



The Cotton Chronicle

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

www.ccgga.org

May 2023

Volume 33, Issue 5

Industry Calendar

June 8, 2023
Board Meeting
Fresno

Association Hosts Annual Ginners School & Managerial Seminar

Earlier this month, the Association welcomed gin employees and managers from throughout the Central Valley to hear specific industry trainings at the Annual Ginners School & Managerial Seminar. This year, the Association hosted speakers to discuss topics on safety inside and outside the gin. Topics included Lock Out Tag Out presented by Jack Passarella with The Path Alliance, Practical Hazcom presented by WAPA's Rita Ruiz and Esmerelda Miranda, Spill Prevention & Spill Response from J.G. Boswell's



information was discussed. Similar to years past, attendees were also able to take the Safety Contest quiz and compete for cash prizes. This year's Top 10 winners included: Victor Hernandez from Boswell, Mikayla Snowbarger from Boswell, Tony Arreguin from Olam Cotton, Ray Aquino from Olam, Armando Avina from Westside Farmers, Armando Flores from Mid-Valley Cotton, Francisco Favila from Westside Farmers, Michael Gutierrez from Boswell, Eduardo Oregel from Boswell and the 1st place prize went to **Juan Favila, Westside Farmers**. Congratulations Juan! We would also like to take the opportunity to thank this year's



Jaqueline Alvarado and Robert Bravo as well as CHP Driver's Safety & Awareness presented by CHP Officer Aldo Garcia. The Manager's Session included 3 speakers. Association President/CEO Roger Isom updated the Supervisors and Managers on three worker safety issues including the new COVID-19 regulation, the nighttime lighting requirements, and the newly proposed Indoor Heat Illness regulation by CalOSHA. Up next was Catherine Houlihan, from Barsamian and Moody, who covered "Hot Topics in Labor Law, including recapping some of the ongoing Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) claims. Finishing the day was Sylvia Reyna, of Zenith, who discussed "Incident Investigations". It was well attended and a lot of critical and timely

sponsors: AMVAC, Lakeland Aviation Inc., R & C Supply Co., Ranchers Cotton Oil, Robinson's Sheet Metal Works, Samuel Packaging and L.P. Brown. We would also like to send a huge thank you to the team at J.G. Boswell for hosting us for the annual event. We couldn't have done it without all of you.



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

Isom Named President of Ag One Foundation at CSU Fresno

Association President/CEO Roger A.

Isom was named President of the Ag One Foundation at California State University, Fresno. In 1979, several faculty, alumni and friends of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State had a million-dollar idea -- to start a foundation that would benefit, promote and support the college and its programs. The supporters set out to raise \$1 million in permanent funds. Today, the Ag One Foundation has raised more than \$27 million in endowed funds which are invested with the Fresno State Foundation. Over the years, donors, board members and volunteers have made it possible to award some 5,000 students with over \$8.5 million in scholarships and program support. **For the 2022-23 academic year, Ag One will provide more than \$850,000 to deserving students and programs.** In response to the appointment Isom stated, "This is truly an honor and a privilege to be associated with such a dedicated board and team helping students in JCAST achieve their dreams and help agriculture remain viable for the next generations". This marks Isom's 6th year on the Ag One Foundation's Board of Directors. Joining Isom as officers will be **Vice President: Nick Biscay, Stanislaus Farm Supply; Treasurer: Fendley Ragland, PGIM Real Estate Agricultural Investments and Secretary: Jason Baldwin, Panoche Creek Packing.**



Blue Jeans Go Green

Bring your old jeans to the CCGGA Annual Meeting or our office to be recycled into denim insulation. CCGGA is partnering with Cotton Incorporated and its Blue Jeans Go Green Initiative by recycling old jeans. The Blue Jeans Go Green™ program strives to inspire sustainable living by educating people on cotton's natural lifecycle, encouraging denim recycling, and creating opportunities to help those in need. The program collects denim to divert it from landfills and partners with Bonded Logic, Inc. to recycle it into UltraTouch™ Denim Insulation. Each year, a portion of insulation is distributed to help with building efforts across the country. *CCGGA will have a collection



box at the event and at the office.

