



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org



August 2012

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Industry Calendar

Aug 21

Water Board
Workshop—
Tulare

Aug 29

Supima Annual Mtg—
Harris Ranch

Sept 3

Labor Day—
Office Closed

Sept 12

Growers Board Mtg—
Fresno

Sept 20

Ginners Board Mtg—
Fresno

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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CCGGA Helps Coordinate Latino Caucus Tour

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) co-hosted a legislative tour of valley agriculture for four Latino legislators and



CCGGA Member **Mark Borba** explaining the water issues faced by growers on the Westside to **Assemblyman Ricardo Lara** and his staff.

their staff including **Assemblyman Henry T. Perea, 31st Assembly District; Felipe Fuentes, 39th Assembly District; Ricardo Lara, 50th Assembly District; and Jose Solorio, 69th Assembly District.** Site visits included table grape, processing tomato, fresh garlic and melon harvesting operations, a citrus orchard, a dairy, and a pistachio processing operation. This is the latest in a series of critical tours created and conducted to foster a better understanding of the agricultural industry and the issues we face with urban legislators. This is especially important for the fast growing tree nut industry, and has helped to build key relationships with legislators in urban areas such as San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Association Partners to Host Critical Air Resources Board Ag Tour

In an effort to educate the staff of the California Air Resources Board in charge of the upcoming Farm Equipment Regulation, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, Western**

Agricultural Processors Association, Nisei Farmers League and California Citrus Mutual conducted a two day tour at several locations throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The purpose was to show them the tremendous diversity in farming and farm equipment, and to discuss issues surrounding the yet to be developed Farm Equipment Regulation. Involved in the tour were six of the ARB staff in charge of developing the Farm Equipment Regulation, as well as three people from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. ARB Board member **Dorene D'Adamo** joined the tour on the second day. Sites that were visited by the group included **Terranova Ranches and Errotabere Ranches.** ARB staff indicated that the first workshops on the regulation will be held sometime in September. The Association will be monitoring this closely and will be heavily involved.



CCGGA Members **Dan and Jean Errotabere** discussing their operations with ARB staff including **Heather Arias**, Manager of the Planning and Regulatory Development Section, California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Water Board to Hold Workshop in Tulare

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will be conducting a Board workshop on

August 21st at the Southern California Edison, Energy Education Center in Tulare. The workshop is currently the only scheduled workshop for the pending waste discharge requirements for growers within the Tulare Lake Basin or Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition. The regulation expands the current surface water requirements to include groundwater and **all** growers within the basin will be required to join a coalition or apply for an individual discharge permit. The current draft regulation has serious impacts to and it is important that growers show up to become informed and also provide testimony to the board. The staff report indicates that costs to growers and coalition groups could be as high as \$159/acre through this regulatory process alone. It is of utmost importance that the board hear from growers about current nutrient practices employed on farm and how they have improved over the years. The time of the event was not available at time of publication, but please check www.ccgga.org for more details as they become available. If you need any additional information, please contact Casey Creamer at (559) 252-0684.

Prop 37 Threatens California Agriculture

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, along with many other agriculture groups, has formally opposed Prop. 37, a November ballot measure that would ban the sale of tens of thousands of common, perfectly-safe



grocery products that contain genetically engineered ingredients unless they are specially repackaged, relabeled or remade with higher cost ingredients just for our state. Whether California farmers grow genetically engineered crops or not, they will still be harmed

by Prop 37 because the bureaucracy, red tape, and threat of lawsuits will impact all farmers – and everyone in the food production chain. The measure also prohibits marketing as “natural” any products that are processed in any way.

That’s why the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association is so strongly opposed, and why we are urging our members to join the campaign opposed and to get involved in the campaign. There are several ways you can help:

- ◆ Join the coalition. Having local farmers and other supporters of agriculture oppose will be extremely helpful.
- ◆ Follow the campaign on Facebook and Twitter. We will need help not only growing our followers, but having people post about the campaign on their Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- ◆ Send an e-mail to your contacts.
- ◆ Volunteer to be part of the campaign speakers’ bureau. Farmers and agriculture interests will be directly impacted by this terrible measure and we need you to speak out.

DPR Air Monitoring Shows Pesticides Well Below Health Screening Levels

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) Director Brian R. Leahy recently announced the air monitoring of nearly three dozen pesticides in California for the past year shows residues well below levels established to protect human health and the environment. "We're pleased the results indicate a low health risk to residents of the communities where monitoring stations are located," Leahy emphasized. "This information is essential to help us evaluate whether our restrictions on pesticide applications are protective over the long term." Only one of the chemicals exceeded its screening level for exposure periods of one year or less. That chemical, acrolein, is sometimes used as a pesticide, but the residues detected were most likely from motor vehicle and industrial emissions. The acrolein detections are consistent with California Air Resources Board monitoring throughout the state. DPR established the air monitoring network in February 2011 in Shafter in Kern County, Salinas in Monterey County and Ripon in San Joaquin County. Thirty-four pesticides and five pesticide breakdown products were monitored, including six fumigants and 11 organophosphates. Twenty-nine of the chemicals were detected in at least one sample and 10 were not detected. DPR selected these pesticides based on the amount of use and their potential health risks. "Detecting pesticides in communities surrounded by farmland is not a surprise," Leahy emphasized. "California is the only state that monitors air as part of its continuous reevaluation of pesticides to ensure the protection of workers, public health and the environment." The air monitoring network, the first of its kind in the nation, was established to expand DPR's knowledge of the potential health risks of long-term exposure to pesticides.

