



# The Cotton Chronicle

1785 N. Fine Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727 • Telephone: (559) 252-0684 • Fax: (559) 252-0551

[www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org)

May 2022

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## Industry Calendar

May 11  
Annual Meeting  
Tulare

### Association Hosts Annual Gin School

The Association hosted the Annual Ginner's School & Managerial Seminar in Corcoran. After a couple of years off due to Covid, we were happy to see everyone in person again. The Manager's Session included training topics of Regulatory Updates provided by **President/CEO Roger Isom**, and continued with Hot Topics in Labor Law and Supervisor Sexual Harassment Training provided by **Alden Parker** with Fisher & Phillips LLP. This year, gin employees received training on Machine Guarding and Ladder Safety from WAPA staff, Hazard Communications



from longtime safety professional **Jack Passarella** with the Path Alliance, as well as Bearing & Drive Safety from Dodge International's Steve Zsembik. On top of that, attendees participated in the safety contest held out at J.G. Boswell's Gin #3. As usual, WAPA staff designed the test to be difficult, but



attendees managed some impressive scores. We would like to congratulate this year's Safety Contest Winner, **Efrain Gracia** from **Farmers Cooperative Gin**.



We would like to take the opportunity to thank our generous sponsors for their support of this event: **AMVAC, CA Biological Solutions Inc., Robinson Sheet Metal Works, TAMA USA Inc., American Cotton Shippers Association, Ranchers Cotton Oil, R & C Supply Company, and L.P. Brown**. We would also like to thank **J.G. Boswell Company** for their help in organizing the safety contest and using their facilities. We look forward to seeing you next year!

### The Association Joins Farmers and Ag organizations on Wall Street Journal Ad Promoting Reliable Water Supplies and Food Security

With water in short supply for western farms, the California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association, a coalition of farmers, and farm organizations throughout the west have come together to alert U.S. consumers that without prioritizing a safe, affordable, domestic food supply; higher prices and food shortages could be coming soon.

The first step was a national ad which ran in the

### CCGGA Staff

Roger A. Isom  
President/CEO  
[roger@ccgga.org](mailto:roger@ccgga.org)

Priscilla Rodriguez  
Assistant Vice President  
[priscilla@ccgga.org](mailto:priscilla@ccgga.org)

Christopher McGlothlin  
Director of Technical  
Services  
[chris@ccgga.org](mailto:chris@ccgga.org)

Shana Colby  
Administrative Assistant  
[shana@ccgga.org](mailto:shana@ccgga.org)

Wall Street Journal Saturday, April 2. The ad, which can be seen at ([https://www.farmwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Wall-Street-Journal-\\_10.87x21\\_V3.pdf](https://www.farmwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Wall-Street-Journal-_10.87x21_V3.pdf)) reminds consumers that in world of global uncertainties, we can't afford to take the farms that produce our food and fiber for granted. Farms are always the first to have their water supply cut. For most western farmers, this is the second year of very little or no stored water. In addition, the water bureaucracy continues to allocate water for purposes that decades of data show simply do nothing to help fish or the environment. Our government must also move much more quickly to build the infrastructure necessary for us to store water in wet years for use in dry ones like 2022. Our Association's **Assistant Vice President, Priscilla Rodriguez** stated "The crisis is looming before us and the time to take action is now. Our members are feeling the consequences our government's mismanagement of water and soon consumers will too."

Unfortunately, most American consumers are simply unaware that our food supply is at risk.

"Consumers have experienced supply chain disruptions over the past two years and now see the tension around the world as a potential threat to global food supplies. It was important to remind them that California remains our best, most reliable source for food if farmers have the water they need to grow it," said Mike Wade, executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition.

### **The Association Pushes Back on CARB's proposed Zero-Emission Forklifts**

Last month, the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) coordinated a zoom meeting with California Air Resources Board (CARB) and various Ag Associations to discuss the challenges agriculture faces with the proposed Zero-Emission Forklifts. This next iteration, of the previous Large Spark Ignited (LSI) Regulation, is proposing to eliminate propane forklift with a lift capacity of 12,000 lbs. or less with conversion to all electric forklifts across the board, with only a few exceptions. The phase out period, as proposed, would begin in 2026 and would take out of service any propane forklift that is model year 2013 and older.

**Assistant Vice President, Priscilla Rodriguez** commented "Our state's infrastructure is not adequate to meet the current electricity demand, with the states push for electrification of forklifts, how will the grid support that?". Aside from the issue of demand, most facilities would be

required to upgrade their operations to support the charging needs of converting the fleet over to electric. These upgrades vary but can include new transformers, substation upgrades etc. and this will come at a large cost. **Our President/CEO, Roger Isom** commented "Our operations are seasonal and only run a few months out of the year and we simply cannot pass along the costs to our buyers like many other operations can. Incentive funding has been a key component for other highly successful replacement programs and need to be an integral part of this process."

The association is working with other ag associations and a third-party consultant to conduct a Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of the proposed Zero-Emission Forklifts rule.

