Industry Moves on Action Items from Sticky Cotton Summit

Last month, we presented the “action items” stemming from the Association’s 2017 Sticky Cotton Summit. This month we wanted to provide you a brief update on the industry’s efforts to address Sticky Cotton coming out of the 2017 Sticky Cotton Summit.

1. Create “sticky cotton page” on CCGGA website – This effort is currently underway and should be up soon. It will include information presented at the Summit, as well as existing sticky cotton and whitefly information. It will also include links to UC IPM pages on managing whitefly and aphids.

2. Begin research effort on the ability to detect and measure sticky cotton – We have had discussions with USDA ARS and have begun to put a research plan together with the USDA ARS labs in Mesilla Park, NM, Lubbock, TX and New Orleans, LA. Jess Smith and Sons graciously donated 50 samples of “sticky cotton” which have been sent to the lab in Mesilla Park to begin the research. Should have more on this by our Annual Meeting.

3. Look into whitefly mapping with Cotton Pest Control Board – with the assistance of Ted Sheely, we presented the idea to the Cotton Pest Control Board at this past month’s meeting here in Fresno. At this point, I had only hoped to “tee it up” for discussion, but there was a lot of support for the idea and we received word that CDFA plans to incorporate the sampling within their existing budget and program this year. Details will follow, but basically the inspectors will take leaf samples while they are inspecting traps. That data will be mapped and prepared for distribution. That discussion will be next. As a follow-up, Pete Goodell has also initiated contact with another company that may be able to help us take this to the next level. They are doing something similar in Florida: farmdog.ag/pressure

4. Had some discussions with folks involved with the former Fresno Cotton Exchange, who has some money in the bank that they believe could be used for some of these efforts if needed.

5. UCCE will be placing an emphasis on this in their upcoming grower meetings and we will work them to help “spread the word!”

The industry is taking a hard-line approach in preventing sticky cotton and these efforts will go a long way in helping accomplish that goal.

CCGGA Annual Meeting is Around the Corner!

Have you made plans yet to attend the first Joint Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association? If not, we encourage you to book your rooms and complete your registration form soon.
Cotton Industry Loses Valuable Researcher, Colleague and Friend

This past month, the cotton industry lost one of its most valuable researchers and colleagues, when UC Cooperative Extension entomologist Dr. Larry Godfrey passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 60. Dr. Godfrey was a 26-year member of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology faculty and internationally acclaimed for his research on rice and cotton. A member of the entomology department since April 1991, Dr. Godfrey served as its vice chair in 2008, and also that year, as president of the Pacific Branch, Entomological Society of America. Dr. Godfrey, born July 7, 1956, grew up on an Indiana farm. He received two entomology degrees from Purdue University, West Layfayette: his bachelor’s degree in 1978 and his master’s degree in 1980. He earned his doctorate in entomology in 1984 from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, studying with major professor Kenneth Yeargan. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi and Gamma Sigma Delta. It was at the University of Kentucky where Larry met his wife-to-be, Kris, then a postdoctoral scholar. Dr. Godfrey began his career as a product development specialist for Union Carbide Agricultural Products Co., Inc., Research Triangle, N.C., before joining the University of Nebraska’s Department of Entomology from July 1987 to March 1991 as a research associate. At UC Davis, Dr. Godfrey zeroed in on invasive insect and mite pests such as silverleaf whitefly, panicle rice mite, and rice water weevil. In addition, he targeted scores of pests, including alfalfa weevils, blue alfalfa aphids, spotted cucumber beetles, and two-spotted spider mites. He researched plant response to insect injury, refining economic thresholds. He also researched various pest management tactics, including biological control, reduced risk insecticides, mating disruption, cultural control, and host plant resistance. Highly respected by his peers, Dr. Godfrey received the Excellence in IPM Award in 2005 from the Pacific Branch, Entomological Society of America (PBESA), followed by the PBESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension in 2010. Nationally, he was elected chair of ESA’s Section F (crop protection) in 2002. He was a subject editor for the Journal of Cotton Science and the Journal of Integrated Pest Management. Dr. Godfrey was invaluable to the cotton industry, especially in the areas of crop protection studies and research, and he will be sorely missed. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 29 in Salem, Ind. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to pet rescue...
San Joaquin Valley Cotton Production Symposium: Production challenges in the 2017 Season

May 16, 2017 UCCE Tulare County
4437-B Laspina Street
Tulare, CA 93274

May 17, 2017 UC WSREC Five Points
17353 W. Oakland Avenue
Five Points, CA 93624

8:30 to 9:00  Registration and Refreshments

9:00 to 9:10  Sticky Cotton: It’s more of a problem than you may think. – Dan Munk and Roger Isom

9:10 to 9:55  Insect pest management: Connecting early and mid-season pest management to late season pest control; Sampling and identification - Pete Goodell
Insect pest control strategies discussion during 2017- Pete Goodell

9:55 to 10:15 DPR rules and regulations review– Gibert Urquizu Fresno Co.Department of Agriculture

10:15 to 10:30  Break

10:30 to 10:45  Crop progress and Fusarium Wilt control update. - Bob Hutmacher

10:45 to 11:15  Weed management issues in cotton crop rotations. - Kurt Hembree

11:15 to 11:45  Irrigation strategies that meet crop management goals. - Dan Munk

11:45 to 12:15  Yield and field components of managing crop nitrogen. - Bob Hutmacher

12:15  Adjourn and Lunch

PCA and Certified Crop Adviser CEU’s requested

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groups or groups that support young people interested in entomology or agriculture. A memorial and celebration of his life will take place at UC Davis in the near future.

