



The Cotton Chronicle

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September 2021

Volume 31, Issue 9

Industry Calendar

U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol Enrollment Webinars Begin this Month

Mark your calendars! Grower enrollment webinars for the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol begin Tuesday, September 14, at 8:00 am CST.

<https://trustuscotton.org/enrollment-webinar-live-sessions/> to reserve your virtual seat today



and share with growers in your network who might also be interested. Attendees will learn how the Trust Protocol helps U.S. growers meet the changing demands from their end customers by documenting and verifying the sustainability practices and advances already incorporated into U.S. cotton farms. The webinar will also detail how the program enables U.S. cotton growers to prove their sustainable stewardship and drive commitment to continuous improvement. If you're unable to make this webinar, the next session is Wednesday, September 29, at 8:00 am CST. For questions, please reach out to the Grower Helpdesk at growers@trustuscotton.org and be sure to follow the Trust Protocol.

CDPR Begins Process on Pesticide Notification Proposal

Armed with a budget that includes \$10 million for a new statewide notification system for pesticide application, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) has wasted no time

in moving on the effort and has already held a series of focus group meetings to discuss the issue and begin developing the framework of the new program. This new effort will focus on advance notification of potential pesticide applications. While admitting that California already has the most robust pesticide regulatory program in the country, CDPR indicated in a recent meeting that these new notification requirements are a priority for Governor Gavin Newsom. CDPR is looking at several different areas including looking at what types of pesticides will require notification, potential types of application methods require notification, who gets notified, how they get notified, and how far in advance the notification will be required. By far, the biggest question is who gets notified. Why would someone who does not live next to a field or orchard being treated want or need to know about an application unless they have an ulterior motive? One such incident happened in Monterey County where activists tried to stop a planned field fumigation after learning of the fumigation through the notifica-

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**PESTICIDE APPLICATION
PLEASE KEEP OFF**

DO NOT REMOVE UNTIL SUNSET ON _____



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS APPLICATION OR ANY FUTURE APPLICATIONS CALL

BUSINESS NAME
&
NUMBER

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tion system. Typical notifications are made 24 hours in advance, but CDPR is seeking guidance on whether there should be a shorter, or longer, notification period. As for how the notification is being made, CDPR is asking if the notification should be made with mail, email, fax, or door hangers. In the end, CDPR is committed to doing something. There is no doubt that farmers must be careful with pesticide applications and follow all label requirements to the letter. But notifying people that do not live anywhere near where the pesticide application occurs does nothing to protect those that do.

Association Submits Comments on WOTUS Rule

The Association submitted comments on the Biden Administration's proposal to reconsider the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rulemaking. The Association expressed concerns with reopening the rulemaking, stating that under the Trump Administration the Navigable Protection Waters Rule (NWPR) brought clarity to a regulation that had caused consternation and conflict for years. The NWPR finally eliminated debate and questions on issues like whether drainage ditches were navigable waters, and numerous other contentious examples of inconsistency with implementation of the rules. The NWPR finally brought the clarity and understanding necessary for farming to move forward. The Association expressed concern that reopening the regulation would only serve to bring back the inconsistency and questions.

Association Joins Call for Action on Water

Association **President/CEO Roger A. Isom** spoke at a press conference at the San Luis Reservoir calling on the state to fix our water infrastructure. Isom joined **Senator Melissa Hurtado** and a broad group of water districts including **Federico Barajas, of the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority; Tom Birmingham, from the Westlands Water District; Jason Phillips of the Friant Water Authority, and Royce Fast from the Kern County Water Agency.** The event was held by Senator Hurtado and held at the San Luis Reservoir to commemorate the speech given by **President John F. Kennedy** at the same site in 1962 to begin construction of the San Luis Reservoir. Isom quoted Kennedy stating "this is our task in the simplest of forms. It is a task to renew and strengthen the American Land and its resources and build up a legacy for those who follow". The event also recognized the \$100 million received to help infrastructure in the state to help repair canals. Isom called it a down payment to help the state



fix our infrastructure for our farms, cities and every citizen in this state.

Association staff provides comments on CARB's proposed Zero-Emission Forklifts

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) held two workshops on the potential regulatory concept on Zero-Emission Forklifts. The association's **Director of Regulatory Affairs, Priscilla Rodriguez** and **President & CEO Roger Isom** both testified during the workshop.

