



The Cotton Chronicle

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

www.ccgga.org

April 2013

Volume 24, Issue 4

Industry Calendar

May 27
Memorial Day—
Office Closed

May 28-30
Ginners Industry Mtg—
Pismo, CA

May 30
Ginners Board Mtg—
Pismo, CA

June 12
Growers Board Mtg—
Fresno

(Visit web calendar
for details)

CCGGA Staff

Earl P. Williams
President / CEO
earl@ccgga.org

Roger A. Isom
Executive Vice President
roger@ccgga.org

Casey D. Creamer
Vice President
casey@ccgga.org

Shana Colby
Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org

Southern Cotton Ginners 1st Annual Vandergriff Pioneer Award

Mr. A. L. Vandergriff was awarded the first annual "Pioneer Award," that will be named for him now and presented every year. The award was given to him posthumously, and presented to his son Loyd Vandergriff by the Southern Ginners Association in Memphis on March 2, 2013.

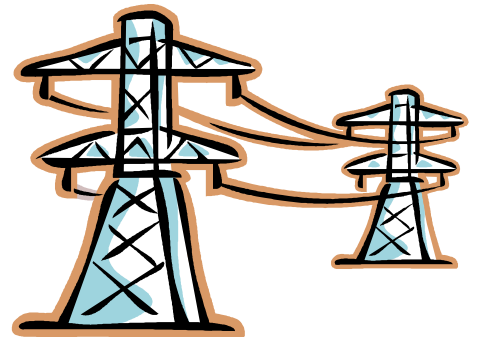


Award reads:
Vandergriff Pioneer Award:
"There is not a cotton ginning plant in the entire world today that does not have some Vandergriff in it." "In Recognition of his outstanding life, and remarkable contributions to the advancement of the Cotton Industry."

PUC Approves Ag Rates for Cotton Gins in SCE Territory!

On March 21st, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the inclusion of "cotton gins" into the agricultural rate tariff for customers located in the Southern California Edison territory. This change was made during

negotiations in the 2012 General Rate Case (GRC) for Southern California Edison (SCE) with the **Agricultural Energy Consumers Association (AECA)**. AECA was involved in the case as the normal course of action on General Rate Cases, but specifically asked for the change in the ag tariff at the request of the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Citrus Mutual and California Grape and Tree Fruit League**. CCGGA made the request of behalf of the cotton gins located in the SCE territory, including submitting a declaration by CCGGA Executive Vice President Roger Isom as part of the filing made by AECA on this case. **As a result of this request, and the success of AECA, cotton gins will enjoy up to a 30% savings in electrical rates.** CCGGA Executive Vice President Roger Isom, who is also President of AECA, stated that this is one of the most significant victories in the history of AECA. "This is one of the most meaningful success stories in AECA's storied history, and clearly demonstrates AECA's value to agriculture as a whole. The return on investment to the members of AECA cannot be matched!" stated Isom. The rate will go into affect in late April or May and hullers will have to sign up for the new rates. CCGGA will hold a meeting in conjunction with SCE and AECA prior to the rates becoming effective.



APMA to Conduct HR Training

We are pleased to announce that the Agricultural Personnel Management Association (APMA) will offer a series of courses in Fresno County designed specifically for agricultural human resources professionals and others who address personnel matters for their company. This unique program consists of eight core courses that are required for the certificate, along with one elective. Participants may take courses in any sequence. Classes can be taken individually or as part of a curriculum leading to a certificate and designation. Graduates of this program will earn a prestigious designation of Human Resource Professional in Agriculture (HRPASM). Each class offered also qualifies for six hours of general re-certification credit towards PHR, SPHR and GPHR through the Human Resource Certification Institute. Sessions will be offered monthly starting **April 18th, 2013** at the Fresno County Farm Bureau building. Program flier and brochure with 2013 schedule are attached, along with a flier for the first class. We invite all professionals with HR responsibilities to complete this certificate program and stay current on various issues, from legal compliance to employee relations. **For more information, please contact Julia Belliard, APMA Executive Director at (831) 422-802. Online registration is available on APMA website at www.agpersonnel.org.**

New Form I-9 Released

On March 8, 2013, USCIS released a new Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. Employers should begin using the new Form I-9 with revision date 03/08/13 immediately for all new hires. The revision date is on the lower left of the new form (Rev. 03/08/13)N. Employers may continue to use previously valid Forms I-9 (Rev. 08/07/09Y and 02/02/09N) for 60 days until May 7, 2013. **After 05/07/13, employers must only use the new Form I-9 (Rev. 03/08/13)N.** In the cases of re-verification or rehires the new version of the Form I-9 (Rev. 03/08/13)N must be used. For more information, please refer to the Federal Register notice. You may obtain the new Form I-9 (Rev.03/08/13)N by visiting I-9 Central or the USCIS website.

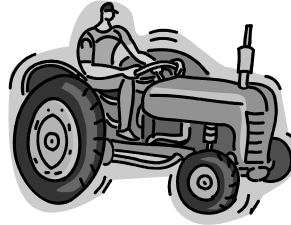
Here are some of the changes to the I-9:

- ◆ Form I-9 is now two pages
- ◆ Expanded instructions
- ◆ New fields for e-mail address, phone number and foreign passport in Section 1.

Employers are required to complete Form I-9 for all newly-hired employees to verify their identity and authorization to work in the United States.

