



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

**2025 American Pima
Grade Standards
Guide Box Review
and Standards
Matching
July 16, 2025**

**Grower Owned Gins
Meeting
July 21-23, 2025**

**CCGGA Research
Meeting
Sept. 9, 2025**

**CCGGA Board
Meeting
Sept. 10, 2025**

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2025 American Pima Grade Standards Guide Box Review and Standards Matching

**Wednesday, July 16, 2025
Visalia, CA Classing Office
9:00am**

Please join us to review, comment, and approve the six guide boxes of the 2025 American Pima Grade Standards. Once approved, the guide boxes will be used as the reference to match all the 2025 American Pima Grade Standards. The guide box review and the standards matching will both take place the morning of July 16th.

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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CARB Rolls Back Clean Fleets/Trucks Regulations

Last month, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) announced the intention to roll back the requirement to electrify California fleets. Passed in 2024, The Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) and the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rules were controversial from the start. The ACT rule required equipment manufacturers to meet in-state sales benchmarks of zero-emission vehicles, culminating in 100% sales of

ZEVs in the state by 2036. The ACF rule would require applicable businesses to replace existing fossil fuel burning vehicles with ZEVs at certain annual benchmarks. The passage of the rules was met with immediate legal challenges, and ultimately needed waiver approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in order to enforce the regulation.

CARB has announced that, as part of their legal settlement with 17 states as well as the California Trucking Association, that the agency will not be enforcing the mandatory ZEV sales requirement on manufacturer's inventory. Additionally, changes to the ACT rule remove priority fleets and drayage trucks from being the first equipment category to electrify. While this is welcomed news for overregulated California industries, CARB intends to wait out the current federal administration with the hopes of reintroducing the waiver petition to EPA during a more favorable presidential cabinet.

CCGGA Wraps Up Another Successful Annual Meeting!

Last month, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association** hosted its 2025 Annual Meeting in conjunction with Supima 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 Larry Black**, the **USDA ARS Southwest Cotton Ginning Laboratory** and the research they are conducting by **Dr. Jaya Shankar Tumuluru**, and finally a presentation on the USDA classing of the 2024 cotton crop by **Ryan Phillips of USDA AMS**. Meanwhile the growers were briefed on the Cottonseed Bug by **Chad Brewer of the National Cotton Council**. Then the growers received a series of research updates by **Dr. Margaret Ellis of CSU Fresno**, **Michael Rethwisch of UCCE**, **Giuliano Carneiro Galdi of UCCE** and **Ian Grettenberger of UC Davis**. Both groups came back together to receive an update from the Association staff led by **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez**, **Assistant Vice President of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin**, and **President/CEO Roger Isom** on some of the important issues the Association is tackling. Then the meeting was turned over to Supima to have their Annual Meeting. Following lunch, special guest speaker, **Assemblyman Heath Flora** provided his perspective on Sacramento and how things are going at the State Capitol.



Unrealistic Proposed Changes to Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Rules
Cal/OSHA has proposed unrealistic changes to heat illness regulations—changes that can directly impact how you run your operations, if approved as proposed. Despite being framed as safety improvements, these new changes under Title 8 §3395 and §3396 go far beyond reasonable protections. They impose excessive paperwork, strict work restrictions, and unrealistic expectations on employers in the state. These proposed changes target acclimatization, employee monitoring, and written heat illness prevention plans.

The most concerning change is the mandatory acclimatization schedule triggered by any day over 80°F for new employees in outdoor workplaces and triggered when any indoor workplace is over 87°F. That could apply for half of the year in some areas in California, specifically the Central Valley. Under these new rules, new employees can only work at 20% capacity on Day 1, while returning employees are

capped at 50%. Employers must restrict heat exposure for new and returning employees, regardless of their experience:

- New employees: Capped at 20% of normal workload on Day 1, increasing incrementally to 80% by Day 4.
- Returning employees (after 14 days): Capped at 50% on Day 1, reaching 80% by Day 3.

The schedules are lifted only if the employer can prove the worker has recently performed similar tasks under comparable heat conditions—a proof that requires more documentation.