### **Large Crowd Demands Immediate Action on SGMA**

Over 400 people attended an event entitled "Save Our Communities" today in Visalia held to discuss the immediate impending and devastating impacts of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to the communities in the Valley. 52 organizations co-hosted the event including the Association. In fact, **Association President, CEO, Roger Isom** gave the opening remarks at the event stating "The time to act is now! It was a different picture when SGMA was passed. The Water Bond had just been passed, and the Delta Conveyance Project was still a strong possibility, and the WIIN Act was passed shortly thereafter. But here we are in 2022, none of those items have produced results today, yet SGMA is going to be enacted in high and medium priority areas this year!" Joining Isom in speaking at the event were **Kings County Supervisors Craig Pedersen, Mendota Mayor Rolando Castro, Tulare County Schools Superintendent Tim Hire, An-**





nie Stuhr from Central Valley Community Bank, grower Mike Faria, Joe Garcia, Kings County Sheriff David Robinson and Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux. In addition, George Soares with Kahn, Soares & Conway, Senator Melissa Hurtado, Assemblyman Jim Patterson and Assemblyman Devon Mathis spoke. Rounding out the morning were Parlier Mayor Alma Beltran, and grower Shirley Rowe of Lemoore. Along with the Association, other ag groups including American Pistachio Growers, Nisei Farmers League, California Apple Commission, Far West Equipment Dealers, California Fresh Fruit Association, six county farm bureaus, several valley mayors and county supervisors, School Districts, Chambers of Commerce, Central Valley Community Banks and many other organizations. Coming out of the meeting were action items to have the Valley Delegation of state legislators ask for an immediate meeting with the Governor's Administration to discuss providing flexibility in SGMA implementation, and the need for funding to help Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) meet their goals.

### **Detention and Demurrage Fee Bill Passes First Hurdle**

AB 2046 (Aguiar-Curry) passed the Assembly Transportation Committee on a 9-0 vote. Existing law prohibits an intermodal marine equipment provider or intermodal marine terminal operator from imposing per diem, detention, or demurrage charges on an intermodal motor carrier relative to transactions involving cargo shipped by intermodal transport under certain circumstances, including when an intermodal marine terminal decides to divert equipment without 48 hours' notice. AB 2406 would also prohibit an intermodal marine equipment provider from imposing those charges, or extended dwell or congestion charges, or commencing or continuing free time, as defined, on an intermodal motor carrier, beneficial cargo owner, or other intermediary relative to transactions involving cargo shipped by intermodal transport un-

der certain circumstances. The bill would instead specify that those circumstances include when the intermodal equipment provider decides to divert equipment without notice, as described above, and also include when the intermodal motor carrier documents an unsuccessful attempt to make an appointment for either a loaded or empty container. The bill would also specify that those circumstances include when a booked vessel cancels, booking is moved to a later vessel, or when early return dates are otherwise unilaterally advanced or delayed after equipment has been picked up and when the obstacles to the cargo retrieval or return of equipment are within the scope of responsibility of the carrier or their agent and beyond the control of the invoices or contracting party. The **Association's President/CEO, Roger Isom** testified in support of the bill stating "these fees "add insult to injury" when they are the shipping companies' fault and not ours! Our members have paid thousands of dollars in inappropriate fees, and we encourage the committee to pass this bill today." Several committee members commented in support of the legislation, and it passed unanimously.

### **Association Submits Comments on Proposed NeoNic Regulations**

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is taking steps to address concerns about the impact of pesticides on pollinator health. One such step includes the reevaluation of certain pesticide products containing the nitroguanidine-substituted neonicotinoid active ingredients, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and dinotefuran. As a result of the reevaluation, which included issuance of a Neonicotinoid Risk Determination, DPR determined that additional mitigation measures are needed to protect pollinators from the use of neonicotinoids in agricultural crops. DPR drafted a mitigation proposal in the form of proposed regulations. In August 2020, DPR held neonicotinoid public feedback webinars to share information, answer questions, and receive feedback from registrants and other stakeholders on draft proposed mitigation for the protection of pollinators. DPR accepted comments on the draft proposal for 80 days after the webinars and received over 9000 comments. After evaluation of all comments received, DPR revised the proposed mitigation where appropriate and is now proposing regulations necessary to protect pollinator health. DPR published a Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action on February 25,

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
1785 N. Fine Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727

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2022, with comments due by April 26, 2022. The Association submitted comments today on the proposed regulations focusing on the ability to use neonicotinoids safely and effectively while protecting pollinators. The Association highlighted safety protocols utilized in previous Section 18's used for other pesticides that had pollinator concerns, including limiting applications to nighttime only, and notifying any nearby beekeepers in advance of any applications. The Association is urging CDPR to allow the use of neonicotinoids under these same conditions rather than an outright prohibition.

## USDA Seeking Proposals for CIG Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California is seeking proposals through June 1 for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials). On-Farm Trials, part of the agency's Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program, feature collaboration between NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact. Incentive payments are provided to producers to offset the risk of implementing innovative approaches. "USDA is a leader in using the latest science, research and conservation tools to reduce the impacts of climate change," said Carlos Suarez, NRCS State Conserva-

tionist in California. "We're doing our part in helping America's farmers and ranchers conserve the natural resources we all depend on, like clean air and water, while supporting the health and resiliency of their operations for the future. Conservation Innovation Grants are an important tool in the development of new and innovative technologies and systems to support agriculture and conservation." California CIG application packages are due via [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) by 11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time (PST) on June 1, 2022. The agency anticipates making selections by June 30, 2022 and expects to execute awards by August 19, 2022.

## **How to Apply**

To apply, follow the requirements in the California CIG Announcement:

Applications MUST be submitted electronically through [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov).

- Submissions must be received by the submission due date of June 1, 2022, by 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time (PST).
- See section D of the CIG Notice of Funding Opportunity for more information regarding how to submit an application.

Required documents and instructions are available on [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov).