



# *The Cotton Chronicle*

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[www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org)

February 2016

Volume 26 Issue 2

## Industry Calendar

Mar 8  
CA Cotton  
Joint Board  
Meeting—  
Visalia, CA

Mar 9  
CA Cotton  
Growers Annual  
Meeting—  
Visalia, CA

Mar 23  
Ginners School—  
Corcoran, CA

April 27—29  
WCSA Annual  
Convention—  
Incline Village, NV

(Visit web calendar  
for details)

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## Louie Colombini Named “National Cotton Ginner of the Year”!

Louie Colombini, Westside Farmers Co-op Gin was named the winner of the **2015 Horace Hayden National Cotton Ginner of the Year** by the National Cotton Ginners Association, this month at the National Cotton Council Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas. Louie is one of the most active Ginners in California Cotton Ginners Association. He is a past Chairman of this Association in 2000—2001, Ginner of the Year recipient in 2002, and longtime and current board member. Currently, Louie sits on the Association’s Environmental, Safety, Energy and Joint Steering Committees. Additionally, Louie has served as a board member for the San Joaquin Valley Cotton Board. Finally, on the national level, Louie has been a longtime Ginner delegate to the National Cotton Council. Louie is a member of, and serves as a Eucharistic Minister for the St. Phillip’s Catholic Church. He is a past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. Louie was also involved in the Boy Scouts for 15 years. Louie has been a significant contributor to the California cotton ginning industry for many years, and is a shining example of the leadership within our industry. Louie joins the prestigious group of previous winners from California:

- |        |              |        |                 |
|--------|--------------|--------|-----------------|
| • 1981 | Macon Steele | • 1995 | Lloyd Colbert   |
| • 1986 | Ken Rowan    | • 2004 | Michael Hooper  |
| • 1990 | Tom Miller   | • 2011 | Stan Creelman   |
| • 1993 | Bob Faris    | • 2015 | Louie Colombini |

***Congratulations to Louie Colombini!***



Award winner Louie Colombini with wife Christie accepting the Horace Hayden National Cotton Ginner of the Year Award.

Newsletter Sponsored by:

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### **CCGGA Pushes Back on Aboveground Tank Mandate**

**Association President/CEO Roger Isom** joined forces with California Citrus Mutual, the Nisei Farmers League and the California Independent Oil Marketers Association in meetings with Kern County Supervisors this past month to oppose a Kern County mandate to replace all aboveground storage tanks immediately. Multiple farmers have already received notices of violation and have been told to replace all gravity fed aboveground storage tanks and single wall aboveground storage tanks “immediately.” All tanks would have to be permitted and meet UL 2085 standards, which is essentially a bullet proof double wall tank. And since gravity tanks must be replaced, these tanks must be near a source of electricity to power the pump to fuel the equipment or vehicle. This is being done in response to a change in State Fire Code that the Association has been fighting for the past year. Kern County is the first county to begin to enforce what will be a statewide mandate. The Association is also leading an effort to introduce legislation to ensure that this mandate is spread over time, instead of immediately. The group met with **Kern County Supervisors Maggard and Scrivner**,

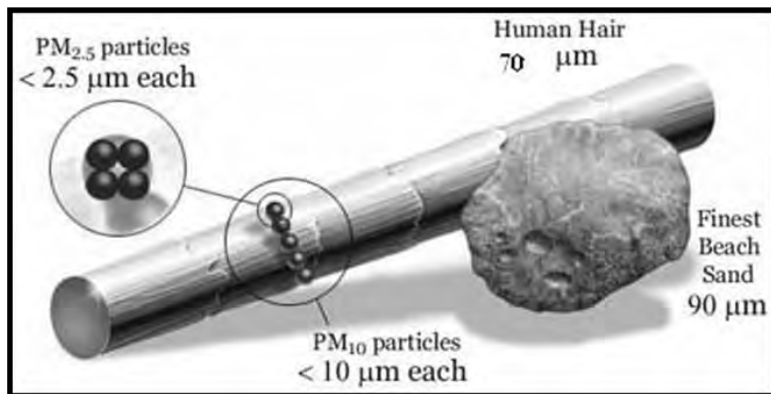


and staff from **Supervisors Gleason and Perez**. The primary purpose was to inform the Supervisors how Kern County was going beyond the law and was the only county in the state doing so at this time. Additional meetings will come as we work to find a more reasonable solution.

