



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

Cotton Harvest Safety Training Begins

More than 70 workers attended the Cotton Harvest Safety Training Event at the Westside Field



Station in Five Points this past week. The event was co-hosted by **Fresno County Farm Bureau, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and The Zenith**. Hands-on and in-classroom training was provided by The Zenith. Training certificates were issued to all attendees who completed the day's course.

State Water Board Raises Fees Again – Ignores Industry Concerns

This past month the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) voted to increase all of their water quality and water rights fees again. This time they increased the fees across the board. In one program in particular, the Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Fee had already increased by 112% from 2011 to 2020. This past week, the SWRCB voted to increase those fees another 16.8%! Despite industry pleas, including testimony from the **Association's President/CEO Roger Isom**, the board voted unanimously to increase the economic burden on the agricultural industry once again. Isom pointed out the SWRCB fees far outweigh other environmental fees altogether, and joined the

Ag Council's Emily Rooney, who also testified, in a call for an outside look into the SWRCB's financial situation and the setting of fees. It did not sway the board. In addition to the huge increase on WDR fees, which impact food processors and packing houses, fees for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) increased 15.6% and fees for Confined Animal Feeding (CAF) operations increase 15.4%. The Association and other industry groups are currently weighing next options, which may include a call for an audit of the program.

Association Addresses Southern California Growers on Cotton Seed Bug

Association President/CEO Roger Isom addressed a crowd of more than 35 growers from the Palo Verde Valley area on the potential impact from the discovery of the cotton seed bug in Southern California. Found in four counties including Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange and San Diego counties, this new invasive species would be devastating if it were to reach the cotton fields in California. Isom informed the crowd that the California Department of Food and Agriculture is currently out surveying cotton fields throughout California collecting



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cotton bolls from specific areas within each field and analyzing them for cotton seed bug. So far, none have been found in any commercial cotton fields. They have only been found in primrose trees or hibiscus in the urban areas of Southern California.

2022 Beltwide Cotton Conference Registration Open

Those planning to attend the 2022 Beltwide Cotton Con-



ference (BWCC), set for January 4-6 (Tuesday-Thursday) at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio, TX, now may register by going to the BWCC home page at www.cotton.org/beltwide/ and clicking on the registration tab. The BWCC home page also includes more information about the forum, including a link to making hotel reservations and an updated program.

USDA Invests \$700 million to Provide Relief to Small Producers, Processors, Distributors, Farmers Markets & Seafood Processing Vessels and Processors Impacted by COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it will soon publish Requests for Applications (RFAs) for new grant programs - the Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant program to support agricultural stakeholders who haven't yet received substantial federal financial assistance in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. These grant programs will provide assistance to small businesses in certain commodity areas, including small scale specialty crop producers and processors, shellfish, aquaculture and other select producers, meat and other processors, distributors, farmers markets, seafood facilities and processing vessels. Specialty crop producers, meat processors, and farmers markets will be able to seek reimbursements for pandemic-related expenses, such as workplace safety improvements, medical costs (i.e., for vaccines/testing), retrofitting facilities, transportation etc., through this program. Find the full list <https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda>. USDA released grant forecast for these new programs to help potential applicants

determine their eligibility and to prepare to apply for funding. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants and \$50 million is available for SPRS. The new programs are funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. For the PRS grants, eligible entities are detailed in the Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=335320>. Eligible entities should visit the PRS grant portal at <https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda> for complete information on the program. Applicants will be required to have a DUNS number to apply, to obtain a free of charge DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) for USDA PRS Grant Applicants click <https://support.dnb.com/?CUST=PandemicResponse>

Association Submits Comments on WOTUS Rule

This past month, 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.

