



The Cotton Chronicle

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July 2025

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Industry Calendar

USDA AMS—C&T
Webinar: Cotton
Price Reporting &
Data Access
July 15, 2025

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.

For additional information please contact:

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CDPR Issues Emergency Registration for Transform

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) has issued a Certificate of Emergency Registration for the use of Transform (active ingredient – sulfoxaflor) under limiting conditions to control lygus in eight counties including Imperial, Riverside, Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera and Merced. On May 16th of this year, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) submitted a

complete application for a Certificate of Emergency Registration for Transform due to the ongoing lygus pressure. After reviewing the application, DPR determined that an emergency pest control problem exists for which no feasible pest control method is available that is a reasonable alternative to the use of Transform CA for lygus on Cotton. CCGGA had applied for and received a Section 18 Emergency Registration for Transform in 2017 and 2018, but

then US EPA issued a full registration in 2020 negating our ability to use the product until CDPR issued its own full registration. That was held up in 2021 due to a lawsuit and then EPA was forced to conduct an endangered species review which further delayed the use of the product. In 2023, California faced its worst lygus pressure ever and yields were down more than 13.6% on average causing an estimated \$40 million in damage and lost yields. CCGGA has been working since 2020 to get this product back in the arsenal. While this is an emergency registration, it is hoped that Corteva will receive a full registration by the 2026 season.

Get a free soil test + \$100 from Soil Health Institute

Find out how healthy your soil is and how healthy it can become by taking part in a study by the Soil Health Institute and University of California Cooperative Extension. [SHI](#) will collect soil samples mid-September to mid-November from farms in the San Joaquin Valley. If selected, you will receive a soil health and carbon stock report – plus a \$100 check – following a farm visit and an interview about the fields we sample. Interested? Please contact Helen Boniface at hboniface@soilhealthinstitute.org or 919-504-2231.

Association Meets with CDFA and Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program

This week **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom and Assistant Vice President of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin** met with officials from the **California Department of Food and Agriculture** and **Patrick Burson, Chief Administrative Officer with the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation**. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the California Pink Bollworm Program and the minimum standards used for trapping pink bollworm and boll weevil. In the meeting the TBWEF made a presentation that discussed boll weevil numbers in Mexico and stressed the importance of having unified trapping techniques and minimum standards for the entire cotton belt. Representing CDFA

was **Michelle Dennis, Branch Chief, Integrated Pest Control, Plant Health Division; Canh Nguyen, Program Manager; and Roja Ramani Samudraia, Senior Environmental Scientist.**

Association Part of Coalition Opposing Changes to Heat Illness and Wildfire Standards

The Association participated in a coalition of 23 agricultural organizations opposing new staggered work schedules and lowering of the mandatory masking for only agricultural workers as proposed by Cal/OSHA. In a letter to the Cal/OSHA Standards Board, the coalition commented the staggered work schedule of 20% for day 1, 40% for day 2, 60% for day 3, 80% for day 4, etc. was not only unworkable, it would force employ-

ers to pay workers for time they did not work and to hire extra people to cover the time the original workers would not be allowed to work. The coalition also commented on the lowering of the mandatory mask wearing requirements from 500 AQI to 300 AQI for only agricultural workers. The proposed changes are a result of AB 2243, legislation that was passed in 2022. AB 2243 said CalOSHA must “consider” these changes but did not mandate the changes. The coalition included the African American Farmers of California, Agricultural Council of California, American Pistachio Growers, California Apple Commission, California Blueberry Commission, California Citrus Mutual, California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association, California Fresh Fruit Association, California Wild Rice Advisory Board, Farm Bureau of Ventura County, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Grower Shipper Association of Central California,

Merced County Farm Bureau, Milk Producers Council, Nisei Farmers League, Olive Grower Council of California, Olive Oil Commission of California, Raisin Bargaining Association, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Tulare County Farm Bureau, Ventura County Agricultural Association, Western Plant Health Association, and the Western Tree Nut Association.

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Association Tours Cotton Seed Bug Research Lab

The Association was asked to meet with USDA Ag Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) representatives at their Beltsville, MD facility. CCGGA **Assistant Vice President of**



Technical Services, Chris McGlothlin, and National Cotton Council's Vice President of Technical Services, Chad Brewer, attended the event on behalf of the cotton industry. There, USDA researchers made presentations on the work that is being done at the lab, identifying crucial pheromone research being conducted, working on potential control measures to keep the bugs out of commercial cotton production, as well as other related cotton seed bug research that is ongoing. Both Brewer and McGlothlin explained the importance of trap, lure and pheromone development to try and curb any further incursion of the Cotton Seed Bug to areas without cotton production.

After the discussion, attendees were then led to the research lab, where ongoing pheromone research is being conducted. With only an area of 93 square feet for a containment lab, **Dr. Aijun Zhang, Research Chemist with USDA-ARS** and his research assistants **Dr. Mohamed Ahmed, Dr. Saveer Ahmed, and Dr. Souvic Sarker,** maintain a colony of Cotton Seed Bugs, and conduct testing on attractants that could be used in future lures. Squeezing into the room 4 at a time, researchers showed the various equipment and tests examples that individual bugs are subject to in order to test efficacy. Dr. Aijun is hopeful that a patented lure will be available by the end of July, and can be paired with traps in areas where Seed Bug has been detected to keep them out of commercial cotton fields. Stay tuned for more updates.

