



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

February 2023

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Industry Calendar

March 14, 2023
Board Meeting
Fresno

May 10, 2023
Annual Meeting
Tulare

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Newsletter Sponsored by: American Pima Seed



International Cotton Institute

June 5 - 30, 2023

When it comes to the history of music, modern logistics, and cotton, all roads lead to Memphis. The American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) is excited to once again offer a premier business opportunity expanding the knowledge and growth of the cotton industry. Memphis, a city steeped in a rich history of the cotton business, provides the perfect backdrop for this life experience.

What is the ACSA Cotton Institute at the University of Memphis?

-  We offer a four week residential program designed to broaden your knowledge of the US cotton industry and the international business environment.
-  From field to fabric, the program offers an in depth look at cotton from virtually every perspective.
-  Learn and network with industry peers & leaders in this collaborative environment on the University of Memphis campus.

For more information and an application, please visit our website at acsacottoninstitute.org or call 901.678.5000

Sites Reservoir Awarded Additional \$80 Million in Federal Funds

Recently, the Sites Reservoir project was awarded \$80 million in federal funding from the Bureau of Reclamation via the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act), which provides grants for water supply infrastructure that promotes drought resilience for rural communities and agriculture, urban areas, public health and the environment. "Thanks to the continued support of our federal elected officials and Commissioner Touton, we are maintaining momentum on Sites Reservoir and advancing critical project milestones," said **Fritz Durst**, chairman of the Sites Project Authority. "Sites will help ensure California has a reliable water supply in the face of prolonged drought uncertainty." This fall, Sites Reservoir was awarded \$30 million in

funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which became law in November of last year. The project has now received over \$214 million in federal funding through the Bureau of Reclamation. The Sites Project Authority was also invited to apply for a \$2.2 billion low interest loan through the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program earlier this year. These investments and opportunities represent a significant cost savings for project participants. Sites Reservoir will increase California's water supply by providing 1.5 million acre-feet of additional water storage capacity, which will make our statewide water management system more flexible, reliable, and resilient. Specifically, Sites can provide water during drought years by saving it when it's abundant from wet years and major storm events.

Federal EPA Proposing Big Changes to Rodenticide Labels for Ag Use

Federal EPA is proposing some very significant changes to labels for rodenticides. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires EPA to review registered pesticides every 15 years to ensure that, as the ability to assess risk evolves and as policies and practices change, the pesticides continue to meet the statutory standard of causing no unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment. When EPA identifies unreasonable adverse effects to human health or the environment, it proposes amendments to pesticide labels to mitigate these risks. During registration review, the Agency also has obligations under the ESA that may result in additional assessments and mitigations. The proposed interim decisions (PIDs) released today cover three first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs), four second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides

(SGARs), and four non-anticoagulant rodenticides. These measures are intended to reduce exposure to non-target organisms such as mammals and birds that may inadvertently consume rodenticides through their prey, or animals that may consume the rodenticide directly. Proposed measures include requiring bait to be placed in tamper-resistant bait boxes to ensure it is contained and requiring users to collect carcasses of rodents every day or every two days that may have consumed rodenticides to prevent further exposures to non-target organisms that could consume the carcasses. In addition, all rodenticides for field applications will become restricted-use products, meaning that applicators will need to be certified to use restricted use products. Lastly, new labels will require the use of a PF10 respirator and chemical resistant gloves during applications. Final comments are due February 18th.

NCC Annual Meeting Registration Open

Online pre-registration for those planning to attend the NCC's 2023 Annual Meeting on February 10-12 at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas can be completed at www.cotton.org/news/meetings/am/ prior to the February 3 deadline. The room reservation deadline has passed, and the hotel is sold out. If you need assistance securing a room in an alternate hotel close to the Fairmont, please contact The Hall Arts, a Curio Collection by Hilton – 214-953-1717; the Westin Hotel Dallas – 972-584-6650; or the Marriott Hotel Downtown – 214-979-9000. You also may check with the Fairmont to determine if it received any cancellations. For air and car rental reservations, contact Peggy Robinson, the NCC's travel consultant at Travelennium, at 1-800-672-6694 or probinson@travelennium.com. NCC delegates unable to attend the meeting are urged to contact their



Interest Organization or NCC Member Services representative so that an alternate delegate can be identified. Please contact Kristina Sellers at 901-274-9030 or ksellers@cotton.org with questions. The NCC 2023 Annual Meeting website/booklet at www.cotton.org/news/meetings/am/ contains general information, as well as an agenda that includes the American Cotton Producers session from 2:30-4 p.m. on Friday, February 10. The final event, the General Session, begins at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 12, and concludes by 10 a.m. on that day. The NCC planting intentions survey results will be presented

during this session. The program committees convene on Saturday, February 11, from 9-10:30 a.m. The Saturday luncheon will feature Todd Buchholz, an internationally known commentator for major media outlets on the world economy, technology and financial markets.

