



# The Cotton Chronicle

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

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## Industry Calendar

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for details

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## Cotton Board Seeking Nominations for Board Members

The **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** seeks nominations of domestic cotton producers from Arkansas, **California**, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas, and importers of cotton and cotton-containing products for positions on the **Cotton Board**. The producers and importers will fill positions for 13 members and 13 alternates. USDA will appoint members and alternates to serve three-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2021, to Dec. 31, 2023. The mission of Research and Promotion (R&P) programs is to expand, maintain and develop markets for individual commodities in the United States and abroad. This mission is an important contributor to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) overall vision related to "providing economic opportunity through innovation and helping rural America thrive and promote agriculture production that better nourishes Americans while helping to feed others throughout the world." Through the guidance of the R&P board members, appointed by Secretary Perdue, these programs execute a variety of activities benefitting agriculture. Consequently, the input and decision making provided by the board members is the foundation for success of these R&P programs. Certified producer organizations (CPOs) and certified importer organizations (CIOs) will hold caucuses to nominate two qualified persons for each open position in their respective industry segment. Producer caucuses have been scheduled and California will hold their caucus on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. For nominating and caucus information, including organizations seeking certification and a list of CPOs and CIOs, contact

Cotton Research and Promotion at (540) 361-2726 or [CottonRP@usda.gov](mailto:CottonRP@usda.gov). More information is available on the Agricultural Marketing Service **Cotton Board** webpage or on the board's website at [www.cottonboard.org](http://www.cottonboard.org).

## USDA Announces Details of Direct Assistance to Farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to this direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program is partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat and deliver boxes to Americans in need. Beginning May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses. Farmers and ranchers will receive direct support, drawn from two possible funding sources. The first source of funding is \$9.5 billion in appropriated funding provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act to compensate farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020, and mid-April 2020 and provides support for specialty crops for product that had been shipped from the farm between the same time period but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing

channels. The second funding source uses the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate producers for \$6.5 billion in losses due to on-going market disruptions. Non-specialty crops eligible for CFAP payments include malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat. Wool is also eligible. Producers will be paid based on inventory subject to price risk held as of January 15, 2020. A payment will be made based 50 percent of a producer's 2019 total production or the 2019 inventory as of January 15, 2020, whichever is smaller, multiplied by the commodity's applicable payment rates.

#### Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits where members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

#### Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply for assistance beginning on May 26, 2020. Additional information and application forms can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed. Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020.

#### **Looking for Face Masks?**

Are you need of general protection face masks? How about masks made from **Supima** Cotton? **MRO Supply** out of Los Angeles is selling masks made from **Supima** cotton for \$5 each plus tax and shipping. They are manufactured by a company out of Los Angeles, so it is California Grown and American Made! Here is the link to the company's website for the mask: [https://www.mrosupply.com/safety/personal-protective-equipment/respiratory-protection/5909596\\_supima-mask-white\\_mro-supply/](https://www.mrosupply.com/safety/personal-protective-equipment/respiratory-protection/5909596_supima-mask-white_mro-supply/). Please note: These are NOT N-95 masks.

#### Payment Structure

To ensure the availability of funding throughout the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing.

While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

#### **Association Partners with Zenith to Conduct COVID-19 Webinars**

The Association is partnering with our longtime collaborator the Zenith to conduct two (2) webinars on ***"Navigating Through COVID-19 – Reducing Risk in the Workplace"***. As employers deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, having the proper guidance, information, and resources are vital to protecting their business and the health of their employees. By participating, you can join **the Zenith** team of Medical and Safety & Health experts as they discuss important COVID-19 related employee health issues and infection prevention practices.

#### **Attendees will learn about:**

- Zenith COVID-19 Resources
- Routes of transmission
- Employee health monitoring
- Employee and workplace hygiene
- Social (Physical) distancing
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Visitors and non-employee interaction

The presenters will be from **the Zenith** and will include **Dr. Jill Rosenthal, MD, MPH, MA, FACOEM, Sr. Vice President, Chief Medical Officer; Jan Rhodes, CIH, CSP, Assistant Vice President, Occupational Health; and Vanessa Galvan, CSP, AFIS Agriculture Program Safety & Health Manager.** The webinars will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am and June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. You can register for these webinars by clicking on the preferred date listed on the attached flier.

