



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

Jan 5– 7
Beltwide Cotton
Conferences—
New Orleans, LA

Feb 5– 7
NCC Annual
Meeting—
Dallas, TX

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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2015 Cotton Research and Promotion Program Hall of Fame Recipients Inducted

This month, Cotton Incorporated honored the 2015 class of the Cotton Research and Promotion Hall of Fame. The program, now in its second year, recognizes U.S. cotton industry leaders that have made significant contributions to the Program or to the cotton industry in general.

"The vision of cotton industry leaders in the 1950s and 1960s created The Cotton Research and Promotion Program at a time in history when there was a need to join together and form a movement to battle synthetic competitors and re-establish markets for cotton. These leaders and the public/private partnership they created gave the cotton industry a second life," said **Bill Gillon**, President and CEO of the **Cotton Board**. "The Hall of Fame Honorees helped implement that vision by making significant contributions to cotton's competitiveness." **The five honorees for the 2015 Cotton Research and Promotion Hall of fame include: Dr. Fred Bourland (Arkansas); David Burns (North Carolina); Jim Hansen (California); Dr. Preston Sasser (North Carolina); and Hugh Summeville (Alabama).** **Dr. Fred Bourland** is acknowledged for his extensive contributions to U.S. cotton plant breeding. In a career spanning more than 40

years, Bourland developed valuable plant measurements and techniques that aided the release of more than 80 cotton lines (germplasm and cultivars) for the Mid-South region.

David Burns served as Cotton Board Chairman during the integration of importers to the Board.



In this role, Burns facilitated the easy assimilation of the importer constituency to the Program, and kept growers and importers focused on common

goals.

Jim Hansen has provided outstanding leadership to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program in a variety of roles. He is the only person to serve as both Chairman of the Cotton Incorporated Board of Directors, and Chairman of the Cotton Board. Mr. Hansen also has served as Chairman of Supima and is a long-time board member of California Cotton Growers and Ginners Association.

Dr. Preston E. Sasser is widely regarded as one of the cotton industry's leading research experts. During his tenure as Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Cotton Incorporated's Research Division, Dr. Sasser led research that addressed health issues in cotton textile processing, and oversaw the development and implementation of cotton-testing technology.

Hugh Summeville elevated the participation of the Board of Directors during his time as Cotton

Incorporated Chairman, and fostered the strong relationship between the Cotton Board and Cotton Incorporated that still exists today. He was also a champion of the Cotton Incorporated World Headquarters and its role as an incubator for cotton innovation. "The cotton industry as we know it today was shaped by innovative thinking and strong leadership," says **Berrye Worsham, President and CEO of Cotton Incorporated**. "The 2015 Hall of Fame inductees embody these attributes and their contributions have had a lasting impact on the industry." **Cotton Board Chairman, Aaron Barcellos** of Los Banos, California, said, "By recognizing past leaders and innovators, we remind ourselves of the hard work and dedication required to make cotton the preferred fiber for the world. Their efforts inspire the leaders of the Research and Promotion Program today as cotton again faces significant competitive challenges. We will continue to work with the industry's future 'hall-of-fame' leaders to find new answers for cotton and secure the industry's future," Barcellos said. The honorees were formally inducted into the Cotton Research and Promotion Program Hall of Fame at the joint Cotton Incorporated/Cotton Board Annual Meeting this month.

Air District Receives Nearly \$6 Million in Federal Grant Funding

The Valley Air District will augment its highly successful grant program with an additional nearly **\$6 million in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) funding** to replace old agricultural tractors and dirty residential wood burning devices. "Grant funds such as these recognize the hard work and sacrifice being made by Valley farmers, businesses and residents to expedite emission reductions in the San Joaquin Valley," stated **Seyed Sadedin**, Air Pollution Control Officer of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. "With these funds the EPA is acknowledging the unique challenges of the Valley and providing much needed financial assistance." The nearly \$6 million in funding is from two federal grant programs; the Targeted Air Shed Grant Program and the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Program. "With this financial assistance, EPA and San Joaquin Valley farmers are working together to improve air quality and promote the use of clean, cutting-edge tractors," said **Jared Blumenfeld**, EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. \$2,483,607 of the Targeted Air Shed Grant Program funding will be spent on replacing approximately 187 agricultural tractors under the District's very successful Tractor Replacement Program. The District also received an additional \$1 million from the DERA program.

The \$1 million will fund the replacement of approximately 75 agricultural tractors and is estimated to reduce 169 tons of NOx emissions and 28 tons of PM emissions over the project lifetime of 10 years. The Association was recognized for its contributions and assistance in the funding effort at a press conference at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District today.

Growers Association Announces Election Results

Elections for the California Cotton Growers Association Board of Directors was held this past month for Fresno and Merced Counties. Earning re-election were Directors **Mark McKean, Gary Martin, Andrew Clark, and Vincent Marshall** from Fresno County, and Directors **Robert McDonald and Cannon Michael** from Merced County. Stepping down after several years of valued service is Director **Bob Wilson** from Fresno County. Wilson was recognized for his years of service and contributions to the Association.