**Upcoming Compliance Dates and Requirements for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Diesel Engines**

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) Rule 4702 (Internal Combustion Engines) requires all non-emergency use Tier 1 and Tier 2, EPA certified diesel internal combustion (IC) engines rated greater than 50 horsepower to be removed from service by January 1, 2015, or 12 years after the installation date, but not later than June 1, 2018. Listed below are options describing methods to comply with the June 1, 2018, deadline:

1. Replace the diesel engine with a new diesel engine meeting latest certified EPA Tier. If you choose this option, you will need to submit either a permit application by December 1, 2017, or a Permit Exempt Equipment Registrations (PEERs) application by March 1, 2018.
2. Replace the diesel IC engine with an electric motor.
3. Limit the number of hours of usage to no more than 200 hours per calendar year. If you currently have a permit for the engine, you will need to submit a permit modification application to officially lower the allowed operating hours. If you have a PEER for the engine or if your facility is not required to have Permits to Operate, notify the District in writing of your intent to operate the engine no more than 200 hours per year. You will be required to maintain usage logs demonstrating the engine operates no more than 200 hours per year.

If you have any questions on this, please contact our office or the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

**Discussion Ongoing on ESJ Revised Order**

Last year we updated you on action taken by the State Water Board and their proposed East San Joaquin Revised Order. The Revised Order was largely seen as significantly overarching changes to regulation, with the primary target being the agricultural industry. The agricultural industry came out in force to oppose the changes to the Order. The State Water Board provided an avenue for a solution in that representatives for the Agricultural community come to common ground with representatives of the Environmental Justice (EJ) organizations and provide a working draft of the Revised Order. The negotiations have been private, but a draft of the significant points has been circulated. Some of the important points agreed on by both Ag and the EJ community include providing reporting relief after three years of farm evaluations, maintaining area specific vulnerability determinations as opposed to the entire state being deemed “High Vulnerability”, a continuing education requirement for all designated areas, the Management Practices Effectiveness Program develops crop by crop metrics on Nitrogen Uptake, Annual Nitrogen Management Plans will be analyzed on a township basis rather than an individual farm basis, and lastly the coalitions are kept intact and their role remains the same in terms of submitting Nitrogen Management Plans to the State Water Board. As stated earlier, negotiations are still ongoing and there will be further workshops on the new drafts of the Revised Order. Stay tuned.

**Association Testifies at SJVAPCD Board Hearing in Support of Incentives**

At the monthly meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District’s (Air District) Governing Board, Association representative Chris McGlothlin testified in support of continued incentive funding. The agenda item focused on continuing the dialogue with the Air Resources Board about securing future funding for incentive programs that are utilized by many different Air District implemented programs. The Air District’s programs have focused primarily on funding tune up programs for disadvantaged communities, upgrades to stationary engines, as well as funding programs for agricultural equipment upgrades. The agricultural equipment funding program has long been touted as one of the more effective and successful emission reduction strategies employed by the Air District. The program has reduced emissions attributed to agricultural operations and equipment so effectively that the Air Resources Board has held off in developing a mandatory tractor replacement program. The Association plans on supporting efforts to secure incentive funding programs.

**Combustible Dust Research-Cotton Gin Dust is Published**

USDA ARS conducted research in 2012-2013 on cotton gin dust from five (5) different cotton gins from California, New Mexico and Texas to determine whether cotton gin dust was a “combustible dust” or not. At the request of the California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association (CCGGA) USDA ARS conducted the tests as specified by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and found that cotton gin dust should not be considered

UC Cooperative Extension Hosting SJV Cotton Production Symposium
The UC Cooperative Extension will be hosting two meetings in the month of May to update cotton growers on a wide variety of topics concerning the growing season. Topics range from various pest and weed management strategies, a DPR rules and regulations update, irrigation strategies, proper management of crop nitrogen. The meeting also hopes to address the ongoing issue of Sticky Cotton; an update on the Association’s previous Sticky Cotton Summit will be provided, as well as the plan of action for combating this problem during the growing season. These meetings will provide continuing education credits for PCA’s and CCA’s, so all are encouraged to sign up. Lunch and refreshments will also be provided. The meeting and locations are as follows:

May 16, 2017  
UCCE Tulare County  
4437-B Laspina Street  
Tulare, CA 93274

May 17, 2017  
UC WSREC Five Points  
17353 W. Oakland Avenue  
Five Points, CA 93624