



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

February 2014

Volume 25, Issue 2

Industry Calendar

February 26

JCIBPC Mtg—
Memphis, TN

March 13

Grower Board
Mtg—
Fresno

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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CCGGA Handling Sticky Situation

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and UC Cooperative Extension held a 2014 Insect Review and Sticky Cotton Meeting held at West Side Research and Extension Center. The meeting included several



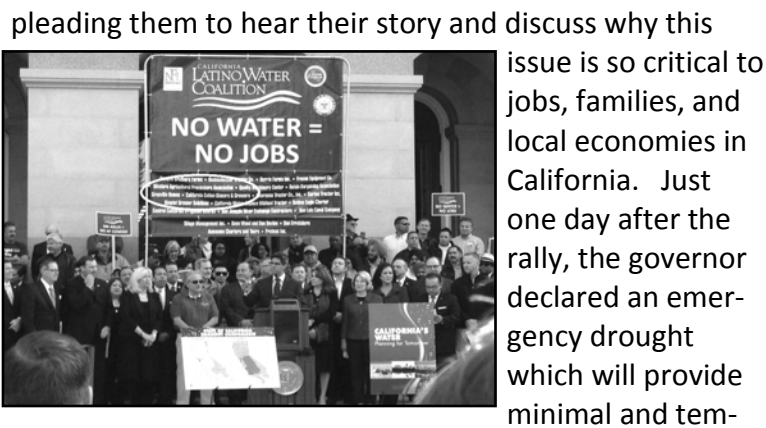
guest speakers throughout the industry including UCCE Advisor Peter Goodell, Cotton Inc.'s Director of Quality Research and Product Evaluation, Greg Palla from SJVQCGA, UCD Entomologist Larry Godfrey and several other players within the cotton industry. The meeting sought to gather input from growers, PCA's and ginners about incidences of Sticky Cotton and management strategies that proved effective and ineffective and other characteristics noted in the 2013 growing season. The meeting allowed interested parties to understand how it happened, where it happened, and steps for 2014 to avoid sticky cotton. Several people at the field level described high populations of whitefly appearing earlier than expected and by keeping thresholds very low were able to limit the damage to the crop. A general consensus was made that the Arizona IPM plan for whiteflies isn't 100% transferrable to California and changes will need to be made to be effective in avoiding unmanageable whitefly populations and ultimately sticky cotton. Furthermore, participants acknowledged that refresher educational materials for managing white fly would also be especially helpful to those involved in pest management decisions in cotton fields.

The issue of Sticky Cotton is a serious one for the sustainability of the California cotton industry and one that the California Cotton Industry does not take lightly. Sticky Cotton will especially cause problems in the mills and could lead to certain gins being identified and as a result

experience a loss in sales. Another meeting is being planned for June 2014 to refresh growers, PCAs and others about the best and most practical strategies for management of whiteflies to avoid sticky cotton in 2014. Remember, the only solution to sticky cotton is prevention!

CCGGA Participates In and Supports Huge Water Rally

As part of our efforts on water, the CCGGA participated in and helped sponsor a huge water rally this week at the State Capitol in Sacramento. The Association's Director of Regulatory Affairs **Aimee Brooks** led the Association's efforts in Sacramento where over 1,000 supporters joined with a bipartisan group of legislators calling for the governor to declare a drought emergency, and to encourage passage of the water bond and for more storage. Buses from all over the state descended upon the Capitol where chants rallied for immediate action on water, including supporting the passage of the Water Bond on the 2014 Election Ballot. Legislators and other supporters took to the capitol and declared their support for changes to water policy, including a 2014 Water Bond. Supporters then entered the Capitol in groups of twenty or more, where they knocked on legislator's doors



pleading them to hear their story and discuss why this issue is so critical to jobs, families, and local economies in California. Just one day after the rally, the governor declared an emergency drought which will provide minimal and temporary relief by loosening restrictions on water transfers among other limited administrative powers the governor can initiate. In addition to these changes, the declaration serves as an important public relations tool to draw the attention of the federal government, who could still help with relief efforts.

New Poster Requirements for 2014

Time to take down those old posters and replace them with the updated versions! The changes made to workplace employment posters for January 2014 include: For more information and a complete listing of posting requirements in California, visit : <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/puborder.asp>.

Poster	Website to download
Cal/OSHA Poster – <i>Revised June 2013</i>	http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/shpstreng012000.pdf
California Minimum Wage - <i>Revised July 2014</i>	http://www.dir.ca.gov/iwc/MW-2014.pdf
Fair Employment and Housing – Discrimination Poster- <i>Revised November 2013</i>	http://www.dfeh.ca.gov/res/docs/Publications/DFEH-162-2014.pdf
CA Notice of Withholding – <i>Revised Nov. 2013</i>	http://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de35.pdf
EDD Notice regarding Unemployment, SDI, and Paid Family Leave – <i>Revised Nov. 2013</i>	http://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de1857a.pdf
CA Whistleblowers Protection Act – <i>Revised Nov. 2013</i>	http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/WhistleblowersNotice.pdf
Federal FMLA Notice – <i>Revised Feb. 2013</i>	http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/fmlaen.pdf

Bees & Pesticide: NCC Proves Proactive in Protecting

Scrutiny surrounding crop protection products and pollinator health is at an all-time high. Our partners at the National Cotton Council (NCC) remain committed and actively involved in honey bee health and pollinator protection

over the past five years. Here are just a few ways the NCC and others have proven their commitment to honey bee health.