CCGGA Continues Battle on Aboveground Tanks

In recent weeks, Kern County has issued Notices of Violation (NOVs) to aboveground tank owners for failing to have permits for aboveground tanks, and for having tanks not in compliance with the State Fire Code. This stems from the events of last year, where the Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) issued an Information Bulletin (14-005) that prohibits the use of underground fuel storage tanks (USTs) as aboveground fuel storage tanks (ASTs). Issued on July 25th, 2014, the bulletin specifically cites the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 30 standard, section 21.3.4, which says "Tanks designed and intended for underground use shall not be used as aboveground tanks". The OSFM is concerned that these former USTs are not of the same construction as ASTs and pose a significant risk to firefighters. The use of former underground storage tanks as aboveground storage tanks was common practice for many years, and can be found on many farms and agricultural processing operations. OSFM claims in the bulletin that "the design, construction, and installation standards of USTs are different than ASTs, and therefore, a problem. The Association expressed concerns with this information bulletin, which was issued without notifying tank owners of this issue and without widespread public input. This concern was outlined in a February 5, 2014 letter to OSFM signed by **California Citrus Mutual, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, California Fresh Fruit Association, Merced County Farm Bureau, Nisei Farmers League, Tulare County Farm Bureau, Western Agricultural Proces-**

sors Association, and Western Growers Association. In this letter, these organizations expressed concerns with the cost of immediately eliminating these tanks and the lack of data supporting the prohibition. This was most recently made clear again in a meeting with the OSFM and CalFire late last year when **CCGGA/WAPA President/CEO Roger Isom** reaffirmed the position that it is inappropriate to require farmers to replace these tanks when it was legal to do so at the time the tanks were installed. In addition, the Association also expressed concern with overlapping regulations with other State and Local agencies. One of which could triple the cost of replacing the tank. If the tank in question is used for the storage of “gasoline”, then air pollution control regulations are applicable. In a recent example, a grower replaced some old tanks with a new double walled tank to avoid having to build a costly containment basin. However, in doing so, the tanks were no longer “grandfathered” under the applicable air pollution control laws, and the tank was required to install Phase II vapor recovery and to conduct annual leak decay tests. While OSFM has agreed to continue discussions, they have failed to do so since, and Kern County is running with it. In fact, they are even going beyond the bulletin and stating that no “gravity flow tanks” are allowed and they must be UL 2085, which is an even stricter standard! The Association is opposed to such requirements and is continuing to push for a phased-in implementation instead of immediate replacement.

Association Continues Opposition to Proposed Nighttime Lighting Requirements

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA)** along with the **Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Fresh Fruit Association, Milk Producers of California and Nisei Farmers League** submitted comments continuing opposition to the proposed new lighting requirements and the recently introduced new requirement for adoption of a traffic safety plan to be updated and communicated on a daily basis. The new requirements would require lighting to be provided so that light can be measured at 10 foot-candle light power within a 25 foot radius when working around agricultural equipment. In attempting to determine the impact of these proposed rules, CCGGA took measurements of an almond loading operation, cotton module unloading operation and a cotton bale loading operation, with all of these activities occurring at night. These measurements clearly demonstrated the inability to comply with the law as proposed, and in the one instance where additional legislation had been provided to help rectify the situation,

an air pollution control district violation was also created! As a result, CCGGA has serious concerns with the premise for the proposed revisions, serious concerns with the industry’s ability to meet the proposed requirements for levels of light intensity and issues with whether or not the standard is necessary based on a couple of the measurements we conducted. The new requirement for a “traffic safety plan” only serves to create additional burdensome paperwork and recordkeeping when no problem has ever been demonstrated or identified.

Ginners Association Announces Election Results

An election was held this past month for the California Cotton Ginners Association. Earning re-election was **Mike Davis of Dos Palos Coop, Wayne Gilbert of Broadview Coop, Kirk Gilkey of the Cross Creek Ginning Company, and Ron Nimmo of the Pacific Ginning Company, LLC.** Newly elected to the Board of Directors is **Brandon LaMattino of County Line Gin, Inc.**

Association Presents at Central Valley Nutrient Seminar

On November 17th, **Chris McGlothlin, Director of Technical Services for California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations**, presented to a room full of CCA’s and PCA’s at Western Plant Health Association’s annual Central Valley Nutrient Seminar. McGlothlin was asked to present on the issue of “Water Quality and the Effects of the Drought.” Topics discussed included the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, the subsequent Central Coast ruling in regards to water quality, as well as the progress of Prop 1 funding and finally the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). McGlothlin also touched on the current state of the cotton industry as well as displaying the effects of drought and regulation impacting the industry. Other topics discussed included Managing Soil Health, Emerging Regulations as well as Fertilizer Source and Nutrient Management. The seminar offered CCA’s and PCA’s to receive continued education units for their participation and involvement.

Association Meets with Assembly Republican Leader Mayes

Last week, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association’s had the opportunity to meet with newly chosen **California Assembly Republican Leader Chad Mayes** from Yucca Valley, CA. Assemblyman Mayes represents the 42nd District, which includes parts of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Mayes was chosen to become the California Assembly Republican Caucus leader at the beginning of September. The Assemblyman was brought on

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an Agricultural President's Council (APC) Tour which included a rice mill in Western Sacramento, a tour of the Syngenta laboratories as well as a plane ride at an aerial application hangar. This tour helped display the numerous and differing aspects of agriculture that are close to where he works.

Cotton Research & Promotion Sign-up Information—

Results

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a determination not to conduct a continuance referendum regarding the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order provided for in the Cotton Research and Promotion Act amendments of 1990. This determination is based on the results of a sign-up period conducted August 3 through August 14, 2015, during which eligible cotton producers and importers were provided an opportunity to request a continuance referendum. USDA finds that the results of the sign-up period did not meet the criteria requiring a continuance referendum by the Act. USDA bases this determination on the fact that the 46 requests received during the sign-up period is less than the 4,622 required.

CCGGA PAC Shotgun Raffle Winner

The winner of the 12-gauge Benelli ETHOS Shotgun as a result of the CCGGA Federal PAC Raffle is **Bill Stone!** The raffle was held to raise funds for the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Federal PAC that is used to support legislation and individuals that support legislation that is critical to the California cotton industry. It was because of the support from the grower and gin community that this raffle reached the level of success it did. Thank you for your continued support!