### **PM2.5 – Good News, Bad News**

On January 28, 2016, EPA Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld signed a Federal Register notice proposing to approve most of the San Joaquin Valley 2015 PM2.5 Plan to attain the 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS, to conditionally approve the plan's quantitative milestones, and to approve an extension of the attainment deadline from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2018 for the 1997 24-hour PM2.5 standards, and to December 31, 2020 for the 1997 annual PM2.5 standards. Simultaneously, the EPA proposes to disapprove the 2015 PM2.5 Plan's contingency

measures, which, if finalized, will trigger clocks for sanctions and a federal implementation plan for PM2.5 contin-



gency measures in the San Joaquin Valley. The notice will be published in the Federal Register and provide for a 30-day public comment period. What does this all mean? The good news is that the plan for all intents and purposes is now approved, removing that possibility of lawsuits. Furthermore, the extension gives us more time to get into attainment. Unfortunately, the disapproval of the contingencies means the District will have to refine that part of the plan and look at additional measures.

### **Association Moves on Module Truck Legislation**

Currently, the California Vehicle Code limits truck length to 40 feet. Cotton module movers have a special provision that allows them to be up to 48 feet in length. Truck cabs have changed over time with the elimination of the cab-over design to accommodate the new engines and all of the air pollution control equipment the engines now require. As a result the later model cotton module movers now exceed 48 feet. To address this, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations will be introducing legislation to extend the length limit for cotton module movers this legislative session. In addition, the Association is investigating whether we can also make changes



to the axle weight limitation which is severely penalizing haulers, forcing them to make extra trips to accommodate lighter loads. This legislation will be introduced soon.

### **Forklift Rule & Sustainable Freight Initiative Update**

On Thursday, January 28, 2016 **CCGGA Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley** participated in a briefing and update of the actions of the Sustainable Freight Initiative as well as the Large Spark-Ignition Regulation (LSI). The LSI rule (aka the Forklift Rule) has been implemented and enforced for a number of years, however this year they will be proposing the implementation of a reporting & labeling requirement for LSI fleets. The Associations are adamantly opposed to this proposal and is urging the Air Resources Board to exempt the agriculture industry from this reporting/labeling mandate. With the exemption CCGGA is pushing for ARB to utilize a survey approach to gather their forklift data needs. The data needs of the survey and the method in which surveys are conducted will be determined in the coming months. The LSI rules end action is to implement zero-emission technology into outstanding LSI fleets. This initiative is one of the many that work towards accomplishing the Governor's Sustainable Freight Action Plan. With over **70 possible action items**, the Sustainable Freight Strategy would be a multi-agency approach in examining the California freight transportation and distribution industries for areas that can implement more advanced and cleaner technologies. Within the action plans some of the items discussed include the LSI rule, phasing out of fossil fuel use for TRU's for cold storage, the integration of battery storage with electrification of transportation, integration of freight toll lanes, use of renewable fuel, investigation of implementing facility-based emission caps and much more. While the Sustainable Freight Action Plan is in the public workshop period, we will be expecting a draft plan in spring 2016, with a final plan to be submitted to the governor by July 2016. The Sustainable Freight Action Plan consists of various components that have the potential to impact tree nut processing facilities, stay tuned as we will provide details and updates as the plan is released.

### **Aerial Lifts and Lockout/Tagout Train-the-Trainer Workshops announced for 2016**

The **Western Agricultural Processors Association** in partnership with **Cal/OSHA Consultation, The Zenith, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association**, and many other ag organizations and equipment companies have announced the training schedule of **Aerial Lifts and Lockout/Tagout Workshops for 2016**. These workshops will be held throughout the State from Bakersfield to Orland. The training will cost \$50 per session and will include Regulatory, Safety Aspects and Proper Operation and Maintenance of aerial devices and practical demonstration of

proper lockout/tagout procedures. A copy of the schedule and registration form can be found on WAPA website [www.agprocessors.org](http://www.agprocessors.org). If you have any questions, please contact our office at (559) 455-9272.

