

The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org



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Industry Calendar

Sept 12
Growers Board Mtg—
Fresno

Sept 13
State Support
Committee Mtg—
Five Points

Sept 20
Ginners Board Mtg—
Fresno

Sept 20
Westside Research
Center Cotton
Field Day—
Five Points

*(Visit web calendar
for details)*

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No Sticky Cotton

Recent reports of building aphid and whitefly populations in some areas are of concern as always. It's very important to watch these developments closely to make sure that these problems are being addressed in the fields in a timely manner to avoid any sticky cotton problems in this crop. We've continued to do an outstanding job over the past several years preventing sticky cotton. With everyone's help, growers, PCA's and all others involved in this industry we can continue this necessary and important goal. Our future depends on it! Quality is our niche and our reputation and it must be protected. Let's all do our parts. Keep up the good work of the past several years! It's made a difference. Cotton—Up! No Sticky Cotton!



Taking a Stand: Proposition 37—CA Labeling Proposal

Proposition 37 is a ballot initiative Californians will vote on in November that would require a warning label on food products that include a genetically modified (GM) ingredient. Food companies routinely use corn, soy or canola ingredients in their products, and have had the choice and used GM ingredients for a long time. The safety and benefits of these ingredients are well established. The debate will be heating up in advance of the November vote in California, so we want to be clear about our taking a stand on Proposition 37. Consumer's have broad food choices today, but could be denied these



choices if Prop 37 prevails. Accordingly, we are supporting [NO on 37: Coalition Against the Deceptive Food Labeling Scheme](#), a coalition of California farmers, food producers, grocers and retailers formed to oppose Proposition 37. The NO on 37 coalition includes stakeholders involved in producing, manufacturing and selling food products. Interest-

ingly, the main proponents of Proposition 37 are special interest groups and individuals opposed to food biotechnology who are not necessarily engaged in the production of our nation's food supply. They are gearing up a campaign of misinformation.

♦ **Labeling and Consumers' Food Choices**—Opinion surveys consistently report that consumers support FDA's current labeling policy – mandatory labeling for important nutrition or safety information. Food companies can and do provide additional information voluntarily to meet the preferences of their customers. Hundreds of organic or certified non-GM products are available for consumers who prefer these products. This approach offers choices for all consumers and does so without the risk of confusing consumers who are satisfied with the products they know, trust and can afford.

♦ **Impact on Food Safety Confidence**—Food safety is a top priority for consumers as well as those involved in producing and selling food products. Proponents of the California labeling proposal are misleading people about the safety of food in the marketplace, and their opinions are in stark contrast with leading health associations and government agencies. For example, the American Medical Association just re-affirmed that there is no scientific justification for special labeling of bioengineered foods. FDA says that such labeling would be inherently misleading to consumers.

◆ **Scare Tactics**—Leading proponents of Proposition 37 blatantly describe foods containing GM ingredients as untested and unsafe. This is simply untrue. Beneath their right to know slogan is a deceptive marketing campaign aimed at stigmatizing modern food production. While we respect that some people may choose to avoid GM ingredients, it is wrong to mislead and scare people about the safety of their food choices. The California proposal would serve the purposes of a few special interest groups at the expense of the majority of consumers.

◆ **The Right Thing to Do**—Farmers have seen the environmental and economic benefits of modern food technologies for more than 15 years. Food companies see Proposition 37 as threatening the publics' confidence in the safety of their products. Both have encouraged us to join with them in the effort to oppose the California proposition. We agree and believe that supporting the **NO on 37 coalition** is the right thing to do.

For more information on Proposition 37 and **NO on 37: Coalition Against the Deceptive Food Labeling Scheme**, click on www.NoProp37.com

Contamination Prevention Alert—Striving for Zero Tolerance

Cotton producers, ginners, warehousemen and their employees are encouraged to pay particular attention to contamination prevention this harvest season. The goal is to keep any and all foreign materials out of seed cotton and baled lint.