- NCC Staff Serves on the Pollinator Work Group that focuses on Pesticide Labeling to Protect Pollinators
- NCC has participated in numerous conferences held by USDA, USDA-NRS to ensure crop producer representation.
- The Cotton Foundation provided funding for multi-state and crop research projects studying seed treatment residues in crops.
- NCC has coordinated support for a request by the American honey producers Association asking USDA to host a “Varroa Summit”. (Feb 18-19, 2014)

NCC has also been closely tracking a variety of topics surrounding bee protection, including new labeling requirements for foliar uses of Neonicotinoid products, EPA’s intent to expand pollinator protection language, a lawsuit against an EPA insecticide registration, among many others. In addition to NCC’s involvement, state agriculture departments across the United States have taken action to discuss issues associated with pollinator protection including “Stewardship Programs” and “Pollinator Summits” to ensure open communication and to better understand how to best coexist. With this issue at the forefront of legislator’s and regulator’s minds, NCC and CCGGA highly encourage

producers to closely examine labels regarding pollinator protection guidelines. It is of utmost importance to the cotton industry to preserve crop protection capabilities while ensuring pollinators are protected.

USDA Launches Effort to Assist California Producers Affected by Drought

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced USDA will make \$20 million available for agricultural water conservation efforts throughout California to combat the effects of

drought. Interested landowners and managers have until March 3, 2014 to apply for available funds.

"Working with our federal, state, and local partners, we are doing everything within our power to support those farmers and ranchers affected by this intense drought." said Vilsack. USDA is announcing this additional funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help agricultural operators use water more efficiently, stabilize fallowed cropland, and protect their livelihoods for the future. Funds are available statewide to install a number of conservation practices including irrigation efficiency, cover crops, rehabilitation of existing spring developments, protection of grazing lands, and other supporting components. Funds will be divided between two specific funding pools: cropland and grazing lands. Cropland with a reduced water allocation of at least 85 percent will receive the highest priority. In order to be considered eligible for EQIP, the applicant must have a vested interest in agricultural production and meet other program eligibility requirements. For additional information, eligible landowners are encouraged to contact their local NRCS Service Center. Service center locations and more information on the drought initiative can be found at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov.

OSHA Summary Posting Requirement - Reminder

Don't forget to post the OSHA Form 300A (summary) beginning February 1st! Employers must post a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred during 2013. The summary must be posted from **February 1 to April 30, 2014**. Form 300A information comes from Cal/OSHA Log 300, which details work-related injuries and illnesses that occurred. Employers who experienced no workplace injuries or illnesses in 2013 should place zeroes in the total lines and still post the form. Should you have questions, please don't hesitate to call Elda Brueggemann in our office at (559)455-9272.

Memoriam

Monty M. Lee, known to everyone as Mike, passed away January 20, 2014. He was 59. Mike started in the ginning business in 1972 at Producer's Cotton Oil. He learned to gin from his father, Shorty, who was also employed with Producer's. Mike survived the merger of Anderson Clayton Company and Producer's Cotton Oil and left Anderson Clayton Company in 1995 to join South Valley Gins, Inc. as their Gin Superintendent. Mike will be deeply missed by family, friends and coworkers. As one person stated: He is one of the last of the real diehards in the ginning industry.

CLASSING AVERAGES

January 30, 2014

Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2012	2013
CA Saw Upland	364,991	248,651
CA Roller Upland	161,267	84,222
Pima	707,783	576,147
CA Saw Upland	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.28	4.34
Color Grade % 21+	78.2	63.3
Color Grade % 31	18.9	21.7
Color Grade % 41	0.9	10.8
Length Avg.	36.69	36.76
Strength Avg.	32.85	33.10
Uniformity Avg.	81.57	81.65
Leaf Distribution 1	11.6	10.4
Leaf Distribution 2	55.6	49.9
Leaf Distribution 3	29.4	34.3
Leaf Distribution 4	3.0	4.2
CA Roller Upland	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.35	4.45
Color Grade % 21+	79.1	61.5
Color Grade % 31	16.8	34.4
Color Grade % 41	0.4	0.4
Length Avg.	38.88	39.34
Strength Avg.	34.03	34.12
Uniformity Avg.	83.26	83.24
Leaf Distribution 1	9.2	9.2
Leaf Distribution 2	62.6	64.8
Leaf Distribution 3	26.2	25.6
Leaf Distribution 4	1.8	1.2
All Pima	2012	2013
Mike Avg.	4.02	4.00
Color Grade % 1	56.2	57.7
Color Grade % 2	39.3	39.5
Color Grade % 3	4.1	2.6
Color Grade % 4	0.3	0.2
Length Avg.	47.50	48.03
Strength Avg.	42.63	43.39
Uniformity Avg.	85.46	85.43
Leaf Distribution 1	29.2	31.1
Leaf Distribution 2	57.9	60.3
Leaf Distribution 3	11.7	8.1
Leaf Distribution 4	1.0	0.6

