



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

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Industry Calendar

August 17
Sticky Cotton
Meeting
Dos Palos

August 18
Sticky Cotton
Meeting
Corcoran

Sept 7
CC Cotton Industry
Research Com-
mittee Mtg
Fresno

Sept 8
Board Meeting
Fresno

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Jim Razor is the new AgOne Foundation President

Jim Razor, of the **J.G. Boswell Company**, has been named the new President of the **AgOne Foundation at California State University Fresno**. Razor sits on the Board of Directors of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association. He graduated from Fresno State with a degree in plant science in 1990 and began his career as a pest control advisor and is now Vice President for the J.G. Boswell Company. He oversees processing facilities for Boswell's premier products, tomatoes and pima cotton, as well as an edible oil mill, and packaging company. He also manages areas that involve logistics, safety, risk management, workers compensation and environmental affairs. As president, Jim succeeds Annie Stuhr, who completed her one year term on June 30th. The AgOne Foundation benefits, promotes and supports the **Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (JCAST)** at Fresno State and its programs. Today, the Ag One Foundation has raised nearly \$26.7 million in endowed funds which are invested with the Fresno State Foundation. Over the years, donors, board members and volunteers have made it possible to award some 4,800 students with over \$7.6 million in scholarships and program support. For the 2021-22 academic year, Ag One will provide more than \$950,000 to deserving students and programs.

PG&E Proposes Another Huge Increase in Rates!

PG&E recently filed their 2023-2026 Phase One General Rate Case (GRC). By the end of the four-year period, PG&E proposes to raise rates by

another 45 percent, amounting to more than five billion dollars! PG&E cites wildfire safety and electric system safety and reliability as the main drivers for the proposed rate increase, also claiming that 50 percent of the 2023 increase is for wildfire reduction work. The increases for wildfire safety would allow PG&E to invest in hardening and undergrounding power lines, installing devices to limit the size and impact of public safety power shut-offs, removing dead and dying trees, using technology to detect early-stage equipment failure and downed power lines, among other measures. On the clean energy side, revenue increases would be used to: invest in distribution capacity upgrades to support at-home electric vehicle charging demand, invest in additional EV charging infrastructure, battery storage projects, hydroelectric upgrades and enhancements, among other initiatives. The Phase One process is expected to take around a year to complete at the CPUC. **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** calls this the largest increase in energy rates in the state's history. Isom stated "this increase pays absolutely no attention the state's economy or the well-being of its businesses or its citizens, especially considering PG&E shareholders will carry absolutely none of this \$5 billion increase! In fact, they are guaranteed a more than 12% rate of return on these investments, so they will make money on top of money! And all at our expense. Meanwhile, the state wants to move everything to electric. This has to stop! We understand the need to implement safety procedures for wildfires, but PG&E had plenty of time and money to do that before. PG&E and its shareholders need to carry the brunt of this, not ratepayers!"

Association's Isom Picked to Participate in Focus Group on Pesticide Notification

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is in the process of developing a statewide pesticide application notification system to provide equitable access to this important information for all Californians. The system would provide advanced notification of upcoming applications of restricted material pesticides. Timely notification to those near restricted material applications would give them the ability to play an active role in taking additional precautionary measures, such as closing windows or avoiding outdoor activities. These measures are intended to advance DPR's mission to protect human health and the environment, and to support safe and sustainable pest management. To develop a meaningful restricted material application notification system, DPR will be conducting a series of outreach scoping sessions (including focus groups, webinars, and workshops) to gather input from members of the public, regulatory agencies, County Agricultural Commissioners, regulated industries and other stakeholders. Facilitation support for the outreach activities will be provided through a partnership with the California State University, Sacramento Consensus and Collaboration Program. **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** was identified as someone who could provide valuable feedback regarding a meaningful pesticide application notification system, and was invited to participate in a facilitated focus group sessions to be held via Zoom on **August 12, 2021**.

EPA Takes Steps to Protect Endangered Fish from Pesticide Exposure

EPA is taking steps to protect more than two dozen endangered and threatened fish species on the west coast. EPA is taking this action in response to two final biological opinions on metolachlor, bromoxynil, prometryn and 1,3-D issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). EPA worked with NMFS and pesticide registrants to develop a range of risk reduction measures, which include no-spray buffers, retention ponds, and participation in recognized stewardship programs. Pesticide users will have several options to comply with the listed species protection goals. The biological opinions evaluate the impact of these pesticides on 28 federally listed endangered and threatened species of Pacific salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon and California. The biological opinions find that registered uses of these pesticides do not jeopardize the listed salmon and steelhead populations or

their critical habitats. The biological opinions also describe reasonable and prudent measures to minimize unintentional harm or death that could result from use of these pesticides to individuals of these listed species and their critical habitats. EPA will implement the final biological opinions through Endangered Species Protection Bulletins as appropriate. These bulletins will direct how these pesticides may be applied in the vicinity of listed salmon and steelhead species' habitats. Implementation of these biological opinions aligns with EPA's efforts to mitigate risks to species protected by the Endangered Species Act in a timely and effective manner. Metolachlor, bromoxynil and prometryn are herbicides used to control grasses and broadleaf weeds, and 1,3-D (also known as telone) is a pesticide used in pre-plant soil fumigation.

