



The Cotton Chronicle

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September 2020

Volume 30, Issue 9

Industry Calendar

Final Mapped California Cotton Acreage

The Pink Bollworm Program under the California Department of Food and Agriculture has released their final mapped numbers for 2020, including the Pima and Upland acreage splits. Final acreage numbers for California put Pima at 145,840 acres and Upland at 41,187 acres for a total of 187,027 acres statewide.

CALIFORNIA COTTON ACREAGE

2020

San Joaquin Valley	Pima	Upland	TOTAL
Kern	9,215	1,675	10,890
Kings	77,170	9,615	86,785
Tulare	950	5,745	6,695
Fresno	31,905	3,040	34,945
Madera	230	210	440
Merced	26,305	5,360	31,665
San Joaquin	65	0	65
Subtotal =	145,840	25,645	171,485

Southern California

Imperial	0	2,331	2,331
Riverside	0	10,435	10,435
Subtotal =		12,766	12,766

Sacramento Valley

Sutter	0	0	0
Colusa	0	284	284
Glenn	0	2,822	2,822
Tehama	0	0	0
Subtotal =		3,106	3,106

This represents a 28% decrease in Pima acreage and a 27% decrease in upland acreage as compared to 2019. This represents a 28% decrease

in overall cotton acreage for 2020.

USDA Expands CFAP – ELS Cotton Left Out

You would be hard pressed to say that any other commodity has been hit as hard as cotton as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices have dropped, shipments have essentially stopped, and the stores selling ELS cotton products have closed and some have even gone out of business. But apparently, USDA does not agree. Yesterday, USDA expanded the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to include 59 additional commodities and livestock, ranging from bok choy, dill, and kohlrabi, to largemouth bass and cut flowers. But they failed to include ELS cotton, which has not only experienced a reduction in price, but almost a complete shutdown in terms of the sale and movement of ELS cotton. With mills shut down across the globe and retail outlets closed and filing for bankruptcy, ELS cotton is suffering like never before.

The cotton industry submitted price information in response to the May 22nd, Federal Register notice requesting additional information for those commodities that were left out of the first round of CFAP funding. In response to that submittal, USDA claimed that the industry only provided export prices, which USDA believes does not reflect grower prices. ELS cotton does not have a futures price, and is



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only determined through a contractual agreement between the seller and the buyer. Export prices were the only prices that could be used. President/CEO Roger Isom stated “The failure by USDA to recognize the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on the ELS cotton industry is mind numbing. Our prices have dropped and cotton is not moving.” The ELS cotton industry and the Association is now turning its attention to Congress to see what relief may come in the next COVID-19 aid package.

Vote NO On Prop. 15!

As a member, you have seen several posts on our social media over the past several weeks urging people to vote NO on Proposition 15 on the November Ballot. We have been very vocal and will be focusing much of our energy on this important issue in the weeks to come. We will be sending out weekly blasts on our social media, and urging our members to help spread the word through any outlets they have. We will also be helping the statewide effort www.noonprop15.org as they work to push opposition to the statewide level. Proposition 15 would eliminate the protection from out of control property taxes being imposed on business throughout California, including agricultural processing facilities, such as cotton gins, tree nut hullers and processors. We cannot afford to have Proposition 15 pass. Supporters will tell you that this is for schools, but the fact is more than 70% is not for schools and can be used by state and local governments to spend how they want. This measure has no accounta-

bility to taxpayers. The money can be diverted by local government for other purposes that benefit special interests, just like they have done with the gas tax. We already pay the highest income, and state gas and sales taxes. Let’s not add property tax to the list. Help the Association spread the word and encourage everyone to vote NO on Proposition 15.

Legislature Attempts Last Minute \$2.5 Billion Energy Tax on Ratepayers

With less than six (6) days to go, the California State Legislature attempted a “gut and amend” which would impose a \$2.5 billion surcharge on electric ratepayers at an amount of \$0.005 per kWh through the year 2051. For our members, that equates to \$7,000 to \$43,000 in additional annual electricity cost depending upon usage! The legislation begins with talking about the more than 500 wildfires this year, yet they admit they were caused by lightning. Nothing in this bill can or will stop lightning from occurring. Furthermore, the more than \$2.5 billion raised by this surcharge on our members will be used for things like \$50 million for the Air Resources Board to find alternatives for pile burning, \$200 million for forest restoration, \$300 million to Strategic Growth Council for cooling centers and backup solar power, and \$50 million to restore flows in the San Joaquin River. Where’s the connection to lightning caused fires? Association President/CEO Roger Isom stated “It is unacceptable in a year like 2020 to think it is okay to levy \$2.5 billion in taxes on the very ratepayers who are keeping Californians employed during this pandemic. Adding \$7,000 to \$20,000 in annual electricity bills to the businesses in California, who already pay the highest electricity rates in the country, is simply unacceptable. To use these funds for projects like restoring flows in the San Joaquin River, cooling centers and pile burning under the guise of reducing fire risk is inexplicable.” Thankfully, the bill died in the waning hours of the last day of session. It was a deserved fate.

