



The Cotton Chronicle

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

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June 2011

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Industry Calendar

June 15—
Growers Board
Meeting—
Fresno

June 28—
2011 Pima Standards
Review & Ap-
proval—
Visalia Classing
Office

June 28—
Roller Ginned Up-
land Grading Stan-
dards Discussion—
Visalia Classing
Office

June 28—
No Till Field Day—
WREC—Five Points

July 4—
Independence Day—
Office Closed

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

Ginners Meet in Pismo

The California Cotton Ginners Association held their Industry Conference in Pismo from May



31st through June 2nd. The meeting was a huge success with over 90 attendees that included gin managers, associate members, and industry representatives. The meeting was highlighted with special guest speakers including; **Kent Fountain**, President of the National Cotton Ginners Association; **Ed Hughs**, Research Director for the USDA Southwest Ginning Laboratory; **Greg Townsend** of the USDA-AMS Visalia Classing Office; **Matt Laughlin**, J.G. Boswell and President of the Western Cotton Shippers Association; **Jarral Neeper**, President of Calcot; **Eric Baty**, CEO of Verde Energy; **Aaron Tarango**, Supervisor of Strategies and Incentives at the SJVAPCD; and **Michael Boccadoro**, Executive Director of Ag Energy Consumers Association. At a dinner on the evening of the June 2nd, **George Soares** received the Distinguished Service Award.

Special thanks to associate members **Allenberg of California**, **Bayer CropScience**, **The Zenith**,

Calcot, J.D. Heiskell & Co., **Karl M. Smith**, **Penny -Newman Grain Co.**, **Ranchers Cotton Oil**, **Samuel Strapping Systems**, **Signode Bale Strapping System**, **Dale Brisco, Inc.**, **Hazera Seeds**, **Jess Smith & Sons Cotton**, **Langston Companies**, **Lummus Corporation**, **Maxum Petroleum**, **Mike Ponce Insurance Services**, **Western Cotton Shippers Association**, and **Western Milling** for making the event possible with their generous support!

Ron Nimmo Named Ginners Chairman

County Line Gin Manager **Ron Nimmo** assumed the role of Chairman of the California Cotton Ginners Association during the Annual Industry Meeting in Pismo Beach recently. Nimmo will serve as Chairman for the next two years.

Wayne Gilbert of Broadview Cooperative Gin in Firebaugh was also recognized for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. Gilbert was presented with a gavel plaque and a cotton boll necklace for his wife Corrine by new Chairman Nimmo. Many thanks to Wayne and Corrine and Congratulations Ron!



Ron Nimmo (L), Wayne Gilbert (R)

Soares Receives Ginners Distinguished Service Award

George Soares, attorney and government affairs advocate for the California Cotton Ginners Association for over 30 years was recognized re-

cently in Pismo at the Ginners annual Industry Meeting as the 2010 recipient of the Association's "Distinguished Service Award." Soares, a partner in the Kahn, Soares and Conway (KSC) firm first began his legal career as chief counsel for the CA Assembly Agriculture Committee and was the author of many laws directly related to the cot-



George Soares (L), Earl Williams (R)

ton industry. The Ginners Association was one of Soares first clients when he left the Assembly Ag Committee to form the now prestigious firm of Kahn, Soares and Conway. Besides being recognized in a recent poll as the 9th most influential person in California politics, George has gained tremendous respect and reputation in Sacramento becoming known as the

hard working and knowledgeable "Dean" of lobbyists. "We could not have chosen a more effective legal counsel and government affairs advocate to represent us over the years than George Soares. It's like we grew up together, KSC and the Ginners Association," said **Earl Williams**, president and CEO of the Ginners and a charter board member of the Ginners group. Today KSC represents over 30 agricultural related organizations in California and was instrumental in forming most of the agricultural commissions now operating in California. Williams went on, "a well deserved award for a truly deserving individual!"