On top of this, Cal/OSHA now requires employers to distribute their Heat Illness Prevention Plan, available in multiple languages, to new employees during:

- The time of hire
- During heat illness training
- And at least once annually (no more than twice per year)

Folks are already doing the right things—providing water, shade, training, and adjusting schedules when needed. These new rules don't improve safety—they undermine the ability to operate a business in California.

We're pushing back on these unrealistic proposed regulatory changes and will be submitting comments to the Cal OSHA Standards Board. The comment period for the proposed changes is open until July 7th, 2025. We'll keep fighting on your behalf and pushing back on outlandish regulatory changes like this one.

Proposed Revisions to Wildfire Smoke Rule

The new proposed revisions to the Protection from Wildfire Smoke regulations under Cal/OSHA's §5141.1, is impractical for farming operations. The proposed updated rule requires employers to provide NIOSH-approved respirators, such as N95s, to all agricultural employees when the AQI for PM2.5 reaches 151 but does not exceed 300, and mandates their use when the AQI exceeds 300. In addition, employers must now conduct medical evaluations for respirator use and track real-time air quality, when the AQI exceeds 500.

However, all other non-agricultural employees have a different threshold. All other employers with outdoor workers must provide N95's when the AQI for PM2.5 reaches 151 but does not exceed 500 and mandates their use when the AQI exceeds 500. Why would agricultural employees be singled out versus all other industries with employees working outdoor? Where is the science-based approach to this? Existing safety practices and common-sense decisions have long protected workers during smoke events and this proposed regulation is yet another additional regulatory and biased burden. Adding to the burden are new demands for medical evaluations (when the AQI exceeds 500), respirator supply logistics, and AQI monitoring.

There needs to be a more flexible, risk-based approach that supports both worker health and economic sustainability. Voluntary protections and practical risk assessments would better serve both worker safety and agricultural sustainability. The Association is strongly opposed to the proposed changes and will be submitting comments during the open comment period which closes July 7th, 2025. Stay tuned for updates.

Feds Raise Water Allocation to 55%

Last month, the Bureau of Reclamation increased the water supply allocations for Central Valley Project contractors south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. While all north-of-Delta Central Valley Project contractors are currently at 100% of their supplies, south-of-Delta irrigation water service and repayment contractors are increased to 55% from 50%, and municipal and industrial water service and repayment contractors are increased to 80% from 75% of their historical use, or public health and safety needs, whichever is greater. "As California's primary precipitation season concludes, we now have greater certainty about water availability for the remainder of

the water year, said **Acting Regional Director Adam Nickels**. "This allows us to responsibly adjust Central Valley Project allocations to better meet the needs of our water users while continuing to support environmental requirements." All other Central Valley Project contract allocations remain the same per the [April 28](#) water supply update.

Association Part of Ag Industry Response to MAHA Commission Report

The Association as part of the **Modern Ag Alliance** expressed major concerns with the release of the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission report that questioned American farmers' use of crop protection tools. "Farmers are already facing a host of challenges—uncertainty about their access to critical crop protection products shouldn't be added to the list," said **Elizabeth Burns-Thompson, Executive Director of the Modern Ag Alliance**. "Crop protection tools are not only safe, they are essential to food security, affordability, and the survival of family farms all across this country. Losing access to these critical inputs would be a devastating setback to American agriculture." The **Association's President/CEO Roger Isom** was quoted in the Modern Ag Alliance press release as saying "Crop protection tools that have been registered through EPA, have gone through the most rigorous, scientifically based, and health-protective process in the world. They have been analyzed to ensure there are no impacts to humans, workers, plants, animals, air quality, and groundwater. Application rates have been limited and buffer zones implemented to ensure the safest application possible, and where safety concerns could not be met, those chemicals are not registered for use in the United States. American agriculture already has far less tools than the rest of the world, and we cannot afford to lose any more and still produce the world's best food and fiber."

