



# The Cotton Chronicle

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[www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org)

April 2024

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## Industry Calendar

Fall Protection Webinar  
April 15, 2024

CCGGA Annual Meeting  
May 14, 2024

Personal Protective Equipment Webinar  
May 20, 2024

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## Registration is Now Open for 2024 CCGGA Annual Meeting

Make plans now to attend the **2024 Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** to be held on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the International Agri-Center in Tulare. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our sponsors, the cost of the event is entirely free! The agenda is packed with important information for cotton growers and cotton gins, and concludes with lunch, an awards ceremony, and a passing of the gavel to our new Chairman. **To register, please call our office at (559)-252-0684 or email Michelle Franco at [michelle@ccgga.org](mailto:michelle@ccgga.org).**

## Corporate Transparency Act – What to Know

A new Federal reporting requirement for businesses is taking effect in 2024, are you ready? The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) took effect January 1, 2024 after passage in 2021. The rule was passed in order to combat illegal activities conducted through small companies, and the information submitted by affected businesses identifies who owns or controls a reporting company. This rule mandates that businesses in the United States or U.S. territories report “Beneficial Ownership Information” (BOI) to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Companies that are required to report include:

- Corporations, LLC’s, or other entities that are *created* by filing a document with a secretary of state or similar offices in any U.S. state. This includes foreign companies who have registered to do business in any of the jurisdictions of the United States
- Companies with less than 20 full-time employees (employees that work at least 30 hours per week)

There are several exemptions included in the development of the rule. Those exemptions include a “Large Operating Company” exemption which is described as:

- Having more than 20 full-time employees (at least 30 hours per week)
- An operating presence at a physical office within the United States
- Has filed federal income tax returns in the U.S. demonstrating more than \$5 million in gross receipts or sales in the aggregate

If you do not fall within these exemption guidelines, you are required to submit the appropriate documentation to the links listed below. Appropriate reported information includes:

- The “beneficial owner”, which is defined as

## 2024 Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

International Agri-Center  
4500 S. Laspina, Tulare, California

### Agenda

7:30 am Doors Open & Continental Breakfast/Registration Begins (BANQUET HALL)  
8:30 am Welcome and Introductions – Matt Toste, CCGGA Chairman  
8:40 am Association Financial Report & Audit – Todd Landry, Spafford & Landry

### Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)

Breakout Session – GINNERS (UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE DINING ROOM)		
8:50	Moderator – Christopher McGlothlin, CCGGA	
8:55	<b>NCGA Update</b>	Richard Lindsay, NCGA President
9:20	<b>Gin Lab Update</b>	Derek Whitelock, USDA ARS
9:45	<b>Cottonseed Update</b>	Dr. Susan “Evy” Jaconis, Cotton Inc.
Breakout Session – GROWERS (BANQUET HALL)		
8:50	Moderator – Priscilla Rodriguez, CCGGA	
8:55	<b>San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint</b>	Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Milk Producers Council
9:35	<b>Regenerative Ag</b>	Dr. Cynthia A. Daley, CSU Chico

10:10 am **\*\*BREAK\*\***  
10:25 am Sacramento Update – George Soares, Kahn, Soares & Conway  
11:05 am CCGGA Regulatory & Legislative Issues Update  

- Assistant Vice President, Priscilla Rodriguez
- Director of Technical Services, Christopher McGlothlin
- President/CEO, Roger A. Isom

11:50 am **\*\*Break for lunch setup\*\***  
12:00 pm **\*\*Lunch\*\***  
12:30 pm Distinguished Service Award Presentation  
1:00 pm Passing of the Gavel  
1:15 pm Door Prizes  
1:30 pm Adjourn

– someone who either “exercises substantial control” over the company or as someone who owns or has control over at least 25% of a companies’ interests

- Full Legal Name, any trade name or d/b/a, and the complete and current U.S. address
- “Beneficial Owners” are required to report their full legal name, date of birth, complete current address, their unique identifying number (passport, driver’s license, government I.D.) and an uploaded image of the same.

To submit the proper information, companies may visit <https://boiefiling.fincen.gov> to access a variety of help documents as well as blank copies of the report to submit. The U.S. Treasury has applied a penalty to non-reporting or falsified information submissions by businesses subject to the rule of \$500 per day of non-reporting as well as potential criminal penalties of \$10,000 and potential jail time. If you are concerned over your applicability to the rule, we strongly encourage you to reach out to your legal counsel to ensure you are subject to this rule, or ignoring a potential fine levied on you by the government.