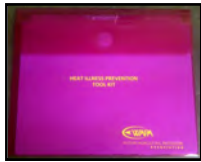
EPA Denies Petition for Suspension of Clothianidin

The EPA is denying a petition requesting emergency suspension of clothianidin (Poncho, Belay) based on imminent hazard. The petition, filed in March by a group of beekeepers, Beyond Pesticides, Pesticide Action Network of North America and others alleges that clothianidin poses an “imminent hazard,” requiring swift regulatory action to protect bees. After considering the petition and the supporting information, the EPA is denying the request to suspend clothianidin use because the petition fails to show that an imminent hazard to bees exists. FIFRA allows for suspensions only if there exists a substantial likelihood of serious, imminent harm. After reviewing the petition and supporting information, the EPA does not believe there is a substantial likelihood of imminent serious harm from the use of

clothianidin. The agency will, however, be taking public comments for 60 days on this decision. Comments can be submitted to www.regulations.gov under docket EPA HQ-OPP-2012-0334. With Colony Collapse Disorder in the news and under pressure from some beekeepers and anti-pesticide activists, EPA has focused on the impact to bees, particularly from the neonicotinoid insecticides. Of particular concern to the agency are extra-floral nectaries on cotton and its indeterminate habit. EPA is continuing its comprehensive scientific evaluation on all the neonicotinoid pesticides, including clothianidin. EPA's FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) will hold a four-day meeting on Sept. 11-14 to review a proposed framework the agency has developed in conjunction with state and international partners to evaluate the potential quantitative risks to bees and other pollinators from the use of pesticides.

Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kits

While the summer is well underway, heat stress training remains at 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.



Southeast Producers See San Joaquin Valley AG

Twelve cotton producers from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida observed cotton and other agricultural operations in California's San Joaquin Valley on July 22-25 as part of the NCC's '12 Producer Information Exchange (PIE) Program. Sponsored by Bayer CropScience through a grant to The Cotton Foundation, PIE is now in its 24th year of helping its US cotton producer participants improve yields and fiber quality. Specifically, the program aims to help cotton producers boost their overall operation's efficiency by: 1) gaining new perspectives in such fundamental practices as land preparation, planting, fertilization, pest control, irrigation and harvesting and 2) observing firsthand the unique ways in which their innovative peers are using current technology. In this first of four '12 PIE tours, the group began their activities on July 23 in Fresno with a briefing from the California Cotton Growers/Ginners Assoc. and then a tour of Bayer CropScience's research facility. They visited other cotton producers' operations in the Tranquillity

area and ended their day with dinner and a gathering at Kenny and Karen Carvalho's. The 2nd day, the group saw Gilkey Enterprises' cotton operations in Corcoran before traveling to Hanford to tour the Nichols Farms Pistachio Plant and visiting other cotton producers' operations. The day concluded with a dinner and gathering at Stone's Barn hosted by Stone Family, Errotabere Family and Bayer CropScience. On the 25th, the participants toured the Quady Winery in Madera and the Morning Star Tomato Processing Plant in Los Banos before meeting with area cotton producers at Delta Farms. Their last day concluded with dinner and gathering at San Juan Ranch hosted by Dan Burns, Pat Gallichio and other local area growers. The participating cotton producers are: Virginia – West Drake, Newsoms; North Carolina – Scott Bowen and Stephen Lilley, Jr., both from Williamston, and Matt Whitehead, Scotland Neck; South Carolina – Daniel Baxley, Dillon; Georgia – Jay Hart, Jr., Smithville, Mike Lucas, Chester, and Jeff Wilson, Rebecca; Alabama – Jim Greene, Courtland, and Crawford Jones and Will Sanford, both from Prattville; and Florida – James Marshall, Baker. The other PIE tours will have Southwest producers going to Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri on July 29-Aug. 3; **Far West producers visiting North Carolina on Aug. 5-10; California participants this year include Jake Sheely, Jim Bertao, John Bennett, John Ryan Seiler and Zach Stoller** and Mid-South producers touring Texas on Aug. 19-24. Upon completion of this year's four tours, the PIE program will have exposed more than 1,000 US cotton producers to innovative production practices in regions different than their own.

Ginstar EC available for sale in California

After a short delay, Bayer CropScience has announced that the 2012 production of Ginstar EC is now available for sale in the state of California. Due to an omission of the word "corrosive" on the label of the 2012 production of Ginstar EC, all product containers will carry a sticker on each jug and case. Warehoused product in Fresno now carries the required sticker and is ready for shipment. A few cases of 2012 production shipped early to California have been traced and will be exchanged for "stickered" product. You will be contacted by Bayer Customer Service to arrange an exchange. Batch numbers printed on the outside of the case identify production date. Batch codes that begin with NTR7CX**** were produced in 2012. Ginstar EC with a different batch code number was produced before 2012 and does not require a sticker to be sold. The Association worked with CDPR, EPA and Bayer to assist in making sure this critical product was available for the upcoming season.

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
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Supima's 58th Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for **Supima's 58th Annual Meeting** scheduled at **Harris Ranch on Wednesday, August 29th**. Registration begins at 9:00 am with meeting to start at 11:00 am. The Western Cotton Shippers Association program will precede Supima's meeting and lunch will be served at noon following both meetings. Supima looks forward to the opportunity to update its membership with an overview of Supima's exciting new, current and future activities. Please use the attached registration form which you can use to register by faxing to (602) 792-6004 or go to www.ccgga.org where you can fill out a form and email directly to nancy@supima.com. Online registration will be available soon at www.supima.com. Either way, please take time to register in advance to allow for proper planning. Any questions, call **Nancy at Supima (602) 792-6002 or Shana at CCGGA (559) 252-0684**.



58TH SUPIMA ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2012 – HARRIS RANCH INN, COALINGA, CA
REGISTRATION – 9:00 A.M. / MEETING – 11:00 A.M.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

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PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION CARD BY MAIL OR FAX TO (602) 792-6004 NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2012