



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

Association Submits Opposition to Proposed Pesticide Mill Tax Increase

In an effort to draw attention to the costly impacts to the tree nut industry, the Association submitted comments to CalEPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld this week, highlighting the inequity of the proposed tiered mill tax increase. This increase will more than double the mill tax for fumigants from 21 mills to 45 mills and the money will be used to hire 51 new positions. This is an unbelievable time to levy a tax in-



crease on agriculture, especially one as unjustified and unwarranted as this. DPR and CalEPA claim this new tiered approach is to encourage farmers to move away from the harsher

chemicals to softer alternatives. The problem is two-fold for the tree nut industry. First, there are no known alternatives for fumigants. Second, many of the countries mandate that tree nuts be fumigated as part of the trade agreement, with no exceptions. The Association is pressing the legislature, the Governor and his administration on this unbelievable tax increase.

Association Joins Forces to Submit Amicus Brief on Glyphosate Case

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** joined forces with the **California Farm Bureau Federation, California Citrus Mutual, California Fresh Fruit Association and the Western Agricultural Processors Association** to file an Amicus Brief to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of the **National Wheat Growers Association vs. Rob Bonta**,

Attorney General of California. In this brief the coalition provided further insight into the relevant science and explained the broader impacts of glyphosate warnings on the agricultural industry.



The jointly filed amicus brief emphasized the fact that U.S. EPA has publicly commented that they consider the "Proposition 65 warning language for glyphosate to constitute a false and misleading statement." The coalition also highlighted several environmental benefits of using glyphosate, including the reduction in tillage operations.

Governor Releases May Revise Budget

The May Revise to the Governor's proposed budget has been released and there is good news and bad news. On the good news side, there is money for things like air quality incentives, water and environmental upgrades. The bad news...there is not enough of it to meet this state's own unrealistic mandates. And there is money to fund more anti-farming activism through pesticide notification activities, something that this administration has as a priority. The funding for the FARMER program which funds the replacement of old Tier 0, 1, and 2 tractors could not have come at a more important time. The deadline to achieve 11 tons per day of NOx emissions is less than two years away. The Governor is proposing \$363 million over two years. Without this incentive money, agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley would be faced with a mandatory tractor replacement regulation much like the state's Truck Regulation. However, the money is still

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less than the California Air Resources Board's own call for \$193 million for four years to meet the mandate. The Governor also proposed \$150 million towards solving the agricultural burn elimination issue in the San Joaquin Valley, but this is much less than the estimated \$290 million agriculture believes it will take to end the practice. On the water front, the Governor is proposing a \$5.1 billion investment, over four years, to align with his July 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio. The package includes:

- \$1.3 billion for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, with a focus on small and disadvantaged communities.
- \$150 million for groundwater cleanup and water recycling projects.
- \$300 million for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation to improve water supply security, water quality and water reliability.
- \$200 million for water conveyance improvements to repair major water delivery systems damaged by subsidence.
- \$500 million for multi-benefit land repurposing to provide long-term, flexible support for water users.
- \$230 million for wildlife corridor and fish passage projects to improve the ability of wildlife to migrate safely.
- \$200 million for habitat restoration to support tidal wetland, floodplain, and multi-benefit flood-risk reduction projects.
- \$91 million for critical data collection to repair and augment the state's water data infrastructure to improve forecasting, monitoring, and assessment of hydrologic conditions.
- \$60 million for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program grants to help farmers reduce irrigation water use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural pumping.
- \$33 million for fisheries and wildlife support to protect and conserve California's diverse ecosystems.
- \$27 million for emergency and permanent solutions to drinking water drought emergencies.

Lastly, the May Revision proposes \$10 million one-time General Fund to implement a statewide infrastructure network to provide access to information about local pesticide use. The Department of Pesticide Regulation will be launching a process this summer to develop and adopt the statewide regulations necessary for advanced public notification of certain pesticide applications. Coupled with the massive increase in the pesticide mill tax, it is clear this administration is targeting pesticide use in California.

Cotton Trust Protocol Enrollment Sought

Have ideas and opinions on sustainability webinars? Where do you trust for your farming news? We want to hear from you! The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol® wants to better under-



stand U.S. cotton producers motivations when it comes to sustainability and how we can help through knowledge sharing. We developed a fast, easy to use survey that can be filled out on your computer, smartphone, or tablet at <https://bit.ly/2QMXbXF>. We would love to have your participation so we can better serve you and the U.S. cotton industry. Meanwhile, producers are strongly encouraged to continue enrolling their 2021 cotton crop in the Trust Protocol. To begin the enrollment process, click the Join Now button on top of the Trust Protocol website's home page at www.trustuscotton.org. Program or enrollment questions can be directed to growers@trustuscotton.org. More information on the program's activities is at that site, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trustuscotton/ and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/trustuscotton/

2021 CCGGA Annual Meeting Update

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association held their 2021 Annual Meeting at the Tulare Agri-Center.