### **Association Addresses Senate Ag Committee on Energy Issues**

Last month, **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** spoke to the Senate Ag Committee as a panelist at a committee hearing entitled “Navigating Threats to California Agriculture – Continuing the Discussion.” Speaking on behalf of not only the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) and the Western Agriculture Processors Association (WAPA)**, but also the **Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA)** of which he chairs the Board, Isom was one of five panelists that addressed everything from SGMA and water to energy, land use and pesticides. Isom focused on the impacts of the State’s efforts to address climate change and how the shortage of electric infrastructure, skyrocketing electric rates and the high cost of new electric equipment will make California agriculture even more non-competitive than it is today. Isom opened his comments by stating “California is headed for a train wreck. Agriculture in California is doing these things to address climate change and the state is not ready. We don’t have the

infrastructure; we already pay the highest electric rates in the country, and we cannot pass along the cost to pay for the new infrastructure or the new equipment.” **Senate Ag Committee Chair Melissa Hurtado** thanked Isom for his comments and thought the hearing was important for the legislature to hear the concerns. Will the legislature do anything to step in and change things? Only time will tell, but one thing is for sure. Electric rates are getting a lot of attention by the legislature, and we are only beginning to feel the pain. Maybe this will be our opportunity to reign this runaway freight train in.

### **Proposed Changes to Record and Reporting of Occupational Injuries and Illness**

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) is proposing amendments to Recording and Reporting of Occupational Injuries and Illness Regulations. The amendments concern employers’ duty to record and report occupational injuries and illnesses.

If Federal OSHA establishes a new or revised standard, Cal/OSHA must adopt its own standard that is at least as effective as the new or revised federal standard within six months. The proposed changes align with federal regulations finales in July of 2023.

Currently, Cal/OSHA required employers with 250 or more employees and employers in specific industries with 20-249 employees to electronically submit the Form 300A Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses. According to Federal OSHA, the final rule made the following changes: Establishments that are required to keep injury and illness records under part 1904, that had 100 or more employees in the previous year, and that are in certain designated industries, must electronically submit the required information from the OSHA Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses form (Form 300) and the OSHA Injury and Illness Incident Report form (Form 301) to OSHA or OSHA’s designee, on an annual basis.

According to Cal/OSHA, the amendments aim to enhance electronic submission requirements, allowing for more accurate data collection on work-related incidents. The anticipated benefits include improved worker safety, increased public access to injury and illness data, and better information for decision-making by employers, investors, and the public. The economic impact on businesses is deemed minimal, and the amendments are not expected to create or eliminate jobs significantly.

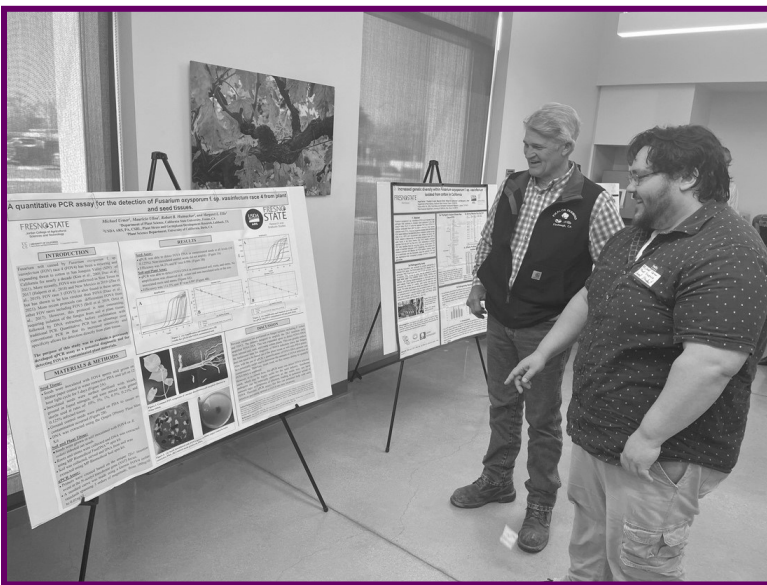
The proposed amendments are mandated by federal law, written comment period will conclude on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. A public hearing is scheduled for April 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Oakland, CA.