### **OSHA 300A Summary Posting**

Reminder - the **Cal/OSHA 300A Summary**, which lists the total number of job-related illnesses and injuries that occurred during 2015, **must be posted from February 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Visit our website for Recordkeeping Forms or contact our office.

Cal/OSHA Form 300A (Rev. 7/2007) **Appendix B**  
**Annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses**

All establishments covered by CCR Title 8 Section 14300 must complete this Annual Summary, even if no work-related injuries or illnesses occurred during the year. Remember to review the Log to verify that the entries are complete and accurate before completing this summary.

Using the Log, count the individual entries for each category. Then write the totals below, making sure you've added the entries from every page of the Log. If you had no cases, write "0".

Employers, labor organizations, and their representatives have the right to review the Cal/OSHA Form 300 in its entirety. They also have limited access to the Cal/OSHA Form 300 or its equivalent. See CCR Title 8 Section 14300.15, or Cal/OSHA's recordkeeping rules, for further details on the access provisions for these forms.

**Establishment information**

Your establishment name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Industry description (e.g., Manufacturer of auto truck radiators) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), if known (e.g., SIC 3731) \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment information** (If you don't have these figures, use the optional "Estimate to estimate")

Annual average number of employees \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total hours worked by all employees last year \_\_\_\_\_

Sign here \_\_\_\_\_  
 Knowingly falsifying this document may result in a fine.

I certify that I have examined this document and that to the best of my knowledge the entries are true, accurate, and complete.

Company executive \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Cases**

Total number of deaths	Total number of cases with days away from work	Total number of cases with job transfer or restriction	Total number of other recordable cases
(0) _____	(0) _____	(0) _____	(0) _____

**Number of Days**

Total number of days away from work	Total number of days of job transfer or restriction
(0) _____	(0) _____

**Injury and Illness Types**

Total number of ...	(1) Injuries	(2) Skin disorders	(3) Respiratory conditions	(4) Poisonings	(5) Hearing loss	(6) All other illnesses
(0) _____	(0) _____	(0) _____	(0) _____	(0) _____	(0) _____	(0) _____

Print this Annual Summary from February 1 to April 30 of the year following the year covered by the form.

### **Supima Announces New President/CEO**

**Marc Lewkowicz** was named **President/CEO of Supima** effective January 1, 2016. Marc previously served as Executive Vice President of Supima for the past 12 years in developing the Supima® brand. He succeeds Jesse W. Curlee, who recently retired after 36 years with the organization. Supima is a Phoenix-based cotton organization representing the producers of American Pima cotton in California, Arizona, New Mexico and the El Paso region of Texas. Supima licenses the Supima trademark to textile manufacturers, brands and retailers. The organization presently has over 350 licensees in 39 countries. Supima also has offices in New York and Fresno, California. Lewkowicz is a native of Toronto, Canada and a graduate of both the University of Western Ontario and the Memphis Cotton Exchange International Cotton School. He began his career with a family-owned cotton gin in Paraguay and later worked as a trader for ContiCotton, Merrill Lynch, Itochu Cotton and Anderson Clayton/Queensland Cotton. He joined Supima in January of 2003. Marc and his wife Kathleen reside in Phoenix, Arizona and are the parents of two children.



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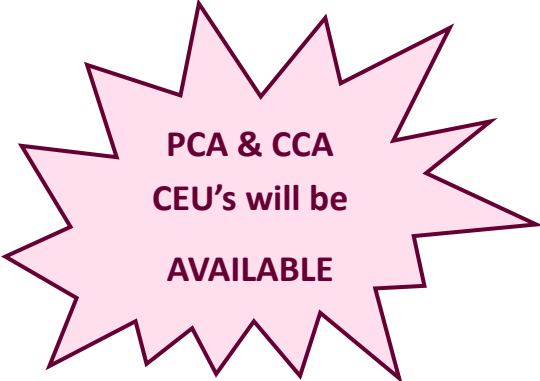
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## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Growers Association

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, California

*Please RSVP to Shana Colby at (559)252-0684 or  
via email at [shana@ccgga.org](mailto:shana@ccgga.org).*



PCA & CCA  
CEU's will be  
AVAILABLE

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

7:30 am Continental Breakfast - Registration

Opens - Associate Exhibits Open

8:30 am Concurrent Issues Sessions

- Pests Management: Challenges and Solutions
- Advances in Variety Performance and Fusarium Resistance
- Water Update

10:00 am Associate Exhibits

10:30 am Annual Meeting – Chairman Welcome

10:35 am Growers Financial Report

10:40 am California Cotton—What's the Marketplace for California Cotton?

