



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org



April 2012

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Industry Calendar

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

May 31—
Ginners Board Mtg—
Pismo, CA

June 13—
Growers Board Mtg—
Fresno

July 31—Aug 1-2
Grower Owned Gin
Mtg—
Lake Tahoe, NV

*(Visit web calendar
for details)*

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Ginners Industry Meeting Headed Back to Pismo

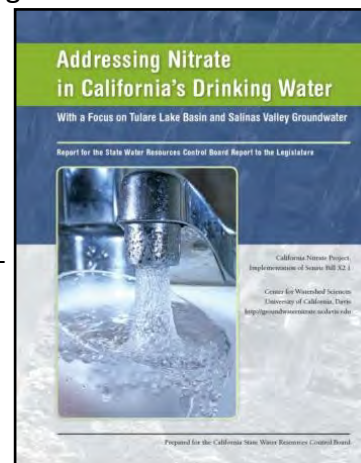


The Ginners Annual Industry Meeting is headed back to the Shore Cliff Lodge and Ventana Grill in Pismo Beach. The meeting is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 29th with a welcome reception followed by the golf tournament on Wednesday at Avila Beach Golf Resort. The board meeting, Industry meeting, and Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 31st. 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!

Nitrate Report Released

UC Davis researchers headed by **Thomas Harter** and **Jay Lund** officially released their report “**Addressing Nitrate in California’s Drinking Water**” to the State Water Board on March 13th. Key findings from the report which made headlines across the State recently in-

clude, 1) Nitrate problems will likely worsen for several decades. For more than half a century, nitrate from fertilizer and animal waste has infiltrated into the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley aquifers. Most nitrate in drinking water wells today was applied to the surface decades ago. 2) Agricultural fertilizers and animal wastes applied to cropland are by far the largest regional sources of nitrate in groundwater. Other sources can be locally relevant. 3) Nitrate loading reductions are possible, some at modest cost. Large reductions of nitrate loads to groundwater can have significant substantial economic cost 4) Direct remediation to remove nitrate from large groundwater basins is extremely costly and not technically feasible. Instead, “pump-and-fertilize” and improved groundwater recharge management are less costly long-term alternatives. 5) Drinking water supply actions such as blending, treatment, and alternative water supplies are most cost-effective. 6) Many small communities cannot afford safe drinking water treatment and supply actions. High fixed costs affect small systems disproportionately. 7) The most promising revenue source is a fee on nitrogen fertilizer use in these basins. A nitrogen fertilizer use fee could compensate affected small communities for mitigation expenses and effects of nitrate pollution. 8) Inconsistency and inaccessibility of data prevent effective and continuous assessment. A statewide



effort is needed to integrate diverse water-related data collection activities by many state and local agencies. The report estimates groundwater cleanup costs between **\$20-36 million per year** and also estimates that roughly 50% of applied nitrogen on a statewide average, leaches past the root zone and eventually gets into groundwater, which many in agriculture believe is a highly inaccurate percentage. Timing of the report has already affected the adoption of the Central Coast Order and numerous pieces of legislation are expected during this legislative session. A workshop on the report is expected in May. The Association will be heavily involved with the legislative bills on nitrates, potential State Water Board actions, and in the development of the Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program which could be the vehicle for implementing some of the recommendations from the report.

Confined Space Training Sessions Filling Up

Only a few spaces remain at only two of the training sites for this year's CCGGA/WAPA Specialized Safety Training event – **Confined Spaces in Agricultural Processing Facilities**. Only a few spaces remain at the **Linden (Prima Noce) location on April 12th** and the **Chico (Berberian Nut Company) location on April 24th**. The Wasco (Semi Tropic Coop) location on April 11th and the Denair (Monte Vista Farming) location on April 17th have already filled up and are closed to any further registrations! CalOSHA has made this a high priority issue, so make sure you know the law and how to comply! If you want to attend one of the two remaining training sessions, please contact our office at (559)455-9272 as soon as possible.



New Focused Conservation Opportunities for Water and Habitat in Central Valley

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California announces four new focus areas where \$8.5 million will be made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help producers undertake water quality and water conservation projects. Applications are due April 20, 2012. The

four areas targeting water quality/water conservation include:

- ♦ Walker Creek portion of the Colusa-Glenn subwatershed in Glenn County;
- ♦ Lower Snake River in Sutter County;
- ♦ French Camp Slough Watersheds in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties;
- ♦ Eastern portion of the San Joaquin River watershed in Stanislaus and Merced Counties.

Each project has its own set of specific goals, management practices and borders which will be described locally. On irrigated cropland these will typically include a mix of irrigation efficiency improvements including irrigation water management, vegetative filtering practices, nutrient management, pest management, cover crops, sediment basins and tail-water return systems. On dairies, practices will include structures and management to capture, store, measure and distribute manure nutrients in a safe and useful way. Interested producers should contact their local NRCS office. In addition to the water conservation and water quality work noted above, the NRCS Bay Delta assistance also includes a focus area where landowners are enhancing waterbird habitat in six counties in the Sacramento Valley; the opportunity to voluntarily enroll lands in the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP); and a partnered opportunity between NRCS and DOI's Bureau of Reclamation to combine irrigation infrastructure improvements with on-farm improvements in irrigation.