Senate Agriculture Committee, Tuesday, March 19, 2024



### **Cotton Research Project on Fusarium on Display at Fresno State**

The Jordan College of Agricultural Science and Technology (JCAST) held a Research Showcase at the Jordan Agricultural Research Center highlighting the current agricultural research being conducted on the campus of California State University Fresno. One of the projects highlighted was the **“Increased Genetic Diversity within *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *Vasinfec-tum* isolated from cotton in California.”** The project is working to identify the different isolates of *Fusarium* and help distinguish between the different genotypes of *Fusarium* present in cotton. The project is led by **Dr. Margaret Ellis and students Jorge Garcia and Timothy Jobe** in collaboration with **Dr. Mauricio Ulloa of USDA ARS and Dr. Bob Hutmacher of UC Davis.** Funding for the project came from **Cotton Inc., the California Cotton Alliance and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association.** Another project dealing with *Fusarium* in cotton was on display as well. It is entitled **“A Quantitative PCR assay for the detection of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *Vasinfec-tum* race 4 from plant and seed tissues.** It is led by **Dr. Maggie Ellis and student Michael Urner** in collaboration with **Dr. Mauricio Ulloa of USDA ARS and Dr. Bob Hutmacher of UC Davis.** **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom and Grower and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman Gary Martin** attended the event.



### **Cal/OSHA Adopts Indoor Heat Illness Standard – Will it Stick?**

Last month the Cal/OSHA Standards Board approved the “Indoor Heat Illness” Standard. However, they did so in defiance of direction from the Department of Finance who notified the Standards Board the day prior to the hearing that the regulation would not be approved due to significant costs to its own states agencies, supposedly the state prison system. After notifying the public at its hearing in San Diego, activists ran wild chanting and protesting and eventually shutting the hearing down. Later, the Standards Board reconvened and adopted the standard anyway, allegedly as a sign of protest

the last-minute direction from the state. The Association has actively been engaged in opposition to the proposed standard stating it would cost millions to retrofit ag buildings, such as cotton gins, nut hullers, processors and farm shops. The Association even made a standalone presentation to the Standards Board last June on the matter. Unfortunately, those concerns went largely unnoticed until the State’s own agencies determined how costly compliance would be. So now we wait to see what the state will do. The Office of Administrative Law must approve the regulation for it to go into effect, so we are in uncharted territory here. Stay tuned to hear the latest.

### **24 States Sue EPA To Overturn Tougher PM NAAQS**

This past month twenty-four (24) states filed a lawsuit against Federal EPA to vacate the Agency’s recently strengthened national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The lawsuit was filed the very same day as EPA published the rule in the Federal Register, opening a 60-day window for litigants to file petitions for judicial review. The 24 states suing EPA over the rule are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming. These same states urged the Biden administration before the rule was promulgated not to proceed with tougher standards. “Petitioners will show that the final rule exceeds the agency’s statutory authority and otherwise is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law. Petitioners thus ask that this Court declare unlawful and vacate the agency’s final action,” the States say in their suit. EPA’s rule tightens the prior annual “primary,” or health-based standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 12 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) down to 9 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. Most believe the new standard will place many more areas into “nonattainment” and as a result these areas must develop state implementation plans (SIPs) outlining measures to attain the limit and must impose tougher-still permitting requirements on new and modified industrial facilities. For California, especially the San Joaquin Valley, this new standard will be problematic to meet and could trigger even tougher requirements on farm equipment and even tighter fugitive dust regulations.

### **Bureau Increases Federal Water Allocation**

The Bureau of Reclamation announced an increase in Central Valley Project 2024 water supply allocations. After below average precipitation in January, Reclamation announced an initial water supply allocation for the CVP on Feb. 21. Mid to late February storms have since improved hydrological conditions particularly for Northern California, allowing for a more robust water supply allocation. “Thanks to the improved hydrology, we are pleased to announce a bump in

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water supply allocations for the Central Valley Project," said **California-Great Basin Regional Director Karl Stock**. Based on current hydrology and forecasting, Reclamation is announcing the following increases to CVP water supply allocations:

#### **North-of-Delta Contractors**

- Irrigation water service and repayment contractors north-of-Delta are increased to 100% from 75% of their contract total.

#### **South-of-Delta Contractors**

- Irrigation water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta, including Cross Valley Contractors, are increased to 35% from 15% of their contract total.
- M&I water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta are increased to 75% of historical use or public health and safety, whichever is greater, up from 65% of historical use.

#### **Friant Division Contractors**

- Friant Division contractors' water supply is delivered from Millerton Reservoir on the upper San Joaquin River and categorized by Class 1 and Class 2. 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. Class 1 is increased to 65% from 60%; Class 2 remains at 0%.

As the water year progresses, changes in hydrology, actions

that impact operations, and opportunities to deliver additional water will influence future allocations.



**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](mailto:michelle@ccgga.org) requesting the change. Thank you for your consideration.**