



The Cotton Chronicle

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June 2012

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Industry Calendar

June 13—
Growers Board Mtg—
Fresno

June 28-29—
WAPA Annual Mtg—
Monterey, CA

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

Aug 29—
Supima Annual Mtg—
Harris Ranch

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Ginners Meet in Pismo

The California Cotton Ginners Association held their Industry Conference in Pismo from May 29th through May 31st. The meeting was a huge success with over 75 attendees that included gin managers, associate members, and industry representatives. The meeting was highlighted with special guest speakers including; **Lee Tiller**, President of the National Cotton Ginners Association; **Ed Hughs**, Research Director for the USDA Southwest Ginning Laboratory; **John Walth**, President of Ranchers Cotton Oil; **Kevin McDermott**, Vice President of Jess Smith & Sons Cotton and Western Cotton Shippers Association; **Jarral Neeper**, President of Calcot; **Michael Boccadoro**, Executive Director of Ag Energy Consumers Association; and **Vicky Heza**, Program Manager with the Cal/OSHA Consultation Service.

At a dinner on the evening of the May 31st, **Mike Brueggemann** received the Distinguished Service Award and **Ron Nimmo** was honored as the Ginner of the Year.

Special thanks to associate members **The Zenith**, **Allenberg of California**, **Penny-Newman**

Grain, **Calcot**, **Karl M. Smith**, **Monsanto/D&PL**, **J.D. Heiskell**, **Ranchers Cotton Oil**, **Signode Packaging Systems**, **Dale Brisco**, **L.P. Brown**, **Langston**, **Lumms**, **Mackey & Mackey Insurance**, **Mike Ponce Insurance Services**, **Western Cotton Shippers Association**, and **Western Milling** for making the event possible with their generous support!

Nimmo California's 2011 Ginner of the Year

Ron Nimmo, the former manager of County Line Gin, Hanford, California and outgoing chairman of the board of the California Cotton Ginners Association was named the Association's 2011 "Ginner of the Year" during the organization's 40th Annual In-



CCGA President/CEO Earl Williams (left) with 2011 "Ginner of the Year", Ron Nimmo (right)



dustry meeting held recently in Pismo Beach. Like many past winners' before him, he started his career with Producer's Cotton Oil. He began as a night ginner at Pleasant Valley Gin in Coalinga. From there he moved to Tranquility under Jack Lyons, also as the night ginner. He was then promoted to day ginner at Mesa Gin and then moved to Westhaven Gin, a gin that would have later significance. The only currently operating former Producers Gin. He then became a field electrician and later went into business for himself, opening an auto repair & electric shop.

This individual is a modern day jack of all trades! He returned to the cotton industry working as a ginner for Westhaven Cotton Company and Stone Land Company and eventually became the Gin Manager running the former Producers gin. His career was just getting started at this time. He decided he needed to diversify his portfolio even further by becoming an almond farmer and going into partnership with his good friend Steve Cooksey. Over the last several years Ron has continued in his service as a Director of the California Cotton Ginners Association, and served on several committees even after he left Westhaven Gin to work in the Solar Industry and subsequently came back as a gin manager for County Line Gin. Ron's next career move was announced recently as he was presented with a position that he couldn't turn down, becoming the Regional Manager for Cenergy Power.

Unfortunately, Ron is leaving his current roles as a member, director, and Chairman of the Ginners Association, but the industry will be fortunate that he will still be an active member of the cotton industry in his new role with Cenergy Power as an Associate member. Ron is well respected by his peers for his expertise, honesty and integrity. Ron is a quality individual who has served the cotton industry and the Ginners Association with the utmost integrity over the years. Congratulations to the 2011 recipient of the California Cotton Ginners Association's "Ginner of the Year" Award winner Ron Nimmo.

