



# The Cotton Chronicle

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June 2024

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## Industry Calendar

Workplace Violence  
Prevention Webinar  
July 15, 2024

### 2024 American Pima Grade Standards Guide Box Review And Standards Matching

Wednesday, July 17, 2024  
Visalia, CA Classing Office  
10:00am

Please join us to review, comment, and approve the six guide boxes of the 2024 American Pima Grade Standards. Once approved, the guide boxes will be used as the reference to match all the 2024 American Pima Grade Standards. The guide box review and the standards matching will both take place the morning of July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Industry participation is key to this process, and we hope you all can come and be a part of this important annual event.

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### Another Successful Annual Meeting for CCGGA in in the Books!

Last month, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association** hosted its 2024 Annual Meeting at the International Agri Center in Tulare, California. More than 120 participants attended the informative meeting with speakers covering a multitude of important issues. The morning began with the financial report from the Association's auditing firm **Spafford and Landry**. Then the group broke into two sections: ginners and growers.

The ginners were provided with updates from the **National Cotton Ginners Association** and its activities by current **NCGA President Richard Lindsay**, the **USDA ARS Southwest Cotton Ginning Laboratory** and the research they are conducting by **Research Leader Dr. Derek Whitelock**, and finally a presentation on cottonseed research by **Dr. Evy Jaconis, of Cotton, Inc.** Meanwhile the growers were briefed on the **San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint by Blueprint Vice Chairman Geoffrey Vanden Huevel of the California Milk Producers Council** Then



they were presented with a discussion on Regenerative Agriculture by **Dr. Cindy Daley, head of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture at CSU Chico.**

Then both groups came back together to receive an update on Sacramento issues by

**George Soares of Kahn,**

**Soares and Conway.** Later the Association staff led by **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez, Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin, and President/CEO Roger Isom** provided an overview of the important issues the Association is tackling. At the meeting, incoming **Chairman Gary Martin** presented outgoing **Chairman Matt Toste** with a plaque and gavel recognizing him for his two years of tremendous service. Following lunch, the Association recognized **George Soares** with its Distinguished Service Award presented by **former CCGGA**

**President/CEO Earl P. Williams.** Finally, the Association's President/CEO posthumously recognized former CCGGA Chairman **Tom Gaffney** who passed away unexpectedly this past February. He was recognized with a special Distinguished Service Award for his efforts and contributions to the cotton industry and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association.



**Association Recognizes Past Chairman Tom Gaffney**

At the 2024 Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** posthumously recognized former **CCGGA Chairman Tom Gaffney**, who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year in February. Tom was born in 1966 in Seoul, South Korea. Tom grew up primarily in Linden, New Jersey. He graduated from Admiral Farragut Academy in Pines Beach, New Jersey in 1984. Tom attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated in 1988 with a degree in electrical engineering. Tom was a Navy veteran who served from 1984 to 1995. After his discharge from the Navy, he worked for PepsiCo in Salt Lake City, Utah for 2 years. He moved to the Central Valley and worked for the J.G. Boswell Company and lived in Hanford from September 1997 till his passing. According to those who worked with him at the J.G. Boswell Company, Tom will be remembered for his strong work ethic, indomitable spirit, and his hidden warmth. He was known to take care of his employees and his hidden kindness was displayed in his treatment of stray cats throughout the J. G. Boswell Company gins. He loved to read, travel, and watch baseball. His office is filled with the many books he read, mementos and pictures from his travels, and his collection of baseball memorabilia. Late in his life he developed an interest in whiskey and began to drink and collect various

whiskeys from around the world. Most of us did not know all of that because Tom was pretty quiet. That is, until he had something to say. President/CEO Isom commented "I remember being in Colorado Springs at a USDA ARS Research Meeting when he was in his element and he spoke like I never heard him speak again. And it was the same thing for the board until he became Chair. He would call me and ask questions, express his frustrations, give me advice. He was a different guy. But most importantly, he stepped up every single time I asked him to. Whether it was the research meeting in Colorado, lobby days in Sacramento or helping out with Ginners School, Tom was there each and every day. With Tom, it was never a Boswell thing. It was always about the cotton industry. And for that I am forever grateful. No matter the call, Tom answered...and that my friends is the reason behind the Distinguished Service Award. And while he may not be here today in person to receive this industry's highest honor, we all know he is here in spirit." The Association then recognized **Thomas Gaffney** with a very special Distinguished Service Award to be given to his family.

