



# The Cotton Chronicle

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

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## Industry Calendar

September 8th  
Research Meeting  
Via Zoom

September 9th  
Board Meeting  
Via Zoom

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## Association Presses State Insurance Commissioner for Assistance

Since the devastating wildfires have hit California over the past couple of years, property and liability insurance has gone through the roof, or in some cases, become non-existent. The situation has left our members without coverage, or at the very least not enough coverage to cover the necessary equipment, buildings, property and commodities, such as cottonseed. The Association has met with **State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara** on two occasions to address the issue. Unfortunately, this is a challenging issue, and the situation is not getting any better this year. During one of our meetings, one potential solution mentioned was the possibility of extending the limits on the use of the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) program to help meet our members' critical needs. Currently, for commercial purposes that program is limited to \$3 million per location. The Association asked the Commissioner to increase the limit to at least \$9 million. The residential limits were increased earlier this year, and we are hopeful the commercial side can be increased as well.

## Governor Dismisses Dept. of Finance Report – 2021 Minimum Wage Increase to Move Forward

In January, California will be heading into the 5th year of a multi-year stair-stepped increase in minimum wage eventually capping out at \$15 per hour. Current state law provides the Governor with an "off ramp" if certain economic conditions are met. The state labor code specifically requires the Department of Finance annually to determine whether or not the economy can

support a minimum wage increase, and sets for the criteria by which the Governor can suspend the minimum wage. On Wednesday, July 27th, the Department of Finance released their "Determination and Certification" that stated the "**current economic and General Fund fiscal conditions allow the Governor to make the determination whether to temporarily suspend the next minimum wage increase on January 1, 2021.**" As you know on January 1, 2021 minimum wage will increase \$13 per hour for employers with 25 or fewer employees, and \$14 per hour for employers with more than 25 employees. Two days later the Governor issued a press release summarily dismissing the DOF information and said the minimum wage increase will move forward as planned stating, "As we continue our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, we must also ensure that as our economy recovers, all Californians can benefit in its growth. Not allowing this increase to go forward will only make life harder for those Californians who have already borne a disproportionate share of the economic hardship caused by this pandemic. Many of them are on the front lines of the pandemic, providing child care, working in our hospitals and nursing facilities and making sure there's food on grocery store shelves." This despite the release of a recent economic report on the impacts to agriculture from COVID -19 that estimates the direct economic impact to agriculture to be between \$5.9 billion to \$8.6 billion, and secondary impacts to be between \$4.1 and \$6.5 billion. The report prepared by ERA Economics LLC entitled "Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on California Agriculture" esti-

mates the impact on cotton to be \$166 million and tree nuts to be between \$486 million to \$728 million.

### California Agricultural Icon Jack

#### Woolf Passes Away

On July 28, 2020, Valley agricultural legend **Jack Woolf** passed away at the age of 102. Born Sept 6th, 1917, along with his unexpected identical twin Leyton, at the Pima Maricopa Indian Medical Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona to **John Leroy (Roy) Woolf** and **Anna Louise Stuart Woolf**. Siblings **Peggy** and brother **Robert** followed. After graduating from Peoria High School in 1935, he and his twin were dropped off in Los Angeles at a YMCA with \$25 each and enrolled in Woodbury Business College. They obtained their three-year business degrees in two years while holding several part-time jobs. Both graduated Magna

Cum Laude. Jack's first job after college was with Anderson Clayton Company, a cotton merchandiser, in Los Angeles. With war escalating in Europe, Jack registered for the draft in early spring 1941. He joined the army and rose to the rank of captain. As a member of the 204th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, he landed on Omaha Beach as part of the D-Day Normandy Invasion of Europe. He received 7 battle stars which include: The Battles of England, Normandy, Northern France, Holland, the Bulge, the Rhine and Central Germany. He was discharged as a Major in December 1945. After coming home from Europe, he returned to Anderson Clayton in Los Angeles. In 1947 he was instructed to go to Mendota, California to meet with **Russell Giffen**, who had recently sold his large west-side farming operation to Anderson Clayton. After watching Jack in operation, Russell realized Dad had acquired planning and execution skills in the army, moving large amounts of personnel, equipment and materials that were well suited for developing a new large-scale farming enterprise. Their 30+ year relationship resulted in one of California's largest and most successful farming operations: Giffen, Inc. In 1949 a young woman from Springfield, Missouri had a summer job while staying with her cousins in Coalinga on her way to enroll at UC Berkeley.

**VOTE NO  
ON PROP 15  
IN NOVEMBER**

Prop 15 is an assault on Prop 13's taxpayer protections—the same protections that have given taxpayers certainty they can afford their property taxes in the future. Prop 15 repeals Prop 13 protections for millions of taxpayers & will mean skyrocketing property taxes!