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Takes Bold Steps to Address California's Water Crisis

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley, a coalition of farmers, water agencies, businesses, and community leaders including the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and the Western Tree Nut Association, has taken decisive action to support the implementation of President Trump's Executive Order 14181, aimed at restoring water supply reliability to California's San Joaquin Valley. Through letters sent to President Donald J. Trump, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, and California Governor Gavin Newsom, as well as a detailed memorandum outlining stakeholder priorities, the Blueprint is advocating for urgent federal and state action to address the region's worsening water crisis.

Letters to President Trump and Governor Newsom

On June 18, 2025, the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Val-

ley sent letters to President Trump, Secretary Burgum, and Governor Newsom, urging immediate and aggressive implementation of Executive Order 14181 to address California's water crisis. The letters emphasize the coalition's support for

the federal vision to increase water deliveries and modernize infrastructure, while calling for strong state-federal coordination to achieve measurable results.

The Blueprint's letters outline a shared goal of increasing available water supply by 9 million acre-feet per year (MAF/yr) by 2040, with near-term progress through regulatory reforms and infrastructure

development. The coalition urges the federal government to set this 9 MAF/yr goal as a benchmark, accelerate permitting for critical projects, and appoint experienced leaders to coordinate interagency efforts. Similarly, the letter to Governor Newsom calls for the state to adopt the 9 MAF/yr target, streamline permitting processes, and engage directly with federal agencies to reduce policy conflicts.

The Blueprint stresses that only through a robust state-federal partnership can California overcome longstanding regulatory and legal barriers to water reliability.

These actions are critical for San Joaquin Valley water users, as the region's agricultural economy and rural communities face devastating impacts from ongoing water shortages. By aligning state and federal efforts, the Blueprint aims to ensure a reliable water supply that supports California's most productive agricultural region and sustains its economy and population.

Blueprint Memo on Stakeholder Priorities

The Water Blueprint's memorandum, titled "Implementing Executive Order 14181 - Establishing Stakeholder Priorities for Federal Action and Leadership," provides a practical roadmap for achieving the 9 MAF/yr water supply increase by 2040. The memo identifies four key priorities for federal agencies to deliver immediate and long-term results:

- 1. Update CVP and SWP Operational Rules:** The memo calls for modernizing the operational criteria of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) to yield at least 1 MAF/yr in additional deliveries. This includes real-



time operational adjustments, rebalancing environmental flow objectives, and flexible reservoir management.

2. Eliminate Nonessential Regulatory Barriers:

The Blueprint advocates for revising flow constraints that exceed Endangered Species Act requirements, potentially restoring 300,000 acre-feet per year in system flexibility and deliveries.

3. Accelerate Permitting for Infrastructure Projects:

The memo prioritizes fast-tracking surface and groundwater storage, aquifer recharge, and conveyance upgrades, with a federal implementation schedule to be established by mid-2026.

4. Ensure Adequate Resources and Coordination:

Effective implementation requires dedicated staff, clear interagency coordination, and regular progress reporting to stakeholders.

The memo underscores the need for competent federal leadership with experience in CVP/SWP coordination and navigating state-federal regulatory conflicts to ensure the Executive Order's success.

These priorities are vital for San Joaquin Valley water users, who rely on a stable water supply to sustain agriculture, jobs, and community livelihoods. The proposed regulatory and infrastructure improvements will help address chronic supply shortfalls, ensuring the region can thrive economically and environmentally.

Why These Actions Matter

The San Joaquin Valley, a cornerstone of California's agricultural productivity, faces unprecedented challenges due to water shortages that threaten farmers, businesses, and rural communities. The Water Blueprint's actions—through this federal and state correspondence and memorandum—provide a clear, results-focused plan to restore water reliability. By advocating for a 9 MAF/yr increase in water supply, the coalition is addressing the scale of the crisis while pushing for immediate regulatory reforms and infrastructure investments. These efforts will

support the Valley's economy, preserve its agricultural heritage, and ensure a sustainable water future for Central and Southern California.

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley is committed to working with federal and state leaders to turn this once-in-a-generation opportunity into lasting progress. Copies of the letters and Stakeholder Priorities memo are available [here](#). The Association's **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez** sits on the Board of Directors for the Water Blueprint.

CCIRC Research Request for Proposal

The California Cotton Industry Research Committee, made up from the three principal funding groups for California cotton research, sends out a "Request for Proposal" each year to researchers and educators known to the cotton industry as having interests and involvement in research that could benefit the cotton industry in California. By combining the research funding efforts from these three groups into one, projects are funded through a more streamlined process and effective process. This research request is for 2025-2026 projects. The deadline for receipt of proposals at the address shown below is 5:00 PM (close of business day) on Monday, August 25, 2025. This is a firm deadline. No extensions will be granted due to the need to reproduce proposals, distribute them to the committee, and allow time for review prior to the Committee meeting. If you have any questions, reach out to priscilla@ccgga.org

Cotton & Tobacco (C&T) Webinar: Cotton Price Reporting and Data Access July 15th

USDA AMS - Cotton & Tobacco Program (C&T) is announcing a webinar that will introduce users of the Cotton Price Report series to exciting customizable enhancements and new features that will launch August 1, 2025. **The webinar will be held on July 15th at 2:00 PM CST.**

For a detailed overview, see the [Notice to Trade](#). **SAVE THE DATE! July 15, 2025 @ 2 PM CST**






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REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR

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Questions? Contact Veronica Williamson, Cotton Market News Reporter, at (843) 667-4381 or Veronica.Williamson@usda.gov.

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