



The Cotton Chronicle

1785 N. Fine Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727 • Telephone: (559) 252-0684 • Fax: (559) 252-0551

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May 2019

Volume 29, Issue 5

Industry Calendar

May 15-17—
Annual Meeting
Pismo, CA

Visit web calendar
for details

CCGGA Staff

Roger A. Isom
President/CEO
roger@ccgga.org

Christopher McGlothlin
Director of Technical
Services
chris@ccgga.org

Jodi Devaurs
Director of Regulatory
Affairs
jodi@ccgga.org

Shana Colby
Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org

Cotton Industry Mourns the Loss of Industry Leader/Icon Fred Starrh

The cotton industry mourns the loss of longtime industry leader and icon, Fred Starrh. Fred passed peacefully on April 16th, 2019 at the age of 89, at home while under the care of his wife, Linda Starrh. Fred was born in Arizona on June 15th, 1929 of humble circumstance, the youngest son of a family growing cotton in Pima County near Tucson, Arizona. Then in 1935, his parents, George and Mary, moved to a 30-acre patch of sandy earth near the town of Shafter. Fred grew up in the shadow of the depression and the Second World War. When his draft card was called during the Korean War, he obliged and was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington State for two years. It was while stationed in the army that he met Nancy Johnson, who would be his wife and partner of 54 years, and mother of his four children. Losing Nancy to cancer in 2009 was a deeply tragic moment in Fred's life. In 2010, Fred found joy again with his marriage to Linda Colvard. During his long, 68-year farming career, he was also heavily involved in the national and local cotton industry in California and was involved in local agricultural water districts and grower co-operatives. He also served as Chairman of the non-profit cotton marketing association, Cotton Incorporated. That involvement frequently took him around the US and to other countries, and he made many life-long friends along the way. He also served as director of the San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers Association, Advisor to



the National Cotton Council, Director of the Kern County Water Agency, Director of the California Farm Water Coalition, founding president of the Farmers' Cooperative Almond Huller, President of Cotton Council International, President of the Kern County Farm Bureau, Director of the California Farm Bureau Federation, Chairman of the American Farm Bureau Cotton Committee, President of California Cotton Growers from 1986 to 1990, vice chairman of Calcot Ltd., and Chairman of the San Joaquin Valley Cotton Board. He was also appointed to serve on the Cotton Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee and Cotton Marketing Committee by Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan during the George H.W. Bush Administration, where he advised on the development of the 1990 farm bill. More than just a farmer, Fred served his community for 17 years on the board of the Kern County High School District. He had also served his town as a trustee of the Richland School District of Shafter, as founding member of the Shafter Recreation District, and as a leading supporter, and participant in local theater, music, and art programs. For his service Fred received many accolades during his career, which are too numerous to list in full. He was moved by the Kern High School District's decision to name the Shafter High School auditorium in his honor, his inclusion in Cotton Incorporated's industry hall of fame, the nominations made by his friends for Co-op Farmer of the Year, Shafter's Ag Man of the Year, Farmer of the Year, Western High Cotton Award, his recognition by the American

Society of Agronomy, and many more. Memorial fund donations may be made to the Congregational Bible Church of Shafter.

Association Opposes Nighttime Lighting Requirements

The CalOSHA Standards Board held a public hearing on the proposed Nighttime lighting requirements for agricultural operations. The Association attended the hearing and spoke in opposition to the proposed requirements. The Association specifically noted the lack of accidents supporting such requirements, and specifically commented on the Board's flawed economic analysis, which said that you could meet the lighting requirements by pur-



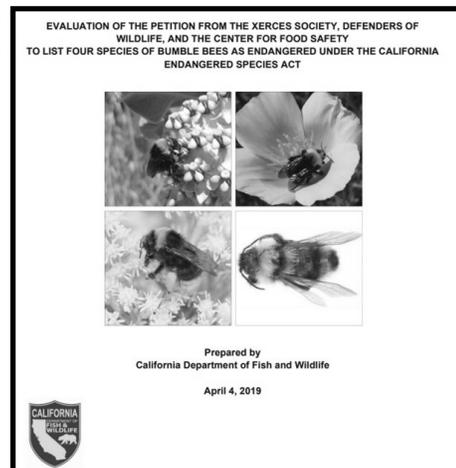
Assn. President/CEO Isom Testifying at CalOSHA Standards Board Hearing

chasing some cheap "rechargeable" lighting masts for only \$200, and that you would only need one to comply. The Association specifically referenced light measurements data submitted to CalOSHA during the Advisory Committee process that demonstrated it would take more than one, and that the "rechargeable" light mast only received the discounted price if you bought in bulk from China. Proponents of the proposed changes cited alleged accidents and cases of sexual harassments, but did not provide documented proof. The Standards Board is expected to vote at next month's board meeting. Joining the Association in opposition, was the California Farm Bureau Federation, California Association of Winegrape Growers, and the California Poultry Federation.

