



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

December 3—
Board Meeting
Fresno, CA

Visit web calendar
for details

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Cotton Industry Mourns the Passing of Wally Shropshire



George Wallace “Wally” Shropshire passed away on September 28, 2019 in El Centro, California. Wally was born June 23, 1926 in Deerfield, Illinois to George and Mamie Shropshire. Mamie died in October 1927 so Wally and his brother Ernie were raised by their father. He married the love of his life, Maynor, in May 1948 and then moved to Blythe, California in 1952 where they settled and raised their family. After moving a few times while Wally was a toddler, the family settled in Las Cruces, New Mexico. His school years included a one-room school house in Organ, N.M. and high school in Las Cruces, N.M., Santa Fe, N.M. and Pecos, TX. Wally was always a hard worker so through his school years he worked a milk truck route, a paper route, a gas station, general store, as a cowboy while living on a ranch, and driver for Manhattan Project in Los Alamos. Following high school Wally joined the Navy in May 1944, serving on the USS Magoffin APA 199 in the amphibious division seeing action in Okinawa. He was discharged in 1946 and worked as a carpenter until he decided to join the merchant marine in 1947. During that time he worked on a Standard Oil

tanker and then at the Standard Oil Refinery in New Orleans. Wally was active in the cotton industry most of his life. He started working at the Dona Ana cotton gin in Las Cruces before moving to Blythe to work at Blanco Gin. He continued as cotton gin manager for Sturges Gin until it changed ownership. For a few years he worked at Zimmerman Insurance and then the position of manager opened at Ripley Ginning Corp. and Triangle Ginning Co. He retired as gin manager at Ripley in 1993 when it closed. Wally had farmed on the side while working as gin manager and when he retired from the gin, he went to work at Hull Farms in his semi-retirement. As Wally put it “he didn’t want to sit down”. Wally was always active in the community. He was a charter member of VFW chapter in Las Cruces and continued to be active in the Blythe VFW as a life member. He is also a life member of the Blythe Jaycees. That led to participation in the fairs and he was later president of the Colorado River Country Fair board. In addition, he served on the National Date Festival Board, the Blythe Chamber of Commerce, the PVTV board, and was a ginner delegate to the National Cotton Council for 25-plus years. He served on the Riverside County Board of Directors, the Palo Verde Soil Conservation District, Progressive Farmers, the Desert Cotton Growers Association, the California Cotton Pest Control board, and the National Pink Bollworm committee. He cherished the years he worked with the 4-H and the FFA and the livestock departments at the fairs. In honor of 47 years of service, the livestock department was named the Shropshire Pavilion. Wally also joined the Blythe Masonic Lodge in 1983 and filled each of the offices including 2 terms as Worshipful Master and 17 years as Secretary. He will be greatly missed by all.

Governor Vetoes SB 1

Last month, the Governor announced that he vetoed SB 1 (Atkins). In his veto message, Governor Newsom stated “While I disagree about the efficacy and necessity of Senate Bill 1, I look forward to working with the Legislature in our shared fight against the weakening of California’s environmental and worker protections.” The veto is good news as the effort to arrive at a resolution of the Voluntary Agreements for the tributaries to the San Joaquin River hinged upon the outcome of SB 1. Hopefully, those efforts can now continue and come to a close. The defeat of SB 1 was a priority for the Association as the team worked extensively against the bill, even meeting with Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins last month to plead our case for resolving the Voluntary Agreements.

State Water Board Votes on Program Fee Increases

Earlier this month, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) voted to support staff’s recommendation to increase stakeholder fees for most State Board-run programs. These programs include the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) focusing primarily on growers. The ILRP program will be increasing costs by 11.7% for the 2019-20 year. For years, fees associated with these various programs have dramatically risen with little to no explanation. The basis for the fee increases have long been blamed on increasing staff costs associated with reviewing submitted paperwork, as part of Program Requirements. The Association has testified in opposition at numerous Stakeholder Meetings, where State Board staff has presented their rationale for fee increases. A more concerning point that came from the State Board presentation was the discussion regarding the Cannabis Program. With the legalization of marijuana, State Agencies scrambled to put regulatory programs in place to ensure that the cultivation of cannabis was done under the regulatory umbrella that conventional agricultural operations currently have to abide by. The State Board, and many other state agencies, believed that the number of cannabis cultivator licenses would reach the 15,000 mark or even higher. The actual number is far less; the State Board currently has 5,000 licenses out for the cultivation of cannabis. With this large discrepancy in licensees and revenue, the State Board has begun looking into ways to mitigate the amount of money being lost by the cannabis program. State Board staff presented to increase fees for all other programs, including WDR and ILRP fees, to help reduce the millions of dollars the program is currently costing. This proposal was met with opposition from Board Members, citing the lack of

