



The Cotton Chronicle

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

www.ccgga.org

March 2023

Volume 33, Issue 3

Industry Calendar

March 14, 2023
Board Meeting
Fresno

May 10, 2023
Annual Meeting
Tulare

CCGGA Staff

Roger A. Isom
President/CEO
roger@ccgga.org

Priscilla Rodriguez
Assistant Vice President
priscilla@ccgga.org

Christopher McGlothlin
Director of Technical
Services
chris@ccgga.org

Shana Colby
Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org

California Grower Wins High Cotton Award



Aaron Barcellos was named the Western Farm Press High Cotton Award Winner for the Western States. Barcellos is a 4th generation farmer with A-Bar Ag Enterprises in partnership with his son Alec, his brother Aric and Aric's son Aric Jake. They farm in the west side of the San Joaquin Valley between Mendota and Los Banos, and grow cotton, pistachios, olives for oil, processing tomatoes, garlic, wheat, hay, melons and asparagus. Barcellos was recognized for the sustainable practices used on their farm, as well as being recognized for his leadership as a Director on the board of the US Cotton Trust Protocol, which is a major sustainability effort by the US cotton industry. ***Congratulations to Aaron and the entire A-Bar Ag Enterprises team!*** Read more by visiting Farm Progress at <https://www.farmprogress.com/cotton/western-high-cotton-winner-active-across-many-farming-fronts>.

UPDATE: USDA NRCS IRA Funding

Recently, we notified you of the more than \$20 million in IRA funds that will be invested towards climate-smart agriculture practices and forest resiliency in California – and hundreds of millions of dollars more will arrive over the next five years. We have received clarification that a significant portion will

be going to EQIP to help fund tractor replacement projects. Unfortunately, we have a very short time period to apply. There will be an application deadline for IRA funding on March 17th and an additional application period for EQIP on the 3rd of April. Landowners can apply today at their local service center, which can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>.

Association Seeks Tractor Replacement Funding But Budget Looms Large

Association President/CEO Roger Isom spent part of this past week at the State Capitol meeting legislators in an all-out effort to reinstate FARMER funding into the state budget. The Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) is an incentive program designed to help farmers achieve voluntary emission reductions by helping pay for new lean burning tractors and harvesters while having the farmers destroy the older higher emitting equipment. As of last year, more than 4,200 tractors and harvesters had been replaced as well as 277 ag trucks and 66 ag pump engines with the lowest emission equipment available. In addition, more than 2,600 fuel burning ATVs had been replaced with fully electric UTVs. In total this has generated more than 20,000 tons of NOx reductions, 1,200 tons of PM reductions and more than 185,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalents. The hugely successful program has been a win-win for everyone especially air quality in the San Joaquin Valley. The program is also part of an important State Implementation Plan (SIP) that promotes the use of the incentives as meeting as part of an effort to achieve 11 tons per day of NOx emissions by the end of 2023. Should the goal not be achieved, it will force the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and implement a mandatory tractor replacement

rule that will require the replacement of every Tier 0, 1 and 2 tractor and harvester by 2030! This would be devastating to farmers throughout the valley that are already battling high energy, labor, fuel and other input costs while dealing with the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Unfortunately, the growing statewide budget deficit is weighing heavy on legislators as they fight to keep funding in existing programs. The Association is part of a large coalition seeking \$160 million in FARMER funding for FY 2023.

Association's Isom Addresses Farm Show Crowd on Port Issue Concerns

The **Association's President/CEO Roger Isom** spoke at the World Ag Expo in Tulare as part of a panel on Rising Costs and Inflation Impacts on Global Trade. Isom highlighted long term impacts due to the ongoing West Coast Port problems, and what the long-term implications might be. In addition, Isom took the opportunity to call for automation at the three West Coast Ports. "Our ports are among the worst in the world when it comes to container handling times" Isom stated. "We have both Federal and State Infrastructure money and we need to utilize to get these ports up to speed".