Brueggemann is named 2011 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Mike Brueggemann, was honored with the Association's 2011 Distinguished Service Award during its 40th Annual Industry meeting held recently in Pismo Beach. Mr. Brueggemann is employed by the National Cotton Council of America and is also a current Advisor to the Board of the California Cotton Ginners Association. This very deserving Distinguished Award winner is a very well respected member of the cotton industry family. He is a graduate of CSU Fresno with a degree in Agricultural Business. While attending CSU Fresno he was employed by Henry Van Loon Farms working with all aspects of a 640 acre row crop operation, including cotton. In 1980, he was hired as a cotton gin manager for Producers Cotton Oil Company. There he supervised two ginning operations and managed crop loans in excess of \$5 million for grower customers. In 1987 he became the Field Administrative Supervisor for Producers. In that role he was re-

sponsible for three secretaries and assisted in the supervision of 16 gin managers and their functions in cotton processing and ag financing. In 1990, he returned to manage 5 cotton gins in Five Points, San Joaquin, and Tranquility for Anderson Clayton Corporation after their purchase of Producers Cotton Oil. He held that role for 9 years before moving on to become a Loan Officer for Fresno-Madera Farm Credit. Mike's current role is as the Western Field Service Representative for the National Cotton Council. He came to the Council in 2002 and has been a valued member of that organization, and also been a valued member of the California Cotton industry. Mike has assisted the Association in numerous industry events, from the Ginners School, State Support Committee, and the Annual Meeting Committee. At just about every industry function, Mike is there and always willing to lend a helping hand. Mike is well respected by all in the industry for his knowledge, diligence, honesty and



CCGA President/CEO Earl Williams (left) with 2011 Distinguished Service Award Winner, Mike Brueggemann (right)

integrity. Contributions from Mike and people like Mike have made the cotton industry what it is today. We appreciate and applaud all of Mike's contributions and thank him for his continued service. Congratulations to the 2011 recipient

of the California Cotton Ginners Association's Distinguished Service Award winner Mike Brueggemann.

Hearing Scheduled to Discuss Pesticide VOC Regulation for San Joaquin Valley

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) will be conducting a hearing on the proposed regulation "DPR 12- 001 Volatile Organic Compounds in the San Joaquin Valley Ozone Nonattainment Area." DPR is proposing require non-fumigant use prohibitions on certain crops in the San Joaquin Valley ozone nonattainment area when using products with agricultural uses containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen during May 1 through October 31 if the volatile organic

compound (VOC) emission limit is triggered. Also, when purchasing or using certain products containing these four active ingredients, the proposed action would require a written recommendation from a licensed pest control adviser, and require pest control dealers to provide VOC information to the purchaser. The public hearing to discuss the proposed regulatory changes will be held on June 6, 2012 at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 4457 S. Laspina Street in Tulare. Persons who wish to speak will be asked to register before the hearing. The registration of speakers will be conducted at the location of the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Associations Leaders Make Trek to Sacramento

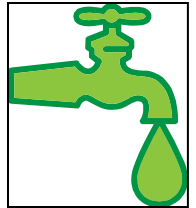
This past month, members and staff of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations traveled to Sacramento with our sister organization the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) to discuss regulatory and legislative issues impacting our industries. The leadership of all three Associations traveled to Sacramento for two days and met with officials from **California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)**. Topics covered with CARB included truck rule implementation, development of the farm equipment rule, and greenhouse gas regulations. With CDPR, we covered fumigation with Proflume, pesticide VOCs and water quality regulations. Greenhouse gas regulations, farm equipment rule, and the farm bill were covered with CDFA. In addition to the regulatory meetings, they met with several state legislators including **Senator Leland Yee, Senator Anthony Canella, Senator Jean Fuller, Assemblyman Richard Pan, the staff of Assemblyman Mike Gatto, the staff of Assemblyman V. Manuel Perez, Assemblyman Bob Wicowski, Assemblyman Ricardo Lara, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, and Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla**. Topics covered with legislators included new heat stress legislation, aboveground tanks, resolution to ban neonicotinoids, metal theft, impact of the state budget crisis, and the impact of all of the state regulations currently affecting our members. Representing the Association was Ginners Association Chairman **Ron Nimmo** of County Line Gin and Vice Chairman **Greg Gillard** of Olam Cotton; Growers Chairman **Cannon Michael** and



Vice Chairman **Steve Wilbur**; and Association President/CEO **Earl Williams**, Executive Vice President **Roger Isom**, and Vice President **Casey Creamer**.

