



# The Cotton Chronicle

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

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## Industry Calendar

Sept 20  
Cotton Harvest  
Safety Training—  
Five Points

Sept 21  
Cotton Harvest  
Safety Training—  
Tulare

Visit web calendar  
for details

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## Final Mapped California Cotton Acreage

The Pink Bollworm Program under the California Department of Food and Agriculture has released their final mapped numbers for 2016. While the drought is not over, for the first time in six years, cotton acreage has increased. Final acreage numbers for California put Pima at 152,630 acres and upland at 66,353 acres for a

San Joaquin Valley	Pima	Upland	TOTAL
Kern	20,175	3,515	23,690
Kings	74,410	8,710	83,120
Tulare	2,980	10,630	13,610
Fresno	39,800	8,480	48,280
Madera	10	615	625
Merced	14,795	25,245	40,040
San Joaquin	190	0	190
<b>Subtotal =</b>	<b>152,360</b>	<b>57,195</b>	<b>209,555</b>

Southern California	Pima	Upland	TOTAL
Imperial	0	2,125	2,125
Riverside	0	3,405	3,405
<b>Subtotal =</b>		<b>5,530</b>	<b>5,530</b>

Sacramento Valley	Pima	Upland	TOTAL
Sutter	0	577	577
Glenn	0	2,830	2,830
Tehama	0	221	221
<b>Subtotal =</b>		<b>3,628</b>	<b>3,628</b>

	Pima	Upland	TOTAL
<b>Total =</b>	<b>152,360</b>	<b>66,353</b>	<b>218,713</b>

total of 218,713 acres statewide. This represents a 31 % increase in Pima acreage and a 44% increase in upland acreage as compared to 2015. This represents a 35% increase in overall cotton acreage for 2016.

## New Elections to the Supima Board

This year's nominations and elections saw the appointment of **Ted Sheely** as Supima's new

Chairman of the Board. No stranger to the Supima organization, Mr. Sheely has served in various roles since 2009. Mr. Sheely brings more than 40 years of experience in the cotton industry to the Supima organization. Current-



ly, he farms 8,700 total acres in California, half of which is cotton (Upland and Pima), as well as tomatoes, wheat, pistachios, garlic, grapes, safflower, barley and triticale. CCGGA would like to congratulate Mr. Sheely to his new position and look forward to his insight as Chairman and as a U.S. Pima cotton grower.

## Association Testifies in Support of More Incentive Funds for Air Quality

Association **President/CEO Roger Isom** testified before the Governing Board of the **San Joaquin**

**Valley Air Pollution Control District** in support of a collaborative effort to bring additional incentive funds to California for businesses throughout the state. Incentive



funds have been used by farmers and agricultural processing facilities for the past several years to replace irrigation pump engines, tractors, loaders, harvesters and trucks. But there isn't enough money to meet all of the needs that have been identified. The use of incentive monies has proven to be the most successful and cost effective means to reduce air pollution emissions and improve air quality in the history of the Clean Air Act. Isom testified "nowhere has this been more evident than with the use of incentives to replace, repower or retrofit farm equipment. In 2008, the California Air Resources Board set in motion a plan to regulate farm equipment beginning on January 1, 2014 and achieve to 5 to 10 tons of NOx emissions reductions by December 31, 2017. Through the use of incentive monies, the State of California has already reduced farm equipment emissions by more than 10 tons as of today on a voluntary basis, thereby proving incentive programs work. Our organizations wholeheartedly support the incentive program approach and commit our resources to assisting the District and the State in the search for more incentive funds!"

**ADVISORY – Air District Title V Letters**

Many facilities in the San Joaquin Valley have been receiving letters from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The letters notify permit holders their emissions limits do not meet Federal EPA enforceability requirements. To address this deficiency, the District provides facilities with two options. One option is to accept a new conditions which provides for limiting annual



emissions using a 12 month rolling average. The other option is to accept an undetermined lower emissions limit to avoid triggering the 12 month rolling average limit. In most situations, the Association would not recommend accepting the lower limit, because it gives up emissions. However, for seasonal sources, the rolling average can be problematic when one year is late and the following year is early, thereby creating a situation where the annual limit could be exceeded. We advise our members to analyze their permits closely to determine whether or not the 12 rolling average will be problematic. If you have any questions when analyzing your operation, please call our office.

