



# The Cotton Chronicle

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[www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org)

February 2020

Volume 30, Issue 2

## Industry Calendar

March 11  
Board of Directors  
Meeting—  
Fresno, CA

April 8  
CCGGA Ginners  
School—  
Corcoran, CA

May 13  
Annual Meeting—  
Visalia, CA

Visit web calendar  
for details

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## Spray Safe Event is Huge Success

More than 230 farmers and farmworkers attended the inaugural **Spray Safe** event for Fresno and Madera Counties. **Senator Melissa Hurtado** kicked off the successful



event by congratulating the industry for coming together to promote worker safety. Senator Hurtado was followed by **US EPA Region IX Administrator Mike Stoker**, and then the

Fresno and Madera County Ag Commissioners, who provided regulation updates to attendees. In the main section of the event participants were educated on Paraquat regulation changes for 2020, Hazmat preparedness, herbicide/insecticide equipment calibration, Personal protective equipment (PPE) and respiratory protection. The training and education was provided in both English and Spanish. The event is modeled after the very successful and long running event in Kern County and a similar event was held in Tulare for Tulare and Kings Counties. The Association is a sponsor and supporter of both events. Additional sponsors and supporters included the **Western Plant Health Association, California Association of Pest Control Advisors, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Brandt, Simplot Grower Solutions, TriCal,**



**Bayer, Simplot Agribusiness, California Citrus Mutual, Syngenta, California Fresh Fruit Association, Verdegaal Brothers, Wilbur Ellis Agribusiness, Madera County Farm Bureau, Fresno County Farm Bureau, American Pistachio Growers, Big W Sales, Nichino America, Green Valley Farm Supply, Stanislaus Farm Supply, Nutrien Ag Solutions, and Mid Valley Agricultural Services.**

## DPR Chlorpyrifos Alternatives Workgroup Public Roundtables Held

This past month, **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** attended and participated in the **Chlorpyrifos Alternatives Work Group Public Roundtable**. Unfortunately, the meeting was a complete travesty. The stated purpose of the meeting was to present the group's preliminary recommendations to the public and listen to the public's reactions and comments. The presentation did not include any list or hint of alternatives, and instead what was a presentation of how the agencies could conduct better outreach, carryout applied research and determine alternative approaches to pest management. None of these will solve the immediately problem of the loss of chlorpyrifos in the short term. Then the meeting was broke into small

workgroups with the intent to hear comments on the proposed recommendations, discuss how farmers, workers and communities can protect a thriving agricultural industry in California while increasing the use of safety pest management tools, and finally, what the audience thought where more funding should be placed to create a more sustainable and healthy agricultural system. While these are good questions, they had little to do with the task at hand which was to find immediate alternatives to the loss of chlorpyrifos. Furthermore, the pesticide and environmental justice activists seized the opportunity to lambast farmers with accusations of corporate greed and spraying indiscriminately, and attack county agricultural commissioners for not actively enforcing the regulations. And while participants were repeatedly told to keep the comments on point and limit their time, the activists were given free reign to comment on anything they wanted, which they did in attacking agriculture on all aspects from pesticides to air quality. In one of the most revealing moments of the night, a prominent local environmental justice activist was seen co-moderating one of the Spanish sessions, in a clear conflict of interest. In the end, the meeting did nothing it was intended to do. Rather it is clear that this event was only done to check the box that the agencies had outreached to the community, and nothing meaningful was ever intended to come of it.

#### **CCGGA Hosts State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara**

This past week the Association, along with several agricultural organizations hosted **State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara** and his staff. This meeting was a follow-up to a meeting the Association had with the Commissioner late last year, where the Association warned the Commissioner of skyrocketing rates for property and casualty in-



surance as well as stock insurance for our agricultural products. In some cases, there have been more than 200% increases in rates or even unwillingness to cover agricultural commodities for the full value. Some of our members have had to get multiple policies just to cover onsite inventories of product. Much of this is related to the devastating losses associated with the catastrophic wildfires over the past two years, and a couple of very expensive losses at a couple of specific agricultural facilities. With a couple of firms leaving the state, rates have skyrocketed and our members are feeling the impact. There was a lot of good discussion defining the issues. A more specific follow-up meeting will be held in the next month or two to explore potential solutions to help reduce or at least control costs. Joining the Association at this meeting were **California Citrus Mutual, California Fresh Fruit Association, and the Nisei Farmers League.**

#### **In the war on bugs, California leaves cotton growers defenseless**

If you grow cotton Arkansas, Georgia, Texas or any other cotton growing state in the U.S., you now have at least five (5) critical crop protection tools that a cotton grower in California does not. This is a result of recent actions by the state of California to ban Lorsban (chlorpyrifos) and slow down the registration process for Transform (sulfoxaflor). These two pesticides join Bidrin (diclofopos), AgLogic (aldicarb), and Belay (clothianidin) as pest control products used in other US cotton growing states but prohibited in California. When fighting brown stink bugs (Bidrin), aphids (Belay, Lorsban), lygus (Transform) or aphids, thrips and mites (AgLogic), growers in other cotton growing states clearly have a distinct advantage over California. Lorsban was banned by California, and AgLogic is held up in registration review at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR). Bidrin failed registration because it did not have a California specific soil deposition study (it did have 2 other states data but CDPR only accepts data from California). Belay can't be used, because of bee restrictions, even though cotton does not use bees. Belay is used by other states on cotton. Finally, in a meeting last month with CDPR registration branch officials, the Association was informed that its 24c application for Transform would not be granted this year, because more than 4400 comments have been submitted opposing the use of Transform and the agency has been threatened to be sued by Earthjustice. Clearly, there is a lack of recognition that growers