NEM Aggregation Workshop

As discussed previously, part of the new Net Energy Metering tariff, now called Net Billing Tariff, decision required further discussion of how NEM Aggregation (NEMA) is going to be treated going forward. Ag Energy Consumer Association (AECA) participated in a workshop at the CPUC to educate **CPUC President Alice Reynolds**, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) in charge of the proceeding and CPUC staff on how aggregation works and why it is important to the ag community. While there has not been an official response from the ALJ, she clearly stated that she learned "more than she was expecting to" during the workshop. AECA testimony was spearheaded by **Dr. Richard McCann**, AECA's longtime energy consultant. AECA was able to show how growers use aggregation and why it is important to maintain the current annual true-up of the billing process. The ALJ seemed to understand that ag is different than residential or even commercial/industrial customers

when it comes to the number of meters spread over adjacent parcels and the variable and seasonal load based on irrigation needs. The ALJ intends to issue a formal set of questions for parties, including AECA, to respond to soon. PG&E continues to advocate to limit aggregation and reduce the effectiveness of ag solar installations. AECA will continue to advocate to keep NEMA available to growers and the crucial components maintained. Aggregation remains a critical component of effective solar installation for farms and was authorized by legislation in 2012. AECA also continues to point to that fact as part of the discussion reminding the CPUC it simply cannot eliminate the program because it is authorized in statute. The Association has been working with AECA to ensure this issue is addressed.

CCGGA Continues to Advocate Against CARB's Proposed ZEV Forklift Regulation

CCGGA continues to lead the effort and advocate against CARB's Proposed ZEV Forklift Regulation. Last week, the Association coordinated a site visit and meeting between the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and agriculture representatives as the rulemaking process continues. The Association was represented by our **President & CEO, Roger Isom** and **Vice President, Priscilla Rodriguez**. The best way to illustrate first-hand the unique challenges our operations face, is to bring CARB staff onsite. The day began with a site visit to a walnut processor in the Sacramento area. The staff witnessed the instances where ZEV forklifts can be practical for certain indoor settings and instances where ZEV forklift used indoors and outdoors or 24-hour use become impractical. There were many questions asked by CARB staff and the host site did a great job providing insight on how some ag operations operate. Next, the group drove to a sit-down meeting at the State Farm Bureau, where the group discussed the proposed rule in great detail. There were many aspects debated, but none more so than the push for electrification itself. While the administration is pushing for electrification of forklifts and other simultaneous regulations like Advanced Clean Fleets, the meeting had a big focus on one important component for the transition to electric, the lack of electric infrastructure in the state. The Association expressed our members' current constraints and delayed timelines for





solar and upgrade projects with the utility companies. “The onus should fall on the utility companies when they are unable to provide upgrades or system connections by the ag operations proposed compli-

ance dates” said **President/CEO Roger Isom**. “There is a statewide systemic issue and until that is addressed, our members should not bear the ramifications of being unable to meet compliance dates or proposed delayed extensions when it can take multiple years or decades to upgrade some electric infrastructure.” Other areas of discussion included electric rates, low use exemptions, feasibility of the rule for ag operations and the need for incentive programs. The Association will continue to push back on this proposed regulation. Stay tuned for more.

Reclamation announces initial 2023 water supply allocations for Central Valley Project

The Bureau of Reclamation announced initial 2023 water supply allocations for Central Valley Project water users. Water supply allocations are based on an estimate of water available for delivery to CVP water users and reflect current reservoir storage, precipitation, and snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. “While we are cautiously optimistic, we are also cognizant of the uncertainties that exist and the fluctuating nature of California’s climate with the possibility that dry conditions will return,” said **Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant**. “We received a much-needed dose of rain and snow in December and January that helped boost the water levels at our CVP reservoirs. The projected runoff from the snowmelt later this year will further benefit the state as we head into the summer months. However, we are all too aware of the precarious nature of recent weather patterns and must proceed prudently as we move through the water year—especially with below average storage in the state’s largest reservoir, Shasta.” This year’s initial allocations reflect the improved hydrologic conditions caused by the winter storms that left the Sierra Nevada snowpack at well above normal conditions. Currently, reservoir storages in Trinity and Shasta reservoirs are below the historic average for this time of year and runoff forecasts indicate that overall storage for these reservoirs may be limited if substantial spring precipitation does not materialize. Other CVP reservoirs, such as Folsom and Millerton, are in better shape with above average water storage levels for this time of year. Based on current hydrology and forecasting, Reclamation is announcing the following initial CVP water supply

allocations:

South-of-Delta Contractors

- Irrigation water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta are allocated 35% of their contract total.
- M&I water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta are allocated 75% of their historical use.
- San Joaquin River Settlement Contractors and San Joaquin Exchange Contractors’ water supply is based upon settlement/exchange of claimed senior water rights. The 2023 water year is currently determined as non-critical, as defined in their contracts, which allows for 100% of their contract supply.