**Cotton Is Heard – FSMA Compliance Dates Extended**

In an email notification this month from FDA, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association was notified that compliance dates under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) for facilities that are engaged in Ginning of cotton will be extended. Here are the new compliance dates:

Extension of Compliance Dates for Facilities Solely Engaged in Ginning of Cotton		
	Previous Compliance Date	New Compliance Date
<b>Animal Food Rule</b>		
Very Small Business (< \$1 million in sales)	<b>September 17, 2019</b>	<b>January 26, 2021</b>
Small Business (< 500 fulltime equivalent employees)	<b>September 17, 2018</b>	<b>January 27, 2020</b>
Other Businesses	<b>September 18, 2017</b>	<b>January 28, 2019</b>

There are a couple of reasons for the extension. First, this puts the compliance dates for the Preventive Controls Rule in line with the Produce Safety Rule. Second, as outlined in their email correspondence to the Association, FDA stated "we have received communications from the cotton industry expressing concern that the part 507 rule does not apply to the vast majority of cotton ginners that are part of a farm, while it does apply to the minority of cotton ginners that do not meet the "farm" definition, despite the fact that both types of operations perform the same activities. We are considering whether and how FDA should address these concerns." CCGGA's primary concern was the problem with some cotton gins being treated differently than others under the Animal Food Rule, and with what the rule would accomplish. It is hoped this additional time will allow the industry to work this out with FDA to ensure that cotton gins are treated equally

and/or taken out of the rule completely. Stay tuned for additional information!

### **Ag Overtime (AB1066) on its Way to the Governor**

On August 30<sup>th</sup> the California state legislature passed **AB1066 (Gonzalez)** 44-32 with four abstaining from voting. This bill, also known as the Ag Overtime bill, lowers the threshold that triggers overtime pay for agricultural employees. The Association spent weeks opposing the bill, targeting legislators to inform them of the impacts both directly to their offices/staff and continuously through social media platforms. Additionally, **Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin** and **Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley** traveled to Sacramento to get boots on the ground, represent the Association, and help generate opposition among legislators to get this bill killed. The Association notes that **Assemblyman Rudy Salas** and **Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula**, representing heavy agricultural areas, voted in support of the bill despite consistent outreach by the Association and our membership. Previously, a 10-hour/day or 60-hour/week threshold, employers will now be required to pay overtime after 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week. In June **Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez** introduced AB2757 which contained the original language of the ag overtime bill. AB2757 died in the Assembly, however a short time later Gonzalez gutted language from another bill in the Senate and inserted the same exact language. With the passage of AB1066 accompanied with the increasing minimum wage the agriculture industry faces two mandated wage increases. California not only has the highest minimum wage but is one of only five states to provide overtime to agricultural employees. AB1066 supporters claimed the intentions of the bill is to help farmworkers however due to the dual mandated wage increases, employers will be forced to reduce hours to maintain profitability and to avoid having to pay the high cost of overtime, ultimately hurting those it claimed to help. The bill is now on its way to the Governor's desk, he has until the end of September to either sign it into law or veto it.

### **Annual Cotton Harvest Safety Training, Sept 20 & 21**

As the start of the season is nearing, folks have the opportunity to receive critical cotton harvest safety training on **September 20 at Westside Field Station** (17353 W. Oakland Ave.) in Five Points and **September 21 at Kings County Fairgrounds in Tulare**. Both events begin at 7:30 a.m. with registration and conclude at noon with lunch. The safety trainings will cover cotton harvest equipment

safety, tractor safety, heat illness and road safety. The trainings are meant for harvest equipment operators, crews, ginners, farm employees as well as managers, supervisors and growers. All trainings will be conducted in English and Spanish. Each attendee will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the event. For information regarding registration please contact [info@ccgga.org](mailto:info@ccgga.org) or call our office at (559)252-0684.

### **Cotton Module Movers Granted Permit for the Year**

The Association last briefed you prior to participating in scheduled meetings involving **President/CEO Roger Isom**, **Assemblyman Jim Frazier**, **Assemblyman Adam Gray**, as well as representatives from the California Highway Patrol and CalTrans. The goal of these meetings from the Association's standpoint was to implement an exemption for these trucks during the season. Unfortunately, **California Highway Patrol** and **CalTrans** dug in, and would not budge on providing a long term exemption.



Last season, a CHP officer in the Los Banos area targeted module haulers transferring raw product to the gins and cited operators for length and weight violations. The Association tried to demonstrate that the module movers used throughout the country have had the same design for the last 30 years, and no other state restricts the operation of these vehicles. However, CHP and CalTrans representatives see the operation of these vehicles on state highways as a threat to the public safety, as well as having a potential to damage roadways and impede traffic. One potential solution was to add a tag axle to the vehicle, however, cost estimates are approximately \$31,000 per vehicle. **Assemblyman Jim Frazier** set up a second meeting with CalTrans and CHP to seek a permit for this upcoming season, which would allow for module movers to legally operate within the state. The Association is currently awaiting a decision.

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# Contamination-Free Cotton

## NCC Goal of Contamination Free Cotton

The **National Cotton Council** continues to re-emphasize the continuing goal of Zero Contamination in cotton by encouraging producers to ginners to take progressive steps at pre-harvest, in-season and post harvest to eliminate the contamination of plastic or other materials. Pre-Harvest and Harvest guidelines, along with other supporting materials for growers, gins and warehouses are on the **National Cotton Council's** website to view and download. Simple steps to avoid contamination include creating a "foreign material watch list," inspect premises prior to harvest, inspecting equipment daily, training gin crew to safely inspect and remove module covers and more. Please visit **National Cotton Council's** webpage <http://www.cotton.org/tech/quality/contamfree.cfm> to learn more about how to help achieve the goal of contamination free cotton.

