

The Cotton Chronicle

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November 2017

Volume 27 Issue 11

Industry Calendar

November 15
Joint Steering/
Executive Committee
Meeting—
Fresno, CA

December 6
Board Meeting—
Fresno, CA

Visit web calendar
for details

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Don Cameron, Awarded 2017 Agriculturalist of the Year

Don Cameron, longtime cotton industry advocate and friend, was awarded Fresno Chamber of Commerce's *Agriculturalist of the Year* award.



Cameron who farms more than 7,500 acres has proven to be an industry leader through innovative farming practices as well as through his high level of involvement in the industry. Cameron, who once served as California Cotton Growers Association Chairman from 2007-2008, has participated on numerous committees and boards. He currently serves on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture and is currently the chairman for the California Cotton Alliance and serves on the Western Growers Board of Directors. He has had critical involvement with the Sustainable Ground Water Management Act formation, in the Kings Sub-basin. **President/CEO Roger Isom** said, "There is no one more deserving than Don. If you look at what a grower needs to be successful in California in 2017, it's Don Cameron." California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association congratulates Don Cameron on a well-deserved award!

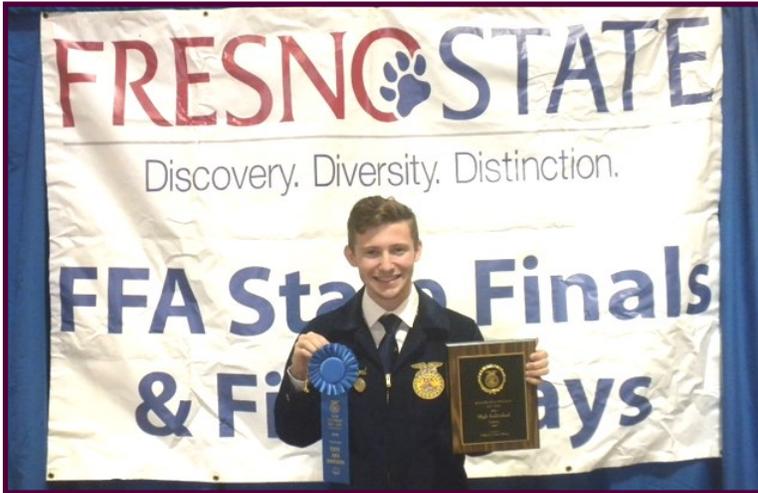
Fresno State Hosts Statewide FFA Cotton Judging Competition

This month, **California State University, Fresno** held its 60th Annual Statewide FFA Cotton Judging Competition. The Cotton contest seeks to effectively prepare the students for the expectation of the cotton industry. Workers seeking careers in cotton must not only develop a high degree of knowledge and skill, they must also develop the ability to solve difficult problems. This contest blends the critical thinking, mathematical, and plant biology knowledge and skills along with the ability to express oneself through oral communication. The knowledge gained from this contest can also be applied to general crop production. The A Team from **Chowchilla FFA** won the High Team A Contest, while the



Hanford FFA B Team won the High Team B Competition. **Garrett Alford from O'Neals-Minarets FFA** won the High Individual A Contest, and **Audra Koelewyn from Hanford FFA** won the High Individual B Competition. Over 90

Welcome New Associate Members!
Kingsway Industries Inc.



Garrett Alford, O'Neals-Minarets FFA

students from 15 A Teams and 9 B Teams participated in the competition. The competition is coordinated by **Bruce Roberts and Advisor Margaret Ellis from California State University, Fresno**. The event is also sponsored by **Supima, the California Cotton Alliance and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association**.

CCGGA Discusses Importance of Compliance

In a panel discussion at this past month's South Valley Nut Conference, **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** spoke on the importance of compliance and being proactive when it comes to the regulatory environment in California. Isom reported that air quality, water quality, energy and food safety were among some of the highest



priority issues impacting the industry and that non-compliance was only going to get worse. With Cal/OSHA increasing their fines this past month and air pollution fines increasing from \$1,000 per day to \$5,000 per day in 2018, Isom commented "there is no room for non-compliance. The days of laying low and hoping no one will catch you are over!" Isom cited a recent example of five growers facing fines in excess of \$100,000 for failure to upgrade their irrigation pump engines. Isom encour-

aged attendees of the major event conducted by the **West Coast Nut Grower Guide** to be "proactive", citing the use of incentives to replace pump engines and farm equipment before you have too. Other panelists included **Ag Council President Emily Rooney** and **Fresno County Grower Dan Errotabere**.

CDPR Finalized Pesticide Use around Schools

The California Department of Pesticide Regulations has adopted the official regulations regarding the use of agricultural pesticides near schools and licensed child day-care facilities. The regulations will take effect on **January 1, 2018**. The new rule prohibits most applications within a quarter mile around schools and day care facilities from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Additionally, the regulations require growers within the quarter mile radius to provide an annual notification no later than April 30 of pesticides they expect to be used between July 1 of the current year through June 30 of the next year. Pesticides that require use but are not included on the annual notification must provide notification at least 48 hours prior to their use. Fumigants may not be applied within 36 hours of the school and/or daycare facility opening. Below is a breakdown of distance and application restrictions.