CDPR Says Pesticide Use Decreased in 2021

Statewide pesticide use decreased in 2021, according to reports released by the Department of Pesticide Regulation. In 2021, the total pounds of active pesticide ingredients applied in California decreased by 11.5%, and the total area treated by pesticides decreased by 10.3%, as compared to 2020 reported use data. Data reported to DPR for the Pesticide Use Reports (PURs) includes pesticide use on farms, parks, managed urban landscapes, rights of ways, roadsides, and structures. The department published annual PUR data reports for 2019 and 2020, and a summary of pesticide use in 2021. The department anticipates releasing the 2021 annual PUR data report in spring 2023.

Wyonzek Promoted to Cotton Board VP of Operations

The Cotton Board has promoted Emily Wyonzek to Vice President of Operations for the organization. Bill Gillon, President and CEO of The Cotton Board stated, "Emily has demonstrated the kind of dedication, management skills, and commitment to innovation that are the hallmarks of successful leaders. Among other things, she has directed the Human Resource operations of The Cotton Board, managed our four Regional Communications Managers, and helped guide the strategic priorities of the organization. Specifically, along with our Director of Communications, Emily and her team have used the Cotton & Coffee platform and strong Cotton Incorporated tour participation to ensure producer stakeholders in the Cotton Research and Promotion Program are more aware of the great work being done by Cotton Incorporated." Wyonzek joined the Cotton Board in 2008 and has previously served as its HR Manager and Director of Operations.

Snow Survey Shows December Storms Provided Big Snow Totals

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has conducted the first snow survey of the season at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 55.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 17.5 inches, **which is 177 percent of average for this location**. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR's water supply forecast. **Statewide the snowpack is 174 percent of average for this date**. California is expected to see continued rain and snow over the next seven days, with the threat of flooding in parts of California. While these conditions are good, DWR expressed caution. One year ago, the Phillips survey showed the seventh highest January measurements on record for that location. However, those re-

sults were followed by three months of extremely dry conditions and by April 1 of last year, the Phillips survey measurements were the third lowest on record. More telling than a survey at a single location are DWR's electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the state. Measurements indicate that statewide, the snowpack's snow water equivalent is 17.1 inches, or 174 percent of average for this date. "Big snow totals are always welcome, but we still have a long way to go before the critical April 1 total," said DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit Manager Sean de Guzman. "It's always great to be above average this early in the season, but we must be resilient and remember what happened last year. If January through March of 2023 turn out to be similar to last year, we would still end the water year in severe drought with only half of an average year's snowpack." DWR conducts five media-oriented snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month, January through April and, if necessary, May. The next survey is tentatively scheduled for February 1.

The Association testifies at CARB's Proposed ZEV Forklift Workshop

Last month the California Air Resources Board (CARB) held its fourth public workshop on the proposed Zero-Emission Forklift Rulemaking. The proposed rulemaking intends to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission forklifts and phase out the use of propane forklift with a lift capacity up to 12,000 lbs. CARB Staff provided proposed changes to the language that include:

- New grouped model year phased-out schedule
- A 3-year delay for Agriculture Operations to begin phase out
- Operators would not be allowed to purchase new affected forklifts (LSI) starting in 2026
- Operators would be allowed to purchase used affected forklifts as long as the model year has not been phased out.
- Product Delay Compliance Extension
- Infrastructure Delay Compliance Extension
- Feasibility Delay Compliance Extension
- Forklift Rental Agencies subject to the same phase out schedule

While CARB staff has provided some understanding and relief in the regulatory requirement by including additional time for agriculture and proposing compliance extensions, the Association staff is continuing to lead this effort and continue communication during the rulemaking process. During the workshop the Association's **President Roger Isom** questioned CARB use of \$.18 per kwh for electric rates in their cost analysis Ag is primarily in PG&E territory and rates are much higher. In addition, PG&E has a 45% rate increase that will kick in before 2026. Lastly, the Association's **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez** testified "The cost analysis information for infrastructure installation of \$3,650 per forklift, does not include

the facility upgrade costs that can range from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars for an operation to support the charging of the electric fleet depending on the situation. And for an operation that runs seasonally for 24 hours a day, one electric forklift does not replace one propane forklift when you have considered the down time for charging." The Association will continue to monitor this issue closely.