Healthy Soils for Healthy Profits

A live webinar workshop
Thurs., Sept. 17, 2020; 9 AM-12 Noon

How do we get to \$2.50/lb for cotton in the San Joaquin Valley?

Cutting-edge farmers, representatives of major cotton brands and soil management experts will share experienc-

VOTE NO

ON PROP 15

IN NOVEMBER

es in a three-hour online dialogue to address the question:

Can SJV cotton be revitalized by growing brand interest and consumer and market-driven price-per-pound rewards?

Who Should Attend: California cotton growers, industry members, researchers, and others interested in California cotton production systems.

Click to register now!

Program includes:

- Fibershed's **Rebecca Burgess**
- **Cala Rose** Ostrander, People, Land & Life Foundation
- Cotton farmers: **John Teixeira, Cannon Michael, Nathanael Siemens** and **Gary Martin**
- Cropping systems consultant: **Cary Crum**, California Ag Solutions
- Soil health experts: **David Lamm**, Soil Health Institute and **Geoff Koch** and **Jeff Mitchell**, UC Davis
- and perhaps market representatives from cotton brands, cotton farmers

\$10 registration fee is waived for California Cotton Growers!

Fee will cover event coordination cost and support long-term research on soil health systems for cotton in the SJV. Register at <http://ucanr.edu/sjvcottonwebinar>



Brought to you by the following sponsors



Contacts for More Information

Logistics and Registration: Kellie McFaland [ANR Program Support Unit](#), 530-750-1361

Course Content: [Jeff Mitchell](#), ANR CE Cropping Systems Specialist, UC Davis, casi.ucanr.edu

This field day is open to the public. Please share broadly to those who may be interested in attending.

THIS EVENT WILL BE RECORDED FOR EDUCATIONAL OR PROMOTIONAL USE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. CONTACT THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS EVENT FOR MORE INFORMATION.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources

CARB Expanding Regulations to Trucks Beyond 2023

Over the past two months, California Air Resources Board members have held meetings to discuss proposed regulations targeting various classes of diesel trucks. Earlier this year, CARB Board Members heard and approved the Advanced Clean Truck Regulation (ACT) which aimed to encourage electrification amongst the various weight classes of heavy-duty diesel trucks. The ACT regulation is primarily a manufacturer requirement for developing electric equipment. However, additional requirements were levied on businesses and fleet owners to require their equipment into a system similar to what is required in the Truck and Bus Regulation. Partnered on top of that, CARB Board Members heard an addition to the proposed ACT Regulation. Dubbed the Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program (HDVIMP), this regulation would amend and update maintenance procedures and requirements for vehicles manufactured after 2023. The HDVIMP Regulation would require that all classes of medium-to-heavy-duty equipment be inspected through various procedures throughout the year. One proposed method of inspection would be through the use of the equipment's on-board diagnostic system (OBD). The regulation looks to include the ability for OBD data to be sent directly to CARB's database when the owner/operator turns the equipment on. This regulation is still being worked on specific to requirements for owner/operators as well as the technology availability of some of the proposed requirements. Additionally, an item was brought in from of the Board late last month looking to lower the emission levels with medium- and heavy-duty equipment.

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CARB staff have been working on this proposed regulation for the past 10 years, and it looks to add additional emission controls to equipment. No other state in the U.S. has more stringent emission controls requirements as California, and these regulations would only ratchet up the requirements for manufacturers. Numerous parties spoke both in support, and against the proposed regulation. Notable commenters from companies such as Tesla and Cummins both stated their support, but included their concern with requiring such strict control levels for only a percentage of their total equipment sales. The Association remains opposed to any additional regulations levied against owner/operators that have already invested a tremendous amount to get into compliance with the original Truck and Bus Regulation. Stay tuned for more updates.

Cotton Loan Forfeiture Charges/Procedures for ELS Cotton

Based on recent discussions with USDA officials, there are important clarifications on the charges or fees a producer is responsible for when warehouse-stored Pima cotton is forfeited to USDA. In general, the calculations on cotton forfeiture charges are the same for both Pima and upland cotton. If Pima cotton is forfeited to USDA, the producer

is only responsible for paying the difference in the Cotton Storage Agreement (CSA) storage rate for the warehouse and the USDA storage credit for the time the cotton is under loan, not the full storage costs for the time the cotton is under loan. For anytime the cotton is not under loan, the producer is responsible for paying the full warehouse storage rate.

No-Cost N-95 Masks Now Available for Worker Protection from Wildfire Smoke

Last month, the County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC), the CAC's began to distribute no-cost N-95 masks to pesticide applicators. However, with the recent wildfires and shortage supply of N-95 masks, the CAC's will now be distributing a limited supply of no-cost N-95 masks throughout the state to agricultural businesses for worker protection from wildfire smoke. The limited supply of N-95 masks will be at no cost to you. Contact your local county agricultural commissioner to schedule a pickup time to receive these N-95 masks for your business.