California Depart of Fish and Wildlife to Consider Listing Four Species of Bumblebees as Endangered

In response to a petition by the Xerces Society, Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Food Safety, to the **Fish and Game Commission** (Commission) list four (4) species of

bumblebees as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the **California Department of Fish and Wildlife** (CDFW) has prepared an evaluation report (Petition Evaluation) for the Petition. The Commission referred the petition to CDFW. The four species include **Crotch bumble bee, Franklin bumble bee, Western bumble bee, and Suckley cuckoo bumble bee**. After reviewing the Petition and other relevant information, the Department found that "the Petition provides sufficient scientific information to indicate the petitioned action may be warranted. Therefore, the Department recommends the Commission accept the Petition for further consideration under CESA." The report cites several factors or threats affecting the ability of all the petitioned species to survive and reproduce and they fall into four main categories: 1) present or threatened modification or destruction of their habitat; 2) competition; 3) disease; and 4) other natural and human-related factors, including pesticide use, genetic factors, and climate change. Within these categories, agriculture is highlighted many times as posing a threat. Under habitat destruction, agricultural conversion of lands is cited as a contributor to loss of habitat. Within the category of competition, the report highlights threats from other species of bees, "particularly of other bee species imported and managed to pollinate crops or produce honey" as a direct threat by reducing pollen and nectar resources. Under "other factors" the report specifically highlights the use of herbicides and pesticides as having "several negative impacts on native bumble bees, including degrading habitat and removing floral resources, causing direct mortality and sublethal effects, reducing population success and survival rates, and increasing disease risk. What does all this mean? The Department now has 12 months to produce a peer-reviewed report based upon the best scientific information available that advises the Commission whether the petitioned action is warranted. Finally, the Commission, based on that report and other information in the administrative record, then determines whether or not the petitioned action to list the species as threatened or endangered is warranted. If



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.



Western flower thrips in flower

Thrips Control in Tomatoes, Cotton

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.



Leaf damage by thrips

Radiant[®] Insecticide

Radiant continues to be the standard for thrips control 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

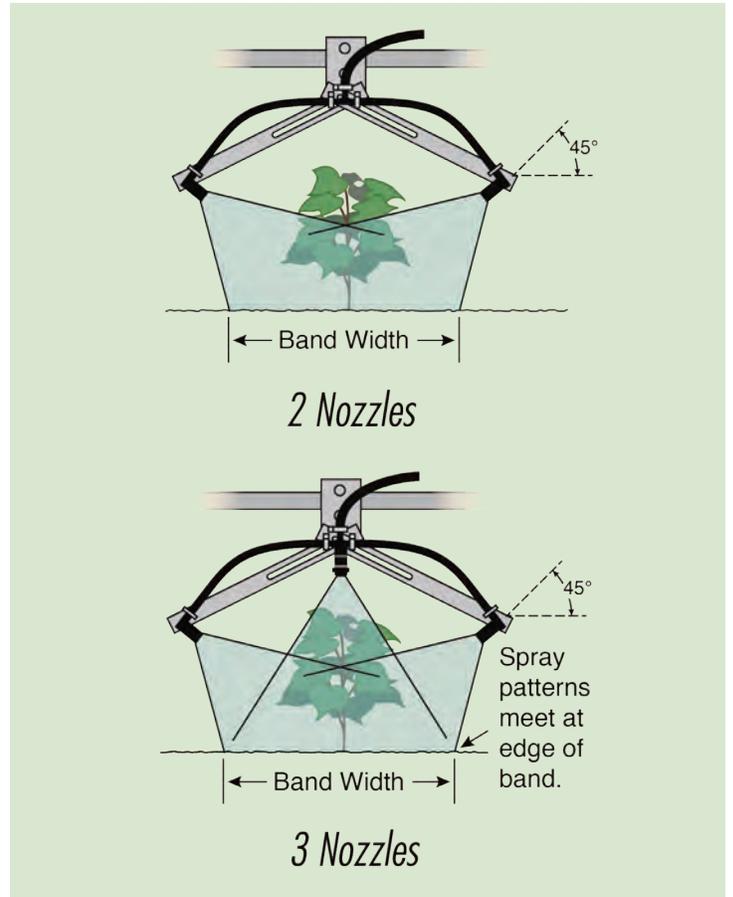
- REI:** 4 hours
- PHI:** 1 day (tomatoes), 28 days (cotton)
- Adjuvant:** A penetrating surfactant may help for thrips
- Resistance Management:** Maximum two consecutive applications of an IRAC Group 5 insecticide before rotating to another effective class of chemistry.

