



# The Cotton Chronicle

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

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## Industry Calendar

**USDA FSA Disaster & Farm Loans Webinar**  
March 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM

**Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer Workshops**  
March 13, 18, 25, 2025  
April 1, 3, 8, 9, 2025

**Workplace Violence Prevention Webinar**  
April 14, 2025

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## Newsletter Sponsored By: American Pima Seed

### Registration is Now Open for the 2025 CCGGA Annual Meeting

It's time for the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association's 2025 Annual Meeting!** This year, Supima will join forces with CCGGA to showcase valuable industry updates. **The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the International Agri-Center in Tulare, California.** Please complete and submit the [registration form](#). You can email the form to Michelle Franco at [michelle@ccgga.org](mailto:michelle@ccgga.org) or fax it to our offices promptly at (559) 252-0551.

There is also an opportunity to sponsor the event. All sponsorships go toward offsetting the costs, which helps us deliver our message to the industry. If you'd like to sponsor, you may do so by clicking the [sponsorship link](#).

**The cost of the event is free, but we encourage you to consider making a donation of at least \$25 to the CCGGA Federal PAC or CCGGA State PAC to help protect California cotton at the state and federal levels. The CCGGA Federal PAC can only accept personal checks. Any corporate contributions must be made to the CCGGA State PAC.**

### Association Hosts Important Kickoff Meeting on 9 ug/m3 PM2.5 Plan

The Association hosted a meeting with the **California Air Resources Board (CARB), the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)** and the agricultural industry for a kickoff meeting on issues dealing with the development of the new Moderate State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the new Federal EPA 9 ug/m3 standard. Attending the meeting were the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, Western Tree Nut Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Nisei Farmers League, Western United Dairywomen and the California**

**Fresh Fruit Association.** The meeting focused on the emissions inventory development and modeling that will be necessary to demonstrate attainment for the new plan and how that information will be used to develop control measures to reduce PM2.5 emissions. In the meeting CARB identified the following agricultural sources being considered for review:

- Soil NOx and Ammonia from application of nitrogen to managed lands
- Farming Operations, Dairy Cattle Waste and Dust Emissions
- Silage NOx from dairy cattle operations
- Dust from harvesting, tilling and land preparation (emphasis on nut harvesting)
- Fugitive dust from unpaved farm roads
- Agricultural equipment including tractors and harvesters
- Agricultural burning (now banned)
- Fugitive windblown dust
- Ag irrigation pump engines
- VOC emissions from citrus packing house (?)

These topics and other will be discussed over the next several months as CARB and the SJVAPCD work to put their PM2.5 SIP together. All the research and modeling will have to be done in the next two years, as these plans will be due to Federal EPA in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2027. CARB has identified seven areas in the state that



will be non-attainment for the 9 ug/m3 PM2.5 standard including the San Joaquin Valley, Feather River AQMD (Yuba and Sutter Counties), the South Coast AQMD, Bay Area AQMD, San Diego County, Imperial County, Mendocino County, and the Portola area of Plumas County.

### **National Cotton Council Names 2025 Directors**

The **National Cotton Council** directors for 2025 were announced at the NCC's recent 2025 annual meeting in Dallas, Texas. Included in the list of Directors was the Association's own **Tom Pires**, Past Chairman and current board member of the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)**. Elected to the NCC Board during segment caucuses were:

#### **Producers**

- David Dunlow, Gaston, N.C.
- Lewis Everett, Capron, Va.
- Gerald Rovey, Buckeye, Ariz.
- Matthew Hyneman, Jonesboro, Ark.
- Sutton Page, Avoca, Texas.

#### **Ginners**

- Ben Evans, Douglas, Ga.
- J. Bradley Williams, Burlison, Tenn.
- Larry Black, Roscoe, Texas.
- **Tom Pires, Riverdale, Calif.**
- Gary Feist, Anthony, Kansas.

#### **Warehousemen**

- Shane Stephens, Greenwood, Miss.
- Ray Doroff, Memphis, Tenn.
- Scott Mitchell, Donalsonville, Ga.
- Eric Wanjura, Lubbock, Texas; and
- Robert Swize, Corpus Christi, Texas

#### **Merchants**

- John C. King, III, Richardson, Texas
- Darren Long, New York, N.Y.
- Azeez Syed, Richardson, Texas
- Tommy Hayden, Cordova, Tenn.
- Krista Rickman, Memphis, Tennessee.

#### **Cottonseed**

- Aaron Pena, Harlingen, Texas
- Fred Serven, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Joe Gribble, Altus, Okla.
- John Chisum, Lubbock, Texas
- Brad Chapman, Tipton, Iowa.

#### **Cooperatives**

- Reid Nichols, Altus, Okla.
- Kevin Brinkley, Lubbock, Texas
- Paul Bush, Glendale, Ariz.
- Wayne Boseman, Garner, N.C.
- David Camp, Greenwood, Mississippi.