About The Modern Ag Alliance

The Modern Ag Alliance is a diverse coalition of more than 100 agricultural organizations advocating for U.S. farmers' access to the crop protection tools they need to ensure we have a robust and affordable domestic food supply. To learn more, visit MODERNAGALLIANCE.ORG

J.G. Boswell funds leading researcher Dr. Margaret Ellis as Plant Science Chair

The Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology is proud to announce the prestigious appointment of **Dr. Margaret Ellis** as the incoming **J.G. Boswell Endowed Chair in Plant Science at Fresno State**. Established through a generous \$1.2 million gift from the James G. Boswell Foundation in 2004, the position has created a vessel for groundbreaking research and transformed student experiences in plant science.

Dr. Ellis' passion for agriculture began in her hometown in Illinois, where she participated in a local 4-H program. With a biology degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, she began bridging her scientific background with her love of plants. She was introduced to the field of plant pathology when she started a position in a soybean pathology lab as an undergraduate student. Afterwards she completed her master's and Ph.D. programs in Plant Pathology at Michigan State University and The Ohio State University, respectively. Upon joining Fresno State, Dr. Ellis embraced a new path, shifting her focus from Fusarium diseases in soybean to cotton. That pivot allowed her to continue working in Fusarium research—an area she continues to specialize in today. One of her earliest collaborators was the J.G. Boswell Company, which supported her initial survey work and played a key role in launching her research in California. "The disease I study is very important to growers in California," Dr. Ellis explains. "Being named the J.G. Boswell Endowed Chair means a lot to me because it tells me the work I do matters. I love working one-on-one with students, and this position allows me to do even more of that." Dr. Ellis' impact resonates through her students, many of whom have gone on to pursue careers in research, university extension, and industry leadership. Several now work as technicians or farm managers within the University of California system and beyond. In her new role, Dr. Ellis will continue her work in cotton pathology, focusing on pathogen interactions – an area that desperately needs further exploration. For Dr. Ellis, the J.G. Boswell Endowed Chair in Plant Science empowers her to continue nurturing both of her passions: teaching and research. "I came to Fresno State because I wanted to teach. I love teaching and I love research. Getting this position is a happy marriage between both worlds." Congratulations to Dr. Maggie Ellis, and a huge shoutout to the J.G. Boswell Company for their contribution to the future of the cotton industry in California.

Zero-Emission Forklift Regulation – Authorization Update

On May 27, 2025, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued an [advisory](#) regarding the implementation of its Zero-Emission Forklift (ZEF) Regulation. The advisory clarifies that CARB has not yet sought authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under section 209(e)(2)(A) of the Clean Air Act. Consequently, CARB will not enforce the ZEF regulation against privately-owned or operated fleets, manufacturers, or dealerships until such authorization is granted or deemed unnecessary.

CARB is encouraging all manufacturers and fleets to voluntarily report and the adopt zero-emission forklifts. This advisory provides temporary relief from enforcement. However, the Asso-

ciation remains concerned about the long-term implications of the ZEF regulation. The transition to zero-emission forklifts poses significant challenges as our state has not addressed the state wide infrastructure constraints with converting to all electric. We will continue to monitor this regulation and will keep you updated.

Eight U.S. cotton industry members have been chosen to participate in the NCC's Emerging Leaders Program for 2025-26

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) Board Director **Kirk Teixeira** has been chosen as one of eight participants in the National Cotton Council's (NCC's) Emerging Leaders Program for 2025-26. Participants include: PRODUCERS – Branden Ahrens, Corpus Christi, TX; Bryce Howard, Dalhart, TX; **Kirk Teixeira, Fresno, CA**; GINNER – Craig Rohrbach, Farwell, TX; MERCHANT – Ashley Paddock, Olney, IL; WAREHOUSER – Matt Hennig, Amarillo, TX; COTTONSEED – Luke Flair, Elkhorn, NE, and MARKETING COOPERATIVE – Kaimi Whitaker, Lubbock, Texas.

Now in its tenth 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 8, 2025, 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 2026 Annual Meeting in February. The third session, to be conducted later in 2026 in Washington, DC, will provide a focus on policy implementation.