



# The Cotton Chronicle

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

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## Industry Calendar

NCC Annual Meeting  
Feb. 9 - 12

CCGGA Board Meeting  
Mar. 5

Forklift Train-the-Trainer Workshops  
Mar. 10, 12, & 19

Machine Guarding Webinar  
Mar. 16

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## Newsletter Sponsored By: American Pima Seed

### Association Again Calls for State Funding for FARMER Program and Ag Burn Alternatives

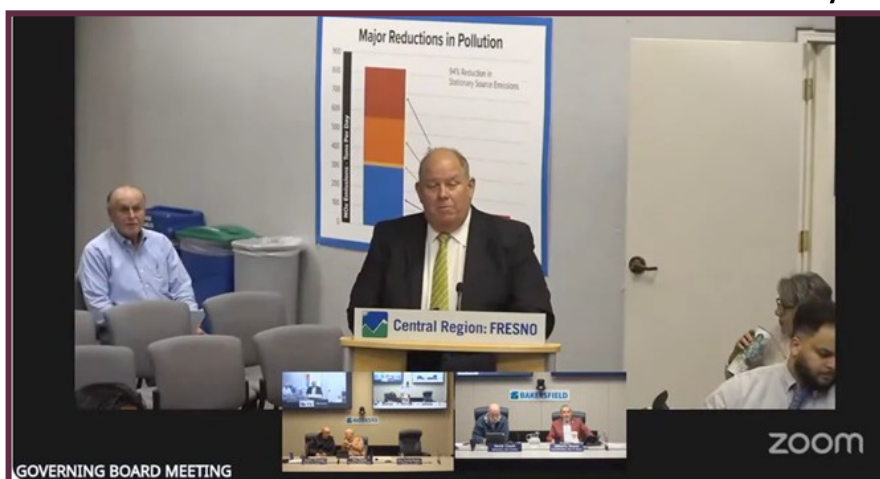
Last month, the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District held a discussion on their legislative platform at the state and federal levels. **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** took the opportunity to call for more funding of the State's program to replace older tractors and harvesters with the latest technology through incentives known as the **FARMER program** and the **Ag Burn Alternatives program** which provides significant incentives from grower to chip and incorporate their orchard waste. While acknowledging the state is facing significant budget challenges, Isom highlighted the cost effectiveness of these programs, the significant emissions benefits generated through these programs and the widespread support from both sides of the aisle in the state legislature. Isom commented "the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund has become the go to source for all projects, and the state only needs to fund those projects that get real emissions reductions. These are real programs and we all need to get to the Capitol and be the "squeaky wheel". Isom further commented that these two programs were a priority for the Association and their members .

### Another Milestone for Sites Reservoir

The Department of the Interior today approved the Record of Decision for the Sites Reservoir Project, a major off-stream storage project in Northern California. The decision authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to provide up to 25 percent of the total cost for the 1.5 million acre-foot off-stream reservoir, which will be located west of the Sacramento River near Maxwell. Designed to capture and store water during wet periods for use in dry years, the project will strengthen reliability for communities, agriculture and the environment across the state. The action reflects the Trump administration's priority to expand water supply, enhance system resilience and reduce regulatory delays through the direction established in [Executive Order 14181](#). The order has driven operational improvements that delivered more than 200,000 acre-feet of additional water to the Central Valley Project, enough to supply more than 500,000 people for a year by streamlining operations and capturing storm flows that historically could not be stored.

"President Trump made clear that federal water projects must deliver real results for American families," said **Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum**. "This

administration is getting it done in record time. The Sites Reservoir Project and the gains achieved over the past year demonstrate how a disciplined, mission-focused approach can expand water reliability for communities, agriculture and the economy." Sites Reservoir would further boost that supply. "Signing the Sites Reservoir Record of Decision represents a federal commitment to move a long-studied water storage project forward," said



**Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Andrea Travnicek.**

“This decision reflects years of analysis, public engagement and coordination, and establishes the foundation for construction through sound partnerships that will ultimately result in additional water supplies for California.”

**Association Promotes Vang To Full Time**

Longtime Association part time intern **Mandy Vang** has been promoted to full time as an Office Assistant. Mandy began working at the Association in January of 2023 while she was finishing her degree in Computer Information Systems at Fresno State. Now graduated, Mandy will expand upon her role as an intern and take on extra duties including handling all social media platforms and tackling portions of the Annual Meetings and events for both the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** and the **Western Tree Nut Association (WTNA)**.



ures that allowed these licenses to be issued are corrected. That did not happen and in response, FMCSA will withhold nearly \$160 million of funds from California.