New Drinking Water Requirements?

CCGGA and WAPA staff met with officials from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in Sacramento this past month to discuss a potentially far reaching development on drinking water requirements. Facilities that have 25 or more employees for 60 or more days and provide water from a well or other non-regulated water source are considered a public water system and must obtain a drinking water permit from the state. Previously, most facilities that met the criteria provided bottled drinking water to avoid costly water treatment systems. However, as of January 1st, new regulations went into affect that eliminated the "handwashing exemption", and now even water used for purposes of handwashing must meet drinking water quality standards. This is currently being enforced by CDPH separate from the typical food safety inspection, but could be a question during your next inspection. For those that are subject to the new requirements, the Association is working with CDPH to delineate all possible solutions, which include full water treatment, use of hand sanitizing stations, or delivery of bulk water to use for handwashing. CDPH is expected to release guidance on this issue in the very near future, and the Association will be sure to distribute this to all of our members. Stay tuned!



ARS Scientists' New Antimicrobial Treatments Could Reduce Odors in Cotton Fabric

Socks, T-shirts and other garments could become less hospitable to odor-causing bacteria, thanks to new antimicrobial treatments being investigated by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists at the agency's Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, La. The ARS scientists are seeking to inhibit microbial growth in cotton using silver particles ranging from 2 to 6 nanometers in size. ARS is the chief intramural scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Silver nanoparticles have been used previously as antimicrobial agents in products, including clothes, plastic food containers and medical textiles. However, the synthetic methods of producing them have relied on the use of toxic agents and organic solvents, according to

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ARS team leader Brian Condon. As an environmentally friendly alternative, his team showed that polyethylene glycol and water worked just as well in generating the silver particles. Moreover, the particles were of the desired size, reported Condon, ARS engineer Sunghyun Nam, and former ARS researcher Dharnidhar Parikh, in a recent issue of the *Journal of Nanoparticle Research*. The researchers also devised a method of prompting silver nanoparticles to form directly on cotton fibers, eliminating the handling and storage of the antimicrobial agents prior to application. "This should give cotton an advantage over synthetic fabrics, which have not been amendable to silver nanoparticle treatment," notes Condon, who leads the ARS center's Cotton Chemistry and Utilization Research Unit. In another approach, ARS chemist Vince Edwards, together with Condon, developed a treatment for impregnating nonwoven cotton fabrics with lysozyme, an enzyme that slices open the cell walls of microorganisms, killing them—including those that cause odor or infection. Similar enzymes also have potential use in biodefense applications, such as deactivating nerve agents, adds Condon. The researchers are seeking commercial partners to help usher the advances into the marketplace, all with an eye towards assuring the viability of American cotton at a time of in-

creasing production costs, dwindling resources and global competition. You can read more about this research in the April 2012 issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine.

Longfin Smelt on Candidate List

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the San Francisco Bay-Delta District "Distinct Population Segment (DPS)" of the longfin smelt warrants protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). At this time, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is going to hold off listing the species, because there are supposedly other pending listing that are a "higher priority." The longfin smelt ranges from Alaska to the Bay-Delta, with about 20 populations in that range. According to US Fish and Wildlife, the Bay-Delta is the only population in decline. The Service indicates that the decline in the population is primarily due to reduced freshwater flow in the Delta. In addition, the Service says that the increase in population of the overbite clam, and ammonia discharges in the Delta are also contributing to the decrease in population. While the longfin smelt has received a high listing priority, it may be several years before it is listed as endangered under the Federal ESA.

