee colonies when neonicotinoid chemicals are applied properly in the field. A genomic study found that bees from colonies failing with CCD symptoms did not show evidence of significant exposure to pesticides, but did show evidence of significant exposure to viruses. The clear conclusion of this work is that pesticides play no apparent role in the occurrence of CCD. In response, the Association recently met with Assembly Agriculture Committee staff expressing its opposition to the proposed resolution.



### **Association's Comments Could Benefit Cotton Gins in SCE Territory**

CCGGA Executive Vice President Roger Isom submitted a written declaration as part of the Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA) comments submitted to the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) as part of Southern California Edison's 2012 General Rate Case. In this General Rate Case, Edison is seeking a system wide average in-

crease of 16.2% in rates. In addition, they are proposing an additional 0.2% increase on top of that for ag rates! AECA submitted 56 pages of comments opposing the increase, including Isom's declaration. At the center point of the AECA and CCGGA comments was the proposal to move ag processing facilities such as cotton gins to the "ag rates". Currently, SCE rate tariffs prohibit that if the facility is greater than 500 kW peak demand or not located on the farm from which the products being processed were originally grown. Potential savings could amount to as much as 20% to 30% in annual electricity costs, if this effort is successful.

### **California Transparency in Supply Chain Act**

Have you received a letter from one of your customers lately asking you to sign a policy or letter stating that you don't use slaves? If so, have you simply signed the letter and returned it? **Well...don't sign anything until you have read and completely understand the requirements and implications.** Most of the letters forwarded to the Association for our review indicate that you have policies and procedures or even written programs in place to prevent the use of "slaves" or participate in human trafficking. While it may sound ridiculous, this is the law in California now, and most companies do not have specific procedures in place, thereby creating potential legal issues. The *California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010* ("Act") took effect on January 1, 2012, requiring manufacturers and retailers doing business in the State of California to disclose information regarding their efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking from their direct supply chains. The Act was passed in response to the fact that human trafficking and slavery are crimes under state, federal and international laws, and instances of human trafficking and slavery exist in every country, including the United States and in the State of California. The Act applies to retailers and manufacturers with \$100,000,000 or more in annual worldwide gross sales. A company with less than \$100,000,000 in annual worldwide gross sales ("supplier") is not subject to the Act, however, if the supplier sells goods to retailers and manufacturers that are subject to the Act, the supplier **will likely be required to verify to the retailers and manufacturers that the goods supplied are not produced using victims of human trafficking or slavery.** In order to provide the verification to the retailers and manufacturers, the supplier must, in turn, verify that the sources of its products are not using human trafficking or

slavery. Suppliers should review all policies and procedures to confirm that when they verify to the retailers and manufacturers that they are in compliance with the Act, the verification is true and this is reflected in the supplier's policies and procedures. In addition, suppliers should prepare for retailers and manufacturers to conduct audits or send third party auditors to verify compliance with the requirements of the Act. For a complete breakdown of the law, please visit our website at [www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org), and stay tuned for an important upcoming webinar on this issue!

**Ginners School & Managerial Seminar on April 4<sup>th</sup>**

The California Cotton Ginners Association will be holding the 2012 Ginners School & Managerial Seminar on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's school will again be at the **Technology Learning Center in Corcoran**. The TLC is located at **1101 Dairy Avenue** on the Southeast corner of Whitley & Dairy on the Corcoran High School grounds. Topics for this year's Ginners Session will be Electrical Safety, Guarding, Fall Protection, and the Safety



Contest. In the Managers Seminar, topics covered will be Confined Spaces, Transparency in the Supply Chain Act, and Hot Topics in Labor

Law. Please register for the event by March 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information contact **Casey Creamer** at **(559) 252-0684** or visit [www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org).

**ERC Rule Modified to Allow GHG Banking**

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District recently modified Rule 2301: Emission Credit Banking Rule to allow the banking of greenhouse gas credits in addition to the PM10, NOx, VOC, and SOx credits that it already banks. The GHG credit addition is the final piece of the District's Climate Change Action Plan where they developed Best Performance Standards (BPS) to help facilities meet recent requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The addition of the credit banking system will give new and/or expanding facilities additional flexibility when a BPS is not yet developed or not feasible for the project. Cotton gins that banked PM10 credits in 2005 or later will be able to reapply for the GHG credits from their original ERC application. GHG credits from cotton gins in the Districts credit bank would not be eligible for the Cap and Trade program which has a

**CLASSING AVERAGES**

**February 10, 2012**  
**Visalia Classing Office**

Bales Classed	2010	2011
CA Saw Upland	281,063	376,643
CA Roller Upland	112,045	174,270
Pima	CA 483,306	ALL 786,291
CA Saw Upland	2010	2011
Mike Avg.	4.02	4.09
Color Grade % 21+	45.0	45.1
Color Grade % 31	46.1	49.5
Color Grade % 41	6.1	4.5
Length Avg.	37.37	36.90
Strength Avg.	32.62	32.61
Uniformity Avg.	81.51	81.23
Leaf Distribution 1	5.0	8.1
Leaf Distribution 2	56.8	47.8
Leaf Distribution 3	33.2	37.3
Leaf Distribution 4	4.0	5.4
CA Roller Upland	2010	2011
Mike Avg.	4.24	4.23
Color Grade % 21+	21.1	34.1
Color Grade % 31	48.6	52.6
Color Grade % 41	18.5	8.4
Length Avg.	39.46	39.35
Strength Avg.	34.26	33.91
Uniformity Avg.	83.72	83.33
Leaf Distribution 1	1.6	7.2
Leaf Distribution 2	56.0	50.6
Leaf Distribution 3	37.0	35.3
Leaf Distribution 4	4.0	5.5
All Pima	2010	2011
Mike Avg.	3.81	3.91
Color Grade % 1	27.2	41.7
Color Grade % 2	57.9	50.1
Color Grade % 3	12.0	5.9
Color Grade % 4	2.2	1.4
Length Avg.	48.03	47.90
Strength Avg.	41.51	42.18
Uniformity Avg.	85.54	85.65
Leaf Distribution 1	16.7	23.9
Leaf Distribution 2	61.0	59.2
Leaf Distribution 3	18.5	13.9
Leaf Distribution 4	3.2	2.5

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higher value, but could have value for new or expanding projects that need to address CEQA. For more information contact **Casey Creamer** at **(559) 252-0684**.

### **Win Win for Ag and Free First Year!**

Several years ago, the idea for a CA license plate designed for CA agriculture was launched. The minimum number of orders required to put the idea into effect was 7500. Unfortunately, as of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, only 3000 have been ordered and the deadline to reach the goal of 7500 is April 1, 2012. Anonymous donor(s) have stepped up and offered to pay for the first year of licensing for the next 4,500 subscribers. Show your support for CA agriculture by ordering these new plates now! Again the first year is free! See info below and act today! Time is short!

It's "GO TIME" and the California Ag License Plates are FREE for the first year! Thanks to sponsors, you can sign up for a FREE Ag License Plate before April 1. As of today, 4,500 more pledges are needed to make the California Ag License Plate a reality. Don't wait! This is a unique opportunity to have a special interest license plate to show others that you are involved in agriculture! Annual renewal fee of \$40 goes directly to fund Agriculture Education and is TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Compa-

nies are encouraged to register fleets and PTI trailers. Personalized plates cost \$48.

To sign up for your free plate, email the following information to [amadison@californiaffa.org](mailto:amadison@californiaffa.org).

Name (or registered owner)

Address

Phone

e-mail

Nearest DMV location

License plate number