Prohibited applications within a quarter mile:

- Aircraft
- Airblast sprayer or other ground application equipment that delivers spray into an air stream created by fan
- Sprinkler chemigation
- Dust or Powder, unless injected into the soil
- Fumigant, includes fumigation of stockpiles in orchards but excludes fumigation on huller/processor sites.

Prohibited applications within 25 feet:

- Ground rig sprayer
- Field soil injection equipment
- Drip or flood chemigation

No distance restriction:

- Application made within closed space (exception of fumigant)
- Bait stations
- Dust or powder injection into soil
- Application of granule, flake or pellet (exception of fumigant or aircraft application)
- Backpack sprayer (exception if it incorporates airblast or is used to apply dust/powder)
- Hand pump sprayer (exception if used to apply dust, powder or fumigant)

CCGGA Tours SoCal Ag with Urban Legislators

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associa-**

tion joined a large group of urban southern California legislators last month to tour the agricultural industry in the 44th (Irwin) and the 37th (Limon) legislative districts. **Assemblywoman Irwin, Assemblywoman Limon, Speaker**



Rendon, Assemblyman Bloom, Assemblywoman Burke, Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer, Assemblywoman Rubio as well as several staffers were among the participants in the day long tour. The group visited Houwelling's Tomatoes, a Driscoll's farm site and Limoneira packing house. The Association was represented by **Director of Technical Services Chris McGlothlin** and **Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley**. This was an incredibly unique opportunity to discuss agricultural issues with several members who are primarily in urban Los Angeles areas. Issues discussed included labor, the increasing cost of staying in business in California, and the increasing regulatory burden agencies are rolling out. The Association finds great value in these opportunities to expose our lawmakers to the agricultural industry with the result of them emerging with a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture!

Purchase Your CCGGA PAC Raffle Ticket Today!

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association is offering folks the chance to win a Beretta Silver Pigeon I shotgun at the same time as supporting the Association's PAC efforts! Funds from the CCGGA Federal and State PAC are critical in influencing legislation, campaigns and industry efforts in Sacramento and D.C. With today's political climate these funds prove to be more valuable now more than ever! Tickets are \$100/each, limit 250 entries. You can purchase a ticket by mailing a check to our offices (1785 N. Fine Ave. Fresno, CA 93727). Payment can be accepted in the form of a personal or company check. Checks can be made payable to **California Cotton Ginners & Growers PAC** and you **MUST** include your phone number on the check. Payments must be received by 5 p.m.,

Wednesday, Nov. 22 to the address provided. The drawing will be held during the CCGGA Board Meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 6th, winner need not be present. If you have questions or would like more information please call Jodi Raley at (559) 252-0684.

Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio Tours Cotton Gin

California **Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio** (D-48) joined the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association** and other members of the Agricultural President's Council on a day long tour of agriculture in the Central San Joaquin Valley. Rubio, who represents areas including Baldwin Park, Covina, Glendora and Azusa, had the opportunity to visit Dos Palos Coop Red Top Gin, The Specialty Crop Company, Fowler Packing as well as Minturn Huller Coop. The Assemblywoman was joined by Association **President/CEO Roger Isom, Director of Technical Services Chris McGlothlin** and **Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley**. The primary issues discussed were water availability, necessary oversight from legislature over regulatory agencies, along with discussing the impacts oper-



ations are beginning to feel from the ag overtime and minimum wage bills. The Association looks forward to building our relationship with this Assemblywoman and future opportunities to bring southern California representatives to the Valley!

Advisory on Plastic Contamination in Cotton

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued an advisory to all cotton gins in the country to be on the lookout for plastic contamination. According to the **USDA AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program Associate Deputy Administrator Ronald F. Robbins**, "USDA has witnessed a significant increase in the number of samples that contain plastic contamination." All samples found to have plastic

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will be identified as extraneous matter with 61- or 62- Other codes. Through November 1st of this year USDA AMS has identified 237 samples with plastic while classing the 2017 crop. In comparison, they found only 25 samples of contamination in the entire 2016 crop. To



date, only one contaminated sample has been found in California cotton, but it still warrants being diligent, especially with the large increase in the usage of round modules.

CCGGA Meets with CARB

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association** organized a meeting with the **California Air Resources Board**, along with other agricultural organizations, in our offices to discuss a few items that are of great concern to the industry. The Association, represented by **President/CEO Roger Isom**, **Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley**, and **Director of Technical Services Chris McGlothlin**, felt it necessary to have a face to face conversation regarding CARB's Transportation Refrigeration Unit regulation, their warehouse/distribution center survey as well as CARB's latest initiative seeking alternative areas to reduce emissions, possibly through a facility cap. CCGGA staff strongly pushed back on CARB's attempt to qualify gin facilities as warehouse/distribution centers. Additionally, CCGGA staff called into question where CARB was seeking to make "additional reductions", noting that facilities are already regulated to the fullest extent and additional reductions would require gins to replace equipment and meet emissions below what is currently required! There will be follow ups to the conversations started at this meeting, we will keep you updated.