



The Cotton Chronicle

1785 N. Fine Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727 • Telephone: (559) 252-0684 • Fax: (559) 252-0551

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Industry Calendar

Visit web calendar
for details

CCGGA Staff

Roger A. Isom
President/CEO
roger@ccgga.org

Christopher McGlothlin
Director of Technical
Services
chris@ccgga.org

Priscilla Rodriguez
Director of Regulatory
Affairs
priscilla@ccgga.org

Shana Colby
Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org

CCGGA Says Goodbye to Two Longtime Board Members

This month **Stan Creelman**, Gin Manager with



Mid Valley Cotton Growers and **Jim Neufeld**, a



grower in Kern County, are retiring from the Board of Directors. **Creelman**, has been on the Board since 1996, and is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors. Over the years, he has served on numerous committees, and served at the National level as well, as a longtime Ginner delegate, member of the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee, and President of the

National Cotton Ginners Association. He is a past winner of the CCGGA Ginner of the Year, as well as the NCGA Horace Hayden Ginner of the Year. **Neufeld**, is also a long standing member of the board, having joined the Association in 2000 as a grower representative of Kern County. He has also been actively involved in the industry activities having served on the Board of Directors of the **Semi Tropic Coop Gin** and the **Su-pima** Board of Directors as well.

Association Welcomes Priscilla Rodriguez as Director of Regulatory Affairs

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association wants to welcome **Priscilla Rodriguez** as the new Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Association. Ms. Rodriguez has been working for our sister organization, the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA), as the Director of Food Safety since 2015. She will continue that role, but will also handle Regulatory Affairs for WAPA as well. Ms. Rodriguez is a graduate of **California State University, Fresno** with a degree in Mathematics, and is currently working on a Master's Degree from **National University** in Education Technology. She is also a current member of Class 50 of the **California Agricultural Leadership Foundation**. Ms. Rodriguez is bilingual and came to WAPA from the **Friant Water Authority** where she worked for eight years. Ms. Rodriguez has been responsible



for providing safety and food safety services to members of WAPA, as well as contract services to our consulting clients including, cotton gins, food processing plants, packing houses and farms.

National Cotton Ginners and Ginning Conference

It is important for our ginners to stay abreast of the latest technology, research and quality related issues that impact the ginning industry. The upcoming 2020 Cotton Ginning Conference is just the venue to accomplish this. The Ginning Conference will include research papers and panel discussions on several timely topics and will include the latest on the development of systems to detect and eliminate plastic contamination, fiber quality preservation, the use of RFID technology, and new products from machinery manufacturers. There will be two panel discussions that include fiber quality and the cotton industry's emphasis on increasing length uniformity and a panel to discuss methods to transfer technology to the ginning industry. The Ginning Conference begins at 1:30 p.m. Thursday and will conclude at 11:00 a.m. Friday. The National Cotton Ginners Association (NCGA) will hold committee meetings beginning at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and end at 11:00 a.m. Thursday. The Ginning Conference and most of the NCGA Committee meetings are open to all ginners and interested parties attending the conference. The Ginning Conference and NCGA meetings will be held at the Austin Marriott Hotel, January 8-10. A complete list of papers that will be presented at the conference and NCGA meeting schedule can be found at <http://www.cotton.org/ncga/upload/NCGA-and-Ginning-Conference-Schedule.pdf>.

Registration and Hotel information can be found at <http://www.cotton.org/beltwide/index.cfm>.

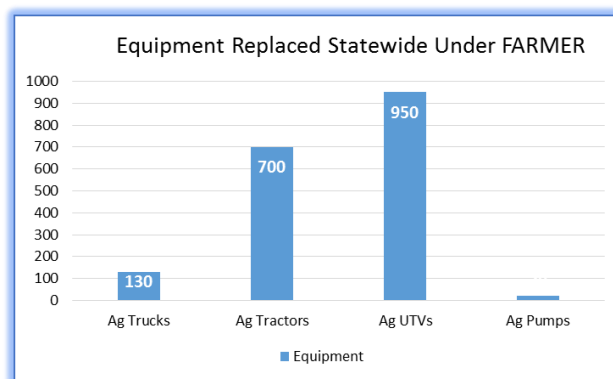
Tractor Incentive Funding – Where are we now?

In 2018, the state began spending greenhouse gas reduction fund (GGRF) money from the Cap and Trade Program on the “Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program. The FARMER Program was designed to mirror the state’s existing Carl Moyer Program, but expanded upon it greatly with considerably more funding. The first three years provided more than **\$332 million statewide!** Unfortunately, it has been diminishing each year. The first year included \$135 million in incentive funds, while FY 2019/2020 only has \$65 million. This is especially worrisome for the San Joaquin Valley, where their State Implementation Plan

(SIP) relies upon 12,000 tractors being replaced by 2023 based upon a full allocation of the FARMER funding. Achievement of that goal is now in serious jeopardy as the state has lowered the FARMER funding. This funding has primarily been used to fund the replacement of trac-