**Fresno County Grower Gary Martin Named New CCGGA Chairman**

At its 2024 Annual meeting, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** announced its new Chair of the Board of Directors, **Gary Martin**, a grower in the Firebaugh/Mendota area of western Fresno County. Martin will replace outgoing Chairman **Matt Toste** after completing his two-year term. The Association also used the event to announce all of its officers, as follows:

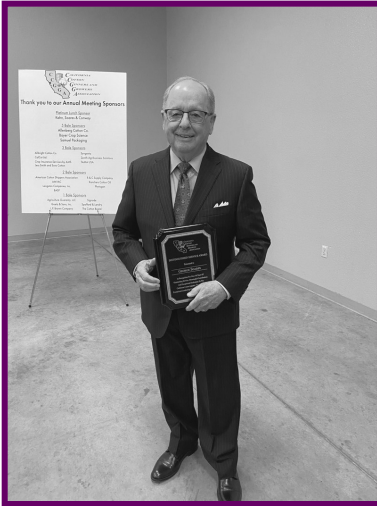
- Chair – Gary Martin**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – Adriane Carbonel**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – Jake Cauzza**
- Secretary/Treasurer – Wade Van Hooser**

New Chair Martin thanked outgoing Chair Toste for his service and time spent at the helm of the board over a tough two years.



**Association Recognizes George Soares**

This past month at the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association's 2024 Annual Meeting**, the Association presented **George Soares** with its **Distinguished Service Award**. The highly prestigious award isn't given every year but was long overdue for the man who has been the Association's lobbying firm and general legal counsel since 1980. On hand to make the presentation was former **Association President/CEO Earl P. Williams** who guided the Association for 20 years from 1992 to 2012. Prior to his leadership as President/CEO Earl was on the board that initially hired George to represent the Association in Sacramento. At the meeting Earl highlighted many of the successes that George helped guide the Association through including the tractor tax exemption, changes to the one variety law, and challenges with Cal/OSHA that initiated the formation of the Ginners Association. Earl closed his remarks with these words "This year's Nom-



inee is the best in this field. He has been a dear personal friend, a trusted mentor, an advisor, and just what these Associations needed from the beginning and remains so important today! The man from Harmony, a man that brings good sense and sound judgment and "harmony" to all he does! Never a raised voice, never a bad word! Always prepared!" The Association congratulates Mr. George Soares as this year's Distinguished Service Award honoree.

#### **Association President Addresses CEC and CPUC on Push to Electrify**

Last month, **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** made a presentation at the California Energy Commission's 2024 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) on Ag Sector Load Growth to explain the impact of new regulations by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to "decarbonize" or reduce greenhouse gas emissions by converting vehicles and equipment to all electric. The hearing was conducted by commissioners from the California Energy Commission (CEC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO). At the special hearing representatives from the three Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) made presentations followed by sector presentations from Data Centers (Microsoft), Agriculture (Isom as President of the Ag Energy Consumers Association – AECA), Hydrogen Production (UC Irvine) and manufacturing (GO-Biz). Isom began his presentation by highlighting already existing "system-wide" constraints, and then laid out the four following regulations as increasing electricity supply and infrastructure demands:

- **CARB Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) Rules**
- **CARB Zero Emission Forklift Rule**
- **Food Processing (Scoping Plan Commitment to have 75% of energy demand be electric by 2045)**
  - **Would affect tomato processors, cotton gins, walnut dehydrators, and pistachio hullers**
- **Ag Energy (Scoping Plan Commitment to have 75% of energy demand be electric by 2045)**
  - **Would affect ag pump engines, tractors and UTVs**

Isom also highlighted that we don't know anything when it comes to timing, quantity and location of the electric demand. He further stated we don't know if the answer for heavy duty trucks is electric or hydrogen, and finished by stating energy cost is the problem with all of this as we already have the highest energy costs in the country and no way to pass them on. During the hearing, Isom commented "these regulations are upon us, and we have no ability to comply. We need the survey, because we don't have any of the answers when it comes to infrastructure and the ultimate needs." The information from this hearing will be compiled into a final IEPR report due at the end of the year.

