



The Cotton Chronicle

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May 2013

Volume 24, Issue 5

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)

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Ginners School A Success!

The 2013 CCGA Ginners School and Managerial Seminar held at the Technology Learning Center in Corcoran was a huge success. In attendance were over 150 participants. Topics included **Lockout/Tagout**, put on by Ron Shanoian of J.G. Boswell Co.; **Gin Fire Suppression**, taught by Allen Anderson of Jorgensen Company; **Accident Prevention Signs & Tags** presented by Michelle Rodriguez of Zenith Insurance; **PPE Requirements**, taught by Ed Brock of SMR. With the help of Jesse Lawler, Elda Brueggemann, and Mark Ptacek, the Safety Contest held at J.G. Boswell, was a big success. This year's winner was Rudy Paz of Olam Cotton. This was the third time Rudy has won the contest! **Congratulations Rudy!** Other winners

were as follows: **10th place** – Mike Alvarez, Broadview Coop; **tie 7th place** – Manuel Alcaraz, J.G. Boswell; **tie 7th place** – Jose Gomez, Broadview Coop; **tie 7th place** – Luis Garcia, Semi Tropic Coop; **6th place** – Tim Pereira, Westside Farmers; **tie 4th place** – Efrain Gracia, Jr, Farmers Coop; **tie 4th place** – Antonio Perez, J.G. Boswell; **3rd place** – Rene Reyes, Dos Palos Coop; **2nd place** – Hugo V. Chavez, Semi Tropic Coop. Congratulations to all the winners!

At the Managerial Seminar, the following topics were covered: **Healthcare Reform**, presented by Mike DeMore, United Ag; **Independent Employee Action** and **Hot Topics in Labor Law**, by Sean Currin and Will Creger, 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.,** and the **Nisei Farmers League**. The Association would also like to extend our sincerest appreciation to **Tom Gaffney, 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

Gold

R & C Supply Co.
Lummus Corporation

Silver

Calcot, Ltd
Karl M. Smith, Inc.
Ranchers Cotton Oil

Bronze

Langston Companies
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Door Prizes

Calcot
Karl M. Smith
L.P. Brown/IFP
Jorgensen
Lummus Corp.
Nisei Farmers League
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important issues facing the tree nut hulling and processing industries. Representing the Ginners Association **Chairman Greg Gillard of Olam Cotton, Vice Chairman Tom Pires of West Island Cotton Growers and 2nd Vice Chairman Russell Patterson of Buttonwillow Ginning Co.** Representing the Growers Association was **Chairman Cannon Michael, and 2nd Vice Chairman Steve Wilbur.** Representing the CCGGA Staff was **President/CEO Earl Williams, Executive Vice President Roger Isom, and Vice President, Casey Creamer.** On the first day, the group met with officials from the **California Air Resources Board (CARB)** to discuss the truck and farm equipment regulations, with officials from the **California Department of Pesticide Regulations (CDPR)** to discuss sulfuryl fluoride, chlorpyrifos and other issues, with **California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)** to discuss milk pricing and impact to almond hullers and other regulatory concerns and then finally with **Pamela Creedon** of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to discuss agricultural water discharge issues. That evening CCGGA and WAPA hosted a private dinner with **Assembly Majority Leader Assemblywoman Toni Atkins and Assembly Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Assemblywoman Susan Eggman.** The next day began with a private breakfast with **Senator Anthony Cannella,** and then off to the Capitol for meetings with several legislators. The crowd broke into two separate groups and met with **Assemblyman Bob Wiedowski, Sean Henschel, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Bill Quirk, Senator Tom Berryhill, Assemblyman Brian Dahle, Assemblyman Richard Bloom, Senator Cathleen Galgiani, Assemblywoman Kristen Olsen, and Assemblyman Henry T. Perea.** Issues discussed included water supply and water quality, diesel

Cotton Goes to the State Capitol

In conjunction with our sister organization, the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA), representatives from the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA)** spent two days in Sacramento visiting with regulatory agencies and legislators to discuss

incentive programs and impacts from the implementation of AB 32. The group concluded the day by meeting with the **Executive Director of the Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA) Michael Boccadoro**.

