



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

2021 American Pima Grade Standards Guide Box Review and Standards Matching is Set

USDA AMS has set the **2021 American Pima Grade Standards Guide Box Review and Standards Matching** for **Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at the Visalia, California Classing Office** located at 7100 W. Sunnyview Avenue in Visalia. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00am. USDA AMS is requesting participants to join them to review,



comment, and approve the six guide boxes of the 2021 American Pima Grade Standards. Once approved, the guide boxes will be used as the reference to match all the 2021 American Pima Grade Standards. The USDA AMS has said “industry participation is key to this process and we hope you all can come and be a part of this important annual event”. For additional information please contact:

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Cotton Seed Bug – Be on the Lookout!

In 2019, a cotton seed bug was found and identified in Los Angeles, California. At the time it was a single find, and no other specimens were found in the vicinity. Unfortunately, in 2020 the cotton seed bug was found and identified in five more locations across three counties, including Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties. While the locations remain more than 100 miles from the nearest cotton fields, we are concerned with the potential spread of this devastating pest to cotton fields in California. This pest, as the name suggests, attacks the cotton seed, but damages the lint on its way into the seed. More importantly, if this pest were to be found in cotton it could end the shipment of cotton planting seed out of California as more than likely a quarantine area would be established. We are currently working with USDA and CDFA to find a way to trap the pest and possibly keep this pest in the LA Basin, maybe even eradicate it. In the meantime, we



are asking growers and PCAs to be on the lookout for this pest. Attached is a technical bulletin that describes the pest in detail and includes pictures of the pest in various life cycles. Should you see one of these bugs, please contact your local county ag commissioner or the local CDFA Field office. It is imperative that we stay ahead of this devastating invasive pest.

U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol

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 understand 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/.

USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their crop acreage reports after planting should make an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office before the applicable deadline. July 15 is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop. "USDA offers a lot of programs to assist producers, but in order to receive many of these program benefits, you must file an accurate crop acreage report," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "Once planting is complete, call your local FSA county office to make an appointment." An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits. Producers can contact their FSA county office for acreage reporting deadlines that are specific to their

county. Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Producers should contact their Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.

For questions, producers should call their FSA county office. To find their FSA county office, they should visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

Air District Workshops 6th Iteration of Engine Rule

If you have a natural gas or propane engine, be sure to take a look at the proposed revisions to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Rule 4702 – Internal Combustion Engines. Rule 4702 applies to internal combustion engines rated at 25 bhp or greater and includes both spark-ignited and compression-ignited engines. Growers with diesel-fired or natural gas and propane-fired engines need to consider the proposed changes. The most impactful changes will be for spark-ignited engines. Rich-burn engines used in agricultural operations will have to reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen from 90 ppmv to 11 ppmv and VOC emissions from 250 ppmv to 90 ppmv. Lean-burn engines used in agricultural operations will have to lower NOx emissions from 150 ppmv to 43 ppmv, and VOC emissions from 750 ppmv to 90 ppmv. The changes for rich-burn engines must be completed by December 31, 2023, while the changes for the lean-burn engines must be completed by December 31, 2029. These proposed changes are slated to be considered by the District's Governing Board as early as their August Board meeting.

California Cotton Industry Research Committee seeking Research Request for Proposals

The California Cotton Industry Research Committee (CCIRC), made up from the three principal funding groups

for California cotton research, sends out a “Request for Proposal” each year to researchers and educators known to the cotton industry as having interests and involvement in research that could benefit the cotton industry in California. By combining the research funding efforts from these three groups into one, projects are funded through a more streamlined process and effective process.

The Research Request for Proposal (RFP) letter for 2021-2022 projects was mailed out this week to researchers, educators and committee members. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 5:00 PM (close of business day) on Monday, August 23, 2021. This is a firm deadline. No extensions will be granted due to the need to reproduce proposals, distribute them to the committee, and allow time for review prior to the Committee meeting. The CCIRC will meet on September 7, 2021 to consider funding for research proposals meeting the submittal deadline stated in this request letter. No presentations on projects will be made during this meeting, the committee will only be reviewing the submitted proposals. If you have not received the RFP letter and are interested in submitting a proposal or have any questions feel free to give our office a call at (559) 252-0684.

State Water Board Releases Proposed Fee Increases for 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

Earlier this month, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board, SWB) released the agency’s updated Proposed Fee Schedule for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. As has been the standard with the State Water Board, staff proposed fee increases to all programs that the agency oversees. Growers are set to see an increase in fees, with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) fee proposal set at an increase by 9.8%.

What has concerned the Association with the most recent presentation is that the fees have been adjusted since the last time staff made the presentation. The major difference in the two presentations were that the WDR Program was only set to increase 11.7%, and the ILRP Program was set to increase 7.8%. SWB staff has consistently failed to demonstrate the need for these proposed increases. Comparatively, State Water Board fees are exponentially higher than any other regulatory agency fees. In the most recent meeting, SWB staff indicated that they had not actually run the accounting numbers on income and expenses for the previous seasons, and that finalizing those numbers could have an impact

on the proposed increases in program fees. The Association, along with several Water Quality Coalitions, voiced their opposition to the proposed increases, and highlighted the dire situation that agriculture is currently in. The Association has engaged State Water Board members in an effort to highlight the unnecessary increases.

CARB Unveils Updates to Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance Program

Earlier this month, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) presented an updated regulatory framework for heavy duty vehicle inspection and maintenance throughout the state of California. Previously, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 210 which aimed to bolster the inspection and maintenance program administered by CARB to adapt to the changing technology amongst the various heavy-duty equipment manufacturers. Previous Vehicle Maintenance and Inspection protocols included annual Periodic Smoke Inspections (PSIPs) or through CHP BIT inspections. CARB looks to update the current inspection system by utilizing On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) computer systems utilized with newer equipment. The current proposal laid out by CARB sees a dramatic increase in the number of tests that will be required of equipment owners, from 1 annual inspection previously increased to 4 annual “inspections” through OBD diagnostic inspections for vehicles with a model year of 2013 or newer. 2010-2013 vehicle model years can still go through with PSIP inspections, but those inspections will increase from a required 1 inspection per year to two. With the completion of those inspections, fleet and equipment owners will be provided a compliance certificate that they must hold onto for that specific year. The Association is working to fight back on the onerous and expensive proposal, and will update you once we hear any updates.

CARB to Consider Next Forklift Rule

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has announced the next iteration of their Large Spark Ignited (LSI) Regulation, which covers forklifts. They are proposing to mandate all electric forklifts, with the exception of “rough terrain forklifts” for which they are considering a lower emissions rate than the current 3.0 g NOx/bhphr for forklifts used in agricultural operations including cotton gins, nut hullers and processors. In proposing to mandate all electric forklifts, CARB has indicated they believe it is “cheaper to own and operate

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an electric forklift than a propane forklift." In their initial information used to substantiate this claim, the electric rates used to estimate charging costs were based on 6.7 cents to 10 cents per kWh. This is based on national average information and not reflective of what we pay in California for electricity. In an effort to secure more accurate information, the Association is surveying its membership to see how many forklifts are out there and see how the rule might apply. In addition, we are requesting cost information on maintenance and operation to be

able to determine the true cost of electric versus propane forklifts. Initial data coming reflects electrical rates as high as 23 cents per kWh. Any help our members can provide in completing the survey, would be very much appreciated. If you have any questions about the proposed regulation or concerns with completing the survey, please contact me at (559)252-0684 or via email at priscilla@ccgga.org.