With COVID-19 restrictions easing for in person meetings, the Association



was happy to host and update the membership on various issues surrounding the industry. Breakout rooms were organized, and attendees heard updates on topics currently impacting both the growing and ginning industries. Attendees reconvened in the afternoon to hear cotton marketplace forecast from Leigh Pell with the Western Cotton Shippers Association, and were provided an update on the National Farm Policy Outlook from Tas Smith with the National Cotton Council. Association staff then updated the membership on various efforts on both State and Federal rules and regulations. After Association



staff made their presentation, Chairman Bryan Bone took time to recognize Tom Gaffney for his commitment to the association as past Chairman. Attendees heard an informative

presentation from Dan Walters with CalMatters on the

political climate within the State of California. The Association would like to recognize thank all of our Annual Meeting sponsors, especially PhytoGen and Samuel Strapping for their 5 Bale sponsorship this year. With COVID restrictions easing, the Association looks forward to hosting the event again next year.



Hansen Ranches Receive High Cotton Award at CCGGA Annual Meeting

For the first time, the Western Farm Press High Cotton Award was presented at this year California Cotton Growers Annual meeting held this week at the International Agri-Center in Tulare. The first High Cotton award was given in 1995 and the objective of the High Cotton award program closely follows the philosophy of the Farm Press Publications — to help growers produce more profitable, higher quality crops, by providing them with timely, hard-hitting information about technological advances, governmental regulations, and marketing opportunities. Every year top cotton producers in each major growing region are chosen and share their successful production methods. This year the sixth generation of Hansen Ranches, Phil, Erick and Nis Hansen had the distinguished honor of being selected for the 2021 High Cotton Award for their dedication to sustainable farming practices, a strong business acumen that continues to focus on environmental stewardship and irrigation efficiency practices that makes Hansen Ranches this year's Farm Press High Cotton winner from the West. The award was presented



by Western Farms Press's Associate Editor, Todd Fitchette. A Special Congratulations to the Hansen Family!

Governor Newsom Expands the State's Drought Emergency Proclamation

Governor Newsom expanded the state's drought emergency proclamation to include 41 counties are now under a drought state of emergency, representing 30 percent of

the state's population. The Governor's proclamation directs the State Water Board to consider modifying requirements for reservoir releases and diversion limitations to conserve water upstream later in the year to maintain water supply, improve water quality and protect cold water pools for salmon and steelhead. The state of emergency also enables flexibilities in regulatory requirements and procurement processes to mitigate drought impacts and directs state water officials to expedite the review and processing of voluntary transfers of water from one water right holder to another, enabling available water to flow where it is needed most. The Governor's executive action last month directed state agencies to partner with local water suppliers to promote conservation through the Save Our Water campaign, a critical resource for Californians during the 2012-2016 drought. Some municipalities have already adopted mandatory local water-saving requirements, and many more have called for voluntary water use reductions.

Actions taken by the Administration to address drought to date include:

- Identifying water suppliers at extreme financial risk that may need additional support due to the combined impacts of COVID and drought.
- Updating the Department of Water Resources' Dry Well website, which tracks voluntarily reported supply issues by counties.
- Streamlining water transfer processes.
- Issuing letters from the State Water Resources Control Board to water right holders, urging them to plan for potential shortages by reducing water use and adopting practical conservation measures.
- Completing the state's first drinking water needs assessment in which the State Water Board identified small water systems and domestic wells that are failing or at risk of failing to meet the state's drinking water standards. By working toward solutions with these systems, we are improving their drought resiliency.

CDPH Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated its recommendations for individuals who are fully vaccinated. A few key points from this guidance are below. Fully vaccinated people can do the following:

- Spend time with other fully vaccinated people, including indoors, without wearing masks or physical distancing (outside a workplace setting).
- Spend time with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refrain from wearing face coverings outdoors except when attending crowded outdoor events, such as live performances, parades, fairs, festivals, sports events, or other similar settings.

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- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.
 - Following a known exposure at work, fully vaccinated workers do not need to quarantine if asymptomatic.
 - In the workplace, employers subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) must ensure that employees are following the current ETS face covering and testing requirements.

Fully vaccinated people should continue to take precautions in public including wearing a well-fitted mask indoors, and when attending crowded outdoor events, as described above. Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If fully vaccinated people test positive for SARS-CoV-2, they should follow CDPH and local health department guidance regarding isolation and/or exclusion from high-risk settings. For workplace settings, employers should follow the exclusion provisions of the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards.

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated when it has been two weeks or more after they have received either their second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna) or their single-dose vaccine (J&J/Janssen).

As reported by Kahn, Soares & Conway (KSC), for workplace settings, employers should follow the exclusion provisions of the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards. The Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergen-

cy Temporary Standards (ETS) applies to all employers, employees, and to all places of employment with three exceptions:

- Workplaces where there is only one employee who does not have contact with other people.
- Employees who are working from home.
- Employees who are covered by the Aerosol Transmissible Diseases regulation.

KSC as reported, in correspondence with this week's CDPH recommendations, and per **Executive Order N-84-2020**, the Cal/OSHA ETS now stipulates that fully vaccinated individuals who have had a COVID-19 exposure and are asymptomatic no longer need to be excluded under the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards. **More information is available in the [COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards FAQs](#).**

