



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

September 2019

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Industry Calendar

December 3—
Board Meeting
Fresno, CA

Visit web calendar
for details

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Cotton Industry Supports Ag Boosters Barbecue



The Association had the opportunity to participate and support the 42nd Annual Ag Boosters Barbecue at Borba Ranch. This event raises money and support for higher education through **AgOne at Fresno State** as well as **California Women for Agriculture (CWA)**. This year, the Association crafted a “Cotton Comfort in California” gift basket to be donated as part of the silent auction. The basket featured a set of California grown cotton towels, a set of king size sheets donated by Supima, a Supima cotton bathrobe, “America Grown and Made” cotton socks, a gift card donated by Estancia Day Spa and Salon as well as other at-home spa amenities. Additionally, **CCGGA President/CEO Roger Isom** serves as an AgOne Board Member and sits on the planning committee for the annual event.



Thank you to **Supima** and **Estancia Day Spa** for their contributions to help support this event!

Retirement Celebration for Dr. Sandra Witte

A special retirement celebration honoring Dr. Sandy Witte, **Dean emerita of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (JCAST)** at Fresno State will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. The event will be held at the Jordan Agricultural Research Center located at 2703 E. Barstow Avenue, in Fresno. If you plan on attending, please RSVP <http://bit.ly/2kgrWUG>. In lieu of gifts, donations can be made to help create an endowment in her name to support the University Agricultural Laboratory. Donations can be made payable to AgOne.

Is There an Insurance Issue on the Horizon?

There are rumblings in the industry of some major changes with respect to property and casualty (P&C) insurance, as well as stock throughput insurance. Carriers impacted by huge losses from wildfires and other natural disasters (hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.) have become skittish, especially in California. As a result we have seen a sharp uptick in rates for renewals, or simply non-renewals. This past month the Association met with **California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara** and his staff to bring the Commissioner up to speed, and start to look for potential solutions. Stay tuned.

New CalOSHA Chief Announced

After several months, **Governor Gavin Newsom** has finally named a new **Cal/OSHA Chief, Douglas Parker**. Parker has been the executive director of the Oakland worker advocacy group

Worksafe since 2016. He is an attorney and has a long resume in occupational safety and health. He is a former assistant to the late Minnesota senator Paul Wellstone, then worked in press operations for the Democratic National Committee before and during the Clinton administration. He was a staff attorney for the United Mine Workers of America in the late 1990s, and during most of the 2000s was a partner at the Mooney, Green, Baker & Saindon law firm. He was formerly a senior policy advisor and special assistant at the Mine Safety and Health Administration and served as assistant secretary of labor for MSHA from 2014 to 2015. He replaces Juliann Sum, who retired earlier this year.

Farm Bill Webinars Planned

The National Cotton Council is planning an effort to educate members regarding USDA's 2018 farm bill implementation. The NCC's educational plan will include webinars on September 19 at 8 a.m.; September 23 at 8 a.m.; September 25 at 8 a.m.; and September 26 at 10 a.m. All times are Central Time. More information will be disseminated at a later date.

Comments on EPA Interim Decision for Glyphosate



In April, the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released their Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision for glyphosate. Upon the release of their decision to re-register the product, the Agency stated “EPA has found no risks to public health from the current registered uses of glyphosate.” The Association continues to support the findings and work that EPA, as well as the hundreds of other regulatory agencies around the world, who find that the product is non-carcinogenic. This product is a valuable and widely used tool for helping control weeds, which in turn improves soil health and conditions, mitigates fire hazards, and eliminates vegetative hosts for pests. The Association provided comments supporting

EPA’s findings and noting the importance of this tool in a healthy, well-rounded pest management program for the cotton industry.

Association is Part of SJVAPCD PM2.5 SIP Implementation Working Group

Association **President/CEO Roger A. Isom** was appointed as one of a twelve person working group to review the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District’s (SJVAPCD’s) PM2.5 State Implementation Plan (SIP). The working group was formed to review the progress on implementing the PM2.5 plan and what hurdles may exist in achieving the goals set forth in the plan. Members of the group include two SJVAPCD personnel, two California Air Resources Board (CARB) representatives, four environmental justice advocates and four industry representatives. Joining Isom on the industry side is **Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League; Gabrielle Ludwig, Almond Board of California; and John Haley, Aera Energy**. The first meeting of this working group was held this past month, and the intent was to make introductions and discuss the process of the working group. However, the discussion quickly got into specifics on critical issues. Association President/CEO Isom provided the group with suggestions for discussion including:

Tractors

Incentive Funds

- o Work to increase and secure FARMER funding for FY 20/21 through 23/24
- o Work to renew Vehicle License Fee under California Health and Safety Code 40612 which allows up to \$30 per vehicle – it sunsets in FY 23/24
- o Remove DERA limitation of only funding the replacement of 1997 or newer trucks
- o Push for increased DERA Funding for severe/extreme non-attainment areas

Trucks

Incentive Funds for Electric Yard Trucks

- o Remove DERA Limitation of only funding the replacement of 1997 or newer tractors
- o Look at other funding sources to continue conversion program

ATVs

- o Look for additional Incentive Funds

Biomass

- o Continue to seek and support Alternative Solutions
- o Energy production, renewable diesel, cellulosic ethanol, biochar
- o Continue Research on alternatives

- Hold joint summit on alternatives w/ Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA)
 - Investigate hurdles to commercialization
 - Land application – continue w/ incentive programs
- The working group will continue to meet over the next year.