Labor Update Coming Up at Harris Ranch

AgSafe is hosting a very important labor update on May 15, 2012 at Harris Ranch in Coalinga. "It's the Law – Agricultural Regulatory Compliance from the Top" will feature several key speakers to provide the latest updates on key labor and safety issues facing California agriculture. The workshop is co-hosted by the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, the Western Agricultural Processors Association**, and generously sponsored by the **United Agribusiness League and Harris Ranch**. Registration for the workshop begins at 7:30 am and runs until 12:30. A buffet lunch and materials are included in the registration. The agenda is as follows:

It's the Law
Agricultural Regulatory Compliance from the Top
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Legislative Update

The latest on AB 2346, SB 899 and other critical pending legislation

Louie A. Brown, Jr., Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

The New Ag Labor Relations Board (ALRB)

Sylvia Torres-Guillen, ALRB General Counsel

Bert Mason, ALRB Member

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

California's Commitment to Farm Worker Safety: Perspective from the Top

Christine Baker, Director - Department of Industrial Relations

Julie A. Su, California Labor Commissioner

Ellen Widess, Chief - Division of Occupational Safety and Health

Registration is \$40 for CCGGA and WAPA members before May 8th. You can register online at www.agsafe.org or by calling AgSafe at 209-526-4400.

Changes on the Way for Pesticide VOC Regulations

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is considering significant changes to their latest proposed "Pesticide VOC Regulation" which would bring non-fumigant pesticides under regulation. Four active ingredients will be the focus of the regulation, including chlorpyrifos, oxyflourfen, abamectin and gibberellins. The current proposal is limited to use on seven crops: alfalfa, almonds, citrus, cotton, grapes, pistachios, and walnuts between May 1 and October 31 (the "ozone season"). DPR will establish emission thresholds for each of the four active ingredients. Based on the thresholds, there will be a list of low VOC and high VOC products established in the regulations. A written recommendation from a licensed PCA will be required for the use (not purchase) of a product on the high VOC list if used in the SJV from May 1 thru October 31. If the DPR annual inventory report shows that the 95% VOC trigger is exceeded, non-fumigant restrictions will be imposed on high VOC products used on the seven crops. The major restriction will be that PCAs are prohibited from writing recommendations for high VOC use products in the SJV on listed crops during the Ozone season with certain exceptions as defined in regula-

CLASSING AVERAGES

March 16, 2012

Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2010		2011	
CA Saw Upland	281,063		390,660	
CA Roller Upland	112,045		186,117	
Pima	CA	483,306	ALL	821,027
CA Saw Upland	2010		2011	
Mike Avg.	4.02		4.09	
Color Grade % 21+	45.0		43.9	
Color Grade % 31	46.1		49.2	
Color Grade % 41	6.1		5.6	
Length Avg.	37.37		36.86	
Strength Avg.	32.62		32.54	
Uniformity Avg.	81.51		81.19	
Leaf Distribution 1	5.0		7.9	
Leaf Distribution 2	56.8		47.2	
Leaf Distribution 3	33.2		37.1	
Leaf Distribution 4	4.0		5.8	
CA Roller Upland	2010		2011	
Mike Avg.	4.24		4.23	
Color Grade % 21+	21.1		35.0	
Color Grade % 31	48.6		52.3	
Color Grade % 41	18.5		7.9	
Length Avg.	39.46		39.31	
Strength Avg.	34.26		33.96	
Uniformity Avg.	83.72		83.33	
Leaf Distribution 1	1.6		6.8	
Leaf Distribution 2	56.0		50.4	
Leaf Distribution 3	37.0		36.1	
Leaf Distribution 4	4.0		5.4	
All Pima	2010		2011	
Mike Avg.	3.81		3.91	
Color Grade % 1	27.2		41.7	
Color Grade % 2	57.9		50.0	
Color Grade % 3	12.0		6.0	
Color Grade % 4	2.2		1.4	
Length Avg.	48.03		47.90	
Strength Avg.	41.51		42.18	
Uniformity Avg.	85.54		85.64	
Leaf Distribution 1	16.7		23.8	
Leaf Distribution 2	61.0		58.9	
Leaf Distribution 3	18.5		14.2	
Leaf Distribution 4	3.2		2.6	

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tion. The exceptions being considered so far are: use of chlorpyrifos on cotton aphid, use of less than 5g/ac gibberellins, Section 18 or 24c registrations, USDA/CDFA required eradication programs, and precision sprayer applications (meeting NRCS funding criteria). PCAs will be allowed to write recommendation for these uses, even if the trigger is exceeded. Pesticide Dealers' responsibility will be limited to giving fact sheets to anyone who purchases a high VOC product for use in the SJV explaining that restrictions could apply if the products are used between May 1 and October 31 and that users must have a written recommendation for any high VOC product used in the SJV during this period, whether or not the trigger has been exceeded. It is expected that the actual written proposed regulation will be released sometime this month.

Heat Illness Prevention Training Coming

Free Training on Heat Illness Prevention is being sponsored by California agricultural organizations including the Nisei Farmers League, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, and the Western Agricultural Processors Association, in partnership with Department of Industrial Relations and Cal/OSHA. The first training is coming up soon:

Thursday, April 5, 2012
CPDES Hall in Easton
172 West Jefferson Avenue
Fresno, CA 93706 (just south of Fresno)
Spanish session will begin at 10 a.m.
English session will start at 1 p.m.

All participants will receive a certificate of completion. All classes to feature Spanish training at 10 am, English at 1 pm.

Additional trainings to follow:

Tulare – April 12
Tulare County Ag Commissioner's office
4437 S Laspina, Tulare, CA 93274

Bakersfield – April 18
Farm and Home Advisors office
1031 S. Mt. Vernon, Bakersfield, CA 93307

Modesto – April 26
Harvest Hall
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA 95358