



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

September 13
Research Funding Meeting
Fresno, CA

September 14
Board Meeting
Fresno, CA

September 22
Cotton Harvest Safety Training
Five Points, CA

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Cotton Seed Bug Survey Underway

According to the California Cotton Pest Control Board, a statewide survey for the cotton pest *Oxycarenus Hyalinipennis*, also known as the cotton seed bug (CSB), is being conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture during the period of September 1 – December 31, 2022. The survey will include a visual aspect as well as sampling a small number of bolls in each area. It has been found in urban areas of southern California, but not in any cotton growing regions of the state. Hopefully, the survey will come up empty!

Silverleaf Whitefly Survey Initial Results

Silverleaf whitefly (SLWF) surveys began the week of June 27, 2022 with Cotton Pest Control (CPC) Program personnel collecting random samples from sites at ten percent of all cotton fields in each cotton growing county in the San Joaquin Valley (SJV). Overall, SLWF has been found in a percentage of the samples taken, but fields in Kern County have been as high as 11%. Growers must remain diligent and try and stay ahead of any potential whitefly infestations. As other crops finish up the bugs will head to the remaining green fields, including cotton. California cannot afford to have sticky cotton, so please keep up the fight!

That's it folks, California Mandates Only Electric Vehicles by 2035

The California Air Resources Board yesterday approved a new regulation that mandates all new cars, trucks and SUVs sold in California to be zero-emission vehicles. "Once again California is leading the nation and the world with a regulation that sets ambitious but achievable

targets for ZEV sales. Rapidly accelerating the number of ZEVs on our roads and highways will



deliver substantial emission and pollution reductions to all Californians, especially for those who live near roadways and suffer from persistent air pollution," said CARB Chair

Liane Randolph. By far, California's is the most aggressive regulation in the world to establish a definitive mechanism to meet required zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) sales that ramp up year over year, culminating in 100% ZEV sales in 2035.

Governor Announces New Water Plan

This past month Governor Gavin Newsom announced a new California Water Supply Strategy" to address the current drought and overall water deficiency issues affecting the state. In making the announcement, the Governor also committed an additional \$2.8 billion in drought relief, water conservation, environmental protection for fish and wildlife, and long-term projects to permanently strengthen drought resilience. Of the utmost interest is the proposed investment in water supply. While specific project details were lacking, the Governor's strategy included:

- Creating an additional 4 million acre feet of water storage space to capture water in wet years, that would be achieved by the following:
 - Expand average annual groundwater recharge by 500,000 acre-feet

- Complete the seven Proposition 1-supported projects and consider funding additional viable surface storage projects
- Expand San Luis reservoir by 135,000 acre feet
- Rehabilitate dams to regain storage capacity.
- Support local stormwater capture projects to increase annual supply capacity by 250,000 acre feet by 2030 and 500,000 acre feet by 2040.
- Recycle and reuse at least 800,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2030, by implementing the following:
 - Reduce annual water demand in towns and cities by 500,000 acre feet by 2030
 - Fully implement SGMA to reduce agricultural groundwater pumping
- Free up to 500,000 acre-feet of water per year by permanently eliminating water waste and increasing water use efficiency
- Make new water available for use by capturing stormwater, desalinating ocean water and salty water in groundwater basins

While most of that sounds encouraging, actual implementation is the key, and we will have to wait and see. Additionally, the plan discusses “modernizing the water rights system”, which can mean a lot of things, most of which are very concerning. This is definitely something we will be actively engaged in as it unfolds.

U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol Launches Three-Year Enrollment



Trust Protocol participating producers will find the new streamlined enrollment for the 2022-2024 crops easy and quick. Production data, which remains confidential, now can be more efficiently uploaded into the Protocol platform, thus paving the way for a potential redistribution of program revenue. As before, crop consultants can be authorized to enter information and the John Deere Operations Center can pre-populate up to 40% of the data needed to complete the Fieldprint analysis for those utilizing the Protocol platform.

To learn more or begin enrollment, vis-

it www.TrustUSCotton.org or reach out to the Grower Helpdesk at growers@trustuscotton.org.

Environmental Groups Pushing CARB to Regulate More

Late last month, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) made a presentation on their 2022 State Implementation Plan (SIP) Strategy. The strategy encompasses various regulatory efforts aimed at reducing emissions to meet the State’s 2005 8-hour Ozone Standard of 0.070 parts per billion. Through the presentation, CARB has identified several areas they deem necessitate regulation to achieve the required emission reductions; On-Road Heavy Duty Trucks, Off-Road Equipment, Locomotives, Ocean-Going Vessels as well as Airports are the targets for more stringent emission control regulations. CARB staff presented several other activities that they intend to update regulatory action on. With larger heavy-duty diesel truck fleets falling under the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) regulation, staff noted that other regulatory action is necessary to bring the remaining fleets not subject to the ACT rule into compliance. No additional strategy was presented, but it can be expected that CARB will be focusing on developing a strategy in the coming months. Environmental justice advocates made public comments following staff’s presentation, claiming that the continued emissions associated with fleets not subject to the ACT regulation would have a significant impact on the Valley’s ability to reach attainment with the Ozone Standard. Neither CARB staff, or any EJ activist drew the link on future impacts of current regulatory strategy, and the potential impacts to trucking with the recent upholding of AB 5 (Gonzalez).

