



# The Cotton Chronicle

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

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## Industry Calendar

Joint Steering  
Committee Meeting  
Nov. 13th, 2024

CCGGA Board  
Meeting  
Dec. 3rd, 2024

## Cotton Industry Hosts Assembly Agriculture Committee Vice Chair Juan Alanis

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association hosted Assembly Agricultural Committee Vice Chair Juan Alanis (22<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District) at Olam Cotton's Silver Creek Gin in Firebaugh. The site visit was part of a larger two-day tour that included visits to a citrus packing house, stone fruit and table grape operation, pistachio processor and an almond huller. While visiting the cotton gin, **Manager Matt Toste (CCGGA Past Chair)** explained the entire cotton ginning process while highlighting some of the key issues facing the cotton industry such as the state's critical water situation, overreaching air quality regulations and inequity in labor costs compared to other states and countries. Participating in the site visit was **Association President/CEO Roger Isom, Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez, and Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin**. Partnering organizations included the **Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Citrus Mutual, California Fresh Fruit Association and American Pistachio Growers**.

## CCGGA Board Nominations Open Up for Ginners and Growers

It's time for nominations to be submitted for the upcoming election of directors to open positions on the Board of Directors of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association. There are four (4) Grower Director terms expiring this year, including **Bryan Bone and Jake Cauzza of Kern County, and Cannon Michael and a vacancy in Merced County**. The posi-

tions are for these specific counties. There are also four (4) Ginner Director terms expiring this year, including **Rosie Navarro, Adrienne Carbonel, Wade Van Hooser and Matt Toste**. Nomination forms are being sent out this week and all forms must be completed and returned to the Association office by **Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Please take time to nominate one or more Ginner or Grower candidates in good standing with the Association (and yourself if you intend to be a candidate), and make sure that each person you name agrees to being nominated and files the **Candidate Statement** form required to be placed on the ballot for the upcoming election. The form must be completed for each nomination, so please copy the form if you nominate more than one person and provide the form to each person you nominate. Thank you for



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your participation in the process. Please feel free to contact me at (559)252-0684 or via email at [roger@ccgga.org](mailto:roger@ccgga.org) if you have any questions.

### **CDPR Releases Clean Air Monitoring Report for 2023**

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has released its annual Air Monitoring Report, which found that no air samples taken at monitoring sites in 2023 detected pesticides at or above health-protective screening levels or regulatory targets. DPR operates four monitoring stations in areas with high pesticide use: Oxnard, Santa Maria, Shafter and Watsonville. The stations collect weekly air samples, which are tested for 40 pesticides. The 2023 data found that **95% of all samples collected had no detectable pesticides**. Twenty-one pesticides were not detected at all, and 11 were detected at very low, trace levels which indicates unlikely risk to or impact on people's health. Seven pesticides were detected at quantifiable levels, with detections falling below health-protective screening levels or regulatory targets. Those pesticides were 1,3-dichloropropene, captan, dichlorvos (DDVP), methyl isothiocyanate (MITC), malathion, methyl bromide and pendimethalin. DPR measures air against screening levels and regulatory targets. Regulatory targets are screening levels associated with a regulatory requirement to mitigate pesticide risks or impacts. A pesticide detection below a specific screening level or regulatory target indicates that adverse health effects are unlikely, including short-term (acute) pesticide impacts, such as eye or throat irritation, nausea, headaches or blurred vision, or long-term (chronic) pesticide risks such as birth defects or nervous system problems. DPR also measures for exposures that could increase the lifetime risk for cancer. "Monitoring the air in communities with high pesticide use is critical to keeping California safe for everyone," said **DPR Director Julie Henderson**. "I am encouraged to see that all of the 2023 pesticide concentrations fall below our health screening levels.

### **Association President/CEO Isom Addresses UC Merced Air Quality Conference**

Presenting this past month at the ***Air Quality and Health Conference***, sponsored by the **Health Sciences Research Institute** and the **Department of Public Health** at the **University of California Merced**, **Association President/CEO Roger Isom** stated "We all need to work together to help support programs like FARMER to keep financial incentives coming to the Valley". The two-day conference was held at UC

Merced on October 17 and 18, 2024, and according to the Institute was intended to bring together the many people working on air quality across the San Joaquin Valley and California to share current research, discuss new research directions, and discuss what policies, actions, and education are needed to improve air quality and public health. Attendees included community members and organizations, university and government scientists, policymakers and regulators, and senior leadership from local and state health and environmental agencies. As expected, environmental justice advocates took the opportunity to attack and criticize the ag industry and lamented that agriculture should be "forced to accept a mandatory replacement tractor rule," as voiced by one activist. Isom responded "agriculture is different from other industries in the fact we have no way to pass along the cost due to the world marketplace. Buyers will simply buy from another country that can supply the product at a cheaper price". To which the crowd stated, "we want to see your profits!" Also maligned was the Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) by activists demanding more action against pesticide applications. Activists criticized CDPR for not having enough air monitoring stations, misstating facts and poisoning farmworkers. For a conference designed to bring people together it only served to further the divide.