Banded Applications

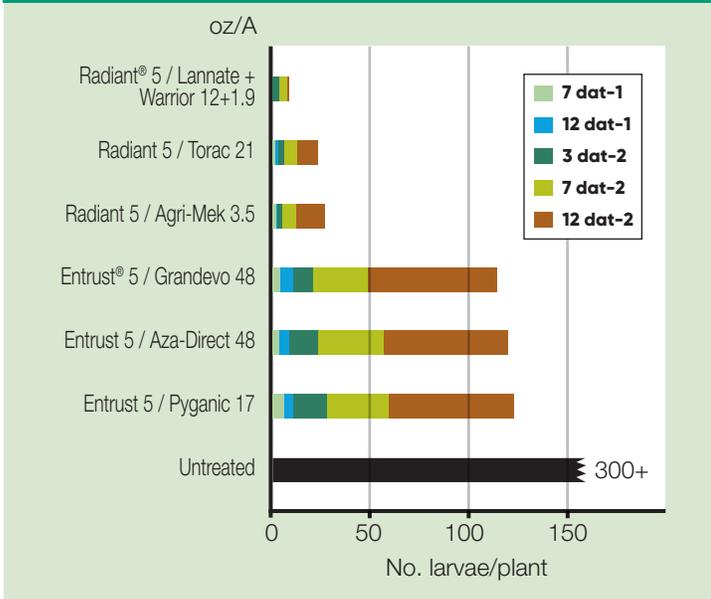
When cotton or tomato plants are small, banded applications can be very economical. Nozzles can be set up two per seedline or three per seedline. By treating anywhere from 1/4 to 1/2 the area, rates can be dropped to as low as 2 ounces per acre.

Rates

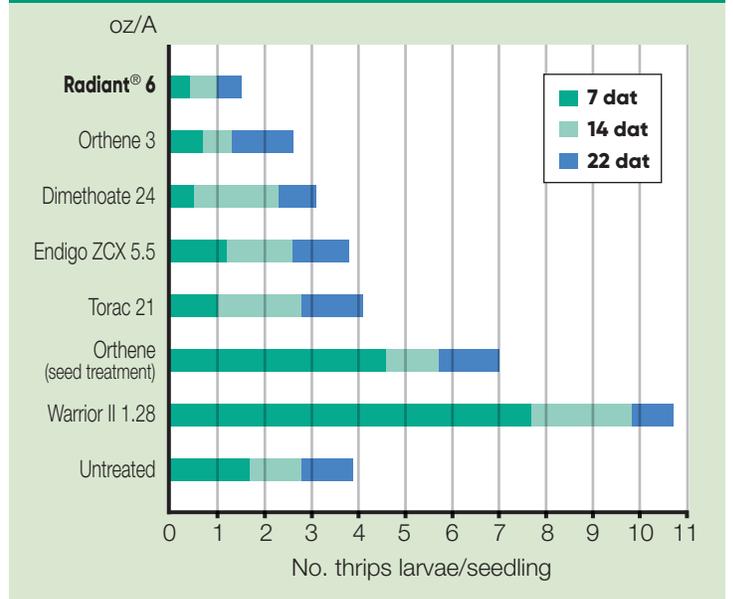
Standard broadcast rate for worms	4.5-6 oz/A
Thrips rate	6 oz/A
Banded (1/2 area) with reduced spray volume	3-4 oz/A
Banded (1/4-1/3 area) with reduced spray volume	2 oz/A



Western Flower Thrips Efficacy Trial – Romaine
J.C. Palumbo, Yuma, AZ – 2016



Western Flower Thrips Efficacy Trial – Cotton
L. Godfrey, UC Extension, Shafter, CA – 2016



listed, this will put even more pressure on the use of pesticides and herbicides in agricultural settings. This will have to be closely monitored over the next several months.

