



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

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Industry Calendar

Dec 1
Grower Board
Mtg—
Fresno

Dec 9
Ginner Board Mtg—
Fresno

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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CalOSHA Standards Board Considers Revisions to Heat Illness Standard

CalOSHA held a hearing this past month in San Diego on the proposed revisions to their proposed revisions to the Heat Illness Standard. The proposed changes include requiring water



to be within 400 feet, shade within 700 feet that covers 100% of all employees, and mandatory 10 minute breaks every two hours when the temperature hits 95 degrees. **CCGGA President/CEO Roger Isom** testified on the issue stating that the distance requirements were not only impractical but not justified. Isom asked the board to consider the basis for the changes, stating that CalOSHA staff had not provided any justification for the changes. Isom also testified on the confusion and burdensome paperwork that would be required to track both breaks for heat illness and breaks already mandated under current labor law. Comments were given throughout the day, and the CalOSHA Standards Board directed staff to “go back to the drawing board”.

Californian Named FSA Administrator

Val Dolcini was selected to serve as the Administrator for the Farm Service Agency in September 2014. He previously served as state executive director of the California Farm Service Agency, a position he was appointed to in 1999 by President Bill Clinton and again in 2009 by President Barack Obama. Dolcini also served as the acting Farm Service Agency Administrator in 2011. As state executive director, Dolcini was responsible for overseeing 30 county offices responsible for administering farm programs and policies in one of the nation’s largest agricultural states. Dolcini has many years of public and private leadership experience. Prior to accepting the state executive director position, he managed government relations activities for Accenture LLC, a global consulting firm. In that position, he strategized with business

teams about relationship development and consulted on a wide range of political matters. He previously served in a senior staff position for the California governor and lieutenant governor as well as members of the U.S. House of Representatives. A fifth-generation Californian and a native of Davis, CA, Dolcini has served on numerous non-profit boards and commissions in his community.

DPR 2013 Air Monitoring Shows Most Pesticides Well Below Health Screening Levels

For the third year in a row, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) air monitoring in various California rural agricultural communities shows that the majority of the monitored pesticides were found well below levels that indicate a health concern or need

further evaluation. DPR's air monitoring network, was established to expand DPR's knowledge of the potential health risks of long-term exposure to pesticides. In 2013, as part of its commitment to statewide air monitoring, DPR monitored 32 pesticides and five pesticide breakdown products in three California communities: Salinas (Monterey County), Shafter (Kern County) and Ripon (San Joaquin County). These communities, part of the DPR air monitoring network (AMN), were selected from a list of 226 communities based on pesticide use on surrounding farmland and demographics, including the percentage of children, the elderly and farmworkers in the local population. The pesticides were selected based on their potential health risks and the amount used. They include all the major fumigants, as well as chlorpyrifos. Overall, the AMN 2013 report found that 92.9 percent of the 6,033 analyses (number of samples times the number of chemicals analyzed) resulted in no detectable concentrations.

Other key findings include:

- Of the 32 pesticides and five breakdown products that were monitored, 13 could not be detected at all and 10 were only detected at trace levels.
- The pesticides detected the most often were chlorothalonil, chlorpyrifos and MITC. They were found at all three locations about 30 percent of the time, at air concentrations that were low relative to the screening levels.
- For 2013, nearly all measured pesticide air concentrations were less than DPR's regulatory targets or screening levels. Chloropicrin was detected slightly above a DPR screening level. 1,3-D did not exceed a DPR screening level.

California is the only state that monitors air as part of its continuous evaluation of pesticides to ensure the protection of workers, public health and the environment.

Time for Food Facility Biennial Registration Renewal

Food facilities required to register with FDA must renew their food facility registrations this year **during the period beginning on October 1, 2014 and ending on December 31, 2014**. The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), enacted on January 4, 2011, amended the food facility registration requirements of section 415 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act). The registration requirements apply to domestic and foreign food facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United

States, including cotton gins. FSMA amended section 415 of the FD&C Act to provide that food facilities required to register with FDA must renew their registrations with FDA every other year, during the period beginning on October 1 and ending on December 31 of each even-numbered year. To renew, please click on the following link: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FoodFacilityRegistration/default.htm?>

