



The Cotton Chronicle

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August 2023

Volume 33, Issue 8

Industry Calendar

Supima Annual Meeting
Coalinga, CA
August 29, 2023

Research Committee Meeting
Fresno, CA
Sept. 12, 2023

CCGGA Board Meeting
Fresno, CA
Sept. 13, 2023

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Newsletter Sponsored By: Nutrien

Association Attempts to Help Solve Lygus Problem Thwarted by State

In any other state but California, it is legal to use Transform (active ingredient – sulfoxaflor). In a year like this where our crop is being hammered, the Association pulled out all the stops to find a solution and filed a Section 24c application for Transform. In doing so, the Association engaged **Senator Feinstein** and **Congressmen Costa, Valadao and McCarthy** at the Federal level with EPA, and **Assemblyman Vince Fong** and **Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria** at the state level to help with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Ultimately, the Association was unable to obtain the Section 24c due to two reasons. First, for any Section 24c a 30-day review period is required by CEQA which would have made it too late by the time we could use it. Second, EPA will not allow a 24c label that restricts use beyond what is on the federally registered Section 3 label. Since California is more stringent, this left us in “no man’s land” even if we were the ones asking for it. Without the ability to get CDPR to move on the Section 24c for Transform despite the bipartisan politi-

cal support, we pivoted to amending the label for Sefina Inscalis (afidopyropen) to add a third application for control of lygus. To do so, the Association filed an emergency crisis Section 18 for Sefina, and it is currently being reviewed by both CDPR and EPA simultaneously. We hope to have the emergency use for 15 days and have also asked for a specific exemption for the remainder of the season. Stay tuned! **UPDATE: CDPR issued the Section 18 Crisis Exemption for Sefina on Friday, August 4th!**

Federal EPA Released Draft Strategy to Protect Endangered Species from Pesticide Use

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the draft Herbicide Strategy for public comment to protect federally endangered and threatened (listed) species from conventional agricultural herbicides. The Strategy describes proposed early mitigations for more than 900 listed species and designated critical habitats to reduce potential impacts from the agricultural use of these herbicides while helping to ensure the continued availability of these important pesticide tools. **Deputy**

Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Jake Li, “This strategy reflects one of our biggest steps to support farmers and other herbicide users with tools for managing weeds, while accelerating EPA’s ability to protect many endangered species that live near agricultural areas.” The Strategy released today is part of EPA’s ongoing efforts to develop a multichemical, multi-species approach to meeting



Julie Henderson
Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

No. 23-02

CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZATION FOR PESTICIDE USE UNDER U. S. EPA SECTION 18 CRISIS EXEMPTION FOR DISTRIBUTION AND USE ONLY WITHIN CALIFORNIA

Pursuant to authority granted under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and 40 CFR, Part 166, approval is granted to use the pesticide shown below to control specified emergency.

Product: Sefina® Inscalis Insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 7969-391)

