



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

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Industry Calendar

December 11—
Board Meeting
Fresno, CA

January 8-10
Beltwide
New Orleans, LA

Visit web calendar
for details

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Beltwide Cotton Conferences

The National Cotton Council and its cooperating partners welcome all to the **2019 Beltwide Cotton Conferences January 8 through 10 (Tuesday through Thursday) at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, LA.** Three days of individual reports, panel discussions, hands on workshops, and seminars are designed to provide attendees with information they need to help producers make key cotton production/marketing-related decisions. A dynamic program, along with the opportunity to network with peers from across the Cotton Belt, separate this conference from all others in agriculture. This conference will be educational, as well as enjoyable. Registration is now open by visiting the National Cotton Council website at www.cotton.org. Come learn and experience all the sites and attractions that New Orleans has to offer. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Agricultural Leadership Development

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and several other agricultural groups based in the San Joaquin Valley have joined with West Hills College Lemoore to launch a valley-wide ag leadership initiative to foster the next generation of leaders. The course will be launched on January 23, 2019. The program will be available to all community college students in the region. Students will produce reports on significant issues affecting agriculture and meet weekly with agricultural leaders in a classroom setting, and culminates with a trip to Sacramento where the students will interact with legislators, gubernatorial appointees and consultants.

Tractors Crushed at FARMER Funding Roll Out Event

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) and California Air Resources Board (ARB) in partnership with state and local officials as well as the Association gathered at Bruno's Iron and Metal to highlight the new Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program. This



Association President/CEO Roger Isom pictured with Assemblymember Autumn Burke.

program funding of \$108 million, comes from the California Climate Investments that puts Cap & Trade dollars to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Through the FARMER program valley farmers can apply for incentive dollars to replace their older tractors, trucks, and ATVs with newer, lower-emission technology. **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** said, "Today is a monumental day...". The Association was one of the few ag organizations to fight for this money to come to the valley. Additionally, Isom noted that this was an effort where party lines were crossed and legislatures were able to come together to make it happen. Attendees of the event were able to witness tractors, road graders, and an ATV being replaced with these dol-



lars being crushed. Among the speakers for the day were **Assembly Member Autumn Burke, Assembly Member Heath Flora, Supervisor Buddy Mendes, Director of EPA Region IX Mike Stoker, Executive Director/APCO Samir Sheikh, Nisei Farmers League President Manuel Cunha, ARB Board Member Hector De La Torre, CDFR Undersecretary Jenny Lester Moffitt and Carlos-Suarez with USDA -NRCS.**

Making Changes? Remember to get a Permit!

With numerous issues arising in the last two months, it has become necessary for us to remind everyone of the requirements for obtaining an air pollution permit. We advise and encourage all cotton gins to give us a call before making any changes to their operations to be sure of any possible requirements. Any time there is a change in equipment, throughput, air flow or emissions, a permit application may be triggered. It depends on the air pollution control district and the degree of the change, but you almost always trigger the need for an "authority to construct". One issue we see quite often, are equipment modifications made without an authority to construct and paid a penalty as a result, and still had to file an application for the authority to construct. If you change any equipment from what is listed on the permit, even if it is removed, an application to modify the permit must be filed. Once you have completed your installation and are ready to "implement" your authority to construct, remember to notify the air pollution control district. They must be made aware of the implementation so that they can conduct an inspection. On an ongoing basis, please be sure to check all permit conditions. Many times some form of recordkeeping is required, such as tracking throughput. But there are also other requirements that sometimes get forgotten, such as watering of the gin

yard. These requirements should be checked frequently and ensure that personnel are keeping them up to date. Violations are not cheap, and the fines are continuing to increase. Make sure you aren't one of those statistics.

From the National Cotton Council - Important Signup Deadline Ahead

The deadline for signing up for the Market Facilitation Program is January 15, 2019. Interested growers can apply by submitting their total 2018 production upon completion of harvest. Payment is dependent on severity of trade disruption based on the producer's production. Options for submitting your application include email, fax, or by mail. See <https://bit.ly/2NnFdUD> for more details.