Eastside Water Contractors

- Eastside water service contractors (Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District and Stockton East Water District) will receive 100% of their contract total.

Friant Division Contractors

- Friant Division contractors’ water supply is delivered from Millerton Reservoir on the upper San Joaquin River via the Madera and Friant-Kern canals. The first 800,000 acre-feet of available water supply is considered Class 1; Class 2 is considered the next amount of available water supply up to 1.4 million acre-feet. Given the current hydrologic conditions, the Friant Division water supply allocation is 100% of Class 1 and 20% of Class 2.

As the water year progresses, changes in hydrology, actions that impact operations, and opportunities to deliver additional water will influence future allocations. Reclamation will continue to monitor hydrology and may adjust basin-specific allocations if conditions warrant an update.

Annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses

Reminder -- the Annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (Cal/OSHA Summary 300A) is required to be completed by February 1st for posting on your bulletin board from February 1st – April 30th. Also, be sure to electronically submit Form 300A 2022 data by March 2, 2023 into the Federal OSHA Injury Tracking Application website. Refer to federal OSHA’s Injury Tracking Application website for information and instructions on electronic submission <https://www.osha.gov/injuryreporting/ita/>

California DWR – Snowpack is huge!

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the third snow survey of the season at Phillips Station on Friday, March 3rd. The manual survey recorded 116.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 41.5 inches, which is 177 percent of average for this location on March 3. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR’s water supply forecast. DWR’s electronic readings from 130 snow sensors placed throughout the state indicate the statewide snowpack’s snow water equivalent is 44.7 inches,

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

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
FRESNO, CA
PERMIT NO. 2509

Go Electronic!

Do you want our Newsletter & Latest News directly to your inbox? Send your name and email address to info@ccgga.org and we'll get you on the list to receive our important and informative monthly newsletter electronically. It's easy!

WWW.CCGGA.ORG

or 190 percent of average for this date. "Thankfully the recent storms combined with the January atmospheric rivers have contributed to an above-average snowpack that will help fill some of the state's reservoirs and maximize groundwater recharge efforts. But the benefits vary by region, and the Northern Sierra, home to the state's largest reservoir Lake Shasta, is lagging behind the rest of the Sierra," **DWR Director Karla Nemeth** said. "It will also take more than one good year to begin recovery of the state's groundwater basins." Although the statewide snowpack is currently just behind the record snow year of 1982-83, the snowpack varies considerably by region. The Southern Sierra snowpack is currently 209 percent of its April 1 average and the Central Sierra is at 175 percent of its April 1 average. However, the critical Northern Sierra, where the state's largest surface water reservoirs are located, is at 136 percent of its April 1 average. With one month of the traditional wet season remaining, DWR is providing updated runoff forecasts to water managers and is closely monitoring spring runoff scenarios and river flows to ensure the most water supply benefits from this year's snowpack while balancing the need for flood control. "The recent storms over the past week broke a month-long dry spell in a dramatic way," said **DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit Manager Sean de Guzman**. "We are hopeful that we will see more cold storms to add to our snowpack for the next month and help set up a long, slow melt period into spring." 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 April 3.

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**, followed 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 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.

2023 Safety Training



Forklift
Train the Trainer:
Wasco March 15th
Chowchilla March 16th
Hughson March 21st
Yuba City March 22nd

**Yard Truck/Stockpile
Elevator**
Train the Trainer:
Turlock April 13th
Madera April 18th
Wasco April 20th
Arbuckle May 3rd

Webinars:
Hazard Communication
Training - March 13th
Blood Borne Pathogen
- April 10th
Heat Illness Prevention
- May 15th