



Newsletter of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations

The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

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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 School A Success!

The 2012 CCGA Ginners School and Managerial Seminar held at the Technology Learning Center in Corcoran was a huge success. In attendance were over 150 participants, which was a big increase from previous years. Topics included **Guarding**, put on by **Ron Shanoian of J.G. Boswell Co.**; **Fall Protection**, taught by **William Arvance of Jorgensen Company**; **Electrical Safety** presented by **Norm Hansen of Olam**.

With the help of **Hugh Bello, Jesse Lawler, Louis Garcia, and Mark Ptacek**, the Safety Contest held at **J.G. Boswell**, was a big success. This

year's winner was **Mike Alvarez of Broadview Cooperative Gin**. **Congratulations Mike!** Other winners were as follows: **10th place – Dan Moore, Dos Palos Coop**; **9th place – Tim Pereira, Westside Farmers**; **8th place – Rick Avalos, J.G. Boswell**; **7th place – Cody Merrell, Dos Palos Coop**; **6th place – Armando Flores, Mid-Valley Cotton Growers**; **5th place – Jose Gomez, Broadview Coop**; **4th place – Jesus J. Ruelas, Buttonwillow Ginning Co.**; **3rd place – Richard Martin, Central Valley Coop**; **2nd place – Rudy Paz, Olam Cotton**. **Congratulations to all the winners!**



At the Managerial Seminar, the following topics were covered: **Cal/OSHA Confined Space Overview**, presented by **Eugene Glendenning, Cal/OSHA Consultation; Transparency Act**, by **Miranda Carroll, Kahn, Soares & Conway**; and **Hot Topics in Labor Law**, by **Erica Rosasco, The Saqui Law Group**. Many thanks to the Associate members for displaying their wares to the attendees. They included **Jorgensen, Karl M. Smith Inc., Langston Companies, Lummus Corp., R & C Supply Co., Signode Packaging Systems**, and the **Nisei Farmers League**. The Association would also like to extend our sincerest appreciation to **Hugh Bello, Jesse Lawler** and the rest of the **J.G. Boswell** crew, for their hard work and cooperation in holding the Safety Contest. These examples of support are what make our Ginners School so successful.

The Association would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the overwhelming generosity by our Gin School Sponsors including:

Ginners School Sponsors

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Belay Product Advisory Notice From Valent

For the 2012 growing season, this advisory notice is to inform you of California-specific regulatory policy and enforcement implications for **Belay** Insecticide in cotton.

We are sharing this information with you in the spirit of transparency and to protect our customers.

While long-time cotton PCAs tell us that it is rare to see bees foraging in cotton in many places, we understand that Agricultural Commissioners in California will enforce the label as follows:

- ◆ **Belay** may be applied in California cotton from cotyledon crack to the first “square” stage.
- ◆ **Belay** applications to cotton after the first “square” stage may be subject to an enforcement action (such as a notice of violation) in California. For this reason, we recommend that customers check with their agricultural commissioner before considering a later-season **Belay** application in cotton.
- ◆ A California inspector’s opinion in cotton will reportedly not be based on bee registries, beekeeper notifications, the distance beehives are from treated fields or if bees are in the field.
- ◆ The environmental hazards section of the **Belay** label reads “....Do not apply this product to blooming, pollen-shedding or nectar-producing parts of plants if bees may forage on the plants during this time period.” The time period is defined as “treatment and for more than 5 days following treatment.” We understand that this is difficult language from an enforcement perspective.

Please understand that **Valent** is dedicated to sound science and product stewardship. We are actively working with the EPA’s Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee’s Pollinator Work Group to develop clear and enforceable label language that protects bees and is practical for growers. In addition, research programs in cotton are in place in California. Based on this research, **Valent** will work with regulators and enforcement officials to improve use directions.

Changes to Drinking Water Regulations?

The Association met with officials from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) last week in Sacramento in an effort to get a handle on the new requirements for public water systems as a result of the removal of the



“handwashing exemption.” As of now, if an operation employs 25 or more persons for more 60 days or

more, they must provide drinking water quality standard water even for handwashing. Previously, operations could provide bottled drinking water for drinking, but did not have to for handwashing. Implementation of these new requirements could be extremely costly. There are some potential options, including going to a waterless sink (i.e. hand sanitizer station), or bringing in water that meets the drinking water standard and plumbing it into the sinks. Further clarification and guidance is being developed by CDPH in conjunction with the Association and we will disseminate that information as it becomes available. In the interim, should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office.