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
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PRESORTED STANDARD
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Newsletter Sponsor: **PhytoGen**



24th Annual Meeting
of the
California Cotton Growers Association

Thursday, March 13th, 2014
9:00am

Harris Ranch
Coalinga, California

Registration and Coffee at 8:30 am
Program Starts at 9:00 am

There will be Association reports together with important industry issues discussions and updates. A sponsored luncheon for all guests will follow program. Please plan to attend!

**Please RSVP to Shana Colby @ shana@ccgga.org OR call (559) 252-0684!*

Super Bolls



The learning never stops for Kern County cotton grower

There is a mantra that many Silicon Valley “techies” subscribe to – permanent beta. It means a lifelong commitment to continuous personal growth. While no one would confuse Silicon Valley (tall buildings) with Kern County (tall cotton), there is one Kern County grower who farms in permanent beta. Travis Fugitt, 29, along with his dad and grandfather, operate Fugitt Farms, a diversified farm that grows cotton, alfalfa, carrots, wheat and almonds.

“If we’re not learning and experimenting and trying new things,” Fugitt says, “then we’re falling behind. The farm is always trying new practices. It is the only way to get better.”

Field Preparation

Tillage is one cultural practice that has evolved on Fugitt Farms. “We are under conservation tillage now,” he says. “Three years ago, we would make seven passes through fields between cotton harvest and cotton planting. Now we make three or four. We’ve found that the extra plant residue on the surface may not look good, but it is a cosmetic thing only. The cotton continues to grow as it did before and our yields are equal or better.”

The way a farmer learns has also evolved. Twenty years ago, a grower might drive the perimeter of his farm to see what

his neighbors are doing, then meet up at a local diner to discuss things. That still happens. But with cell phones and the internet, now a cotton grower in Kern County can just as easily learn from a cotton-growing “neighbor” in Los Banos, the mid-south or Australia. (Fugitt has contacts in all three of those areas.)

In addition to (old school) email, Fugitt maintains Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. He regularly posts information about his farm. Then other growers post. Then they share. Then they learn.

“Using social media is a huge advantage to me.”

“Using social media is a huge advantage to me,” he says. “I love it. I communicate with growers scattered across the nation that follow completely different practices. I’m not hesitant about asking what they are doing and why. They ask questions, too. I had an entire conversation with a grower in the south about the reasons why we go 30 inches deep with our ripper. We’d go back and forth and try to solve the equation.”

On-Farm Trials

Still, nothing beats experiments on his own farm for the best learning. In 2013, Travis' ATA Farms dedicated a 60-acre field to a PhytoGen Pima trial. The field was split evenly into three varieties – PHY 805 RF, PHY 802 RF and PHY 811 RF. All three varieties yielded more than 3 bales per acre, a goal they try to achieve every year with Pima varieties.

Pima Acres to Increase

For 2014, Fugitt expects more of their acres to be planted to Pima varieties. "I expect most growers in the state to plant more Pima if they can," he says. "Right now, there is more than a dollar and twenty cent gap (per pound) between the price of Pima and the price of Acala. We can grow Pimas within a quarter bale per acre of Acalas, so it's a no-brainer."

Selecting Pima varieties starts with traits. "All our Pimas have to have Roundup Ready Flex," he says. "Some people cuss the tech fee, but there are so few options for weed control if we plant conventional varieties. Plus, planting Roundup Ready cotton allows us to clean up weedy fields. A cotton field that follows an alfalfa field will have four years worth of weed seeds built up. We have to have Roundup Ready to combat that."

Yield potential is also important when choosing a Pima variety. "Yields are one of those things that you need to see to believe," he says. "If I read about or hear someone raving about a new variety, I want to go see it in person."

Custom Harvesting

One of Fugitt's best learning opportunities comes at harvest when he is seated in his cotton picker. Fugitt not only picks the cotton for his farm, but runs a custom harvesting business with a handful of John Deere cotton pickers. "I have good relationships with my growers," he says. "They know I have my eyes on a lot of fields. We share what we see – good and bad – so that everyone can improve."

Having a permanent beta mindset combined with the accessibility and depth of the internet, Fugitt could get lost delving into endless educational opportunities. "That's where you need a good filter for information," he says. "I can usually tell whether an article will be helpful to me within the first two paragraphs. If it is not helpful, I move on. Besides, at some point, you need to put down the phone and drive the tractor."

Instagram: Fugitt11

Facebook: /travis.fugitt

Twitter: @TFugitt

To Learn More

contact your cottonseed dealer or your PhytoGen representative.

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