



The Cotton Chronicle

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

www.ccgga.org

March 2014

Volume 25, Issue 3

Industry Calendar

March 13

Grower Board &
Annual Mtg—
Harris Ranch
Coalinga

April 16

Ginners School &
Managerial Seminar—
Corcoran

*(Visit web calendar
for details)*

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National Cotton Council Holds Farm Bill Briefings

The National Cotton Council has scheduled 49 education meetings in 15 Cotton Belt states to provide our members with a better understanding of The Agricultural Act of 2014. The first four meetings will be held on February 24th and 25th in South Texas. The other meetings will be conducted during the period of March 17-25. This new five-year comprehensive farm law includes fundamental changes in cotton's safety net, a greater reliance on crop insurance products and will be implemented over the 2014 and 2015 crops. All producers, cotton industry firms and agribusinesses are encouraged to attend any of these important meetings. A schedule of meetings in California is as follows:

Bakersfield – March 18, 9:00 a.m.

Kern Ag Pavilion,
3300 East Belle Terrace

Coalinga – March 17, 2:00 p.m.

Harris Ranch – Garden Ballroom,
I-5 & Highway 198

Dos Palos – March 17, 9:00 a.m.

D.E.S. Hall, 1357 Elgin Avenue (Hwy 33)



Perea Introduces Bipartisan Water Bond Bill Proposal

Assemblymember Henry T. Perea (D-Fresno) and joint authors **Assemblymember Adam Gray** (D-Merced) and **Assemblymember Rudy Salas** (D-Bakersfield) along with co-author **Senator Anthony Cannella** (R-Ceres) introduced a comprehensive water bond proposal. Because Assembly Bill (AB) 2686 is the water bond proposal that provides enough funding to complete the water

infrastructure investments California needs, it is supported by a bipartisan coalition of legislators and various stakeholders with diverse interests.

“Amongst the various water bond proposals, AB 2686 is the only proposal that offers a framework with the funding and priorities to properly plan for California’s water future,” said **Assemblymember Perea**. “With surface storage, clean and safe drinking water, and Delta sustainability at the forefront of my proposal, Californians will keep their jobs and be able to put food on the table. This bond goes beyond satisfying the immediate needs the drought has created –it provides for generations to come.”



AB 2686 sets the bond at \$9.25 billion. The proposal is broken down as follows:

- **\$3 billion: Water Storage Infrastructure**
- **\$1 billion: Clean and Safe Drinking water**
- **\$2.25 billion: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Sustainability**

- **\$1.5 billion: Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, & Watersheds**
- **\$1.5 billion: Climate Change Preparedness for Regional Water Security**

An important aspect of AB 2686 is that it includes continuous appropriation for the surface storage component, meaning that funds will be locked in to these projects and cannot be re-appropriated elsewhere by the Legislature.

CCGGA Hosts Legislators at “Kitchen Dinner” Event in Sacramento

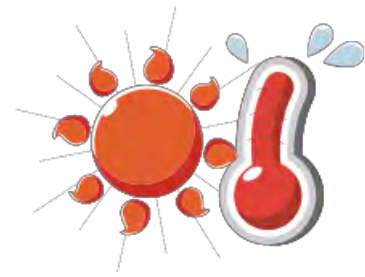
The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations hosted Assemblyman Bill Quirk, Assemblyman Jim Patterson, Assemblywoman Chryl Brown, Assemblyman Ken Cooley, Assemblyman Bob Wiecewski, and Assemblyman Adam Gray as part of the Annual Agricultural Presidents Council (APC) “Kitchen Dinner” Event in Sacramento this past month. This event is a special “invitation only” event held at the “Kitchen Restaurant” in Sacramento for select members legislators and sponsored by members of the APC. The legislators have a sit down dinner with the hosting organizations in essentially a one-on-one format for the evening. Co-hosted by the agricultural organizations that make up the APC, this year’s event attracted 23 legislators including the following:

Assembly Member Bill Quirk
Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman
Assembly Member Henry Perea
Assembly Member Luis Alejo
Assembly Member Marc Levine
Assembly Member Jim Patterson
Assembly Member Chris Holden
Assembly Member Bob Wiecewski
Assembly Member Brian Dahle
Assembly Member Connie Conway
Assembly Member Toni Atkins
Assembly Member Kristen Olsen
Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian
Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
Assembly Member Richard Bloom
Assembly Member Richard Pan
Assembly Member Cheryl Brown
Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assembly Member Frank Bigelow
Assembly Member Ken Cooley
Assembly Member Jose Medina
Senator Anthony Cannella
Senator Tom Berryhill

Agricultural organizations co-hosting the event were the **Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Citrus Mutual, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, California Rice Commission, California Strawberry Commission, Western Plant Health Association, Far West Equipment Dealers Association, California Cut Flower Commission and California Agricultural Aircraft Association**. The events provide the Association and its leadership an opportunity to meet new legislators, as well as veteran ones, and educate them on the critical issues facing our industry. Attending on behalf of CCGGA included **Ginners 1st Vice Chairman Tom Pires, Growers Chairman Cannon Michael, President/CEO Roger Isom and Vice President Casey Creamer**. Each and every legislator received a special California Agriculture gift bag, which included cotton handkerchiefs and cotton mini-bales from the Association.