Firm Name: BASF Corporation

Location: Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern

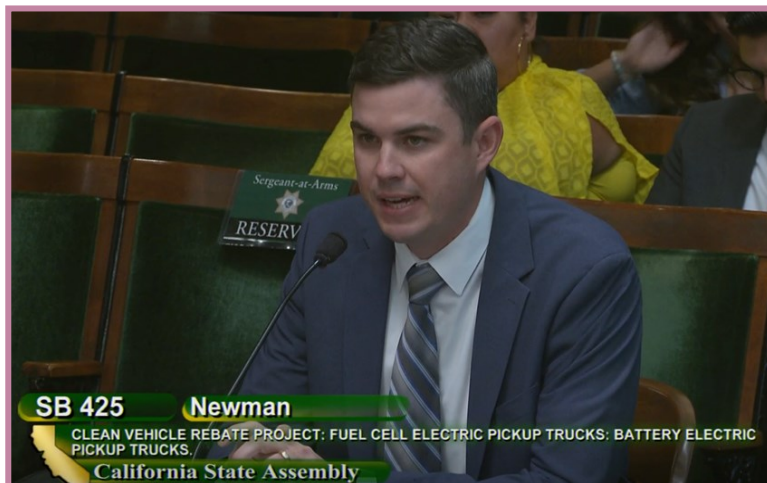
Crop/Site/Commodity: Cotton

Target Pest/Problem: *Lygus spp. and/or Whitefly spp.*

its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). EPA's traditional chemical-by-chemical, species-by-species approach to meeting these obligations is slow and costly. As a result, EPA has completed its ESA obligations for less than 5% of its actions, creating legal vulnerabilities for the Agency, increased litigation, and uncertainty for farmers and other pesticide users about their continued ability to use many pesticides. EPA expects that the Strategy will increase the efficiency of future ESA consultations on herbicides with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), which has authority over most listed species that could benefit from the proposed mitigations. Under the Strategy, EPA proposes to identify and begin mitigating for potential impacts even before EPA completes ESA consultations. These early mitigations should expedite EPA's ability to fully comply with the ESA by reducing impacts to listed species before EPA conducts most of its ESA analysis. According to EPA, the Strategy's proposed mitigations reflect practices that can be readily implemented by growers and identified by pesticide applicators and that provide flexibility for growers to select the mitigations that work best for them. The Strategy also gives credit to landowners who are already implementing certain measures to reduce pesticide runoff. For example, existing vegetated ditches and water retention ponds will qualify for credits that reduce the need for additional mitigation. Similarly, the Strategy would require less mitigation on flat lands, which are less prone to runoff, and in many western states, which typically experience less rain to carry pesticides off fields. The Association is just beginning to review the proposed strategy and will be developing comments as we do.

Association Testifies in Support of Vehicle Funding

Earlier this month, the Association's **Director of Technical Services, Chris McGlothlin**, took a trip to Sacramento to support a bill aimed at lowering costs for electric truck purchases. SB 425 by **Senator Josh Newman** would implement a rebate program to support industries and businesses in purchasing fuel cell and battery powered trucks. McGlothlin had the opportunity to provide support for the bill from the agricultural industry, highlighting the importance of trucks within the ag sector,



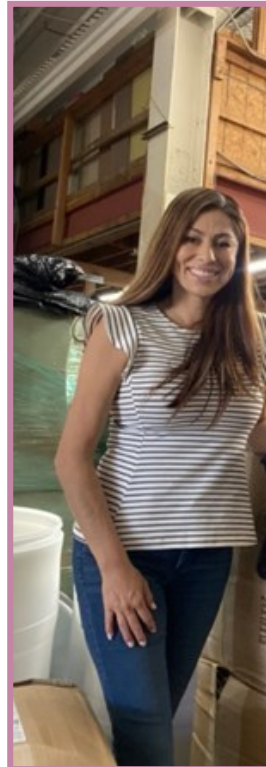
while also detailing the industries support in combating emissions associated with truck travel. CCGGA is pushing for any, and all, incentive funding availability in an effort to ease the equipment transitions set forth by the Newsom Administration. Through the Advanced Clean Fleets Rule, applicable businesses would need to replace older diesel equipment to electric beginning a few short years. The proposed regulation makes some concessions to renewable fuels generated, however the main goal is to shift the transportation sector to all electric. While CCGGA pushed for the bill to include medium- and heavy-duty equipment, several other committees that heard the bill pushed back against their inclusion. The Association continues to look for incentive funding opportunities for the replacement of all categories of equipment within the sector.

PG&E Rate Case Update – Good News

We advised everyone that PG&E was going to increase rates by as much as 23% in September. Well, we have been advised that the decision has been delayed. We do not have an actual date at this time but believe it could be as late as the end of the year. From an electrical cost standpoint, the more you can process before the end of the year will result in significant cost savings over what you would have paid. We will update you when we learn more.

Minimum Wage in California to go to \$16 per hour in 2024

If being the state with the highest minimum wage wasn't enough, California is going to raise theirs again in 2024. The California Department of Finance has now completed its annual review of the minimum wage rate as guided by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics figures. Labor Code section 1182.12 mandates that the Department of Finance determine that economic conditions can support a statewide minimum wage increase and certify to the Governor and the Legislature that such conditions are met, which it has now done. Although the federal Bureau noted a Consumer Price Index increase of 6.16 percent, California law limits the minimum wage increase to 3.5 percent. Thus, the state's minimum wage for all employers will increase to **\$16.00 per hour, starting January 1, 2024**. The current minimum wage since the start of this year is \$15.50 per hour. Be aware in addition to the minimum wage increase, the new minimum salary which qualifies for the executive, administrative and professional employee exemption from the state's minimum wage and overtime laws will rise to \$66,650.



Deadline for CCIRC Research Request for Proposal

The deadline for the California Cotton Industry Research Committee (CCIRC) "Request for Proposal" submission is three weeks away. The CCIRC is made up from the three principal funding groups for California cotton research, request for proposals were sent earlier this year to researchers and educators known to the cotton industry as having interests and involvement in research that could benefit the cotton industry in California. By combining the research funding efforts from these three groups into one, projects are funded through a more streamlined process and effective process. The research request is for 2023-2024 projects. The deadline for receipt of proposals at the address shown below is 5:00 PM (close of business day) on **Monday, August 29, 2023**. This is a firm deadline. No extensions will be granted due to the need to reproduce proposals, distribute them to the committee, and allow time for review prior to the Committee meeting. If you have any questions, reach out to priscilla@ccgga.org.