Additionally, pesticides and Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions were also a topic presented during the strategy meeting. CARB staff has already presented an intention to regulate the use of 1, 3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D). One environmental group commenter after another pushed CARB for more stringent pesticide application regulations, with several pushing for outright bans on specific chemistries used more frequently. These continued efforts to ban pesticide applications are not justified in science and The Association continues to stay engaged with CARB staff, and will update you on our efforts to fight back on these strategies.

Association Testifies at Farm Bill Listening Session

Last month, the Association attended and testified at a special listening session on the 2023 Farm Bill hosted by

CDFA. At the event, CDFA Secretary Karen Ross, CDFA Undersecretary Christine Birdsong, and CalEPA's Undersecretary Serena McIlwain heard a variety of commodity groups make their requests for inclusions, and the continued support for specific programs authorized under the Farm Bill. The Association's Director of Technical Services, Chris McGlothlin, requested additional resources to offset current inflation prices growers are experiencing due to the ongoing port crisis, as well as a request to maintain and even increase funding to the EQIP program which helps turnover older diesel tractors and other equipment. McGlothlin also request for changes to the Risk Management Agency's 1-in-4 requirement on the Prevented Planting regulation. CDFA has two other listening sessions scheduled in September, and intends to present the suggestions to California Congressional Representatives to get the necessary support.

Water Meeting with MWD Chair & Directors

Last month, the Association's President & CEO Roger Isom and Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez along with Congresswoman Connie Conway, several Ag Associations, County Supervisors, Mayors, farmers and water districts representatives from the Central Valley meet with Metropolitan Water District (MWD)'s Chairwoman Gloria Grey and several Board Members in Fresno. The meeting was called on by MWD and took place in Fresno, to discuss the challenges the state is facing with the water shortages over the past several years.



Cal/OSHA to hear Proposed Semi-Permanent COVID-19 Standard

Earlier this year, Cal/OSHA has proposed a semi-permanent rule to replace the existing COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) which is set to expire on December 31st. The semi-permanent standard is expected to take effect on January 1, 2023, and all of its provisions will remain in effect for two years through

2024. While this replacement rule follows the May 2022 ETS in many areas, there are some significant changes. One of those changes is positive; the proposed rule has eliminated exclusion pay completely. Unlike the previous ETS, the proposed rule makes no mention of exclusion pay, meaning employers are not required to offer exclusion pay once this rule takes effect next year. This could change significantly before the rule is finalized. Another notable change is the definition of "close contact" defined as employees sharing the same indoor space as a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour time period. The proposed regulation definitions reflect the recent order from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This definition proposes huge challenges, this could mean all employees within a facility or warehouse can be considered in the same indoor airspace. The Cal/OSHA hearing date is set for September 15th in Sacramento and the Association will be submitting written comments strongly opposing this regulation.

Association Testifies at Air District Meeting

Earlier this month, the Association's Director of Technical Services, Chris McGlothlin, attended and testified at the Air District's Governing Board Meeting following a presentation by staff on receiving funding for heavy-duty trucks. With over \$12 million in funding, the District is encouraging interested parties to apply. Unfortunately, the funding is tied directly to efforts to electrify the goods movement industry, and only allocates money towards zero and near-zero trucks. McGlothlin testified that the agricultural industry has made significant investments in complaint trucks following ARB's Truck and Bus Regulation, unfortunately, many subhauleders who were vital to the industry have had to cease operation due to the regulatory requirements associated with Heavy Duty Trucks. Along with that point, those businesses that invested in updating fleets to Engine Model Year 2010 or newer equipment are now facing another mandate to upgrade to unproven, electric equipment in the coming years. The Association supports incentives towards updating fleets and meeting compliance, but the electrification plan has been relied upon too heavily over this past year.



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Final Mapped California Cotton Acreage

The Pink Bollworm Program under the California Department of Food and Agriculture has released their final mapped numbers for 2022, including the Pima and Upland acreage splits. Final acreage numbers for California put Pima at 101,407 acres and Upland at 29,627 acres for a total of 131,037 acres statewide.

This represents a 16% increase in Pima acreage and a 20% increase in upland acreage as compared to 2021. Overall, this represents a 17% increase in overall cotton acreage for 2022.

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CALIFORNIA COTTON ACREAGE			
2022			
	Pima	Upland	TOTAL
<u>San Joaquin Valley</u>			
Kern	9,126	328	9,454
Kings	39,772	5,890	45,662
Tulare	3,565	1,579	5,144
Fresno	21,344	10,958	32,302
Madera	196	58	254
Merced	27,407	1,431	28,838
San Joaquin	0	0	0
Subtotal =	101,410	20,244	121,654
<u>Southern California</u>			
Imperial	0	1,666	1,666
Riverside	0	5,716	5,716
Subtotal =	0	7,382	7,382
<u>Sacramento Valley</u>			
Sutter	0	348	348
Colusa	0	1,469	1,469
Glenn	0	184	184
Tehama	0	0	0
Subtotal =	0	2,001	2,001