Governor Makes Key Appointments to CDFA

Governor Brown had made two appointments to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). **Sandra Schubert**, 48, of San Francisco, has been appointed undersecretary of the CDFA. Schubert has provided political, legal, and strategic consulting services for clients as a self-employed consultant since 2009. She was an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center from 2009 to 2010. Schubert served as the director of government affairs for the Environmental Working Group from 2007 to 2009, and counsel for Senator Harry Reid from 2005 to 2007 and legislative assistant for Senator Barbara Boxer from 2002 to 2005. She was legislative counsel for Earthjustice from 2001 to 2002 and environ-

mental analyst at the Environmental Programs Division for the City of Santa Monica from 1999 to 2001. Schubert was also project director for Children's Health Environmental Coalition from 1996 to 1998 and a program director for Beyond Pesticides from 1993 to 1996. The Governor also appointed **Jim Houston** as Deputy Secretary of legislation and public engagement. Houston has worked for the California Assembly and has served as a representative for the Sacramento-based BGS Group since 2004. He received a law degree from Mc George School of Law in 2009.

Good News: Air Pollution from Pesticides Drops Again!

The Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) restrictions on agricultural fumigant pesticide applications made a dent in California's air quality problems for the second consecutive year since they took effect in 2008. Recently released 2009 data show volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from pesticides declined from the previous year in four of the state's five areas that do not meet federal air quality standards. From May through October when ozone levels peak, VOC pesticide emissions declined by 8 percent in the five areas combined to 17.8 tons a day from 19.5 the previous year. The drop is even more pronounced when compared with 1990, when more than 39 tons of VOCs from pesticides were emitted daily during the ozone season in 1990. The 2009 data confirm that VOC pesticide emissions were well below the restrictions' target levels: a 12 percent drop in the San Joaquin Valley and 20 percent decline in the Sacramento Metro, South Coast and Southeast Desert areas from 1990. DPR's regulations were the first in the nation to specifically target agricultural pesticide applications to improve air quality. To summarize, the 2009 data in the San Joaquin Valley demonstrated that VOC pesticide emissions decreased from 15.1 tons per day in 2008 to 13.8 tons per day in 2009, well below the target level of 18.1 tons per day. More than 20 tons per day were emitted in the 1990 base year. In the Southeast Desert in 2009, there were 0.15 tons per day of VOC pesticide emissions, a reduction from 0.29 tons per day from the previous year and 1.15 tons in 1990. The target level is 0.92 tons per day.

State Water Board to Conduct Workshop on Water Use Efficiency

Responding to a report from the State's Delta Watermaster, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

will be conducting a workshop on “Agricultural Water Use Efficiency” in Sacramento on Wednesday, July 20th. The SWRCB will hold the workshop to consider information regarding the current trends and condition of agricultural water use efficiency. This informal workshop will include presentations and panels of experts and practitioners to explore the state of California’s agricultural water use efficiency, including practices, requirements, trends, and the challenges and opportunities for further efficiency. The Department of Water Resources’ *2009 California Water Plan* estimates that each year 9.2 million acres of farmland are irrigated with approximately 34.2 million acre-feet of water, representing approximately seventy-five percent (75%) of California’s developed water. Mr. Craig M. Wilson, Delta Watermaster, presented an Informational Report on *The Reasonable Use Doctrine and Agricultural Water Use Efficiency* (The Reasonable Use Doctrine) at the January 19, 2011, State Water Board Meeting. The Reasonable Use Doctrine listed a number of recommendations that promote Efficient Agricultural Water Use and can be found at the SWRCB website at

www.waterboards.ca.gov. The report addresses how the State’s Reasonable Use Doctrine may be employed to promote more efficient water use in the agricultural sector. The report explains how the Reasonable Use Doctrine is the cornerstone to California’s complex water rights law and that all water use must be reasonable. It goes on to show that there is a wide array of irrigation practices in place today that result in the more efficient and therefore more reasonable use of water. The report concludes that the Reasonable Use Doctrine may be employed to promote a wider use of such efficient practices. The report recommends that the State Water Board convene a Reasonable Water Use Summit and contains specific recommendations for consideration during the Summit. The recommendations range from a wider employment of efficiency practices such as improvements to the irrigation systems that deliver water to farms, weather-based irrigation scheduling, and more efficient irrigation methods.