CCGGA Opposes Changes to Heat Illness Standard – AGAIN!

In a Cal/OSHA Advisory Committee, CCGGA once again stood up and opposed proposed changes to allegedly strengthen Title 8, Section 3395 – Heat Illness Prevention. Pressured by the labor groups including the United Farm Workers (UFW), and the California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), Cal/OSHA is proposing to change the standard by the following:



- Change distance to water from “close as practicable” to 200 feet at any time
 - Change distance to shade from “close as practicable” to 400 feet at any time
 - Change shade trigger temperature from 85 degrees to all daylight working hours from May thru October, and shade up at 80 degrees from November thru April
 - Change amount of shade from 25% of employees to 100% of employees
 - Change “high heat” provisions trigger temperature from 95 degrees down to 85 degrees
 - Require 15 minute breaks every two hours of work
 - Require pre-shift training on high heat procedures
 - Implement “buddy system” for all employees working in high heat circumstances
 - Require written Heat Illness Prevention Program
- CCGGA urged Cal/OSHA to provide proof that changing the standard will reduce heat illness. CCGGA President/

CEO Roger Isom testified that the concern is with non-compliance, not with making these restrictions any tighter than they already are. Following this meeting, CCGGA participated in a meeting with the Department of Industrial Relations to express these concerns with making these regulations any more onerous than they already are. As a result of that meeting, changes will be made to the proposal. At this point in time we do not know the extent of those changes, but will be following the issue closely.

Changes Coming for EPA’s WPS?

Earlier this month the EPA announced it would pursue changes to the Agricultural Worker Standard to increase protections from pesticide exposure. Some of the proposed changes include:

- Annual mandatory trainings for farm workers, including information regarding employee protections under the law, appropriate use of PPE, reducing take home exposure, access to information and other safety topics
- Expanded mandatory “NO ENTRY” posting for the most hazardous pesticides
- Minimum age requirements
- New “No Entry” 25-100 feet buffer areas surrounding pesticide treated fields
- Mandatory record keeping
- PPE use consistent with OSHA standards
- Make available pesticide labels or SDS to farmworkers, their advocates.

While California currently has many of these WPS’s in place, potential changes might be troublesome. CCGGA is closely monitoring this proposed revision to the EPA’s WPS.

Continuing Education (CE) Credits for the Certified Ginners Program

Continuing Education (CE) Credits for the *Certified Ginners Program* will also be made available during the *Cotton Ginning School*. A two day CE course will be available in addition to the three course levels. For the Western School, this class will take place on the Tuesday and Wednesday of the Ginners School. As a reminder, to maintain your certification you must complete twelve hours of CE credits in a three year period. Re-taking Ginner’s School course work, levels I-III will provide CE credit. Additionally, the Beltwide Cotton Conference provides CE credits and participation in local workshops, seminars, schools, and tradeshow also may be eligible for CE credit. There are

CLASSING AVERAGES

February 6, 2014

Visalia Classing Office

Bales Classed	2012	2013
CA Saw Upland	364,991	248,651
CA Roller Upland	161,267	84,222
Pima	750,739	589,458
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	39.4
Color Grade % 3	4.1	2.7
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	30.9
Leaf Distribution 2	57.9	60.5
Leaf Distribution 3	11.7	8.0
Leaf Distribution 4	1.0	0.6

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additional Certification Program requirements that must be met aside from CE hours, including a written recommendation, first aid certification, and others. More information and questions regarding the Certification Program & Continuing Education Requirements can be directed to **Harrison Ashley at (901) 274-9030 and on the National Cotton Ginners Association website at: <http://www.cotton.org/ncga/index.cfm>**

CCGGA Testifies on Scoping Plan

At an informational hearing of the Air Resources Board's Updated Scoping Plan, Vice President **Casey Creamer** repeated comments made previously on the impacts our membership will face with reducing greenhouse gas targets past AB 32 goals. When AB 32 was initially passed, the State envisioned taking a leadership role and other states and nations would be enacting similar policies. Since AB 32's passage in 2006, we have seen the opposite effect. With this Updated Scoping Plan ARB was attempting to lay the foundation for setting significantly lower GHG reduction targets without legislative approval. For the past two years, the Association has led efforts challenging ARB's authority for future reduction setting. Initially, ARB staff believed that they had the authority and continued on a path that would lead to damaging future regulations on agriculture and rising input costs. After the Associations'

testimony at the hearing, Chair Mary Nichols said she agreed with our comments and that they need to "engage" the legislature on an issue that could seriously alter the California economy. We'll have to wait and see what the word "engage" means. There are several post AB 32 bills being introduced this year that the Associations will be closely monitoring.



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 @ OR call (559) 252-0684!*