FARMER APPROPRIATIONS	
Year	Total \$
2017-2018	\$135 million
2018-2019	\$132 million
2019-2020	\$65 million

tors, but has also been used to replace agricultural utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) and agricultural trucks. The program will pay a farmer up to 60% of the cost of a new Tier 4 tractor or harvester, 65% of a new truck, and 5% of an electric UTV. As of June 30th of this year, the funding has replaced 130 trucks, 700 tractors and harvesters, 20 ag pumps, and 950 ag UTVs statewide. This is an incredible statistic! And these replacements have in turn generated very significant emission reductions in a very short time period. According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the equipment replacements to date have generated emissions reductions of 42,000 metric tons of CO₂e, 230 tons of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and 3,700 tons of Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) as of June 30th of 2019. If you look at more recent data, just for the San Joaquin Valley, it is even more impressive! As of November 12th



of this year, the SJVAPCD had 12 ag pumps, 1,549 UTVs, 784 tractors/harvest-

ers, and 152 trucks just through the FARMER program. And the amazing fact is that farmers throughout the state are ready to replace even more equipment. According to the California Air Resources Board, the ongoing demand for this money is more than twice the money that has been allocated. A major effort is brewing to go to Sacramento and demand more money be allocated towards FARMER funding. The Legislative Analyst’s Office just announced that California will have a \$7 billion surplus for fiscal year 2020-2021 and much of that would be availa-

ble for “one time expenditures”. The demand is there and so is the money. We have a real opportunity to meet a state mandate in a way that makes sense, on where all sides agree on doing it. Let’s not waste the chance!

Keep Striving to Keep California Cotton Contamination

Free

California cotton has an outstanding reputation for contamination free cotton. But with the continuing growth in the use of round module cotton harvesters, it has never been more important to remain vigilant in keeping plastic out of California cotton. The National Cotton Council has made this issue a priority and is urging all producers, ginners and other industry members to make seed cotton/lint contamination prevention a high priority. To enhance this effort, the NCC developed and is distributing a comprehensive educational video focusing on plastic contamination prevention. It is also available in Spanish. U.S. cotton industry members are encouraged to follow these guidelines to help U.S. cotton maintain its reputation as a source of clean fiber. The NCC also has developed “Keep It Clean” posters. Producers and ginners are urged to download these ([posters](#) and [mailer](#)) and to display them prominently such as in farm offices, gin offices and on equipment. This step will help workers in recognizing and removing potential contaminating materials prior to harvest and during ginning. The NCC also has received industry requests for photographs of plastics and other potential contaminants, such as those on these posters. So, the NCC urges producers and ginners with similar photographs to email them to keepitclean@cotton.org for use in future NCC educational materials.

Reduced Tillage Permit Renewed for San Joaquin Valley

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has renewed their permit to allow the use of a reduced tillage system for the destruction of cotton, which would otherwise be prohibited under California law. To qualify, the grower must meet the following criteria:

1. A native pink bollworm (PWB) cannot have been detected within the described boundary of a government section (township-range) during the previous crop year or during the current crop year. Except, that if a moth were detected after September 1 of the current crop year, reduced tillage would be allowed in the current crop year, but not in the next crop year.

2. The requirements in Section 3595(e)(I) for cotton destruction by shredding shall be complied with in full: "All cotton stalks and debris shall be shredded by a power driven shredding device in a manner which effectively reduces stalks to a particle size permitting burial and decomposition and assures that bolls remaining in the field are broken open and the parts scattered."
3. The authorized cotton grower shall notify the County Agricultural Commissioner a minimum of ten (10) days prior to beginning use of the reduced tillage system.
4. Following shredding as required above, the land on which any cotton plants were growing during the preceding season shall be tilled in a manner that dislodges the cotton plant roots from the soil which ensures that cotton plant re-growth will not occur (reduced tillage system).
5. Without prior notice and during reasonable hours, authorized state or county regulatory officials shall be allowed to inspect the condition of said cotton fields and the reduced tillage system operations.
6. Roots, plant stubs, shredding debris and trash remaining from harvesting or clean-up operations are not required to be mixed with surface soil.
7. All cotton plants in Districts 2 and 3 shall be destroyed in a manner described in Section 3595(e) or in this permit by December 20 of each year, and all cotton plants in District 4 shall be destroyed in a manner described in Section 3595(e) or in this permit by December 31 of each year, unless a variance is issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.
8. Nothing contained herein shall in any way preclude the County Agricultural Commissioner or the California Department of Food and Agriculture from taking appropriate action under applicable provisions of the California Food and Agricultural Code, including Section 5784.

Market Facilitation Program

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced May 23, 2019 that USDA would again provide aid to assist farmers hurt by trade disruptions prompted by unjustified foreign retaliatory tariffs on their products through the Market Facilitation Program (MFP). President Trump authorized USDA to provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments through MFP for 2019 to assist impacted producers, which is in line with the estimated impacts of the retaliatory tariffs on – and non-tariff barriers to exports of – U.S. agricultural goods. Producers of MFP-eligible commodities, including cotton, will now be eligible to receive 25 percent of the total payment expected, in addition to the 50 percent they have already received from the 2019 MFP. Sign-up for the program goes through December 6, 2019. You can [download an application](#) and find more information at <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp>.

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
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Fresno, CA 93727

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SAVE
THE
DATE

California Cotton
Ginners & Growers
Association

2020 Annual Meeting
May 6, 2020
Visalia, CA



REGISTRATION TO OPEN SOON!