EPA and Army Corps Release Revised WOTUS Determination

Earlier this month, the U.S. EPA released a fact sheet for the revised Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule. EPA noted that the released rule document is founded on the pre-2015 WOTUS determination and application. EPA's press release states that the agencies "...chose the familiar pre-2015 definition as a foundation because it has supported decades of clean water progress and has been implemented by every administration in the last 45 years,". EPA has identified specific exemptions to agriculture where WOTUS would not apply; specifically:

- Normal farming activities (plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting or other water conservation practices)
- Maintenance of dikes, levees, riprap and other transportation structures
- Construction of farm or stock ponds on irrigation ditches, or maintenance of drainage ditches
- Construction/Maintenance of farm roads

The rule strengthens protection of "Navigable Waterways", with more emphasis being placed on jurisdictional determination of wetlands, "impoundments" and interstate waterways. If you would like more information on the rule, please visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/wotus.

CDPR Releases Road Map to Sustainable Pest Management

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) has released a new document entitled "Accelerating Sustainable Pest Management: A Roadmap for California". Under the relentless pressure of anti-pesticide activists, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) launched the Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) Work Group, as part of the State of California's commitment to accelerating the transition away from high-risk pesticides toward adoption of safer, sustainable pest control practices. It began with the SPM Workgroup made up of thirty-three leaders representing diverse interests were charged with aligning on a pathway to minimize reliance on the use of toxic pesticides and promote solutions that protect health and safety, are agronomically and economically sound, eliminate racial and other disparities, and engage, educate, and promote collaboration toward safe, sustainable pest management practices in production

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agriculture. Twenty-five of the Work Group members focused on agriculture, and eight focused on urban issues. The SPM Work Group and Urban Subgroup developed this report "Accelerating Sustainable Pest Management: A Roadmap for California," hereafter referred to as simply the "Roadmap," through focus groups, learning journeys, a systems assessment, stakeholder feedback, and months of dialogue. The Association is currently reviewing the document but has some significant concerns up front. One of the stated main goals is to eliminate all .

Safety Training Workshop 2023

The Association will be conducting safety training sessions beginning March 2023! We will kick-off with onsite **Train-the-Trainer Forklift**, fol-

lowed by **Yard Truck & Stockpile Yard Equipment**. In addition, we will conduct **Hazard Communication, Blood Borne Pathogens and Heat Illness Prevention via webinar-workshops**. These workshops are for Owners, Managers, Supervisors, Safety Personnel or those who are

Safety Training Workshop 2023

We will kick-off with onsite:

- > March - Train-the-Trainer Forklift
- > April - Yard Truck & Stockpile Yard Equipment



In addition, we will conduct webinars:

- > Hazard Communication
- > Blood Borne Pathogens
- > Heat Illness Prevention



responsible for training. Each workshop attendee will be provided with the information needed for understanding the rules, regulations and conducting effective safety training. The cost per training is \$55 per person for members and \$75 per person for non-members. Please see the attached form for registration and workshop details.

CARB Approves Updated Ozone SIP

Last month, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved an updated State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the San Joaquin Valley. This updated SIP requires that the Valley Air District meets an 8-hour standard of 70 parts per billion in ozone readings. This plan puts into place rule updates targeting several industries and emissions points found throughout the Valley, mostly in the oil & gas production sector. The plan also relies heavily on emission reductions to be achieved through CARB's tightening restrictions on pre-2010 vehicle use, and updated push on electrification of equipment and fleets. Tied into the plan, was a note on taking a closer look at emissions generated from pesticide use. While the Association testified in opposition to this inclusion at several Air District meetings, and has been involved on the ongoing 1-3D discussion with CARB and DPR, CARB staff felt it necessary to keep this component of the plan in place prior to approving the plan. Association staff will continue to fight the inclusion of pesticides into emission-reduction plans when they are presented in future regulatory hearings.