#### **Manufacturers**

- Anderson Warlick, Gastonia, N.C.
- James Martin, Gastonia, N.C.
- Dan Sistrunk, Spartanburg, S.C.
- William Bowen, Jr., Inman, S.C.
- Marc Doyon, Salisbury, North Carolina.

As the unifying force of the U.S. cotton industry, the Memphis-based NCC brings together industry representatives from the 17 cotton-producing states to establish policies reflecting the common interests and promoting mutual benefits for its broad membership and ancillary industries. The NCC's mission is ensuring the ability of all industry segments to compete effectively and profitably in the raw cotton, oilseed and U.S.- manufactured product markets at home and abroad.

### **REMINDER: Important Survey for All Agricultural Operations**

As you are aware the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is moving full speed ahead on their "zero emissions" goals for California, including replacing all combustion vehicles and equipment by replacing them with electric or hydrogen vehicles or equipment. This includes all trucks and forklifts. The Association is convinced the infrastructure to meet such demand simply isn't there. Up until a meeting last year hosted by the Association last year in Modesto, CARB and the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) were convinced there would be no problem meeting the demand. But after that meeting, CARB, CEC and the CPUC admitted they did not know how much demand would be from agriculture, nor did they know when it would be needed or where. At that same meeting the utilities, PG&E and SCE, also admitted they did not know, **and they were already having "system-wide constraints"**. In response, CARB and the CEC have contracted Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to work with agriculture to conduct a comprehensive survey of agricultural operations (farms, packing houses, cotton gins, nut hullers and processors, etc.) to see how much electricity demand would be needed to comply with these new regulations, when it would be need by, and to the zip code level where it would be needed.

The survey is anonymous and only to zip code level. Your company or farm name and address is never entered or revealed. We are working with several agricultural organizations on this survey to demonstrate what the true demand and need would be to meet these regulations. Without this data, CARB will move forward on all regulations as planned. Should you have any questions, please contact our office. We encourage you to participate. The survey is open until March 21<sup>st</sup>, and here is the [survey](#).

### **Tom Smith Honored With NCC Lifetime Achievement Award**

This past weekend, Tom Smith, a former president and chairman of the board of the National Cotton Council, received the Oscar Johnston Lifetime Achievement Award for 2024. He was honored at the National Cotton Council's (NCC) 2025 annual meeting held February 14-16 in Dallas, Texas, with outgoing NCC Chairman Joe Nicosia presenting the award. The annual award, established in 1997, is named for Oscar Johnston, whose vision, genius and tireless efforts were foremost in the shaping and organization of the NCC. The award is presented to an individual who serves the cotton industry, through the NCC, over a significant period of his or her active business career. The award also recognizes those who exert a positive influence on the industry and who demonstrate character and integrity as well as perseverance and maturation during that service. Smith's extensive service to the NCC included serving on multiple Council program committees including Industry Practices and Policies, For-



**AMERICAN PIMA SEED - 2025 Varieties !**

APS356RF PIMA - CA, AZ, NM, TX  
 DP347RF PIMA – CA, AZ, NM, TX  
 DP359RF PIMA – CA, NM, TX  
 APS351RF PIMA – \*NEW\* (Limited)  
 APS501 Pima--\*NEW\* Conventional



**AMERICAN PIMA SEED – 2025 VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS**

DP347RF PIMA	APS356RF PIMA	DP359RF PIMA
Medium Maturity	Medium-Full Maturity	Medium-Full Maturity
Very High Gin T.O.%	Excellent Seedling Vigor	Excellent Seedling Vigor
Widely Adapted	Great on Tough Ground	Large Seed
3700-4100 Seed/lb.	3000-3400seed/lb.	3200-3500 seed/lb.
Good Fiber Quality	Good Fiber Quality	Good Fiber Quality
Good FOV4 Tolerance	Good FOV4 Tolerance	Great FOV4 Tolerance

Data is based on historical observations and experience and not a guarantee of performance.  
 FOV4 Tolerance based on historical observations and can be better or worse under certain weather conditions.  
 Growing and field conditions vary year to year and field to field. Vigor rating based on ideal planting conditions per UC Guidelines and optimum planting depth.

Glenn Powell,

After a 40-year career, we would like to Thank You for your assistance, knowledge, and professionalism. You're highly respected and a true asset to the Cotton Industry. We know how influential you were publicly and behind the scenes to California and Pima Cotton. You have always been an advocate for growers on seed and production.

American Pima Seed was started with your help and guidance. You have established and implemented all of our seed processes going forward. We also appreciate you sharing your wealth of knowledge to Braedon Whitmer as he learns the seed business. You have positioned us as a quality-focused seed company. You will be missed.