Association Expresses Concern at Tractor Workshop

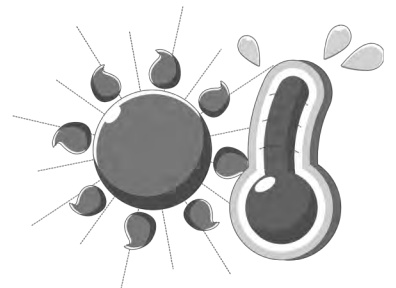
While praising the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for not moving forward with a rule on farm equipment at this immediate point in time, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) Executive Vice President Roger Isom expressed serious concern with CARB's decision to push forward with a farm equipment rule in the next state implementation



plan (SIP) in 2015 that would require farmers and processors to upgrade their equipment to "Tier IV – Final" equipment by 2032. Isom supported CARB's recognition of the fact that agriculture has already generated enough emission reductions for the current SIP obligations (5 to 10 tons per day of NOx) so that a rule is not necessary at this immediate date. But Isom also expressed concern that farmers and hullers purchasing Tier III and Tier IV – Interim equipment would not be in compliance with the future requirements and may have to replace that equipment before its useful life is achieved. CARB indicated they understand that concern, and would develop a rule that recognized the recent purchases of the equipment and not "require" mandatory replacement of such equipment. So, for now the industry will hold tight until the SIP development process begins next year where it will once again be back at the forefront of issues the Association is working on. CCGGA was one of only two agricultural organizations to express this concern and testify at the workshop.

Heat Illness Workshops Scheduled

California agriculture is once again collaborating with the Department of Industrial Relations and Cal/OSHA on Heat Illness Awareness in Agriculture training. Classes will be conducted by Cal/OSHA and will be free of charge. The first class will take place at CPDES Hall in Easton, followed by classes in Bakersfield, Tulare, and Modesto. All Spanish classes



will take place at 10 am and all English classes will take place at 1 pm. It is very important to attend these free trainings. Despite all the success agriculture has had in protecting workers on this issue, Cal/OSHA is once again under great pressure from outside groups to strictly enforce this regulation. This class is meant for growers, owners, operators, farm labor contractors, safety personnel, and crew leaders. We highly encourage your attendance and all attendees will receive a certificate of completion. If you have any questions, please contact the Nisei Farmers League at 559-251-8468.

For all classes: English – 1pm, Spanish – 10am

April 4 - Fresno (Easton)

CPDES Hall, 172 West Jefferson Avenue, Fresno, CA 93706

April 11 - Bakersfield

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

April 18 - Tulare

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

April 24 – Modesto

Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA 95358

Aerial Lift & Fall Protection Training Off to a Very Successful Start

The Aerial Lift & Fall Protection Training being coordinated by the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) in partnership with CalOSHA Consultation and the Zenith is off to an incredible start. With three more sessions to go, including Ripon, Orland and Arizona, WAPA expects over 200 participants to have been trained on aerial lift and fall protection. The morning session attendees learn about aerial lifts, including man lifts, boom lifts and scissor lifts. Topics covered include the rules and regulations, safety aspects and the proper inspection and operation of this type of equipment. In the afternoon session, the participants learn about fall protection, including the rules and regulations, safety aspects and demonstrations on what the proper harnesses and lanyards are, and how to inspect them. WAPA and CCGGA are partnering with the Nisei Farmers League, Ag-Safe, and the California Grape and Tree Fruit League to



conduct these very important training sessions. If you have someone who has not attended the classes yet and wants to attend, please have them contact our office at (559)455-9272 to obtain the necessary registration forms.

Tulare Lake Basin Water Quality Workshop

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will hold a workshop on April 25th at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center located at 2233 Ventura Street, Fresno, CA, 93721. The meeting will include a discussion of the Tulare Lake Basin Area waste discharge requirements (WDR's) being developed for discharges from irrigated lands. The Board will not take action on the WDR's at the workshop, but may provide direction to staff. The workshop starting time and agenda will be posted to the Board's web site <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>, at least 10 days before the meeting. If you have any questions regarding this workshop, please contact David Sholes at dsholes@waterboards.ca.gov or at (559) 445-6279.

East San Joaquin Coalition Signups Workshops

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition will be hosting informational meetings and sign-up clinics on April 23rd, 24th and 25th on the regions recently adopted Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Growers in the region have only until May 13, 2013 to sign-up with the Coalition. After the membership deadline, new members must apply first to the Regional Water Board and pay a \$50 fee, \$200 if previously contacted by the Water

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Board. We highly recommend participating through the Coalition. Regional Water Board staff will be in attendance to discuss the program and answer questions you may have. The meetings are hosted by the Madera, Merced and Stanislaus county farm bureaus. The meetings are scheduled for April 23 (Madera Co. Farm Bureau), 24 (Merced County Farm Bureau) and 25 (Stanislaus Co. Farm Bureau). A one hour presentation will be given at 10 am and 1:30 pm each day with watershed coalition staff on hand from 9 am to 4 pm to assist in new member signups.

Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kits

With the heat season fast approaching, heat stress training should come to the forefront. To aid in helping our members and clients stay in compliance, the Association has developed a Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kit to carry in your supervisor's pick-ups. The kit consists of a rugged plastic folder with tabs and materials inside. This kit includes heat illness cards, safety toolbox talks, and places for your Heat Illness Prevention Policy, Emergency Numbers, and Field Maps as required by the Heat Illness Standard. The cost is \$7.50 each and we recommend you purchase one kit for each vehicle used by supervisors or foreman. To aid

you in your ordering effort, we have attached our Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kit Order Form. Just complete the form and mail back to the Association offices with a check and Shana will immediately fulfill your order. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Association office at (559) 455-9272.