**USDA Highlights Safety of US Produced Food**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently published the 2024 Pesticide Data Program (PDP) Annual Summary. The summary shows that more than 99 percent of the samples tested had pesticide residues below benchmark levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each year, USDA and EPA work together to identify foods to be tested on a rotating basis by the PDP. In 2024, tests were conducted on 9,872 samples from 19 commodities of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, nuts and fish. AMS partners with cooperating state agencies to collect and analyze pesticide residue levels on the selected food commodities. USDA tests a wide variety of domestic and imported foods, with a strong focus on foods that are consumed by infants and children. EPA relies on PDP data to conduct dietary risk assessments and to ensure that any pesticide residues in foods remain at or below levels that EPA has set. The data also provide regulators, farmers, processors, manufacturers, consumers and scientists with important insights into the actual levels of pesticide residues found on widely consumed foods.

**Feds Pull California Road Funding Over Truck Driver Issue**

U.S. Transportation Secretary **Sean P. Duffy** has announced that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is withholding approximately \$160 million from the State of California for failing to cancel over 17,000 illegally issued Commercial Driver’s Licenses (CDLs) by the agreed-upon deadline of January 5, 2026. The FMCSA issued a [Final Determination](#) after California refused to cancel the licenses on time, allowing foreign drivers with invalid licenses to continue operating on American roads. As part of the Secretary’s [Nationwide Non-Domiciled CDL Audit](#), FMCSA uncovered a systemic collapse of California’s non-domiciled CDL program, which allowed the state to illegally issue licenses with expiration dates extending years beyond a driver’s lawful presence and to grant CDLs to individuals who were ineligible to hold them. According to the Feds, more than 20,000 active non-domiciled CDLs were issued by California in violation of federal safety regulations. In [September](#) of last year, a nationwide audit of trucking licenses exposed more than 25% of non-domiciled CDLs issued by California were issued unlawfully – including with licenses extending as many as four years beyond the expiration date of their lawful presence documentation. In [November](#), California agreed to revoke every illegally issued license within 60 days and work with FMCSA so the agency could verify that the fail-

The annual pesticide residue results are reported to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and EPA in monthly reports as testing takes place throughout the year. FDA and EPA are immediately notified if a PDP test discovers residue levels that could pose a public safety concern. In 2024, over 99 percent of the samples tested had residues below the tolerances established by the EPA with 42.3 percent having no detectable residue. Appendixes B, C, and D provide a distribution of residues by pesticide and their metabolites for the commodities tested. Residues exceeding the tolerance were detected in 0.77 percent (76 samples) of the total samples tested (9,872 samples). Of these 76 samples, 12 were domestic (15.8 percent), 63 were imported (82.9 percent), and 1 was of unknown origin (1.3 percent). Residues with no established tolerance were found in 3.7 percent (361 samples) of the total samples tested (9,872 samples). Of these 361 samples, 118 were domestic (32.7 percent), 230 were imported (63.7 percent), and 13 were of unknown origin (3.6 percent). Fresh and processed fruit and vegetables accounted for 9,165 samples or 92.8 percent of the total 9,872 samples collected in 2024. Fresh and processed fruit and vegetables tested during 2024 were:

**In 2024, over 99 percent of the samples tested had residues below the tolerances established by the EPA with 42.3 percent having no detectable residue.**



## Pima Variety Lineup

APS 347RF PIMA

APS 356RF PIMA

APS 359RF PIMA

APS 351RF PIMA \*NEW\* (Limited)

APS 354RF PIMA \*NEW\* (Limited)

Central Valley Cotton Trial Corcoran, CA	
Variety	Lbs/Acre
APS 351RF PIMA	2,343
APS 356RF PIMA	2,216
PHY 859RF PIMA	2,197

North Valley Cotton Trial Firebaugh, CA	
Variety	Lbs/Acre
APS 356RF PIMA	1,835
APS 347RF PIMA	1,807
APS 351RF PIMA	1,721

Central Valley Cotton Trial Lemoore, CA	
Variety	Lbs/Acre
APS 347RF PIMA	2,105
APS 351RF PIMA	2,088
APS 356RF PIMA	1,976
PHY 861RF PIMA	1,955



APS 347RF PIMA is the Earliest Maturing and Highest Turnout Pima on the Market

APS 347RF PIMA was planted on 98% of Arizona Pima Cotton Acres in 2025

APS 359RF PIMA was the #1 Pima variety sold in New Mexico and Texas in 2025

\*Data is based on historical observations and experience and not a guarantee of performance

apples, avocados, blackberries (fresh and frozen), cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, head lettuce, leaf lettuce, onions, oranges, pineapples (fresh and frozen), potatoes, canned pumpkin, sweet corn (fresh and frozen), and tomatillos. Almonds accounted for 531 samples, or 5.4 percent of the total number of samples collected in 2024. Salmon accounted for 176 samples, or 1.8 percent of the total number of samples collected in 2024. Domestic samples accounted for 60.1 percent of all samples, while 38.9 percent were imports, 0.9 percent were of unknown origin, and less than 0.1 percent were of mixed national origin.