Final Mapped California Cotton Acreage

The Pink Bollworm Program under the California Department of Food and Agriculture has released their final mapped numbers for 2019, including the Pima and Upland acreage splits. Final acreage numbers for California put Pima at 203,235 acres and Upland at 56,122 acres for a total of 259,357 acres statewide.

This represents a 3% decrease in Pima acreage and a 17% increase in upland acreage as compared to 2018. This represents a 0.5% increase in overall cotton acreage for 2019.

CALIFORNIA COTTON ACREAGE 2019			
San Joaquin Valley	Pima	Upland	TOTAL
Kern	14,090	4,150	18,240
Kings	88,775	9,640	98,415
Tulare	3,375	11,380	14,755
Fresno	66,105	3,590	69,695
Madera	655	280	935
Merced	30,155	11,535	41,690
San Joaquin	80	5	85
Subtotal =	203,235	40,580	243,815
Southern California			
Imperial	0	3,260	3,260
Riverside	0	9,065	9,065
Subtotal =		12,325	12,325
Sacramento Valley			
Sutter	0	240	240
Colusa	0	493	493
Glenn	0	2,484	2,484
Tehama	0	0	0
Subtotal =		3,217	3,217
	Pima	Upland	TOTAL
Total =	203,235	56,122	259,357

CCGGA Testifies to Food and Ag Board on Water

Last month, the State Board of Food and Agriculture, including **Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture**, held a board meeting in Fresno specifically to hold a panel discussion and receive public comment on the Governor's Water Resiliency Portfolio. The panelists discussed how water technology,

CVSALTS, the Water Blueprint and how regional water management could and should play important roles in the Resiliency Portfolio for the San Joaquin Valley. **Jodi Devaurs, Director of Regulatory Affairs**, provided comments to the Secretary and Board Members highlighting the work being accomplished by the Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley and its members. The Association has been engaged in the effort and shared that the framework of addressing the water deficit on a regional basis is a priority. Additionally, as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act begins to come into full effect, more emphasis will be placed on groundwater recharge projects, particularly smaller regional-scale projects. Devaurs shared that it is critical that investments be made to insure that there is the proper infrastructure to move water, especially during the wet years so that the water can be stored underground to help manage the dry years. In addition, Devaurs noted and thanked the Board for holding several meetings to solicit public comment agreeing that the only way an effective solution can come to light is continuing to communicate with all sectors of stakeholders and highlighted that the Blueprint continues to hold discussions with rural communities and environmental interests to incorporate and support areas that provides benefits for all parties.

CARB Seeking Additional Clean Truck Requirements

Earlier this month, the California Air Resources Board held a workshop discussing a concept that has been floated around before, and actually workshopped earlier in the year. The concept is being presented as the "Advanced Clean Trucks- Accelerating Zero Emission Truck Markets." This proposed regulation would affect both truck manufacturers and businesses alike. Businesses would need to report not only their own fleet, but contracted fleets as well including freight movement, pick up or drop off services, shuttle or bus services, leased equipment, for hire truck or bus transportation services, etc.,. Fleet owners would be required to report the trucks usage similar to how the current Truck and Bus Regulation has required. For the early stages of this proposed rule update, CARB is looking at businesses with over \$50 million in receipts and fleets that own/operate more than 100 vehicles, however, reporting would continue for ALL businesses in California no matter your annual receipts or total trucks owned/operated. Truck manufacturers would also be incorporated into this rule. For truck manufacturers, CARB is requiring that specific percentages of

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their total sales in California must come from the sale of electric or Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV's). ZEV's will need to account for 50% of total truck sales per truck manufacturer by 2030. With the broad scope that CARB is taking on businesses that would be subject to the rule, as well as the quick turnaround following the Truck and Bus Regulation, the Association will be weighing in on the potential negative impacts of this proposed rule adoption once the formal public comment period starts. Stay tuned for more updates.

USDA Agricultural Resource Management Survey

We join with the National Cotton Council and encourage cotton farmers to complete their USDA agricultural surveys this fall. Cotton producers will be asked to report their production practices and chemical use as part of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey. If you receive a survey, please complete it online, or if you prefer, you can schedule an appointment with a USDA representative to help with survey completion. Please have your pesticide and fertilizer spray records to expedite the process. Information provided by farmers is confidential and protected by law. USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Information (NASS) further safeguards the privacy of all respondents by publishing only aggregate data, ensur-

ing that no individual operation or producer can be identified. For more information on agriculture surveys, visit www.nass.usda.gov

Alternatives to Chlorpyrifos Working Group Announced

In August, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced the formation and roster of the "Alternatives to Chlorpyrifos Work Group." The work group is tasked with (1) developing short-term, practical solutions to transfer to more sustainable pest-management solutions, and (2) develop a five-year action plan to identify and develop safer, more sustainable pest management tools, practices, and alternatives. The group will begin convening within the next month and is anticipated to conclude in the spring of 2020. DPR and CDFA are collecting public comment and input that can be put before the workgroup to consider as they begin meeting. Comments can be submitted to alternatives@cdpr.ca.gov until Monday, September 30th. The Association will remain engaged with workgroup members and provide comments related to chlorpyrifos alternatives, or lack thereof, when it pertains to California cotton. For a roster for the workgroup, click here: <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/chlorpyrifos/workgroup.htm>.