EPA Proposes 14 Areas of the Country as Non-attainment for PM2.5

U.S. EPA has proposed designating 14 areas in six states as out of compliance with the 2012 pollution standard for airborne fine particulates (PM2.5). In 2012, EPA tightened



the particulate limit from 15 micrograms per cubic meter to 12 micrograms per cubic meter, based on information about health effects. The list of 14 areas out of compliance with the standard is based on monitoring data from 2011 to 2013. The nonattainment areas are in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, California and Idaho. For California, the following counties are listed as not meeting the standard: Plumas, **San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Orange and Imperial** Counties. EPA is accepting public comment on the list until the end of the month. States with nonattainment areas have 120 days to work with the agency and provide more information before EPA makes a final decision. Under the Clean Air Act,

states with areas not meeting the federal standard must come up with plans to reduce pollution from sources of fine particulate matter, primarily combustions sources including trucks and tractors.

California Small Businesses May Be Eligible For Injury Disaster Loans

A press release sent out by the United States Small Business Administration in late September may hold some good news for small businesses affected by the drought. Small, nonfarm businesses are now eligible to apply for low interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. These loans are made available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agriculture disaster, which occurred on September 17th, 2014 when Secretary Tom Vilsack declared the drought a disaster. The program, known as The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) will cover 57 California counties and neighboring counties in Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon. The loans have been created to help offset the harsh economic impact of the current drought that began January 1, 2014. The EIDL eligibility will be limited to small, nonfarm businesses, small agriculture cooperatives, private nonprofit organizations (any size), and small businesses engaged in aquaculture. These entities may qualify for up to \$2 million to help offset operating expenses and financial commitments which could have been made if the drought wasn't present. It is important to note that eligibility for the loans is based on financial impact and not any actual property damage. The EIDL loans have an interest rate of 4% for businesses and 2.625% for private, nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years and will be made available for qualified entities that do not have the financial ability to offset the impact of the drought without hardship. Deadline to apply for these loans is May 18, 2015. Applicants may register online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure WEB site at <https://disasterload.sba.gov/ela>. Additional information can be obtained through the SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955 or emailing mdisastercustomerservice@sba.gov

CDFA to Initiate Second Round of Funding for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET)

There is a bit of good news coming out of CDFA recently, as they will start their second round of financial assistance to install water distribution systems that help reduce greenhouse gases and conserve water. The program titled State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) was authorized by emergency drought legislation. Agriculture

operations looking at energy and water conservation projects (pump improvements, equipment to facilitate water saving measures and other quantifiable water distribution and greenhouse gas reduction management practices) could be provided with up to \$150,000.

CDFA will begin accepting applications on September 29, 2014. Details regarding eligibility information and program requirements can be accessed at www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SWEET. To expedite the application process, CDFA is partnering with the State Water Resources Control Board, which hosts an online application using the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST). All applicants must register for a FAAST account at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>. The deadline to submit electronically to FAAST is Friday, November 10, 2014 at 5:00 PM (PST).

To help with program requirements and for more information about the program, CDFA will hold three application workshops to help with the application process. The workshop is free but individuals are encouraged to RSVP to grants@cdfa.ca.gov with their contact information, number of seats required and workshop location.

Workshop Locations:

- **Fresno – October 6, 2014**
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Fresno County Ag Commissioner's Office
1730 S. Maple Avenue
West Wing Conference Room #1
Fresno, CA 93702
- **San Luis Obispo – October 8, 2014**
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
San Luis Obispo County Ag Commissioner's Office
Auditorium
2156 Sierra Way,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
- **Sacramento – October 13, 2014**
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
California Department of Food and Agriculture
Auditorium
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
- **Webinar – October 16, 2014**
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PST)
Webinar Information will be provided upon registration.



California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
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Ag Energy Conference Coming

The Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA) and the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) are hosting a special Agricultural Renewable Energy Conference and Expo to be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center on November 12th. The conference will run from 8 am to 4 pm. This one-day Conference and Expo will bring hundreds of leading California growers, dairy producers and agricultural processors together with utilities, renewable energy developers and vendors to explore trends in energy rates, renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities. Two panels will discuss solar

and bioenergy opportunities, programs and industry trends. Conference participants will hear first-hand from other farmers, processors and industry experts about successful renewable energy projects and have the opportunity to visit with vendors about renewable energy potential at their operations. For details, please visit their website at www.agprocessors.org.