### **Fresno State Recognizes J.G. Boswell Foundation for Endowment Contribution**

Last month, California State University Fresno leadership met at the Jordan Agricultural Research Center to recognize and thank the James G. Boswell Foundation for its generous contribution to the AgOne Foundation and the Jordan College of Agriculture. The endowment will help to support students within the Jordan College of Agriculture at Fresno State. Additionally, Fresno State has decided to name a research unit within the Jordan Agricultural Research Center as the *J.G. Boswell Plant Pathology Laboratory*. The J.G. Boswell Company has long-held ties with Fresno State, establishing the J.G. Boswell Foundation through a prior donation to the University, which established the Chair of Plant Pathology at the University. **Dr. Margaret Ellis**, current Chair, has conducted critical research on fusarium in cotton at Fresno State over the past couple of years.

**Senior Director of Development of the Jordan College of Agriculture, and AgOne Executive Director, Shannon Fast-Birkner**, kicked off the celebration by welcoming attendees, and emphasized how thankful the University is for industry contributions such as this. **CSU Fresno President Dr. Saul Jimenez-Sandoval** noted that the endowment would ensure that critical research to the agricultural industry would be fostered in the heart of the agricultural valley. **Jordan College of Agriculture Dean Rolston St. Hilaire** noted that, “This fund will work in perpetuity with



the university to help foster innovation and research at the university for years to come.” **Dr. Margaret Ellis**, thanked the J.G. Boswell Company for their continued support on funding plant pathology research at the University. Speaking on behalf of the J.G. Boswell Company was **CCGGA Board Member Jim Razor**, who praised Fresno State for their continued support of the agricultural industry. **Cameron Boswell** wrapped up the comments by thanking Fresno State, and AgOne, for their continued support of the future leaders within the industry. Contributions like this make a significant impact on the Fresno State’s ability to help solve industry issues, and raise the bar for the future generations here in the Valley.

### **Association Highlight Value of California Agricultural Leadership Program as Applications Open for Class 56**

Applications are now open for Class 56 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program (CALP), a premier leadership development experience for mid-career professionals shaping the future of California agriculture. Led by the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation (CALF), the program has developed more than 1,500 leaders over the past five decades, many of whom now serve in influential roles across agriculture, business, government, and their communities. Our Association is proud to count **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez** (Class 50) and **Assistant Vice President of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin** (Class 52) among Ag Leadership alumni. Both credit the intensive 18-month program with strengthening their leadership skills and expanding their impact within the agricultural industry and beyond. Association member **Jake Barcellos** (Class 54), a fourth-generation farmer with A-Bar Ag Enterprises, described the program as transformational: “Ag Leadership pushed me to look inward and grow not just as a better farmer, but as a more intentional leader grounded in purpose. It shaped how I show up for my community and my family.”

Rodriguez emphasized the broader ripple effect of the experience: “The skills I gained—especially in communication, emotional intelligence, and critical thinking—have strengthened not only my professional effectiveness, but also how I support colleagues, members, and my community.”

McGlothlin highlighted the program’s lasting influence: “The California Agricultural Leadership Program transformed and emboldened me beyond just my professional capabilities. I have used lessons from board rooms to the family dinner table, and I credit CALF with helping me develop the skills necessary to be a leader in agriculture today.”

The highly selective program includes leadership development, individualized coaching, and national and international travel seminars designed to broaden perspective and prepare fellows to lead in a complex, evolving industry. The Associa-

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tion strongly encourages members and industry professionals seeking to grow as leaders to apply.

Phase one applications for Class 56 are due March 27, 2026. More information is available at [www.agleaders.org/class56apply](http://www.agleaders.org/class56apply).

## 2026 Regional Training Workshops

Our first regional training will be held in Tulare on March 10th! This year, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, The Zenith, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Nisei Farmers League, California Fresh Fruit Association, California Citrus Mutual, InterWest Insurance Services, CopperPoint Insurance Companies, African American Farmers of California, and the Western Tree Nut Association** are partnering to provide Forklift Safety Train-the-Trainer workshops.