Confined Space Training is a Major Draw

Over 200 participants attended the Confined Space Training hosted by the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations** and **Western Agricultural Processors Association** in partnership with **Cal/OSHA Consultation, Ag-Safe, and The Zenith**. The highly successful training was conducted onsite at actual nut processing facilities including: **Semi Tropic Cooperative Almond Huller** in Wasco,

Prima Noce Packing in Linden, **Monte Vista Farming Company** in Denair, and the **Berberian Nut Company** in Chico. Each participant received a complete binder with materials, and a certificate. Also, The Zenith graciously donated a "confined spaces clipboard" to every attendee who completed the course. The effort was praised by many of the attendees who had never been provided this kind of safety training before, and for having the classes conducted in these types of settings. Much credit is due to the excellent training put on by the great speakers/trainers including: **David Gee and Richard Darosa of Cal/OSHA Consultation; Yolanda Samano-Schroeder, Jack Passarella, and Dave Moylan of The Zenith; William Arvance of Jorgensen; Michael Perez of Sun Pacific; and by Ron Shanoian and Jose Cantu of the J.G. Boswell Company**. We would like to thank all of the speakers who donated their time and effort to provide this extremely important training! And we want to thank and recognize our partners **AgSafe and The Zenith** for their participation in this critical and timely effort! Finally,



we want to take this opportunity to recognize and express our sincere appreciation to the **J.G. Boswell Company** for graciously allowing **Ron Shanoian** and **Jose Cantu** to donate their time and expertise to this effort. This training meant they spent a total of five days out of the office to help the Association and this industry. We simply can't thank them enough!

Forklift Train-the-Trainer Sessions Come to a Close
The **Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA)** and the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA)** conducted the last of sixteen (16) forklift train-the-trainer safety sessions in English and Spanish throughout the state. Over 400 employees participated in the half day training, conducted in Santa Maria, Santa Paula, King City, Rutherford, Dinuba, Bakersfield, Madera, Huron, Manteca and Exeter. These trainings are conducted in partnership with several groups, including the **Nisei Farmers League, The California Grape and Tree Fruit League, AgSafe, county Farm Bureaus, Ventura County Agricultural Association, Grower Shipper Association, Far West Equipment Dealers Association, JM Equipment, Cal Coast Machinery, Napa Valley Grap growers, The Zenith, James G. Parker Insurance Associates, State Compensation Insurance Fund, and CalOSHA Consultation**.



Legislative Session is Underway!
The 2012 Legislative Session is underway in California, and 2012 will be no different than the last several years in California. Faced with the ongoing budget crisis in California, it will be another tough year on legislative issues, at least those that might somehow benefit California agriculture. The Association has already testified in opposition to legislation (**AB 2346 – Butler**) that would make significant and onerous changes to California's Heat Illness Regulation, including eliminating the temperature trigger, and requiring water to be within 10 feet of the employee at all times, and shade to be within 200 feet at all times. The Association has also already weighed in against legislation (**AB 1439 – Alejo**) mandating an increased minimum wage that included an automatic annual tie-in to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), while pro-



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viding support for legislation (**SB 594 – Wolk**) that would provide Net Metering for ag customers, and legislation (**SB 1122 – Rubio**) that would expand renewable biomass and biogas energy projects. These are just a few of the hundreds of bills the Association and its lobbyists in Sacramento are tracking.

Association Brings Another Urban Legislator to Valley

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations** and **Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA)**, working with the **Agribusiness Presidents' Council**, hosted **Assemblyman Bob Wiecowski**, of the 20th Assembly District representing the eastern portion of the Bay Area, including Fremont, Newark, Union City and parts of Pleasanton, Castro Valley, Hayward, Milpitas, and



San Jose. The tour consisted of visiting an almond orchard, an almond huller and an almond processor, which was **Hughson Nut** in Hughson. This was **Assemblyman Wiecowski's** first visit to a nut processing facility, and only one of several tours the Association has conducted in the past year, with several more in the works. As always, we wish to recognize our members for working with us to educate those who know very little about agriculture.

Memoriam

The California cotton industry acknowledges with sadness the passing of **Claydee (Clay) Weaver**. Clay was a native of Dos Palos. He served his country as 2nd Lt. in the US Air Force in World War II. After returning home from the service, he served as a Los Angeles police officer before returning to the San Joaquin Valley to farm with his father.

He joined the cotton industry several years later making a career of managing the Westside Farmers Cooperative Gins until his retirement. He was a charter member of the board of directors of the California Cotton Ginners Association at its formation in 1972 and served as a director until his retirement from the industry in 1984. Clay was a friend to all that knew him and we recognize his service and contribution to our industry.