### **Association Hosts Assemblywoman Lori Wilson at Cotton Gin**

Last month, **Assemblywoman Lori Wilson** (11<sup>th</sup> Assembly District) visited **Mid Valley Cotton Growers** Tulare gin in Tulare. **Mid Valley Gin Manager Wade Van Hooser** walked Ms. Wilson



through the gin explaining the ginning process while discussing some of the critical issues facing cotton gins today including high energy prices and the high cost of insurance coverage for gins, or lack thereof. The tour was part of a day long tour which also included visits to a walnut huller, agave and pistachio farm, and pistachio processor. On the tour was Association President/CEO **Roger A. Isom** and Director of Technical Services **Christopher McGlothlin**.

### **U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol Releases Annual Report**

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol, a leading program for responsibly grown cotton, has released its 2023/24 Annual Report, showcasing record grower participation and notable strides in environmental stewardship. The report highlights the program's progress in driving transparency and continuous improvement across the cotton supply chain, even amidst a challenging economic climate for growers. "This year's report demonstrates the unwavering commitment of U.S. cotton growers to continuous improvement, even in the face of significant challenges," said **Dr. Gary Adams, President of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol**. "The Trust Protocol is proud to support their efforts by providing the tools, resources, and market opportunities needed to build a more resilient and sustainable future for U.S. Cotton." Key highlights from the 2023/24 Annual Report include:

- **Record Grower Enrollment:** Planted acreage enrolled in the Trust Protocol grew to 2.1 million acres, a 31% increase from the previous year, demonstrating a strong industry commitment to responsible production.
- **Tangible Environmental Gains:** Trust Protocol growers continued to outperform national averages, achieving a 14% improvement in yield and making significant reductions in water use (14%), energy use (27%), greenhouse gas emissions (21%), and soil loss (79%) compared to a 2015 baseline.
- **Climate Smart Cotton Program Expansion:** The program, designed to help growers adopt climate-smart practices, saw growth with 1,427 U.S. farming entities enrolled, including 282 from historically underserved communities.
- **Traceability Platform Advancements:** The Trust Protocol made noteworthy progress in scaling its Protocol Consumption Management Solution (PCMS), recording 1.2k shipments of cotton fiber (equivalent to 3.4 million bales of U.S. Cotton and 636,000 bales of Protocol Cotton).
- **Enhanced Governance and Collaboration:** The Trust Protocol expanded its Board of Directors to include greater international representation and joined the United Nations Fashion and Lifestyle Network, underscoring its commitment to global

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The 2023/24 Annual Report also details the Trust Protocol's efforts to enhance its data collection and analysis processes, expand its Climate Smart Cotton Program, and strengthen its traceability platform to meet the evolving needs of brands and retailers. "This year's report highlights both the progress our growers have made and the operational improvements within the Trust Protocol," said **Daren Abney, Executive Director of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol**. "We've streamlined systems to make participation easier for all and introduced a new consumption-based membership model launching in 2025 to support companies of all sizes in responsible sourcing." The complete U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol 2023/24 Annual Report is available at <https://report.trustuscotton.org/>.

### **Clean Truck Check – Ag Trucks Attestation Form Update**

Last month, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) sent out notices of required documentation to fleet owners within their Clean Truck Check (CTC) database. Any fleet owner that registered their trucks within the agency's database is required to submit an Agricultural Vehicle Attestation form to verify that their equipment is used solely in agricultural operations, specifically servicing on farm activities as well as delivering commodities from the field to the first point of processing. Unfortunately, for ag fleets with multiple trucks, the database is only accepting one attestation form **per truck**. For larger fleets, this process can be burdensome. The Association is in contact with the program management to point out these onerous hoops that fleet owners have to jump through. We are hoping to implement some change through the agency's database system, but we haven't seen the urgency from the agency that we would expect. If you have received an email from CARB's Clean Truck Check system requesting your attestation forms for Ag Trucks and have questions on how to submit, please feel free to contact the Association for directions on how to complete the form and where to submit it. Stay Tuned!

### **CDPR to Begin Reevaluation of Paraquat Dichloride**

This past September, the requirements of AB 1963 became law, which requires the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) to do the following: "On or before January 1, 2029, the department shall complete a reevaluation of paraquat dichloride pursuant to section 12824, and make the determination to retain, cancel or suspend its registration or



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to place new appropriate restrictions on the use of pesticide products containing the active ingredient paraquat dichloride." Currently, CDPR is assessing whether additional data are needed to fulfill the requirements of the new law to determine whether current uses of paraquat pose unacceptable risks to human health and/or the environment, and whether additional restrictions on use are necessary. The reevaluation involves 7 registrants, and 7 pesticide products currently registered in California.

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.