Pesticide Use in California is Down!

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) released its annual Pesticide Use Report for 2021 which confirmed preliminary data that showed a more than 10% statewide decline in pesticide use compared to the prior year. In 2021, 191 million pounds of active ingredients – the chemicals that make pesticides work – were applied in California, and 95 million acres were treated. That was a decrease of 24.8 million pounds, and 10.9 million acres, compared to 2020. Pesticides classified as cholinesterase inhibitors, which can damage the nervous system, and those classified as groundwater contaminants saw the biggest percentage declines. Other high-risk pesticide declines included those classified as carcinogens, biopesticides, toxic air contaminants and fumigants. Declining use of the higher-risk pesticides is a longer-term trend. Since 2012, the use of pesticides classified as groundwater contaminants has declined by 81%, reproductive toxins by 58%, cholinesterase inhibitors by 40%, toxic air contaminants by 22%, fumigants by 18% and carcinogens by 17%, the report shows. Notably, lower risk biopesticide and horticultural oil use increased during the ten-year timeframe. "We applaud growers and others for moving to safer, more sustainable pest management alternatives, including oils and biopesticides, while decreasing overall pesticide use in the last decade," said **DPR Director Julie Henderson.** "We will continue to support grants, funding and other opportunities to expand access to alternatives and decrease the use of higher-risk pesticides to accelerate the adoption of sustainable pest management across the state."

Commissioner Lara and FAIR Plan reach agreement to increase commercial coverage limit to \$20 million

As part of his comprehensive effort to give more insurance options to California residents and businesses, **Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara** announced last week the California FAIR Plan Association has agreed to more than double its existing commercial coverage limits to \$20 million for businesses unable to find coverage in the normal insurance marketplace. The FAIR Plan is an association comprised of all insurers authorized to transact basic property insurance in California and designed to be the state's property "insurer of last resort," writing coverage for businesses and residences when other insurance options are not available. Commissioner Lara and the FAIR

Plan have been working on this issue since the Commissioner’s investigatory hearing into the FAIR Plan last July where homeowners associations, youth recreational camps, agricultural groups, and other businesses spoke about the growing need for greater commercial coverage limits. **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** testified at that hearing specifically asking for an increase to at least \$20 million in coverage. “Giving businesses greater options for insurance coverage is a top priority of mine. I am pleased the FAIR Plan is stepping up when insurance companies fall short in providing businesses and homeowners access to the coverage they need,” said Commissioner Lara. Today’s agreement signed by Commissioner Lara and **FAIR Plan President Victoria Roach** will increase the combined coverage limits for the FAIR Plan, under its Division I Commercial Property Program, from \$8.4 million to \$20 million per location and, under its Division II Businessowners Program, from \$7.2 million to \$20 million per location. State legislators, including **Senator Toni Atkins and Senator Susan Rubio** joined Commissioner Lara’s call for an increased commercial coverage limit at the FAIR Plan in letters sent earlier this year. The new coverage limits will take effect after the FAIR Plan submits a new rule filing for approval by the Department of Insurance. The FAIR Plan has 60 days to submit a rule filing to the Department, with the goal of the Department approving these coverage limit increases, meaning coverage could be available in the fourth quarter.

CalOSHA Formally Proposes “Indoor Heat Illness Regulation”

The CalOSHA Standards Board has released notice the plan to hear the new Section 3396 – Heat Illness Prevention in Indoor Places of Employment. This new regulation would affect all indoor work areas where the temperature equals or exceeds 82 °F when employees are present. In these areas the employer must provide a mandatory “cool down area” that is less than 82 °F. In addition the employer must monitor the temperature and heat index at all times. Further, the employer must provide engineering controls to bring temperatures down to 87 °F. Employers will also have to develop and implement emergency response procedures, employee training, supervisor training and have a written Heat Illness Prevention Plan (HIPP). The proposed standard is set to be heard by the Standards Board in May. The Association is

opposing the proposed standard as currently written.