**#NOonProp15**

One of **Bernice McKinney's** duties was to go to the Giffen headquarters to pick up a check. Dad liked what he saw in Bernice and the two were married months later. In 1974 Giffen retired from the farming business and asked Dad to sell all the assets. At age 57, he and Bernice decided to "put all their chips on the table" and buy some of the Giffen land to start their own operation, Woolf Farming Company. Jack proved to be a successful, lifelong entrepreneur. Jack was involved with several boards and organizations. These include: The **National Cotton Council, Huron Ginning, Kingsburg Cotton Oil, The University of Santa Clara Board of Regents, the Fresno Historical Society, Valley Public Television, and The California Tomato Growers Association** to name a few. He was a proud member of the 16 Club dinner club and

the VIP lunch group. Education and healthcare were issues close to his heart. He helped establish a graduate agribusiness program at Santa Clara University and received an honorary doctorate degree from Fresno State. Both institutions offer scholarships in his name. Jack & Bernice have also been long time supporters of St. Agnes Medical Center, Valley Children's Hospital and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Jack leaves behind Bernice, a loving and devoted wife/ "best friend" of over 70 years, his six kids: **Anne Franson (Don), Nancy Woolf, John Woolf (Mary Pat), Mike Woolf (Shelly), Stuart Woolf (Lisa), & Chris Woolf (Sarah)**. In addition, he and Bernice have 24 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. The Association's thoughts and prayers go out to Jack's family and friends as we remember this legend of California agriculture.

#### CalOSHA to Consider Final Wildfire Smoke Regulation

Earlier this year, the CalOSHA Standards Board held a Public Hearing to consider revisions to Title 8, Section 5141.1 of the General Industry Safety Orders which covers requirements for employers when the air quality index for PM2.5 is 151 or greater and the employer reasonably anticipates that employees may be exposed to wild-

fire smoke. Those requirements include the employer providing N95 masks to all affected employees. CalOSHA received oral and written comments on the proposed revisions, including those from the Association, and subsequently modified the proposed regulation as a result of these comments and Board consideration. Unfortunately, the proposed changes do not address the Association's concerns including the lack of availability of N95 masks, and how to determine "reasonably anticipate exposure to smoke". Comments on this latest draft are under a 15 day comment period and due on August 12. Later this



year, the CalOSHA Standards Board will consider the adoption of the final regulation. The Association will once again be weighing in and expressing our concerns on the proposed regulation.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR - 2020-2021 Cotton Research Request for Proposals**

The **California Cotton Industry Research Committee (CCIRC)** will be sending out a Request for Proposals in mid to late July seeking research projects related to the cotton production industry. The CCIRC is made up of representatives from **California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association, California Cotton Alliance as well as the Cotton Incorporated: State Support Committee**. Projects should address the following priorities as recommended by the CCGGA Board of Directors:

#### **2020-2021 Research Priorities**

**Diseases** (FOV resistance, variety screening, seed and soil treatments, pathology work in lab and field plus Seedling Disease issues)

**Sticky Cotton** (Development of better detection and measurement system and standards and continue educational efforts)

**Contamination** (Research ways to detect plastic in the seed cotton and eliminate where possible)

**Insect Management and Control** (Efficacy screening of new and old products and promote intro of new chemistries with low VOC, focus on Lygus and Aphid control)

**Water Management** (Regional with varying soil types and Page 3—The Cotton Chronicle irrigation methods with emphasis on efficiencies, conservation, nitrogen, and salt management)

**Weed Management** (Resistance Management to existing products and introduction of new chemistries)

**Nutrient Management** (Focus on nutrient management while taking into account factors of soil type, irrigation method, efficiencies, etc.)

**The deadline to submit projects will be Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**. Projects will be reviewed by the committee on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> to make funding decisions. With this advance notice, we hope that researchers can begin reviewing the prioritized research topics and have ample time to submit projects. If you have any questions, please contact **Priscilla Rodriguez at (559) 252-0684 or [priscilla@ccgga.org](mailto:priscilla@ccgga.org)**.

### **San Joaquin Valley APCD Reopens Electric ATV Program**

The District has reopened the Zero-Emission Ag Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Voucher program for the replacement of existing diesel or gasoline-powered UTVs, as well as tractors less than 25 horsepower, with new zero-emission UTVs to qualified individuals, businesses, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations involved in California agricultural operation as defined by The California Air Resources Board. The District is now



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accepting applications under this program. This program is intended to fund up to 75% of the eligible cost of new equipment, with a maximum eligible funding amount of \$13,500. Eligible costs does not include additional batteries. To complete your application and to review Guideline documents, please visit the District's website at <http://valleyair.org/grants/utv.htm>. If you do not see the "Apply" link, you may need to refresh your browser. Please contact the District's Zero Emission Ag UTV Program Staff at 559-230-5800 with any questions you may have.

## SWB Set to Increase Irrigated Lands Fees

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has proposed to increase fees for all dischargers covered under different regulatory programs for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. More specifically, the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) is set to increase fees by 4.1% in this time span. This is an improvement over the previously presented increase of 11%. The ILRP Program covers growers throughout the Central Valley and other agricultural reasons throughout the state, and requires that those operations enroll within a geographically specific water coalition. Proposed State Water Board increases

trickle down to growers, who see an increase in per acre fees administered by the regional water coalitions. For the past 6 years, the State Water Board has rapidly increased fees associated with not only ILRP, but other regulatory programs overseen by State Water Board staff. Staff claims that with increases in acreage now covered under their regulatory oversight, increases in revenues are required to offset the increases in expenses. State Water Board staff will be making their final determination in September.