- Supima-Brooks Brothers
- Cotton Incorporated

11:20 am Regulatory & Legislative Issues Update

11:50 am Passing the Gavel

12:10 pm Lunch

12:30 pm Luncheon Speaker-Washington Update-Reece Langley, NCC

1:00 pm Adjourn



# SUPER BOLLS

Tulare grower consistently reaches top yields



Luke Bebereia

Years ago, business guru Jim Collins (author of seminal management/leadership books *Built to Last* and *Good to Great*) spoke to a group of college students. He gave them 10 pieces of advice. Number 4 on that list was: What is your questions-to-statements ratio and can you double it? “Imagine going into every situation not with how to be *interesting*, but how to be *interested*, how to ask questions and how to learn from everybody you meet,” Collins said. While Luke Bebereia, Tulare County cotton grower, may not have been in the room the day of Collins’ speech, he’s been following that advice for decades. “I’m one of the younger cotton growers in the area,” he says. “And I started pretty young when my father passed away. To learn, I had to watch others and ask a lot of questions.”

“I was very fortunate to have really good cotton farmers for neighbors,” he continues. “The Clarks and the Wattes are some of the best cotton growers around. They taught me a lot. They still do.”

That accumulation of learning resulted in quite a cotton growing year for Bebereia in 2015, despite it being a year where most of his acreage was planted to a new variety. “I heard about 764 (PHY 764 WRF) from my neighbors,”

he says. “We grew it on hundreds of acres and had the best-looking fields we’ve ever had. Our highest yielding field of 764 went 4.6 bales. Our lowest-yielding field 4.1 bales – and that was on a field that we didn’t think would ever reach four bales.”

**“Our highest yielding field of 764 went 4.6 bales...”**

## Ground Prep

Like many of the veteran cotton growers, Bebereia believes reaching high yields begins months before a seed is even dropped in the ground. “Good ground prep is the beginning of the high-yield process,” he says. “After harvest, we shred the fields, put cow manure down at about 20 ton per acre, then disc twice, then chisel it, then disc once or twice again. All the tractor work – it’s labor and equipment and fuel – but we have a lot of equipment and people on staff, so we can knock it all out pretty fast.”



Bebereia admits that process isn't exactly minimum till, but knows the extra passes are worth it. "You watch the guys that do a really good job year after year, and they work their ground. They rip it. They disc it. They do it the right way. Once in a while, someone will try to shortcut the process. It may work for a year, but after that you'll see yields start to drop, whether it is cotton or corn."

Fields are bedded up with crop rotation flexibility in mind. "Everything is furrowed for cotton, corn or beans," he says. "We want the flexibility to choose the crop as late as possible in the spring."

### Planting and Seed Selection

"Earlier planted cotton generally does a little better," he says. "So we watch the ground temperature and weather patterns and plant as soon as we can. Ten days of warm weather before and after planting is ideal. We want the cotton nice and healthy in case an April storm comes through. This year we had a really good planting season – one of the best we ever had."

Bebereia had seen PHY 764 WRF perform well on neighboring farms in 2014. In 2015, he grew 325 acres of it. "You always get a little nervous with a new variety," he says. "We don't want to be in training mode for three years to figure it out. It needs to work the first year."

It worked. "Every field we picked of 764 went over four bales," he says. "And I'm not a four-bale grower every year. In 2014, we averaged 3.7 bales."

### 2016 Plans

Bebereia expects cotton acreage in his area to be higher in 2016. "Corn is usually the alternative crop and the current price for corn is down," he says. "Plus, corn uses more water than cotton." He expects to plant 500-600 acres of cotton in 2016, with as much of that in PHY 764 WRF as possible.

And while cotton prices aren't at all-time highs, he thinks that Acala prices above a dollar a pound can pencil out on his farm. "I think the roller ginned cotton is here to stay," he says. "All our cotton was roller ginned. Combine that with four-bale fields and you can make a good return."

## To Learn More

*Contact your cottonseed dealer or your PhytoGen representative.*

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