Association Tours with Assemblymember Irwin & Assemblymember Limon

The Association joined members of the Agricultural Presidents' Council on a tour of agriculture in Assembly District 44 with **Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (AD 44)** and **Assemblymember Monique Limon (AD 37)**. The group visited Sun Valley Floral Farms, a cut-flower grower and seller, as well as NB Farms, a strawberry ranch. The Association was represented by WAPA **Director of Food Safety, Priscilla Rodriguez,** and **Director of Regulatory Affairs, Jodi Devaurs.** This was a unique opportunity to further learn about the issues impacting southern California agriculture and understand where there is cross over with issues with the rest of the state. Issues discussed throughout the day trended around the cost and availability of labor, the potential impacts of an expanded sick leave law as well as the growing need to pursue opportunities to bring together the urban and agricultural inter-



APC Group with Assmly Member Irwin & Assembly Member Limon

faces so that law makers and legislators can understand agricultural businesses.

New Permit Conditions for Chlorpyrifos

The California Department of Pesticide Regulations released “Interim Recommended Permit Conditions” for chlorpyrifos. These latest conditions consist of stringent requirements and narrow down the ability of use to a select group of commodities for only certain pests. Some of the requirements include:

- **Prohibition of aerial application**
- **¼ mile buffer zone**
- **Limit of 40-acre block treatments within a ½ mile for 24 hours**
- **In addition to buffer zone, a setback distance of 150 feet from sensitive sites**
- **Written NOI permissions from adjoining neighbors if buffer zone extends onto their land**

While cotton is one of the few crops that are allowed to use the product, these restrictions render it nearly unusable for our industry. Because the Department chose to release these as permit conditions, they were not subject to the same public process that regulations undergo. The industry was not consulted in the formulation of these conditions and was not given the opportunity to comment and recommend changes for a workable solution. Our Association has submitted a letter to the department outlining our concern with the direction the agency is going by closing off the process for industry engagement. We are actively pushing back on these conditions at the state and county level.

Lockout/Tagout Reminder!

Lockout/Tagout is a term your employees have heard a thousand times. But unfortunately it isn't always followed. There continue to be serious accidents caused by failure to properly lockout equipment. It is so serious in industry that the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has recently highlighted the issue. NIOSH officials note that many machine-related injuries in the food industry stem from failure to use lockout/tagout procedures. From 2003-2013, there were 28 worker deaths and 227 serious injuries related to lockout procedures in the industry, according to a NIOSH analysis of OSHA accident data. Lockout/tagout-related accidents are a contributing factor to the higher-than-average rate

of workplace injuries and illnesses. In 2012, the injury and illness rate in food manufacturing was 5.4 per 100 workers, compared with 3.4 for private industry overall. In many cases, lockout/tagout-related machine



injuries occur when a worker “services or repairs a machine or tries to clear a jam but fails to de-energize the machine and lock out sources of energy.” This is a common mistake the Association finds during our inspections where employees are not performing the required lockout. Employers are urged to follow Cal/OSHA’s requirements regarding de-energizing machines and locking out sources of energy. Some elements of a successful lockout/tagout program include:

- **Written “equipment specific” procedures.**
- **Documentation of each source of energy.**
- **Locking and tagging devices.**
- **Verification of energy isolation.**
- **Proper locks at proper places (isolation points).**
- **Training (including skills demonstration)**
- **Auditing of work process.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office to schedule a visit or training.

AgSafe Annual Conference

AgSafe will be holding their Annual Conference, ACTIVATE19, February 26-28th in Monterey, CA at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa. Filled with informative and pertinent information to the industry, the conference will look at previous regulatory compliance in order to set new standards for both the food and farming industries. In addition to important industry updates, the conference will also include AgSafe’s 12th Annual Golf Tournament held at Old Del Monte Golf Course in Pebble Beach. The two-day long conference includes more than 50 break out sessions and workshops offered in English and Spanish. Key speakers of the event include an inspirational message from retired Major League Baseball Pitcher Dave

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Dravecky and an informative presentation by Michael Stoker, Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The event also includes an industry trade show featuring state of the art goods and services that help the industry safety and human resources programs. Topics covered at the event range from:

- **Sexual Harassment Prevention**
- **Agricultural Laws and Regulations for Growers**
- **Emergency Preparedness**

- **Pesticide Safety**
- **Tractor Safety: Train the Trainer**
- **FSMA-Produce Safety Rule**
- **Digital Technology and Cyber Security**
- **and so much more!**

The last day for early registration for the event is December 14th. To register or obtain more information, please visit www.agsafe.org and click the ACTIVATE19 link on the main page.

Merry  Christmas