Special Advisory - Hazard Communication Program

In recent inspections by Cal/OSHA questions regarding specific elements within the Hazard Communication Program have come up. Most commonly there are missing Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), or the MSDS is not readily accessible. In addition, sometimes employees will utilize smaller secondary containers for projects around the facility, such as lubricating oil, etc. These secondary

containers must be labeled with the name of the hazardous substance as well as the applicable hazard warnings. The Hazard Communication Program is also critical for non-routine tasks around the facility, such as applying round-up to the yard. The employee must understand the hazards associated with the chemicals and what to do in the event of an emergency. Every employer must have a Hazard Communication Program. A Hazard Communication Program contains the following elements:

- o List of Hazardous Substances
- o Prop. 65 List of Chemicals
- o Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- o Labels and other forms of warning
- o Employee information and training
- o Hazardous non-routine risks
- o Labeled/unlabeled pipes (if applicable)
- o Informing contractors

2011 Cotton & Tomato No-Till Field Day

The Conservation Tillage and Cropping Systems Workgroup is conducting a free public **Field Day on June 28th at the UC Westside Research and Extension Center in Five Points**. At the Field Day, visitors will see no-till and strip-till cotton and tomato actually look like. They’ll learn about the planting technologies used for these systems and also be able to see the merging of the merging of these conservation technology approaches with overhead and drip irrigation. The Field Day begins at 10:00 am and includes lunch. For more information please contact Jeff Mitchell at Mitchell@uckac.edu or (559)303-9689.

Pima Standards Review and Approval

The USDA/AMS’s final 2011 Pima Grade Standards Review and Approval session will be held in the Visalia Classing Office, Tuesday, June 28th. Meeting times to be announced. Watch for posting of meeting time on CCGGA website. All interested parties welcome and invited.

Roller Ginned Upland Standards

The USDA/AMS has agreed to hold discussions with cotton industry representatives regarding the possibility of developing separate grading standards for roller ginned upland cottons. Given that as much as 50-60% of the up-

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
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land crop has been roller ginned for the past several years, a request was made by the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations to explore the development of separate grading and classing standards for this cotton. Today this cotton is graded and classed using a combination of upland and pima standards that has led to some confusion and disputes between, ginners, growers, merchants and the classing office on occasion. Meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2011 in the Visalia Classing offices immediately following the final Pima Standard Box Review and Approval conference noticed above.

Memoriam

Jack G. Stone, well known industry pioneer and longtime leader passed away on May 17, 2011. Jack was 93 and lived a full and productive life. He was born in Corcoran and grew up in Hanford. He attended University of CA at Davis where he studied engineering. He served in the Army in WWII as a member of the Corps of Engineers. Jack was a past president of Westlands Water District, the Western Cotton Growers Association, the California Cotton Growers Association and the National Cotton Council of America.

“A true leader and strong advocate for California agricul-

ture, we in agriculture and the cotton industry are all better off today because of Jack Stone’s dedication, tireless efforts, leadership and enthusiastic service to our industry. He will be sorely missed,” said **Earl Williams**, president and CEO of CCGGA.

California Pima Varieties Planted for 2011/2012 Crop

There are a total 16 approved SJV Pima varieties this year along with two SJV Experimental Pima varieties .

The approved varieties list includes two new additions this year, both from Phytogen. The two varieties are the PHY 802 RF and the PHY 805 RF. Both are Round-Up Ready Flex varieties and became approved varieties out of the SJV Experimental Pima variety list.

In the SJV Experimental Pima varieties, the Delta & Pine Land DP 360 was dropped from the list and rolled into the California Pima variety list. Only the PHY 804 RF remains along with the SJV Exp. Pima Mix on the SJV Experimental Pima list for the 2011/2012 crop year. The California Pima list also saw the W2243 variety dropped from the list for this season.

While the development of new varieties are continuing in an ongoing effort, there are no new varieties this season that were considered to be far enough along yet in their respective breeding programs to be submitted for inclusion in the California variety trials.