LT-ILRP Partially Delayed

A tentative ruling on the environmental analysis done to support the Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program will delay the adoption of additional coalition group waste discharge requirements for an undetermined amount of time. The tentative ruling questions the validity of the Project Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and it is likely that staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will have to redo the analysis before proceeding with additional orders, which could take a year to complete. In the ruling the judge did not address the East San Joaquin River adopted WDR and its timelines and regulations remain in place. The deadline for growers to enroll in that coalition remains May 13th! Regional Board staff indicated at a workshop for the Tulare Lake Basin that they would wait for the judge's final ruling before altering the timelines of adoption for the other coalition areas, but they also indicated that they would continue the regulatory development of the orders. The judge's final ruling may have both positive and negative impacts for farmers on the final waste discharge requirements.

Hugely Successful Aerial Lift and Fall Protection Training Comes to a Close

On a windy day in Orland, California, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA)** and **Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA)** shut the doors on another unique and successful worker safety training session! Over 428 participants in total attended the two classes: aerial lift and fall protection training. Several of the attendees over the seven training events in California and Arizona commended WAPA for conducting

this unique but necessary training. Several thanked the Associations for providing a "real service" to its members. CCGGA and WAPA would like to thank **CalOSHA Consultation, Zenith, MEC, Jorgensen and Company, and C.H. Bull** for their efforts in helping put on the classes. CCGGA and WAPA also want to extend our appreciation to our gracious hosts including **Semi Tropic Coop Almond Huller, Central California Almond Growers Association, Monte Vista Farming Company, Travaille and Phippen, and Hart Farms/North Valley Nut**. The facilities worked out fabulously and the effort is appreciated by all. Finally, CCGGA and WAPA wish to recognize our ag association partners in this year's training including the **Nisei Farmers League, the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, and AgSafe**.

Comment Period Extended on Important Draft FSMA Regulations

FDA has recently issued Federal Register notices to extend the comment periods on the proposed rules for Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food (the Preventive Controls proposed rule) and Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption (the Produce Safety proposed rule) until **September 16, 2013**. The comment period for the Draft Qualitative Risk Assessment of Risk of Activity/Food Combinations for Activities (Outside the Farm Definition) Conducted in a Facility Co-Located on a Farm has also been extended.

ACIR APPLAUDS LANDMARK AG LABOR AGREEMENT

The Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform (ACIR) applauds the successful attainment of a new landmark bipartisan employer and worker agreement on reform legislation intended to ensure a legal, stable agricultural workforce. The agreement was finalized this past month by the Agricultural Workforce Coalition (AWC) and the United Farm Workers. ACIR, part of the AWC, provided much of the legal and economic guidance and expertise in the months-long negotiation that led to yesterday's agreement. The legislative agreement would encourage experienced farm workers, who comprise most of America's current farm workforce, to earn legal residency by fulfilling a future work requirement in



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agriculture and meeting other conditions. It would also create a new agricultural visa program distinct from the current and largely dysfunctional H-2A program—to admit future foreign workers to work specifically in the agricultural sector for up to three years at a time. These provisions will now be considered by the U.S. Senate as a key component of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013. The introduction of the Senate bill is welcomed by many in the agricultural community, as many efforts in the past several years have failed. A tough road lies ahead to get this comprehensive package all the way through Congress and to the President's Desk, but the time has never been more important!

It's The Law: Regulatory Compliance from the Top

AgSafe, in conjunction with the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) is hosting a one-half day seminar on pesticides, immigration and worker safety. The event will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at the Harris Ranch Inn and Restaurant in Coalinga, from 7:30 to 12:30 including a breakfast buffet. The cost is \$40 for WAPA and CCGGA Members, and \$60 for non-members. The agenda is as follows:

AGENDA

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Legislative Update
Ruth Jensen, United Ag

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Looking Forward: DPR Initiatives, Priorities and Partnerships with the Agricultural Industry
Chris Reardon, Chief Deputy Director
California Department of Pesticide Regulation

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Immigration Issues
Robert P. Roy, Esq., President and General Counsel
Ventura County Agricultural Association

11:30 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 (invited)
For more information, please visit our website at

www.ccgga.org.