



The Cotton Chronicle

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April 2011

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Industry Calendar

April 20
Annual Ginners
School/Managerial
Seminar—
Corcoran

May 5
UCCE Cotton Work-
group Mtg and
CI State Support
Committee Mtg—
Tulare

May 31-June 2
Ginners Annual
Industry Mtg—
Pismo, CA

June 2
Ginners Board of
Directors Mtg—
Pismo, CA

June 15
Growers Board of
Directors Mtg—
Fresno

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Michael Elected Chairman

Cannon Michael was elected the new Chairman of the California Cotton Growers Association at the groups recent March board meeting.

Cannon is a member of the Bowles Farming Company family in the Los Banos area. In addition to his service as a director of the Growers Association representing Merced County for the past several years, he also serves on a CDFA Seed Advisory Board, the San Joaquin Valley Cotton Board, the San Luis Resource Conservation District board and is a past member of the US EPA Science and Pesticide Policy Workgroup. Michael has served as a Trustee of the Cotton Foundation and was recently named president of that national group. He is also a recent graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership program – Class 39!

Michael replaces **Mark McKean** of Riverdale

who was recognized during the board meeting for his outstanding leadership as Chairman for the past two years. Filling out the slate



CA Cotton Growers Association
Chairman Cannon Michael

of officers for the Growers Association for the next term are, **Steve Wilbur** (Tulare) 1st Vice Chairman; **George Wurzel** (Corcoran) 2nd Vice Chairman; and **Jim Neufeld** (Wasco) Secretary-Treasurer.

Association Efforts Pay Off Huge

Several gins have pocketed substantial extra savings in the form of huge increased incentive payments for the purchase of new front end loaders used at cotton gins. When the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District announced their original tractor/loader incentive program, the original payment for typical loaders was \$250 per horsepower. This incentive did not reach the desired 50% incentive payment, so CCGGA and WAPA went to work with the Air District to increase the incentive payment to \$450 per horsepower. After some lengthy discussions, the District eventually concurred with CCGGA and WAPA and the incentive was increased. As a result of these efforts, one huller is purchasing two (2) new loaders and will receive an extra \$64,000 in increased incentive payments! Several cotton gins and nut hullers took advantage of these efforts.



ARB Truck Rule Reporting Provisions Delayed

The deadline for reporting trucks under the agricultural provisions of the recently revised ARB Heavy Duty On-Road Diesel Regulation (aka ARB Truck Rule) has been extended to **April 29, 2011** to give fleets more time to report. Also, the date that agricultural fleets have to report January 1,



Chairman Michael (right) honors Past Chair Mark McKean (left) with a gavel plaque

2011 odometer readings for limited use agricultural trucks or information about specialty agricultural trucks to be eligible for the agricultural vehicle extensions has been extended to April 29, 2011. A special workshop on agricultural reporting will be held on April 11 at the offices of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District in Fresno.

Reminder: Gin School on April 20th

The California Cotton Ginners Association will be holding the 2010 Ginners School & Managerial Seminar on Wednesday, April 20th. This year's school will be at the **Technology Learning Center in**



Corcoran. The TLC is located at **1101 Dairy Avenue** on the Southeast corner of Whitley & Dairy. Topics for this year's Ginners Session will be Press Safety, Sprains & Strains, Welding, and the Safety Contest. In the Managers Seminar, topics covered will be OSHA Accident Reporting, Periodic Inspections, and Hot Topics in Labor Law.

Lockout/Tagout Training Is a Success

Over 200 participants have learned the details and Cal/OSHA requirements of lockout/tagout programs by attending the recent lockout/tagout training hosted by the **Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations and The Zenith.** Presenters included **CCGGA/WAPA's own Roger Isom, WAPA's Elda Brueggemann, J.G. Boswell's Ron Shanoian and Jose Cantu, and Zenith's Marianne Cinfel, Al Mirelez, Michelle Rodriguez, Marco Figueroa, Jack Pas-**



sarella and Dave Moylan. On the heels of several tragic accidents in recent weeks, the Association put on several classes specifically for cotton gins, and nut hullers and processors, as well as farms. One of these accidents occurred at a pistachio processor, and another at a raisin processor. In response, these half day classes have been praised by the industry as timely and necessary. The Association would especially like to thank the **J.G. Boswell Company** and **The Zenith** for the extremely unselfish efforts in providing speakers for these seminars. Their support is truly appreciated!

Temik Update

Despite the fact that the Association recently received a Special Local Needs (SLN) 24c registration, on March 18th, Bayer CropScience made a decision to shut down a facility integral to the production of aldicarb (Temik). Bayer CropScience announced that the company has decided not to restart the transitional production of methyl isocyanate (MIC) at its site in Institute, West Virginia. MIC is needed for the production of Temik. As a result, the company is moving forward immediately with decommissioning of the reconfigured MIC and associated production units as well as the closure of Woodbine. Bayer CropScience was planning to start the MIC unit and begin transitional production of the Temik[®] brand insecticide early this year, but uncertainty over delays has led the company to the conclusion that a restart of production can no longer be expected in time for the 2011 growing season. The safety of the MIC plant, which was overhauled completely and technically modified during the past months, was confirmed again by a federal court-commissioned expert report on the plant's safety, which was delivered to the court this week. However, against the background of the continuing uncertainty regarding the timing of resumption of production, the company needed to make a decision. This development follows a 2010 agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, whereby Bayer CropScience agreed to phase-out Temik[®] and had timed production to end in 2012.