Association's Isom asked to Participate in California Clean Biomass Collaborative

The **Association's President/CEO Roger Isom** was invited to participate as a **Core** member of the newly formed **California Clean Biomass Collaborative** facilitated by Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. As per requirements adopted by the California Air Resources Board, nearly all agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley will be phased out by Jan. 1, 2025. In preparation for this and in accordance with recommendations by the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and California Air Resources Board (CARB), this Collaborative is tasked with identifying and evaluating alternatives to agriculture burning. The Association was identified as an important stakeholder for the California Clean Biomass Collaborative. The Collaborative will meet approximately five times from August 2021 through July 2022 to review and discuss various alternatives to agricultural burning. Each meeting will focus on a specific type of alternative to burning with invited representatives providing insight into their alternatives' advantages and barriers to adoption. In addition, the Second Central Valley Summit on Alternatives to Open Burning of Agricultural Waste will be held early November 2021. Core members of the Collaborative fall into five stakeholder areas: Agricultural Production; Biomass Industry; Government; Environmental Justice; and Research/Academic.

California Clean Biomass Collaborative - Mission Statement

The Clean Biomass Collaborative exists to identify technically and economically feasible and sustainable strategies

to achieve a near-complete phase-out of agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley. The Collaborative provides a forum for key stakeholder groups to identify and overcome issues inhibiting deployment of advanced bio-energy projects, and to communicate resulting options and benefits.

About The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol

What is the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol

- The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol is a voluntary program that helps growers better document and verify the sustainability practices and advances already incorporated into their farms.
- It is the only program to offer measurable and verified sustainability data to brands and retailers.
- The Trust Protocol's Board of Directors is comprised of growers, ginners, merchants, marketing cooperatives, mills, cottonseed handlers, brands and retailers, civil society, and independent sustainability experts.

U.S. Cotton Growers Must Tell Their Story

- The Trust Protocol will help you tell your story. It proves, measures, and verifies U.S. cotton's continuously improving sustainability credentials, and gives brands and retailers the assurances they need to confidently source more U.S. cotton.
- Your customers – the brands and retailers – are under growing pressure from consumers to source sustainably produced products, but they lack the data to do so.
- Preferred fiber lists have been created among almost all brands and retailers. U.S. cotton is not on most lists and risks being shut out of several important markets.
- The Trust Protocol highlights your sustainability efforts and ensures U.S. cotton can be on those lists.
- The Trust Protocol builds on your hard work and investment to produce high yielding quality cotton, while continuing to reduce inputs, improve soil health, and preserve the environment for future generations.

How You Benefit

- You play a role in maintaining and increasing market opportunities for U.S. cotton while demonstrating that your cotton is more responsibly grown, and that the U.S. is a leader in sustainable growing practices.
- The option for recognition on the Trust Protocol website as a program member.
- Receive data that will enable you to anonymously compare your operation on key sustainability measurements against your state, region, and the Cotton Belt.
- Use of the Trust Protocol logo on your farm's letterhead, cards, etc.
- Gain insights on best management practices from across the industry.

- Receive regular communications of Trust Protocol news and other information.

Your Data Is Confidential!

- All data collected by the Trust Protocol is used in aggregate form only.
- All individual data is maintained as confidential and cannot be shared.

Third-Party Verification Provides Unbiased Program Credibility

- Verification is an important step in making U.S. cotton the strongest standard in the world market and assures brands and retailers that your cotton is more sustainable for use in their supply chain.
- Approximately 1/3 of Trust Protocol enrollees are randomly selected from each region for desktop verification and 5% of enrollees from each region are randomly selected for on-site verification.
- Desktop verifications take 1-2 hours while on-site verifications require 2-3 hours. Growers selected for verifications are not eligible to be selected again for 2 years.
- All verifications are scheduled during a time that is convenient to you.

How To Enroll

- Enrollment for the 2021 crop is now open. 2020 program members must re-enroll for the 2021 crop.
- Go to www.trustuscotton.org and click "Join Now."
- To become a full member, you must complete all six steps enrollment steps.
- Complete enrollment takes 2-3 hours.

To begin the enrollment process, click the "Join Now" button from the top of the program's website -- <https://trustuscotton.org> – and follow the 6 steps below to successfully complete your registration.

1. Review and sign the privacy statement.
2. Select your gin and marketer. This information can be added later if your gin and marketer is unknown.
3. Complete your farming profile.
4. Complete your self-assessment. You will answer 120 questions on your sustainable production practices in soil health, tillage operations, water use and pesticide management, among others.
5. Commit to continuous improvements that the Trust Protocol has developed and confirm to have your data verified, if randomly selected.
6. Enter data into the Fieldprint Analysis throughout the season and complete your Fieldprint Analysis after harvest. Only 10% of your cotton acreage should be input.

Need Help?

- Please reach out to our Grower Help Desk at growers@trustuscotton.org for:
- Assistance with enrollment.
- Additional program information
- Questions about the independent verification process.

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
1785 N. Fine Avenue
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Go Electronic!

Do you want our Newsletter & Latest News directly to your inbox? Send your name and email address to info@ccgga.org and we'll get you on the list to receive our important and informative monthly newsletter electronically. It's easy!

WWW.CCGGA.ORG

Sticky Cotton Prevention Meetings

Meeting #1 –

When: **Tuesday, August 17th at 9:00 am**
Where: **Dos Palos Cooperative Gin, 7870 W. Hutchins Road, Dos Palos, CA**
Gin Manager – Mike Davis

Meeting #2 –

When: **Wednesday, August 18th at 8:00 am**
Where: **Cross Creek II Gin, LLC, 2411 Whitley, Corcoran, CA**
Gin Manager – Kirk Gilkey

The meeting will be put on by UC Cooperative Extension, represented by **Dr. Bob Hutmacher, State Cotton Specialist**, and **Dr. Ian Grettenberger, CE Specialist – Entomologist**. The sessions will last approximately 1 ½ hours or so. Please call the Association office at (559)252-0684 or email at shana@ccgga.org to RSVP.

UC
CE

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension

