



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

July 2018

Volume 28, Issue 7

Industry Calendar

July 10
Pima Matching—
Visalia, CA

August 30
Supima Annual
Meeting—
Coalinga, CA

September 12
Board Meeting—
Fresno, CA

Visit web calendar
for details

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Preliminary Cotton Acreages for CA Released

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pink Bollworm Program has released the preliminary acreages for most of the cotton growing counties in California for 2018. The breakdown is as follows:

Preliminary Cotton Acreages for California	
County	Acres
San Joaquin Valley	
Kern	23,550
Kings	90,640
Tulare	17,895
Fresno	69,245
Merced	41,760
Madera	950
Subtotal =	244,040
Southern California	
Imperial	2,925
Riverside	6,945
Subtotal =	9,870
Northern California	
Colusa	347
Glenn	2,989
Sutter	194
Tehama	112
Subtotal =	3,642
Overall Total =	257,552

The grand total of **257,552 acres statewide** is down from 295,848 acres statewide in 2017. It is too early for the Pink Bollworm Program to confirm Pima/Upland splits, but current estimates put the split at 82%/18%, but we will wait to confirm what was actually planted.

Energy Legislation at the Forefront at the State Capitol

The Association has spent the month of June in the Capitol on a weekly basis over concerns that legislation like SB 1088 (Dodd), SB 100 (De Leon) and others would have a huge impact in increasing rates on agricultural processing facilities in California. Working closely with our lobbying

team in Sacramento, Association staff has been meeting with state legislators making sure they understand the impact to an already burgeoning electricity rate discrepancy for operations in California compared to the rest of the U.S. or the world for that matter. And with other laws impacting rates, such as climate change, rates are already only going to increase. As a result of significant wildfires last year, SB 1088 requires the state's investor owned utilities (IOUs) to prepare and submit to the CPUC a "safety, reliability, and resiliency plan" for review and approval every two years beginning January 2019. Safety plans to address wildfire mitigation and emergency preparedness are already required of the utilities, and paid for by ratepayers. Utility rates in California are already amongst the highest in the nation. The average industrial electricity rate in California, as of February 2018, was 12.96 cents/kWh, 95.5% higher than the US average of 6.63 cents/kWh for all states other than California. SB 1088 would provide the utilities with a blank check for cost recovery on all utility expenses related to the IOU plans if the commission determines that the utility was in "substantial compliance" with their own approved plan. Accordingly, the Association is actively and adamantly opposing this legislation. Similarly, SB 100, would change the state's goal of providing electricity based on 50% renewable energy by 2030, by mandating that the state's utilities achieve 60% by 2030 and ultimately 100% by 2045. As stated above, the Association has no choice but to oppose policy that will ultimately place the entire burden of the state's ambitious climate change policies on the backs of ratepayers, thereby making us non-competitive with the rest of the world.

Temperance Flat Determined Cost Effective

The San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority travelled to testify before the California Water Commission (CWC) once more. The CWC spent two days finalizing component scores and determining whether or not each project is cost effective. Temperance Flat received an initial score of 71 out of 100 points for the preliminary component scores which when added together determine the project's score of "Expected Return for Public Investment". The components making up this score consisted of Public Benefit Ratio & Non-Monetized Benefits, Relative Environmental Value, Resiliency, and Implementation Risk. Not only were all of these scores accepted, but the CWC added an additional two points to the project's Implementation Risk bringing their "Expected Return for Public Investment" score to 73. Additionally, the CWC in a six to one vote approved that Temperance Flat is a cost effective project.

CCGGA Stands Down for Veterans

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association**, represented by **President/CEO Roger Isom**, **Chris McGlothlin**, **Director of Technical Services**, and **Jodi Raley**, **Director of Regulatory Affairs**, ventured to San Diego to take part in a unique opportunity for the cotton industry to give back to those who have served our country. **Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins** represents the 39th Senate District, which includes La Jolla, Del Mar, Downtown San Diego, Point Loma and other surrounding communities. With Point Loma Naval Base and the San Diego Marine Base within her district's bounds, there is a large population of veterans, some of which who are struggling. CCGGA learned earlier this year that Pro Tem Atkins was pas-

sionate about assisting these veterans and hosts on an annual basis a Stand Down event in her district. Stand Down events offer food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and other services to homeless veterans. One of the most requested items for these events is, of all things, socks. Once CCGGA learned of this event and the high demand for good quality socks for these veterans, we started thinking on how we as a fiber industry can contribute to this cause. In partnership with Supima, CCGGA was able to donate 1,000 pairs of California Grown, American Made pima cotton socks. The socks will be distributed at San Diego's 31st Annual Stand Down taking place June 29th through July 1st. The Association was honored to be able to use our grower's cotton to be put forward towards a great cause. CCGGA looks forward to continuing this momentum and finding additional opportunities to give back as an industry. CCGGA would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Supima and Harris & Covington Hosiery Mills for partnering with the Association to make this happen!

CCGGA Submits Another Section 18

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association have submitted another Section 18 for Transform, however this time it is for use on cotton aphid. This would be the first Section 18 for use on cotton aphid. We are in the very preliminary stages and are working closely with the Department of Pesticide Regulation to work through the application process. CCGGA would like to extend a sincere thank you to Pete Goodell and Bob Hutmacher on their time, effort and expertise in helping put together this application! We will provide updates on the application process, so stay tuned!



Chlorpyrifos to be Considered as Toxic Air Contaminant

Over the past several months, the Department of Pesticide Regulation's Scientific Review Panel has been scrutinizing chlorpyrifos, aka Lorsban, in regards to its use, toxicity and risk. The Association has actively opposed the products inclusion into this program citing the overly conservative, unrealistic data that is included in the modeling. In DPR's models, they assume a child is downwind from a chlorpyrifos application for 21 DAYS straight. This assumption, while not only unrealistic would be an illegal practice violating both the federal and state label for the product. The Scientific Review Panel

moved to approve DPR's staff report to list chlorpyrifos as a Toxic Air Contaminant. From here, there will begin a public process to determine mitigation measures. California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association will remain fully engaged and will actively push back on any additional restrictions that go above and beyond what is currently required.

EPA Administrator Pruitt Resigns

After months of controversy and self-proclaimed "unrelenting attacks" on himself and his family, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has resigned. Shortly after receiving his resignation, President Donald Trump tweeted the news Thursday that Pruitt had resigned. "I have accepted the resignation of Scott Pruitt as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency," Trump tweeted. "Within the Agency Scott has done an outstanding job, and I will always be thankful to him for this." Trump said on Twitter that Pruitt's recently Senate-confirmed deputy Andrew Wheeler will on Monday assume the duties of acting administrator of the EPA. "I have no doubt that Andy will continue on with our great and lasting EPA agenda. We have made tremendous progress and the future of the EPA is very bright!" Trump tweeted. Wheeler is a former lobbyist for the coal industry, and had previously worked for the Senate Public Works and Environment Committee, as well as a top aide to Senator Jim Inhofe.

Last Chance to Complete the 2017 Census of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is wrapping up data collection for the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Farmers and ranchers still have until the end of July to complete the Census online through the secure website found on the cover of their Census form. Phone follow-up and personal interviews will also continue through July. "The Census of Agriculture provides the only source of comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation," said USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue. "These data are used to make important local, state, and national decisions that will have a very real impact on farmers, ranchers, ag operations, and rural communities. I encourage producers to respond online or to send in their paper form today." The questionnaire needs to be completed by everyone who received a form - including landowners who lease land to producers, those involved in conservation programs, even those who may have received the

Census and do not farm. Every response matters. "Our mission at NASS is to provide data in service to U.S. agriculture," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "We extended the original Census deadline because many producers weren't counted – and if they aren't represented in these critical data, they risk being underserved in farm programs, disaster assistance, agricultural research, education, local policies, and business; it is imperative that we hear from everyone." For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture or to respond online, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. Improved in 2017, the online form is faster and more convenient than ever. For questions about or assistance with filling out the Census, call toll-free (888) 424-7828.

Ken Ramos Elected Ag One Foundation President

Ken Ramos, Wells Fargo's president for Central California business banking, began his one-year term on July 1 as the new president of the Ag One Foundation at Fresno State. Ramos, of Fresno, previously served as vice president for Ag One — a development organization for the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State — and has also served as treasurer and secretary on its board of directors. Originally from Easton, he graduated from Cal Poly with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business. He joined Wells Fargo as a business banking manager in 2004 and was promoted to regional area manager in 2007 and his current position in 2010. He also serves on the board for the foundation of Valley Children's Hospital of Central California and the Downtown Fresno Partnership. "It is a special pleasure to be chosen as the president for Ag One in its 40th year of serving Fresno State's agricultural programs," Ramos said. "It will be an exciting year with lots of events and opportunities for alumni, industry supporters and friends from across the Central Valley to continue to support and make a huge difference in our students' lives." Bill Purewal, owner of PureFresh Sales produce marketing, was elected vice president. Annie Stuhr was elected treasurer. She is a vice president, agribusiness relationship officer and



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unit supervisor for Central Valley Community Bank. **Jim Razor** joined the executive committee as secretary. He serves as a district manager of the **J.G. Boswell Company** and oversees the production of Pima cotton, processing tomatoes and safflower. He earned a plant science degree from Fresno State in 1990 and joined the company as an agronomist the same year. Other new members on the 23-person board include Tyler Blagg, Peterson and Company Agricultural Real Estate (Fresno State 2007); Ron Fanucchi, Ron Fanucchi Farming Company (Fresno State 1989); **Roger Isom, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and Western Agricultural Processors Association (Fresno State 1988)**; Demetrio Papagni, Papagni Winery and Packing House (Fresno State 1982); and Lorna Roush, Schultz Ranch (Fresno State 1998). Since 1979, the Ag One Foundation has endowed more than \$19.5 million in 120 funds to benefit, promote and support the Jordan College. About 4,400 deserving students and programs have received \$6.2 million in scholarships and grants. Jordan College academic programs and students will receive about \$700,000 in support in the 2018-19 academic year. For more information on the Ag One Foundation, upcoming events or to become a member, visit www.agonefoundation.org or call 559.278.4266.

Association Meets with Congressman Costa

Congressman Jim Costa made a stop in Fresno earlier this month to meet with several agricultural associations. The discussion primarily focused on the escalation of tariff talks with China, the ongoing talks of restructuring NAFTA and the opportunities and limitations faced in trading with the European Union. The Association's **Director of Technical Services, Chris McGlothlin**, was in attendance, and had the opportunity after the roundtable discussion to speak with Congressman Costa about the unique challenges faced by the industry. With China being the largest importer of cotton in the world, and a lack of reserves normally held by the country for years, the cotton industry was set to rebound on export numbers to the country. The threat of tariffs levied by the China in retaliation to the Trump Administration's action against the import of goods only leaves agriculture as a whole in a bad position. Many other agricultural commodities took the opportunity to discuss the issues faced with various other trading partners, most notably North American trade as well as trade with the European Union. The Congressman has been meeting with the Administration's trade representatives to stress the major impacts a trade war with one of the largest importers could have against the industry. Stay tuned for more updates.