Association Opposes Mandatory E-Verify Program

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) joined a coalition of organizations in opposing AB 26 (Donnelly) which would mandate participation in the E-Verify Program and prohibit any employer from knowingly or intentionally hiring an unauthorized alien. Without a meaningful immigration reform, the implementation of

this legislation would prove problematic for the agricultural industry.

PG&E General Rate Case Details Now Under Review

The Association is currently working with Utility Cost Management (UCM) to analyze potential rate scenarios under Phase 2 of the PG&E General Rate Case. Recently settled in terms of overall costs, the work now is to divide up the new costs among the different rate payer categories. CCGA is working with UCM to analyze different rate proposals to make sure that our members are fairly assessed. Actual historical bills from various members are being used to demonstrate actual bill impacts under the various proposals. The Association is providing this information to the Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA) as they work on the overall impact to agriculture. Stay tuned!

USFW Begins Status Review of Longfin Smelt

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting a status review of the longfin smelt and will accept comments through April 11 as part of that review. The smelt is yet another species that occupies the San Francisco/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. However, unlike the Delta Smelt, it is not protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. In contrast the California Department of Fish and Game has listed the fish under the California Endangered Species Act. The longfin smelt has a range that extends from the Delta northward to Alaska. In 2009 FWS rejected a petition to list the Delta population of the longfin smelt as endangered under ESA. That petition was filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Bay Institute. In rejecting that petition the Service concluded that the Delta population of the smelt did not constitute a Distinct Population Segment (DPS). The Service will accept information relevant to the longfin smelt’s status through April 11.



worm Eradication program, was also recognized by President Williams for his distinguished service to the cotton industry. Rudig recently retired from the California Department of Food and Agriculture after nearly 5 decades of dedicated service. Many thanks to the Sponsors of the meeting which made it all possible: **Bayer CropScience, Allbright Cotton, Allenberg of California, Dow Agro-Sciences, Jess Smith & Sons Cotton, Syngenta, Britz-Simplot Grower Solutions, Calcot, Ltd., Crop Production Services, DuPont, SJV Quality Cotton Growers Association, Western Cotton Shippers Association, and Hazera Seeds, Inc.**

Ginners Industry Meeting Headed Back to Pismo

The Ginners Annual Industry Meeting is headed back to the Shore Cliff Lodge and Ventana Grill in Pismo Beach. The meeting is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 31st with a welcome reception followed by the golf tournament on Wednesday at Avila Beach Golf Resort. The board meeting, Industry meeting, and Dinner will be held on Thursday, June 2nd. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this fun and informative event at our beautiful location. We look forward to seeing you all there!



New DOSH Chief Announced

On April 15th, Len Welsh will no longer be the Chief for the Division of Occupational Safety and Health. Governor Brown has announced that **Ellen Widess**, who oversaw the Division's pesticide program from the late 1970s to the early 1980s, will take over for Chief Len Welsh, who has run the agency since 2003. Widess has been a consultant on occupational safety and health and immigration policy since 2010 and previously was senior program officer for the Rosenberg Foundation at UC Berkeley. She also has taught environmental law and policy, occupational health law and toxic torts at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Texas Law School. Additionally, Widess has been a director of health policy for Children's Advocacy Institute and executive director of Lead Safe California, as well as an advisor to Farm-

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worker Justice Fund. From 1978 to 1984, she led the DOSH Pesticide Program. Widess' appointment will require Senate confirmation.

“Framework” Postponed by Regional Board

The Central Valley Regional Water Board, on April 7th, postponed the adoption of the proposed “Framework” for establishing individual orders regulating all irrigated agriculture under the Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Framework was intended to give staff guidance on how to carry out the actual regulations and was not considered a legal binding document. Attorneys representing agriculture and the coalitions disagreed and believed that the Framework should have been evaluated under CEQA. With stated concerns on how binding the document could be, Board Chair **Katherine Hart** expressed her desire that the Framework being proposed should be an informational item only at this time and not adopt the Framework. Chair Hart felt that the Board could give staff direction on how to carry out the orders without certifying the Framework. The Framework document had intentions to require all growers who irrigate their crops to submit farm evaluations directly to the Regional Board electronically. Additionally, growers would have to identify practices that would show reductions in

fertilizers and pesticide impacts to groundwater and surface water. All information submitted to the Regional Board would be subject to the Public Records Act. Environmental justice and environmental groups wanted grower information publicly available, stronger enforcement, and for the Board to set up a mitigation fund. These issues and more will come up again as staff prepares the individual orders and works to clean up the Framework at the Board’s June meeting.

Memoriam

Dr. Carl V. Feaster - 1921-2011

We sadly report the recent passing of **Dr. Carl Feaster**, an American Pima industry pioneer and fondly known as the “father of American Pima cotton”. Dr. Feaster played an important role in the development of American Pima cotton through his extensive selection and breeding efforts during a distinguished career spanning some 50 years with the USDA and the University of Arizona. Carl was a “pure scientist and his work ethics and meticulous process of varietal strain evaluation all led to continued improvements in qualities and yields of a progression of variety introductions from Pima S-2 to Pima S-7”, stated Jess Curlee, president of Supima.