This next iteration of the Large Spark Ignited (LSI) Regulation is proposing to mandate all electric forklifts across the board, with a few exceptions. **Rodriguez** commented "Our operations only run a few months out of the year and we simply cannot pass along the costs to our buyers like other operations that run year around." In proposing to mandate all electric forklifts, CARB has indicated they believe it is cheaper to own and operate an electric forklift than a propane forklift. In their initial information used to substantiate the claim that electric forklifts are cheaper to operate and maintain, the electric rates used to estimate charging costs were based on 6.7 cents to 10 cents



Zero-Emission Forklifts
Workgroup to Discuss Potential Regulatory Concept

August 17, 2021

per kWh. **Rodriguez** stated “California is paying amongst the highest electrical rates in the continental US. Our members are paying anywhere from per 14 cents to 35 cents per kwh and that needs to be factored in the operational costs of propane versus electric.”

Incentive funding has been a key component for other highly successful replacement programs like the tractor replacements and ATV, ag irrigation pumps. **Isom** stated “There is very limited funding available for the conversion of propane to electric forklifts, most programs focus on diesel or forklifts with lift capacity of 8,000 lbs or greater. Incentive programs need to be an integral part of this process.” Lastly, **Isom** commented “We adamantly opposed the record keeping and reporting requirements, as they are completely unnecessary.”

The CARB staff will be reviewing the input provided by stakeholders and will hold their next workshop in October of this year. The association’s staff will continue to provide input and work with CARB to provide more accurate information on cost and the impacts to our industry.

Incentive Funding for Electric Forklift Available

The VW Mitigation Trust announced that up to \$175,000 per forklift is available to help forklift owners buy all-electric forklifts. Applications will be accepted on first-come first-served basis through September 22, 2021.

Key Program Details

- Applies to forklifts with lift capacity of 8,000 lbs or greater
- May be anywhere in California and in any use or sector

How It Works

- Must scrap old forklift with internal combustion engine (Tier 4 diesel or earlier. LPG forklifts eligible. LSI forklifts eligible.)
- Must replace with all-electric forklift (battery-electric, hydrogen fuel cell or grid-tied)

For more information regarding the program or to apply reach out to CaliforniaVWTrust@baaqmd.gov.

Successful Sticky Cotton Prevention Meetings

Last month, the University of California Agriculture and Natural resources Cooperative Extension and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association coordinated two Sticky Cotton Prevention meetings for growers, gin-



ners, and PCA’s. The speakers were UC Cooperative Extension’s Dr Bob Hutmacher, State Cotton Specialist and Dr. Ian Grettenberger, CE Specialist Entomologist. The meeting focused on education and prevention of sticky cotton in the field. Some of the topics included the threat of sticky cotton, integrated pest management principles, choosing an insecticide, and resistance. Attendees had an opportunity to ask the specialists



questions and speak on their experiences. You can find the informational handouts provided to the attendees on our website <https://ccgga.org/sticky-cotton-efforts/> **A special thank you to our host sites Dos Palos Coop Gin and Cross Creek Ginning Company.**

Advisory—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

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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. A technical bulletin that describes the pest in detail and includes pictures of the pest in various life cycles can be found on our website at <https://ccgga.org/cottonseedbug/>. 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.

State Water Board Increases Proposed Program Fees

This may seem like a redundant story from a couple of

months ago, however, the State Water Board has once again proposed to increase their program fees above what was presented during the June Stakeholder Meeting. Earlier this month, State Water Board staff presented their proposed fee schedule for 2021-2022, the presentation highlighted the State's plan to further increase fees for programs overseen by the State Water Board. Programs specific to agriculture include the Waste Discharge Requirement Program for water discharging facilities, as well as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program which oversees in-field irrigated agriculture. As for the percentage increases to these programs, the ILRP Program saw an increase of 9.8% per acre in June go all the way to a proposed increase of 15.6% in August. The Association has testified in opposition throughout the year at the stakeholder meetings, however even amongst plenty of opposition to the proposed increases, State Water Board staff seem poised to present their fee schedule to the Board in September. The Association has begun working with several other agricultural associations to track the increases as they have occurred over the past 10 years. We are hopeful that this information will help stop any potential increase, and potentially change the way the State Water Board approaches their fee structure in a given year.