Annual Ginners School & Safety Contest

The California Cotton Ginners Association held its Annual Gin School and Safety Contest on March 23rd in Corcoran, CA. This year’s gin school sought to educate gin employees on safety issues with presentations regarding Natural Gas Safety by Ted Honey and Armando Barriga of PG&E, Driver Safety & Awareness by Officer Jeff Dunn of the CHP, Gin Stand Safety by Elda Brueggeman of WAPA, and Raymond Aquino of Olam Cotton as well as Gin Maintenance Belts, Bolts and Balancing by Daniel Moore of Dos Palos Coop Gin. Gin Managers were given updates on OSHA regulations by CCGGA President/CEO Roger Isom, Affordable Care Act Implementation by Skyler Cleveland of James G. Parker Insurance Assoc. and hot topics in labor law by Michael Saqui of The Saqui Law Group. In addition to the days’ worth of presentations, all gin employees tested their knowledge on gin safety, maintenance and operation in the CA Cotton Ginners Safety Contest. The winner of the contest was Maria Ortiz of J.G. Boswell. This year’s Gin School drew a larger crowd and greater sponsorships than last year! The Association would like to thank our sponsors who make this event possible and remind our member-ship “Support those that support you!“:


Association Visits with FDA on Animal Feed Rule
This past month, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations joined with the National Cotton Council, National Cotton Ginners Association, Texas Cotton Ginners Association and the Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association to travel to Washington, DC for a meeting with FDA on the Preventive Controls rule for Animal Food. Currently, the FDA believes that cotton gins are subject to the Animal Food Rule and it would cause gins to conduct risk assessments and implement a supplier control program. If taken to the fullest extent, gins would have to segregate cottonseed into separate piles for each individual grower and those piles would have to be enclosed and protected from the open environment. While the Association was there, it took advantage of the time to meet with EPA officials to discuss the implementation of the ozone standards in California and the need for the continued use of incentive funds. On the hill, CCGGA met with the offices of Senator Feinstein, Senator Tom Udall, Congressman David Valadao, Congressman Devin Nunez, Congressman Jim Costa, Congressman Kevin McCarthy, and the House Ag Appropriations committee. Topics discussed included water and the tremendous impact it has had on the cotton industry in California, air quality, food safety and USDA ARS research conducted at the cotton gin labs. Representing the Association was President/CEO Roger Isom and Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin.

California Cotton Acreage on the Rebound
The drought is not over, but for the first time in six years, cotton acreage will increase in California according to a preliminary survey conducted by the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations this past month. The Association is currently estimating approximately 145,000 acres of pima and 61,000 acres of upland statewide. Now, this is preliminary and a lot can happen between now and when things are actually planted, but based on the survey this is our best estimate. If it plays out, it will represent a 19% increase in pima acreage and a 24% increase in upland acreage in California as compared to 2015.

Association Testifies at Ozone Workshop
The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District recently held a workshop on the Draft 2016 Plan for the 2008 8-hour Ozone Standard (aka the 2016 Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP)). Citing the need for incentives, Association President/CEO Roger Isom testified in support of the continued implementation of incentive programs as a “win-win” for cleaning up the Valley’s air quality problems. “Agriculture has no ability to pass along the cost, and the incentive programs such as the Carl Moyer Program through the California Air Resources Board and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the Farm Bill funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funds through US EPA remain the most effective way to reduce emissions”. Isom also addressed concerns over the inclusion of several new potential mobile source rules being contemplated by the Air Resources Board (ARB) for inclusion in the 2016 Ozone SIP. Specifi-
cally, Isom voiced opposition to a new Truck rule and electric forklift mandate. Isom highlighted the current Truck Rule, which will not be fully complete until 2023, and the fact that technology for electric forklifts does not exist for the rough terrain forklifts used at the initial agricultural processing facilities like cotton gins and almond and walnut hullers. The District will consider the comments made during the workshop and issue a revised plan later this spring for adoption this summer. The Association will update the progress on this plan and process as it unfolds in the coming months.

**Association Wraps up Very Successful Aerial Lift and Lockout/Tagout Training**

In the first week of April, the Association will wrap up another successful round of safety training on topics critical to the tree nut industry. This year the Association tackled Aerial Lift and the very important Lockout/Tagout training. Over 150 people participated in the 5 training sessions held throughout the State. Training was conducted by CalOSHA Consultation, the Zenith, the MEC Corporation and our own CCGGA/WAPA training staff including Elda Brueggemann, Priscilla Rodriguez and Roger Isom.

The Association would especially like to thank The Zenith for providing the special “lockout/tagout” clipboards for each and every participant completing the lockout/tagout training. The Association would also like to recognize our host locations for allowing us to utilize their facilities to conduct the training including Semi Tropic Cotton Gin and Almond Huller, the Tulare County Ag Center, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Travaille and Phippen, and Hart Farms.

**DPR Announces Proposed Changes to Air Monitoring Network**

The Department of Pesticide Regulations announce at the Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee meeting a list of proposed changes they would like to make to the current Air Monitoring Network. The proposed changes include the addition of 6 pesticides (2,4-D, Captan, Fuzime, Magnate, Lannate, Prowl) to their current 27 pesticides monitored, changing DPR and ARB sampling frequency to a random day, change the community selection to be based on fumigant & organophosphate (OP) use, change the method in ranking communities for selection, adjusting use based on wind speed factor and placing monitoring sites downwind from fields. These changes come with the support and pressure from outside groups including CRLA, stating that the high percentage on “non-detect” readings are not useful data. The Association is adamantly opposed to the proposed regulations. The Association feels that the proposed changes, being so drastic, change the objectives of the long term study which was meant to study subchronic and chronic health screening levels. The Association will be submitting comments to the Department of Pesticide Regulations prior to the deadline of May 1st.

**Ginners Annual Meeting is Set**

You are cordially invited to attend what will be a fun, informative and relaxing Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Ginners Association in beautiful Monterey. This year’s meeting will be held at the Monterey Marriott Hotel located in downtown Monterey. Please make your hotel reservations by May 13th, identifying yourself with the.
group name **CA Cotton Ginners Association** to ensure the Association’s special room rate and space availability. The group rates for rooms are $169 and are available to extend through the weekend. Reservations can be made by calling the Monterey Marriott at **(831) 649-4234** or by visiting the Marriott website at [http://www.marriott.com/](http://www.marriott.com/). The Monterey Marriott is in the heart of historic downtown, and features beds topped with luxurious cotton-rich linens and plenty of fluffy pillows. Enjoy additional amenities such as a heated outdoor pool, whirlpool and state-of-the-art fitness center. The Monterey Marriott hotel also boasts two convenient and celebrated on-site restaurants. Enjoy breakfast or lunch at the Three Flags Café, a casual all-American Monterey restaurant that offers an irresistible breakfast buffet in addition to a variety of a la carte options. For dinner enjoy “Characters Sports Bar & Grill”. A charming sports bar atmosphere makes it the perfect spot for a casual dinner and cocktails. This year’s Golf Tournament will be held at the Black Horse Golf Course in Seaside. Named in honor of the 11th Cavalry Regiment (nicknamed "Black Horse") which was stationed at the Presidio of Monterey from 1919-1940. Black Horse was designed in 1964 by General Edwin Carnes, the Commanding General of Fort Ord from April 1963 until June of 1965. With the most breath-taking views of the Monterey Bay imaginable, the most recent renovations transformed Black Horse into a longer, more challenging “championship golf course.” With long rolling fairways, "championship golf tees," and alluring panoramic views of the Monterey Bay, Black Horse will not only take your game through its paces, it will also captivate your soul. Black Horse is now 7,024 yards long, with four sets of tees; a par 72, with a slope of 141 and a rating of 73.7. **Be sure to register soon as rooms will fill up quickly.**
THRIPS CONTROL IN COTTON, TOMATOES

THRIPS IN TOMATOES

In tomatoes, thrips by themselves generally do not cause economic issues. The damage comes from thrips' ability to vector tomato spotted wilt disease.

University studies continue to try to pinpoint the sources for tomato spot wilt virus, which has been found throughout tomato-growing counties. The main culprit is likely Western flower thrips, which picks up the virus in its larval stage, then can transmit it to tomatoes throughout its short life.

Thrips development and reproduction increase as temperatures increase. All stages of the pest will likely be found in tomatoes (and other host crops like cotton) at the same time.

Radiant® insecticide is effective on larval and adult stages of thrips. Radiant has no direct effect on the virus.

THRIPS IN COTTON

The combination of higher-than-normal thrips populations and cooler-than-normal early-season temperatures can lead to thrips damage in cotton fields. Thrips will cause noticeable damage between cotton emergence and seedling stages.

Thrips rasp leaves and terminal buds causing leaves to become distorted/crinkled. Leaves may turn brown on the edges. This type of injury slows crop growth and may delay crop maturity as plants cannot “catch-up” during the season and cannot outgrow thrips populations.

According to UC Extension, early damage to plant terminals creates an atypical growth response, where the apical dominance is transferred to multiple growing tips.

Thrips damage is most prevalent in cool conditions where plant growth is slowed. But even in hot, dry conditions, thrips will migrate from host plants – like weeds and grasses – to succulent, irrigated crops like cotton.

RADIANT® INSECTICIDE

Radiant continues to be the standard for thrips in many crops, including cotton, tomatoes, onions and leafy vegetables. Radiant provides excellent control of thrips – adults and nymphs – as well as beet armyworm and loopers. Pests are controlled through contact and ingestion activity. Radiant also has translaminar movement (into the leaf) which helps to reach pests out of the direct line of spray.

APPLICATION INFO

REI: 4 hours
PHI: 1 day (tomatoes), 28 days (cotton)
Adjuvant: A penetrating surfactant may help for thrips
Resistance Management: Maximum two consecutive applications of an IRAC Group 5 insecticide before rotating to another effective class of chemistry.
BANDED APPLICATIONS

When cotton or tomato plants are small, banded applications can be very economical. Nozzles can be set up two per seedline or three per seedline. By treating anywhere from ¼ to ½ the area, rates can be dropped to as low as 2 ounces per acre.

Rates

- Standard broadcast rate for worms: 4.5-6 oz/A
- Thrips rate: 6 oz/A
- Banded (½ area) with reduced spray volume: 3-4 oz/A
- Banded (¼-⅓ area) with reduced spray volume: 2 oz/A

Western Flower Thrips Efficacy Trial – Tomatoes
T. Turini, UCCE-Fresno County, Five Points, 2010

Western Flower Thrips Efficacy Trial – Cotton
L. Godfrey, Shafter, CA, 2013

Complete trial details at http://cefresno.ucdavis.edu