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# 2020 PIMA VARIETY GUIDE

			Herbicide Tolerance Traits	Insect Protection Traits	Maturity	Leaf Type	Seedling Vigor	Micronaire	Staple Length (Inches/32NDS)	Strength (g/tex)	Node of First Fruiting Branch	Plant Height
PIMA	PHY 841 RF	Medium to full statured Pima variety for medium soil types. Excellent yield potential and high fiber quality. Tolerant to Fusarium Race 4.		NA	Mid	Semi-Hairy	E	4.5	1.48/48	45.9	7.8	Med-tall
	PHY 881 RF	Broadly adapted medium to fully statured Pima variety. Excellent yield potential with the ability to yield up to 9% higher than PHY 805. Tolerant to Fusarium Race 4		NA	Early-Mid	Semi-Hairy	E	4.5	1.49/48	46.2	7.6	Med-tall
	PHY 888 RF	Full-season, full-statured Pima variety that provides improved yield potential on marginal or tough soil types. Tolerant to Fusarium Race 4.		NA	Full	Semi-Hairy	E	4.8	1.49/48	46.5	–	Med-tall
ACALA	PHY 764 WRF	Broadly adapted Acala variety with exceptional yield potential and staple length. Featuring WideStrike® Insect Protection.	 		Mid	Semi-Smooth	E	4.2	1.21/38	36.5	8	Med

RF = Roundup Ready® Flex    WRF = WideStrike® Insect Protection, Genuity® Roundup Ready® Flex    E = Excellent



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#### ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS.

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truly wish they didn't have to spray an ounce of pesticide. Nothing demonstrates this more than the California cotton grower led effort to combat the pink bollworm through an areawide program which included a multi-million dollar sterile release facility paid for by California cotton growers, and an enforcement driven mandatory plowdown restriction on growers, also completely paid for by California cotton growers. Finally, limiting the types of pesticides works against the basic tenants of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). University of California IPM guidance clearly speaks to the need for resistance management and in some cases recommends changing classes of pesticides with every application, clearly something that California is getting away from. Leaving cotton growers in California defenseless against these devastating pests while the 16 other cotton growing states have the tools, is...well...defenseless.

### **EPA Issues Interim Decision on Glyphosate**

This past month, EPA issued an Interim Decision for Glyphosate. Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide that controls broadleaf weeds and grasses. It has been registered as a pesticide in the U.S. since 1974. Since glyphosate's first registration, EPA has reviewed and reassessed its safety and uses, including undergoing registration review, a program that re-evaluates each registered pesticide on a 15-year cycle. In January 2020, after receiving and considering public comments on the glyphosate proposed interim decision, EPA released the interim decision for registration review. As part of this action, EPA continues to find that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label. EPA also found that glyphosate is unlikely to be a human carcinogen.

### **Association Hosts Legislators at "Kitchen Dinner" Event in Sacramento**

The hosted **Senator Melissa Hurtado, Senator Bob Archuleta, Assemblyman Heath Flora and Assemblyman Jim Cooper** as part of the **Annual Agricultural Presidents Council (APC) "Kitchen Dinner" Event** in Sacramento this past month. This event is a special "invitation only" event held at the "Kitchen Restaurant" in Sacramento for select members legislators and sponsored by members of the APC. The legislators have a sit down dinner with the hosting organizations in essentially a one-on-one format for the evening. Co-hosted by the agricultural organizations that make up the APC, this year's event attracted 22 legislators. Agricultural organizations co-hosting the



event were the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA), Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA), California Citrus Mutual, California Fresh Fruit Association, California Dairies Inc., California Association of Pest Control Advisors, California Strawberry Commission, Western Plant Health Association, Far West Equipment Dealers Association, and California Agricultural Aircraft Association.** The events provide the Association and its leadership an opportunity to meet new legislators, as well as veteran ones, and educate them on the critical issues facing our industry. Attending were **CCGGA Chairman Tom Gaffney, WAPA Chairman Butch Coburn, President/CEO Roger Isom and Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin.** Each and every legislator received a special California Agriculture gift bag, which included mini cotton bales and cotton socks from the Association.

### **Updated I-9 Forms Now Available**

After months of waiting, a new I-9 form has been released. Employers are still allowed to use the previous version of the I-9 until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. After that date, the new version of the I-9 must be utilized. A significant change to the original form includes the ability for an employer to designate an "Authorized Representative" to assist in completing the employer requirement of the forms. This Authorized Representative is responsible for completing Section 2 of the I-9 which includes examining evidence of identity and employment authorization on behalf of the employer. Additionally, clarification to the list of "Acceptable Documents" have been made, and a full list of those accepted documents are available on the last page of the I-9 forms. Visit our website: <https://ccgga.org/updated-i-9-forms-now-available/> for both the I-9 forms as well as the I-9 instructions for your review and utilization.



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2020 Annual Meeting  
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**NOTE: DATE CHANGE**



**REGISTRATION TO OPEN SOON!**