THANK YOU,

Jim and Mike Olvey  
 American Pima Seed

ign Operations, and Farm Program and Economic Policy. He was elected vice president in 1985 and later became president in 1996. In 1997, he was elected chairman of the board and subsequently served as an advisor to the board.

Smith excelled in academics and sports in his high school class of nine students. He attended Texas A&M and graduated in 1957 with a degree in agricultural economics. With strong recommendations from professors, he interviewed and obtained a job at Calcot upon graduation. After moving to Bakersfield as a 22-year-old who had never been outside Texas, he advanced through the corporation, working in every aspect of the business. In 1977, Smith became President of Calcot, the largest cotton marketing organization in the Western U.S., at the age of 42. Over his career, he worked for the grower-owned cooperative for forty-five years and was President and CEO for twenty-five years before retiring in 2002.

Appointed by two secretaries of agriculture, Smith served on the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee and was inducted into the Cotton Hall of Fame. During an era when cotton was the single largest crop in the San Joaquin Valley and Arizona, he led a sales team that marketed millions of bales, exporting the majority to textile mills worldwide. He tirelessly represented the interests of western cotton growers in Washington, D.C., New York, and throughout the industry. Smith's expertise and counsel were sought by many organizations. He served for nearly 40 years as a board member and chairman of the Bakersfield Memorial Hospital board of directors, chairman of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, and was a graduate fellow of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Texas A&M honored him with the Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He was also a longtime member of the Downtown Bakersfield Rotary Club and numerous other community organizations. Thomas Smith passed away on December 1, 2023, at the age of 88. His legacy of leadership, dedication, and service will continue to inspire the cotton industry and the many communities he touched.

#### **Bureau Announces Initial Allocation of 35% for South of Delta**

Today, the Bureau of Reclamation announced major steps to improve California water supply. The initial allocation to be provided to California farmers on the west side of the Central Valley south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta is initially set at 35% and more than twice what the initial allocation was in 2024, a year with similar hydrology. In addition, the Trump administration is investing more than \$315.5 million to create new water storage at the future Sites Reservoir and at the existing San Luis Reservoir. Reclamation, as directed through President Trump's [Executive Order 14181](#), has worked to maximize water supply, particularly for



south-of-Delta contracts. Reclamation continues its dedicated efforts to deliver more water and produce more hydropower as a commitment to California farmers and communities. Water supply allocations are based on an estimate of water available for delivery and reflect current reservoir storage, precipitation, and snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, as well as contractor-rescheduled water from the last water year. "Recent atmospheric rivers and the good condition of most of our reservoirs going into this water year have benefited our water supply outlook; however, the San Joaquin Basin has experienced critically dry conditions this winter," said **California-Great Basin Regional Director Karl Stock**. "Initial allocations reflect this significant varia-

tion across the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys." Based on current hydrology and forecasting, Reclamation is announcing the following initial Central Valley Project water supply allocations:

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

- Irrigation water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta are allocated 35% of their contract total.
- M&I water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta are allocated 75% of their historical use, or public health and safety needs, whichever is greater.
- San Joaquin River Settlement Contractors and San Joaquin Exchange Contractors' water supply is based upon settlement/exchange of claimed senior water rights. The 2025 water year is determined as non-critical, as defined in their contracts, which allows for 100% of their contract supply.
- In addition to this allocation, CVP contractors south-of-Delta are expected to reschedule approximately 180,000 acre-feet of unused allocated water from 2024 for use in 2025.

#### **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. The Friant Division water supply allocation is 45% of Class 1 and 0% of Class 2.

#### **Wildlife Refuges**

- The 2025 water year is determined as non-critical, as defined in their contracts, which allows for 100% of contract supply for wildlife refuges (Level 2), both north- and south-of-Delta.

#### **National Ginners School Registration Is Now Open**

Entering its 38th year of classes, the ginner school will be offered at three locations in 2025. Cooperators for the school include USDA-ARS, National Cotton Ginners Association and its member associations, National Cotton Council, Cotton Incorporated, gin machinery/equipment manufacturers and suppliers, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Services and select land

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grant universities. Each level of ginners school coursework is built on the previous level of instruction, with Level I as the foundation. Therefore, the school's coordinators strongly recommend that beginning students, regardless of gin experience, start with Level I. Levels I, II and III are all three-day courses, therefore students enroll for one level per school. The 2025 Continuing Education schedule is being developed and may be different for each of the three schools. The Southwest Ginners School will be held on March 31-April 2, 2025, at the South Plains Ginning Laboratory in Lubbock, Texas. The Western Ginners School will be held May 6-8, 2025, at the Southwestern Cotton Ginning Research Laboratory in Mesilla Park, New Mexico. The Stoneville Ginners School will be held June 3-5, 2025, at the USDA Ginning Laboratory in Stoneville, Mississippi. For more information, please contact Harrison Ashley or Jana Jackins of the National Cotton Ginners Association at (901) 274-9030.