As an update to our previous flyer news, the Forklift Train-the-Trainer workshops will be held in the following locations: **Fresno, Tulare, Wasco, Le Grand, Turlock, and two additional locations in Dunnigan and Chico.**

These workshops are designed for **owners, managers, supervisors, safety personnel, and individuals responsible for employee training.** Each participant will receive a comprehensive binder with the materials needed to understand applicable rules and regulations and to conduct effective forklift safety training. Attendees who complete the full class will also receive a **certificate of completion.**

In addition to the in-person workshops, the Association will host **Machine Guarding, Confined Spaces, and Respiratory Protection webinars** later this spring.

### Training Cost:

- \$65 per person (members)
- \$85 per person (non-members)

For registration details and additional information about the workshops and webinars, please refer to the event flyer.

## Association Comments on Proposed Cal/OSHA First Aid Kit Updates

The Association recently submitted comments to Cal/OSHA on proposed updates to first aid kit requirements in Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. While the proposal aims to modernize existing rules and improve alignment with national standards, the Association emphasized the need for flexibility to reflect the realities of agricultural operations.

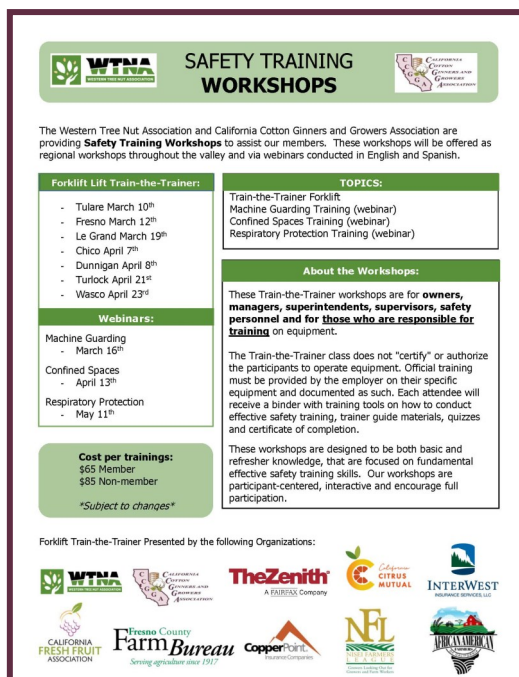
The Association supports allowing first aid kits to meet nationally recognized standards, such as ANSI/ISEA Z308.1, which would provide greater flexibility and consistency for employers.

The Association also supports requirements to assess workplace hazards and supplement kits as needed, as well as provisions requiring kits to be clearly marked and readily accessible.

The Association raised concerns that rigid time-based access standards are not workable for large, remote, and dispersed agricultural worksites. The Association urged Cal/OSHA to clarify that first aid kits must be located as close as practicable and to explicitly recognize mobile and vehicle-mounted kits as compliant.

The Association also requested clarification regarding potentially conflicting language on antiseptics and antibiotics and encouraged Cal/OSHA to provide clearer guidance and examples for hazard-based additions to avoid subjective enforcement.

The Association will continue engaging with Cal/OSHA to ensure final regulations protect workers while remaining practical and achievable for agricultural operations.




**WTNA SAFETY TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

The Western Tree Nut Association and California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association are providing **Safety Training Workshops** to assist our members. These workshops will be offered as regional workshops throughout the valley and via webinars conducted in English and Spanish.

<b>Forklift Lift Train-the-Trainer:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tulare March 10<sup>th</sup></li> <li>- Fresno March 12<sup>th</sup></li> <li>- Le Grand March 19<sup>th</sup></li> <li>- Chico April 7<sup>th</sup></li> <li>- Dunnigan April 8<sup>th</sup></li> <li>- Turlock April 21<sup>st</sup></li> <li>- Wasco April 23<sup>rd</sup></li> </ul>	<b>TOPICS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train-the-Trainer Forklift</li> <li>Machine Guarding Training (webinar)</li> <li>Confined Spaces Training (webinar)</li> <li>Respiratory Protection Training (webinar)</li> </ul>
<b>Webinars:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machine Guarding - March 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Confined Spaces - April 13<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Respiratory Protection - May 11<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	<b>About the Workshops:</b> <p>These Train-the-Trainer workshops are for <b>owners, managers, superintendents, supervisors, safety personnel and for those who are responsible for training</b> on equipment.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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

Forklift Train-the-Trainer Presented by the following Organizations:




**CALIFORNIA COTTON GINNERS & GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2026 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**MAY 20, 2026**  
**TULARE, CA**

**REGISTRATION TO OPEN SOON!**

INTERNATIONAL AGRI-CENTER HERITAGE COMPLEX