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The Cotton Chronicle

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Western Cotton Shippers Association

EPA Approves Planting of 100% Transgenic Cotton in California The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved a USDA APHIS request for a repeat Section 18 Federal Quarantine Exemption, allowing the planting of 100% transgenic cotton in California to target pink bollworm. The request by the USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine department will permit cotton growers in 14 counties in California to plant up to 100% of their cotton acreage to transgenic (Bt) cotton in conjunction with sterile insect release. This quarantine exemption is subject to the following conditions:

1. USDA APHIS is responsible for ensuring all provisions of this quarantine are met, including submitting annual use reports and a final report to EPA within six months of the expiration date of the exemption.
2. The following products may be used under this exemption: Bollgard II cotton, WideStrike cotton, and WideStrike x COT102 cotton, and TwinLink Bt Cotton.
3. All applicable use directions, restrictions and precautions on the EPA-registered product must be followed.
4. Only the following counties may be planted to 100% Bt cotton (no refuge): Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Sutter, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa and Butte.
5. Results of the resistance monitoring program conducted by USDA APHIS must be reported annually to EPA.
6. Interim reports must be submitted by USDA APHIS to EPA Headquarters and Region IX.

Welcome New Associate Members!
DuBox Strapping, Inc.
Goetz & Sons, Inc.
Quality Grain Company, Inc.

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CCGGA Emphasizes Water in Trip to Sacramento
Several members of the Boards of Directors of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations talked water, water, water to several members of the California State Legislature this past week in a trip to Sacramento. The California Cotton Growers Association was represented by Chairman Steve Wilbur, and Gary Martin, while the California Cotton Ginners Association was represented by Chairman Greg Gillard of Olam Cotton, 2nd Vice Chairman Russell Patterson of Buttonwillow Ginning and Past

Chairman Stan Grelelman of Mid Valley Cotton Growers. The Association staff included President/CEO Roger Isom and Director of Regulatory Affairs Almeke Brooks, along with George Soares and Brownie Brown of Kahn, Soares and Conway, as well as several Board members of the Western Agricultural Processors Association in this trip to the State Capitol. CCGGA had dinner with Assemblyman Ken Cooley and Senator Ben Hueso, and breakfast with Senators Jean Fuller and Anthony Cannella to discuss water bond legislation. In addition, the members met with Senator Andy Vidak, Senator Tom Berryhill, Assemblyman Rudy Salas and Assemblyman Henry T. Perez individually to discuss water as well. While the group was in Sacramento, they also met the Director Brian Leahy and Deputy Director Chris Reardon of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to discuss Chlorpyrifos, bee issues, Bidrin for brown stink bugs and neonicinoids. They also met with State Water Resources Control Board Member Dee Dee D’Adamo to discuss the latest information regarding the state water supply situation, potential groundwater actions and the Irrigated Lands Program. In addition, the contingent met with California Air Resources Board Executive Officer Richard Corey and Emissions Compliance, Automotive Regulations and Science Division Chief Erik White to discuss the Truck Rule, Tractor Rule and AB32 Scoping Plan. Finally, the group ended the trip with a meeting with Michael Boccadoro and Beth Olhasso of the Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA) to discuss energy issues, in particular the latest in the current PG&E General Rate Case and the implementation of aggregation for solar installations.

Meeting with Assemblyman Henry T. Perez

Meeting with ABB Executive Officer Richard Corey

Meeting with Assemblyman Ben Hueso and Assemblyman Ken Cooley

Meeting with Senator Ben Hueso and Assemblyman Ken Cooley

OEHHA released proposed “pre-regulatory” changes to the Prop. 65 requirements that will mean significant changes for manufacturers, employers, producers, and others who have the potential to expose employees, visitors or customers to a listed Proposition 65 chemical(s). The current proposal would establish 3-5 minimum required elements for warnings that businesses would be obligated to post, including:

- The signal word: WARNING
- Use of the word “expose” to be consistent with statute
- GHS pictogram for toxic hazards (food, occupational, environmental warnings excluded)
- Disclosure of (up to 12) of the commonly known chemicals in warning
  - i.e. Mercury, lead
- Link to a new OEHHA website for the public to access more information
  - Routes of exposure, additional chemicals

The proposal claims the new requirements would provide businesses with more certainty and clarity for their warnings. However, at the recent pre-regulatory workshop on April 14, 2014, a variety of industries banded together to oppose several of the new changes and agreed that the proposal wouldn’t do anything to help with abusive litigation and had the propensity to dramatically increase it! WAPA will make comments on the proposed rule, supporting the changes that need to be made for businesses to have better regulatory certainty but not for changes that increase the chances for frivolous lawsuits. Comments are due to OEHHA May 14th, 2014 and the proposal of a formal regulation will occur sometime in early summer of 2014, with final adoption of the regulations sometime in early summer of 2015.

California Rolls out 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Programs
The 2014 Farm Bill is providing $3.4 billion for conservation programs administered by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in fiscal year 2014 and $3.8 billion over five years. All applications received by NRCS last fall will be transitioned and processed using the 2014 Farm Bill programs with little if any additional work required by the landowner, says California State Conservationist Carlos Suarez. Currently, conservation opportunities are being rolled out gradually, using both new and continuing programs, according to California State Conservationist Carlos Suarez. However, most Farm Bill related changes will be reflected in program roll outs in fiscal year 2015, Suarez says. Programs have been combined into three general categories: 1) financial assistance programs—these continue assistance through the popular Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); 2) easement programs—three programs to protect wetlands, prevent farmland conversion, and conserve grazing lands, have been consolidated into the new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP); and 3) partnership programs—the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) replaces four former programs that allowed partners to apply for special targeted funding to a group of producers with a shared resource protection focus. “Our partners here in California have been very proactive and successful at using the 2008 partnership programs to make needed inroads addressing issues such as nitrates, dairy water quality, pollinator decline, wildlife habitat, rangeland and forest health, irrigation efficiency and much more,” said Suarez. “We anticipate expanding our joint successes using the new RCPP program,” he added. A federal register notice giving more information on RCPP is anticipated soon. Fact sheets are available on each of the new programs, comparing the 2008 and the 2014 set of conservation programs, and detailing the step by step process that farmers and ranchers are required to do to participate in Farm Bill conservation programs. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/CA/newsroom/factsheets/

Ginners School and Managerial Seminar—another success!
The 2014 Ginners School and Managerial Seminar was another successful year of safety training put on by the California Cotton Ginners Association. This year the school had over 100 participants take part in the day long schedule that included classes in a variety of areas such as: Electrical Panel Safety, Module Handling, Accident Response, Interlocking and the famous Safety Contest at the Cross Creek Gin! This year’s Safety Contest winners included:

1st: Ascencion Gomez—Brez Gin
2nd: Angel Valadez—Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.
3rd: Fernando Arvina—Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.
4th: Arto Flores—Farmers Cooperative Gin
5th: Rick Lamater—Westland Cotton Growers, Inc.
6th: John Ragone—G.C. Boswell Company
7th: Daniel Moore—Doc Paloos Gin, Inc.
8th: David Loreia—G.C. Boswell Company
9th: Jim Godfrey—Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.
10th: Sam Favila—Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.

Cotton Up!
The Co-ngrams—these popular programs—three listed chemical(s). The current proposal would establish 3-5 minimum required elements for warnings that businesses would be obligated to post, including:
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