### Upcoming Train-the-Trainer Workshops & Webinars!

Western Tree Nut Association and California Cotton Ginners Growers Association are offering safety training workshops in both Spanish and English. These workshops are for owners, managers, supervisors, safety personnel or **those who are responsible for training**. Each workshop attendee will be provided with a binder that includes the information needed for understanding the rules, regulations and conducting effective safety training. Each attendee will also receive a certificate of completion for those that participate in the full class. Topics include:

#### Aerial Lift Safety (Train-the-Trainer)

- Tulare: March 13 | Turlock: March 18
- Wasco: March 25 | Le Grand: April 1
- Fresno: April 3 | Woodland: April 8 | Chico: April 9

#### Webinars:

- **Hazard Communication:** March 10
- **Workplace Violence Prevention:** April 14
- **Indoor & Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention:** May 19

The cost per training is \$65 per person for members and \$85 for non-members. For information on registering for the workshops and/or webinars please see flyer or visit our website at <https://www.agprocessors.org/>.

### USDA FSA Hosting Disaster & Farm Loans Webinar

U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. PST to discuss the agencies' available Disaster Program funding and other support programs for producers. The webinar will cover a wide variety of resource programs made available, such as direct farm operating loans, loan assistance tools, and programs available specifically for new farmers and ranchers.

If you are interested in attending, please follow the instructions on the link here: [USDA FSA Webinar - Registration](#)

### Do you still need to comply with the ZEV Forklift Rule?

Last summer, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the Zero Emission (ZEV) Forklift Regulation, aiming to phase out the sale and use of propane forklifts in the state by 2038. The regulation was initially set to take effect on January 1, 2026. Under this rule:

- Beginning in 2026, equipment dealers would have been prohibited from producing or selling Class 4 or Class 5 propane forklifts with a lift capacity of less than 12,000 lbs.
- Agricultural operations would have been required to begin phasing out their fleets in 2029.

### What Has Changed?

Under the Federal Clean Air Act, CARB must obtain a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enforce this regulation. However, CARB has not yet submitted a waiver request, and given the current administration, approval appears very unlikely.

If no waiver is granted, businesses in California could have an additional four years of reprieve from the regulation. While this is not yet confirmed, CARB may lack the authority to enforce the rule, effectively buying businesses more time.

As has been from the beginning, the Association is fighting this regulation and pushing to prolong its implementation for as long as possible, especially with the current statewide infrastructure constraints. With misinformation circulating, we encourage you to stay informed and look for official updates from the Association. CARB is expected to release further details in the coming weeks—stay tuned for updates.

### SAFETY TRAINING WORKSHOPS

**Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer:**

- Tulare March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Turlock March 18<sup>th</sup>
- Wasco March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Le Grand April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Fresno April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Woodland April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Chico April 9<sup>th</sup>

**Webinars:**

Hazard Communication  
- March 10<sup>th</sup>

Workplace Violence Prevention  
- April 14<sup>th</sup>

Indoor & Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention  
- May 19<sup>th</sup>

**Cost per trainings:**  
\$65 Member  
\$85 Non-member

*\*Subject to changes\**


The Western Agricultural Processors Association and California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, are providing **Safety Training Workshops** to assist our members. These workshops are designed to be both basic and refresher knowledge, that are focused on fundamental effective safety training skills. Our workshops are participant-centered, interactive and encourage full participation.

**Topics:**  
Train-the-Trainer Aerial Lift  
Hazard Communication Training (webinar)  
Workplace Violence Prevention Training (webinar)  
Indoor & Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention Training (webinar)


These Train-the-Trainer workshops are for **owners, managers, superintendents, supervisors, safety personnel and for those who are responsible for training** on equipment. The Train-the-Trainer class does not "certify" or authorize the participants to operate equipment. Official training must be provided by the employer on their specific equipment and documented as such. Each attendee will receive a binder with training tools on how to conduct effective safety training, trainer guide materials, quizzes and certificate of completion.

These workshops will be offered as regional workshops throughout the valley and via webinars conducted in English and Spanish. Please note, COVID-19 conditions and State and local guidance are constantly evolving. WAPA and CCGA will provide all registered attendees with COVID-19 updates and requirements as they become available.


Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer Presented by the following Organizations:




WESTERN AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION




CALIFORNIA COTTON GINNERS AND GROWERS ASSOCIATION




The Zenith  
A FAIRFAX Company




CALIFORNIA CITRUS MUTUAL




CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION




Fresno County Farm Bureau  
Serving agriculture since 1917



NEL  
NATIONAL EQUIPMENT LEASERS ASSOCIATION



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