time stakeholders had to respond the proposal. State Board staff even indicated that the proposal was not workshopped adequately to stakeholders, but that Board Members should keep the cannabis program in mind for the same discussion next year. The Association will continue to oppose any fee increase, especially any addition of fees for programs in which our membership is not involved.

CV SALTS State Water Board Hearing Postponed

The State Water Resources Control Board decided to postpone an agenda item for the September Board Meeting centering around Basin Plan Amendments for the Central Valley Region. The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability Initiative (CV-SALTS) group had been hoping to present the proposed Basin Plan before the State Board, with the hopes that the Board would vote in favor of the changes. Partnered with the recent Clean Drinking Water Fund established through AB 200, CV-SALTS was the regulatory framework that would aim to control harmful discharges into groundwater basins. The program implementation would aim to back the State Board’s Office of Enforcement off from sending out Notices of Violation (NOV) to large dischargers, similar to what several Central Coast agricultural operations received two years ago. These NOV’s required that growers cease and desist from their agricultural operations unless they could provide clean drinking water to the communities their discharges affected. These NOV’s carried significant price tags along with the clean drinking water replacement requirement, and many in the agricultural industry were concerned that the next target would be the Central Valley. The postponement of the agenda item was cause in part to environmentalist groups voicing their concerns with the plan amongst the Governor’s staff as well as Jared Blumenfeld, current Secretary of CalEPA. Their concerns were enough for the Secretary to ask that the State Board hold off on voting on the issue until more meetings were held to address the concerns made by the environmentalists. Stay tuned for more updates.

Cotton Incorporated Headquarters Tours

The Cotton Board has released the dates for the 2020 tours of the Cotton Incorporated Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina. This trip provides those connected to the cotton industry the unique opportunity to see the inner workings of Cotton Incorporated including the latest research, marketing and promotion efforts the organization is conducting. In addition, attendees will be able to visit a

local textile mill to see how the cotton is processed and manufactured into a commercial product. All expenses for travel, hotel stay and meals during the tour dates are covered by the Cotton Board. If you are interested in participating and have not been on the Cotton Board tour, or if it has been many years since your last visit, please contact Christi Chadwell at cchadwell@cottonboard.org or (469) 951-6161. Please see below for the 2020 tour dates.

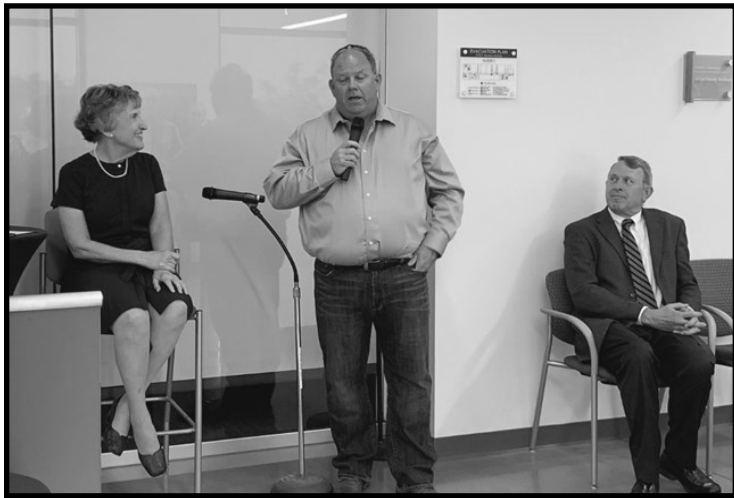
Multi Region Tour, February 9-11

Young Producers Multi Region Tour, March 22-24

Multi Region Women in Ag Tour, June 14-16

Multi Region Tour, September 13-15

Fresno State JCAST Dean Sandra Witte Retires



A special Retirement Celebration was held last month to honor **Dr. Sandra Witte, Dean emerita of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (JCAST) at Fresno State.** **University President Joseph Castro** spoke of Dr. Witte's accomplishments at the University and her contributions to JCAST. **Assemblyman Jim Patterson** issued a proclamation from the valley delegation recognizing Dr. Witte for her contributions to Fresno State and Valley Agriculture. The **Association's President/CEO Roger A. Isom** thanked Dr. Witte for her service to the University and for reaching out to Valley Agriculture. Isom highlighted the \$1 million nut processing line being installed at Fresno State, the new tree nut processing course at Fresno State, and the ongoing groundbreaking cotton research at Fresno State as signs that Dr. Witte's goals to improve the University's agriculture department and its relationship with Valley agriculture are well on their way to being realized. The Association would like to thank and recognize Dr. Witte for her efforts and for making JCAST at Fresno State the destination for students of agriculture in this valley and beyond!

Association Testifies at SB 100 Central Valley Scoping Hearing

Last week, the State held a hearing to discuss moving forward on the goals of SB 100 – California Renewables Portfolio Standard, which requires the state to institute requirements **that all retail sales of electricity (100%)** to California end-use customers be made up of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources. With representatives from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) in attendance, **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** told the audience that “we are at a tipping point with electricity rates and any more rate increases are unacceptable”. Isom stated that it is clear electricity rates will go up with the implementation of SB 100 if this state tries to meet the renewable goals set forth in the legislation. Isom said that we already have rates that are too high and that make agriculture non-competitive with the rest of the country and the world. For example PG&E rates are 50% higher than the national average, and according to USDA ARS data California cotton gins pay 43.3% more for electricity on average than the rest of the country. And that is based on current rates not including SB 100 or the impending rate increases due to the wildfires including paying for utility liability from the fires, system hardening to help avoid future issues, and ongoing wildfire mitigation. The hearings will continue into 2020 and the Association will continue to make its voice heard and stand against future rate increases.

Important Changes for Paraquat Label Changes

As new paraquat labels begin to hit the market, the Association wanted to provide information in regards to the mandated label changes affecting all users of the product including additional training and certification. The Environmental Protection Agency is requiring that by November 14, 2019 manufacturers of paraquat must change labeling of the product to include the new warning boxes in both English and Spanish as well as a revised restricted use statement and the requirement of users needing to have paraquat-specific training in addition to state-required certification to apply restricted use materials. Containers will also be required to include several supplemental warnings including stickers and “counter cards” reiterating the toxicity information in English and Spanish.

Training Requirements

The training requirements that will be shared are required

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for any individual using paraquat product with the new label information. Product with the old label does not need to be relabeled and is not subject to these additional training requirements, however it is encouraged to begin the process as soon as possible. The definition of "use" includes pre-application activities such as mixing and loading as well as applying, transporting or storing opened containers, cleaning equipment, and disposing excess product, spray mix, equipment wash waters, empty pesticide containers and other paraquat-containing material. Two certifications will be required to use paraquat products – (1) a certified pesticide applicator's license/permit from your state and (2) paraquat-specific training certificate in your name obtained online (link below). Non-certified applicators will no longer be allowed to use products even if under the supervision of certified applicators. Below are the different options of becoming a certified applicator based on your operation and situation

- If you are using or supervising the use of a pesticide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity on property, owned, leased or rented by yourself or your employer then you will be required to obtain a Private Applicator Certification. These are offered in English and Spanish through your County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

-OR-

- If you do not meet the above description and are a commercial applicator, you must acquire either a Qualified Applicator License or Qualified Applicator Certificate. These exams are offered through the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the exam schedule can be found here - https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/exam_sched.pdf Study materials can be located here - https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/studymat/qac_and_qal_study_material.pdf

-AND-

- All individuals, whether falling into the PAC or QAL/QAC requirement, must undergo paraquat-specific training. This training is available at www.usparaquattraining.com. As of right now, the training is only available in English however, Spanish materials are currently in development.

There will be additional changes for packaging requiring product to be sold in closed-system packaging however that will not go into effect until fall of 2020.

All of this information and more is available in the handout linked below, if you have additional questions please contact Jodi Devaurs at jodi@ccgga.org at (559) 252-0684.