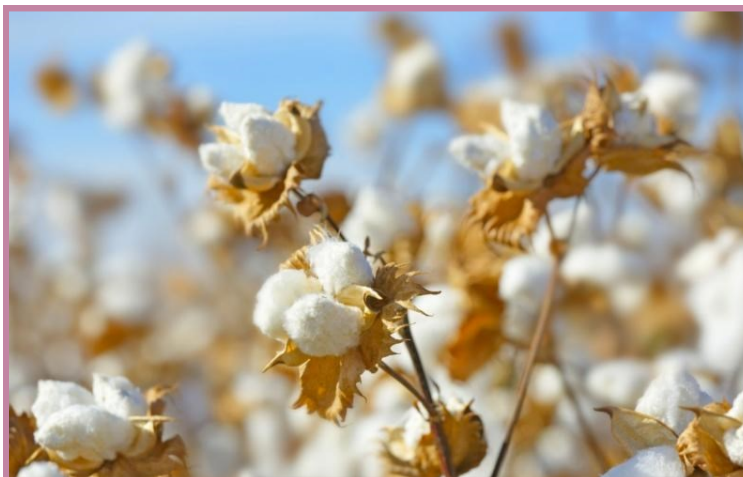
Association Delivers 1,400 pairs of Socks for Stand Down Event

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and Supima today donated 1,400 pairs of pima cotton socks made from pima cotton from California and sewn here in the United States to the Veteran's Village of San Diego (VVSD) for their Annual Stand Down Event to be held next week in San Diego. Association Assistant **Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez** made the 12 hour round trip to deliver the socks today to the VVSD. The Annual Stand Down Event is a 3-day encampment each summer designed to guide homeless veterans, and those at risk of homelessness, to services that rapidly remove barriers caused by medical, legal, mental health, and substance use concerns. Clothes including socks are among

the most requested items. This is the fifth year the Association and Supima have partnered with the VVSD to provide socks to veterans through the help of **State Senator Toni Atkins**.

69TH SUPIMA Annual Meeting - Harris Ranch, Coalinga, CA

Supima will host its 69th Annual Meeting at Harris Ranch in Coalinga, California on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 to provide our members and partners an update about Supima's current and future activities. The meeting will take place from 10:30am—12:00pm, with a buffet lunch immediately following. The program will include insights on our promotional activities and the new Supima AQRe™ Project, along with an ELS



market update and other pertinent news. **Please register by Wednesday, August 23rd.** For questions, please contact Nancy Boyd at nancy@supima.com.

SUPIMA Annual Meeting Order of Business:

- Treasurer's Report - Jake Cauzza, Secretary-Treasurer
 - Chairman's Remarks - Kirk Gilkey, Chairman of the Board
 - Nominations and Elections - Ted Sheely, Past Chairman
- Supima Cotton Market Update - Marc Lewkowitz, President/CEO; Buxton Midyette, VP of Marketing & Promotions; and Jason Thompson, VP of Brand Development. For questions, please contact Nancy Boyd at nancy@supima.com.

Nice Crowd Attends Pima Grade Standards Review in Visalia

Several cotton industry representatives including growers, ginners and merchants attended the 2023 Pima Grade Standards Review at the USDA AMS Classing Office in Visalia. All six guide boxes of the 2018 American Pima Grade Standards were reviewed and approved. This is a critical event, as the guide boxes will be used as the reference to match all of the 2018 American Pima Grade Standards. Industry participation is key to this process and it was important to have folks participate along with Area Director Greg Townsend. The Association extends a big thank you to all who participated.





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Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kits Now Available

Temperatures are increasing, and heat illness prevention training remains at the forefront. To aid in helping our members and clients stay in compliance, the Association has developed a Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kit to carry in your su-

pervisor's pick-ups. The updated kit consists of a rugged plastic folder with tabs and materials inside. This kit includes heat illness cards, safety toolbox talks, and places for your Heat Illness Prevention Policy, Emergency Numbers, and Field Maps as required by the Heat Illness Standard. The cost is \$13.00 each, and we recommend you purchase one kit for each vehicle used by supervisors or foreman. Below is a link to the Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kit Order Form. Just complete the form and mail back to the Association offices with a check, or pay online via PayPal through a link in the upper right of our homepage, and we will immediately fulfill your order. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Association office at (559)455-9272.

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 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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____



Please fax form to (559) 252-0551.

For more information, contact our office (559) 455-9272.

Updated: 2023

Heat Illness Prevention Program Tool Kit Order Form



Quantity	_____
Heat Illness Tool Kits	@ \$13.00 each
Total Amount Due	\$_____
Payment Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice (mail check) <input type="checkbox"/> PayPal (fees apply)

Thank you for your continued interest in the Cotton Chronicles, the monthly newsletter for the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association. To help reduce costs, we are asking everyone to consider receiving the electronic version of the Cotton Chronicles instead of paper. If you are willing to switch to the electronic version of the newsletter, please send an email to Michelle at michelle@ccgga.org requesting the change. Thank you for your consideration.