#### **Association Hosts Senator Deb Fischer from Nebraska**

This past month, the **Western Agricultural Processors Association, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and the American Pistachio Growers** co-hosted an event for **United States Senator Deb Fischer** from Nebraska. Senator Fischer sits on the Agriculture and Appropriations Committees, as well as Nutrition and Forestry, Commerce, Science and Transportation and the Armed Services Committees. She is also ranking member on the Rules and Administration Committee. Also attending the event were individuals from the Nisei Farmers League, California Citrus Mutual, California Blueberry Association, Olive Growers Council of California, National Cotton Council as well as several individual farmers and growers.



#### **2024-2025 Emerging Leaders Program Class Announced – Californian Named**

Twelve U.S. cotton industry members have been chosen to participate in **the National Cotton Council's (NCC) Emerging Leaders Program** for 2024-25. Participants include: **PRODUCERS** – Clint Dunn, Itta Bena, MS; Lambert Marshall, Scott, AR; **Greg Riccomini, Bakersfield, CA**; Todd Rovey, Buckeye, AZ; Greg Sikes, Brooklet, GA; and Jack Whatley, Odem, TX; **GINNERS** – Nathan Goldman, Casa Grande, AZ; Daniel Luehrs, Odem, TX; **MERCHANTS** – Brett Edgy, Savannah, GA; Jacinta Condon, Greenville, SC; **WAREHOUSER** – Chris Moore, Southaven, MS, and **MARKETING COOPERATIVE** – Zach Flowers, Clarksdale, MS. Now in its ninth year, the NCC's Emerging Leaders Program is supported by a grant to **The Cotton Foundation** from **Bayer**. Overall, the Emerging Leaders Program provides participants with a better understanding of how the NCC carries out its mission of ensuring the U.S. cotton industry's seven segments can compete effectively and profitably in the raw cotton, oilseed and U.S.-manufactured product markets at home and abroad. Specifically, participants get an in-depth look at: 1) the U.S. cotton industry infrastructure and the issues affecting the industry's economic well-being; 2) the U.S. political process; 3) the NCC's programs as well as its policy development and implementation process and 4) Cotton Council International's activities aimed at developing and maintaining export markets for U.S. cotton, manufactured cotton products and cottonseed products. The Emerging Leaders Program also provides participants with professional development and communications training such as presentation and business etiquette, instruction for engaging with the news media, and utilizing social media tools and tactics. Class members will participate in three sessions. The first session, set for the week of June 16, 2024, in Memphis and St. Louis, will provide an orientation to the NCC, professional development and communication skills training and an agribusiness briefing. During the second session, class members will see policy development at the NCC's 2025 Annual Meeting in February. The third session, to be conducted later

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in 2025 in Washington, DC, will provide a focus on policy implementation.

## **2024 Safety Workshops a Success**

The Association successfully concluded the safety training sessions for the online webinars and Tractor Train-the-Trainer (TTT) last month! We had a total of over 90 participants across four regional locations for the Tractor TTT in Wasco, Tulare, Le Grand and Arbutle. There were over 126 participants across the three online webinars covering Lockout/Tagout, Fall Protection and Personal Protective Equipment. These workshops covered the rules and regulations for said topics and prepared owners, managers, supervisors, safety personnel or those who are responsible for training in each of these topics. Thank you to all for attending these successful training workshops.

## **Workplace Violence Standard Prevention Webinar**

Last year SB 553 authored by Senator Cortese was signed into law by Governor Newsom. As such, starting July 1st, 2024 the majority of employers in California must establish, implement, and maintain a Workplace Violence Prevention Program Plan.

The Association in partnership with Fisher & Phillips LLP, will be hosting a Workplace Violence Standard Webinar. The webinar will be held on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Please email [michelle@ccgga.org](mailto:michelle@ccgga.org) to register for the webinar

## **CARB Hears Amendments to ACT Rule**

Last month, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) heard proposed amendments to the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule. The

ACT rule requires manufacturers to increase their zero-emission technologies sales within the state by an increasing percentage each year until the rule reaches the 100% requirement. While many have hoped that the current administration would hit the pause button on requiring zero-emission equipment with the current state of electric infrastructure, the state has instead pushed forward with the requirements. One positive presented in the current amendment proposal is the inclusion of zero-emission fuel cell equipment, which opens a pathway for other renewable fuel use to enter the market and assist in compliance with the rule. The Association will continue to monitor and update you with any new information that comes out.

**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.**