Reclamation Bolsters Central Valley Project 2023 Water Supply Allocations

Today, the Bureau of Reclamation announced it is increasing Central Valley Project 2023 water supply allocations for irrigation water service and repayment contractors. Both north- and south-of-Delta contractors are increased to 100% from 80%. All other CVP water supply allocations remain the same as noted in the March 28 announcement. Current status of all CVP allocations are:

South-of-Delta Contractors

- Irrigation water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta are allocated 100% of their contract total.
- M&I water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta are allocated 100% of their contract supply
- 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 determined as non-critical, as defined in their contracts, which allows for 100% of their contract supply.

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 70% of Class 2 (from the initial 20% allocation).

Heat Illness Kit Ready For Orders!

As we are getting closer to the summer time, heat temperatures are also slowly rising. It is important for companies to take care of their staff during these upcoming times. CCGGA now has a Heat Illness and Prevention Kit Packet ready for orders! The kit consists of a rugged plastic folder with tabs and materials inside including:

- Heat Illness Prevention Supervisor Training Guide,

The kit consists of a rugged plastic folder with tabs and materials inside. The kit includes:

- Heat Illness Prevention-Supervisor Training Guide.
- Safety toolbox talks.
- Heat Illness cards.
- Heat Illness Prevention Poster.
- Heat Illness Fact Sheet.
- Heat Illness Fact Sheet.
- User color chart, and
- Tabs for your heat illness prevention policy, emergency numbers, and address/field maps as required by the heat illness standard.

Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kit Order Form


Name: _____
 Date: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____
 Company Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____

Quantity: _____

Heat Illness Tool Kits @ \$13.00 each

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Payment Type Invoice (mail check) PayPal (fees apply)



Please fax form to 1539-232-0553.
 For more information, contact our office (530) 455-9272. Updated: 2023

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

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- Safety toolbox talks,
- Heat Illness cards,
- Heat Illness Prevention Poster,
- Heat Illness Fact Sheets,
- Urine color chart, and
- Tabs for your heat illness prevention policy, emergency numbers, and address/field maps as required by the heat illness standard.

The order form is located on the home page of the WAPA our website www.agprocessors.org or email Shanna@agprocessors.org for more information.

Dept. Of Interior Announces Nearly \$585 Million to Repair Aging Water Infrastructure, Advance Drought Resilience

This week, the US Department of the Interior announced a nearly \$585 million investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for infrastructure repairs on water delivery systems throughout the West. Funding will go to 83 projects in 11 states to improve water conveyance and storage, increase safety, improve hydro power generation and provide water treatment. The projects selected for funding are found in all the major river basins and regions where Reclamation operates. Among the 83 projects selected for funding are efforts to increase

canal capacity, provide water treatment for Tribes, replace equipment for hydropower production and provide necessary maintenance to aging project buildings. Projects will be funded in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington. The projects identified for California's Central Valley Project includes:

Central Valley Project

- \$25 million for the Jones Pumping Plant Excitation Cabinet and Control Panel Refurbishment
- \$25 million for the Delta Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project
- \$22.2 million for the Friant Kern Canal Capacity Correction
- \$42.53 million for the San Luis Unit – Gianelli Pump-Generating Plan Unit 8 Motor Generator, Turbine and Butterfly Valve Replacement
- \$10 million for Nimbus Fish Hatchery Nursery Phase IV Modernization
- \$14.74 million for Shasta Dam Refurbishment Tube Valves
- \$10 million for Shasta Dam Temperature Control Device
- \$42.25 million for Trinity Division, Spring Creek Power Transformer Replacement
- \$65.9 million for Trinity River Fish Hatchery Building Modernization