James G. Boswell Foundation Creates Fund to Support Campus Farm

Thanks to a \$100,000 philanthropic investment to the **Ag One Foundation** at Fresno State, the **J. G. Boswell Foundation** has established an endowment to support the **University Agricultural Laboratory** in memory of its longtime company farm manager, **Dave Cosyns**. Cosyns began a 45-year career with the company after he graduated from Fresno State in 1971, and managed its Kern County operations until his passing in 2016. He developed his love of farming at a young age in his family's farming operation in Orange County and later in Tulare. The endowment will help to support the Fresno State farm, officially known as the University Agricultural Laboratory. Its

20 units and 1,000 acres provides students, faculty, staff and community members endless opportunities for hands-on training and research in areas that reflect and benefit the nation's leading agricultural region. The Boswell company and foundation has contributed more than \$1.5 million to Fresno State. Prior support also includes a \$1.2 million endowment for an endowed chair position in the plant science department that is currently held by Dr. Sharon Benes. The company is a frequent employer for Fresno State graduates, including **Jim Razor**, a vice president for processing and the current Ag One Foundation president. "Dave Cosyns was the consummate farmer and an accomplished industry member," said Razor. "He was known for his passion for farming, genuine character and vast knowledge of the agricultural industry. This fund is a tribute to his many contributions, which will help support and train new generations of agricultural leaders."

CDPR to Hold Hearing on Imidacloprid

DPR detected residues of imidacloprid in 15 groundwater wells at concentrations that exceeded the reporting limit of 0.05 parts per billion (ppb). Detected concentrations ranged from 0.051 to 5.97 ppb. Wells with detections above the reporting limit are located in Fresno, Santa Barbara, and Tulare counties. Based on its investigation, DPR determined the imidacloprid residues detected in groundwater were the result of legal agricultural use of a pesticide product or pesticide products containing imidacloprid. The 1985 Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act (PCPA) requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to monitor and review the use of pesticides designated as having the potential to contaminate groundwater. If DPR detects a pesticide or its degradation product in groundwater, the PCPA requires DPR to determine if the detection(s) were the result of legal agricultural use. Once this determination is made, DPR notifies registrants of the detections and provides them with an opportunity to request a hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to review evidence to determine if continued use of the affected agricultural use pesticide products should be allowed. If DPR does not receive a hearing request from a registrant, DPR's Director will cancel the registrant's agricultural use product registration(s) containing imidacloprid. As a result of the detections, on September 23, 2021, DPR notified all imidacloprid registrants of DPR's groundwater detections and legal agricultural use determination, and provided registrants of agricultural use products with an opportunity to request a

public hearing by October 25, 2021. On September 27, 2021, DPR received a hearing request from an imidacloprid registrant. Pursuant to FAC section 13150(b), DPR shall conduct a hearing within 180 days of this request. Stay tuned for more on this critical issue.

Mojave Desert AQMD Adopts Agricultural CMP Regulation

In August, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (Air District) adopted Rule 411 – *Conservation Management Practices for Agricultural Operations*. Similar to the San Joaquin Valley Air District, this regulation requires growers



to implement and document practices that aim to reduce dust production during in-field activities. The CMP rule applies to growers who own and operate 40 acres of production land with 5 or more houses within ¼ mile of the property boundaries, or growers with 100 acres and less than 4 houses within that same ¼ mile buffer zone. Growers will be required to fill out the Air Districts CMP Plan forms posted online, as well as keep and maintain the plan up to date in the event that the Air District arrives at the property to conduct an inspection. The CMP plan contains 6 categories of agricultural practices, with all categories containing separate practices that growers can implement in order to minimize dust impacts during ground work activities. Growers are required to implement one practice per category. There are a handful of practices that are listed amongst several categories, and if your farm implements any of those practices, then you are covered for those categories that that practice is listed in. Fortunately, the CMP plans do not require a filing fee with the Air District, and are only required to be kept on maintained by the owner of the property in the event they are visited by the local Air District. Last month, the Association's Director of Technical Services, **Chris McGlothlin** made a presentation to growers in Blythe detailing the CMP regulation to cotton growers in the area. There was plenty of helpful discussion, such as incentive opportunities through

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NRCS or the local Air District, as well as potential future requirements specific to dust in the area.

Enter into the Big M Beefmasters ¼ Beef Drawing

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association is holding a drawing for **Big M Beefmasters ¼ Beef to 4 lucky winners** on Wednesday, December 1st at the CCG-GA Board Meeting. A flyer was mailed to each member, if you did not receive the flyer, you can contact our office. Tickets can be purchased by calling the office or from one of our gin managers and/or board members. Ticket orders and payments must be received by our offices (1785 N. Fine Ave. Fresno, CA 93727) no later than Wednesday, November 24th by 5 p.m. If you have any questions regarding the drawing or would like to purchase a ticket, please contact Priscilla Rodriguez at (559) 252-0684.