2019 Ginners School

Earlier this month, the Association hosted the 2019 Annual Ginners School in Corcoran. Ginners were able to participate in a wide variety of trainings from various industry representatives including AgSafe, Jorgensen, J.G. Boswell, the Western Agricultural Processors Association, D&D Resources and Lummus Corporation. Ginners Ses-



Standing Row (L-R): Eduardo Oregel, Daniel Moore, Estevan Hernandez, Javier Ceja, Joe Velasquez Sitting Row (L-R): Daniel Medrano, Elizabeth Orozco, Fernando Diaz, Javier Cervantes, Antonio Arreguin

sion Topics included Bale Handling Safety, Electrical Troubleshooting, Fire Prevention, Hydraulics Safety, Sexual Harassment for Supervisors training, as well as the annual Safety Contest. Participants were tested on topics including safe operational procedures of tools, fire suppression and related equipment, Fall Protection, Lock Out Tag Out as well as gin specific questions relating to proper operation set up. This year's safety contest winners were:

- Eduardo Oregel – J.G. Boswell
- Daniel Moore – Dos Palos Coop
- Estevan Hernandez – J.G. Boswell
- Javier Ceja – J.G. Boswell
- Joe Velasquez – J.G. Boswell
- Fernando Diaz – J.G. Boswell
- Antonio Arreguin – Olam Cotton
- Javier Cervantes – J.G. Boswell
- Elizabeth Orozco – J.G. Boswell
- Daniel Medrano – County Line Gin, Inc.

Gin Managers were able to listen in on updates from The Saqui Law Group, a division of Dowling Aaron on Hot Topics in Labor Law, as well as the newly mandated two hour

Sexual Harassment for Supervisors training. The Association would like to thank all of the sponsors for helping make this event possible, and we would also like to thank the Gins and the ginning members that were in attendance.

California Announces Intent to Ban Chlorpyrifos

This month California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), in conjunction with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), announced that California will begin the process to cancel registrations of products containing the active ingredient chlorpyrifos. Since being listed as a Toxic Air Contaminant last year, DPR has been evaluating additional regulations that could be put in place to mitigate the concern of exposure for children, farmworkers and vulnerable communities. Most recently, DPR issued interim recommended permit conditions that narrowed down the scope of use to commodities that had "critical uses" for the product. While cotton was one of the few commodities included on the latest conditions, it is practically useless to the industry because of the overly conservative requirements that prohibit aerial application and limit sprays to 40 acres at a time. Chlorpyrifos has been an extremely critical tool for California cotton to control late season cotton aphid. The loss of chlorpyrifos leaves the California cotton industry no alternatives to control this pest, who if left unchecked cause sticky cotton. As more and more products are mitigated out of use, the industry is left with little or no alternatives available to backfill the products taken off the market. This latest announcement noted the governor will allocate 5.7 million dollars to be put towards finding safer alternatives and looking into other practices, such as integrated pest management, to ease the loss of this product for the agricultural community. The process to cancel the registration could take up to two years to complete, before that is done Cal/EPA will be formulating a working group to further understand the impacts of losing this product as well as which other chemistries the agency can support to have available for the industry. While CCGGA remains adamantly opposed to further restrictions on this material as well as feeling it is unacceptable to leave the California cotton industry in a vulnerable position without this chemistry, the Association will continue to push back and engage with the state agencies responsible for this decision.

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
1785 N. Fine Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

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CCGGA Annual Meeting this Month!

The Association is excited to host this year's meeting at from May 15th-17th at The Cliffs Hotel and Spa in Pismo, CA! This year's meeting features an information packed



agenda, annual golf tournament as well as comedic entertainment during the CCGGA Annual Meeting Dinner. Attendees can look forward to beautiful ocean views as the meeting kicks off on Wednesday evening with a Welcome Reception. Golf tournament attendees will be heading to Avila Beach and Golf resort Thursday morning, coming back just in time for the CCGGA Annual Meeting Reception and Dinner. This year, guests will be enjoying

the entertainment from comedian Greg Warren. Warren has been most recently seen on "Late Night with Seth Meyers", "The Late Late Show on CBS" and "Last Comic Standing". Warren is a favorite on the nationally syndicated Bob & Tom radio show and has toured theaters across the country with The Bob & Tom All Stars Comedy Tour. To conclude the meeting, the Association will be presenting critical updates from industry associations and updates on issues impacting the cotton industry in California. Throughout Friday's agenda the group will receive reports from USDA on the cotton ginning research labs, a water update, pressures on crop protection tools, reports on variety trials and a Sacramento update. Additionally, National Cotton Ginners Association, National Cotton Council, Supima, Cotton Inc., and USDA AMS will be providing the latest from their entities. If you have any questions, please contact our offices at (559) 252-0684.