This webinar is offered complimentary at no charge in partnership with **Western Agricultural Processors Association and California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and Zenith Insurance.**



### Cal/OSHA Issues New COVID-19 Guidance

Recently, Cal/OSHA released new guidance and checklists for Agriculture and Livestock, and for Food Packing and Processing. This new guidance is intended to support a safe, clean environment for workers in these areas. The update now mandates a “written worksite specific plan” for these operations to protect workers. Included in the guidance is information on what is required in the written plan, training topics, individual control measures, cleaning and disinfecting protocols, and physical distancing guidelines. As I write this article, it is only guidance: however, there is legislation (AB 2043 by Assemblyman Robert Rivas) that would mandate agricultural employers (and only agricultural employers!) take this “guidance” from Cal/OSHA and mandate that it be implemented and for it to be considered a “crime” if not carried out. On top of that, a petition by “Worksafe” was filed recently with the Cal/OSHA Standard Board to require written plans and protections for all workers potentially exposed to COVID-19.

So with all that said, there will be some type of mandate to implement a written plan and protections for workers from COVID-19.

To view the actual guidance documents and inspection checklists for farms and food packing or processing facilities, please go to the Cal/OSHA website at and view the

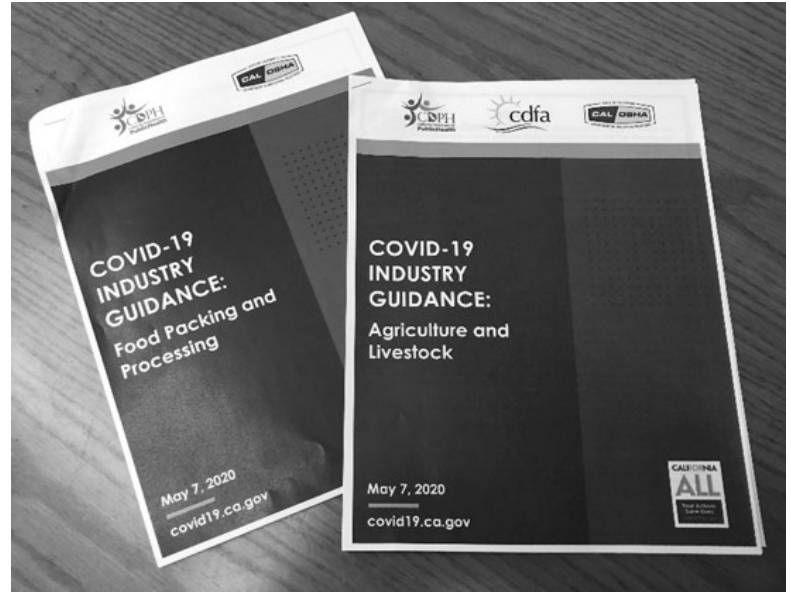
following:

- [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Agriculture and Livestock](#)
- [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 General Checklist for Agriculture and Livestock Employers](#)
- [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Food Packing and Processing](#)
- [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 General Checklist for Meat, Dairy, or Produce Packing or Processing](#)

The plans are focused on four key preventing practices:

- **physical distancing to the maximum extent possible,**
- **use of face coverings by employees (where respiratory protection is not required) and customers/clients,**
- **frequent handwashing and regular cleaning and disinfection,**
- **training employees on these and other elements of the COVID-19 prevention plan.**

To assist our members in this area, staff is currently developing a template plan, inspection checklist, training materials and developing a supervisorial training webinar the Association will be conducting in the very near future.



### FMSCA Releases Revised HOS Regulations

This past month, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMSCA) revised the hours of service (HOS) regulations to provide greater flexibility for drivers subject to those rules. In the final rule, the FMSCA made four significant changes:

- **The on-duty limits for short-haul operations will in-**

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crease from 12 to 14 hours and from 100 air-miles to 150.

- The adverse driving provision will extend the driving window two hours if the driver encounters adverse driving conditions.
- Now requires a 30-minute break after 8 hours of driving time (instead of on-duty time) and allows an on-duty/not driving period to qualify as the required break
- The 30-minute break provision will be modified to require the break after eight hours of consecutive driving time (instead of on-duty time) and allows an on-duty/not driving period to qualify as the required break.

"These new common sense rules will give truckers more options for planning their days," **U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao** said. "They will help drivers reach their destination safely without feeling like they have to race against the clock to comply with federal mandates. They also will help truckers get the rest they need when they need it. When safety rules make sense, drivers are better able to comply and that benefits everyone." The final rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register this week, the agency said. The rule will go into effect

120 days after it is published to allow ELD manufacturers to implement programming changes. Depending on when the rule is published, the changes could go into effect as soon as Sept. 15.

## Watch NCC Contamination Prevention Video

The National Cotton Council urges producers, ginners and other industry members to strive for zero contamination in seed cotton and lint. A great tool for helping is this video that focuses on prevention of plastic contamination -- a serious threat to U.S. cotton's quality reputation in the global marketplace. The video also is available to view in Spanish. You can find the video by clicking on the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Pja\\_HbMEIA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Pja_HbMEIA)

## Contamination-Free Cotton