The most recent International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) survey of worldwide cotton contamination found that there was a slight increase in contamination for most cotton growths when the survey years of 2011 and 2009 are compared. Anecdotal evidence from U.S. spinning mills and nonwoven cotton products producers tends to confirm the ITMF survey results. Some U.S. spinners have stated that they were experiencing slightly more contamination issues with the 2011 cotton crop than they experienced with the 2010 crop. Even though U.S. cotton is still considered as one of the least contaminated cotton growths, the U.S. cotton industry must be diligent if it wants to maintain that status.

High end yarn mills first look for cotton lint that is clean and pure and then take extra steps to ensure any foreign material is separated prior to processing. When cotton is seriously contaminated, separation of foreign matter is performed manually or with optical scanners resulting in significant cotton fiber waste. Clean cotton has an advantage over contaminated cotton because the extra steps to ensure that only clean lint is being spun are not neces-

sary. That, along with a zero contamination tolerance, is why spinners are determined to scrutinize raw cotton lint from all sources.

Spinners also are willing to embrace new contamination detection technology. Currently, at least one U.S. spinner is evaluating a new system that operates as a multi-functional scanning unit capable of removing contaminants without disrupting lint flow. As the raw cotton moves from the blow room into the heart of the spinning operation, this type of multi-functionality will allow the spinner to scan for many types of foreign particles on the fly. A spinner using this technology may remove a wide range of contaminating particles such as oil/grease; colored materials like module covers; and clear, transparent or white plastics. Mills are also using bale management strategies that allow them to trace foreign material back to the source, e.g. a cotton gin and, in some cases, the grower.

New technology often brings with it new challenges. Such is the case for cotton producers, ginners and warehousemen who remain our first line of defense when it comes to preventing pure cotton lint from being contaminated with foreign particles. Specifically, everyone involved in cotton harvesting, ginning and bale handling must be more aggressive when it comes to identifying and eliminating potential sources of contamination. The reward will be twofold: satisfying U.S. cotton's mill customers and maintaining U.S. cotton's global reputation for contamination-free lint.

Air District Looks At Cotton Gins For PM2.5 Controls

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is looking under every rock for additional PM2.5 emissions reductions, including looking at mandatory expansion chambers on cyclones and mandatory mechanical conveyance of trash. The Air District needs all of the emission reductions it can get. However, the consideration of the above listed requirements is far from final. The Association has commented on these in the past when the Rule 4204 – Cotton Gins was being considered as being too costly to warrant mandatory replacement. Here too, it is the Association's belief that the District will make the same finding. But, the District will have to go through the steps to evaluate the potential controls. Weighing heavily on the decision will be the results of the Beltwide Cotton Gin PM2.5 Emissions Study conducted by USDA ARS. Preliminary results from that study indicate that PM2.5 emissions from a cotton gin are insignificant to warrant

additional controls. Stay tuned for more information as the Air District conducts its final round of workshops before releasing their final draft of their PM2.5 Plan in September.

Ag Groups Visit Assemblywoman Atkins' District

After Assemblywoman Toni Atkins (76th Assembly District – San Diego) spent two days visiting agricultural operations in the San Joaquin Valley including a cotton harvest and a cotton gin, the Association partnered with other organizations in the Agricultural Presidents' Council (APC) and visited her District. We spent two days in San Diego, with the first day spent touring various sites in the District and the second day touring agricultural operations in San Diego County. The effort is to help build upon the relationships established during the tours to the valley and gives us a unique opportunity to learn about issues that the constituents in her district are facing. Interestingly, one of the visits was with the San Diego Water Authority who purchases some of their water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. As a result, approximately 17% of the water used by folks in San Diego comes from the Delta through the State Water Project.



CCGGA Executive Vice President Roger Isom is shown here standing next to Assemblywoman Toni Atkins at a Border Patrol lookout along the US-Mexico Border.

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. Notice of the meeting was published in the July 18 *Federal Register*. The proposed framework includes a tiered process developed in conjunction with Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency and the California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation for evaluating risks to pollinators from pesticides. The meeting will focus on the proposed process, with EPA providing an overview, as well as the exposure and effects data needed to support that process. EPA also is seeking nominations of candidates to serve as ad hoc members of the SAP for this meeting.

Southeast Producers in San Joaquin Valley Agriculture

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 first-

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hand 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 Tranquility 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 Bax-

ley, 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.

