



The Cotton Chronicle

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April 2026

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Industry Calendar

Confined Space
Webinar
Apr. 13

Ginner School &
Managerial Seminar
Apr. 14

Employee Harassment
Prevention
Webinar
Apr. 15

Forklift Train-the-
Trainer Workshops
Apr. 21 & 23

CCGGA & SUPIMA &
WCSA Annual
Meeting
May 20

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Association Continues Pressure for FARMER Tractor Replacement Funding

At a press conference held last month at Bruno's Recycling in Fresno to celebrate the success of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program, Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom spoke on the immediate need to get the FARMER program funded again. Isom commented that agriculture is different from any other industrial sector stating "We cannot pass along this cost! Our prices have remained the same for more than 20 years." At the same time, Isom reminded the crowd that this isn't a freebie. "While the state has put \$762 million into FARMER, farmers themselves have contributed \$603 million of their own!" Isom stated. Isom finished his comments by urging the state to "fund FARMER now!". Other speakers included Assemblywoman Esmeralda So-ria, CARB Chairwoman Lauren Sanchez, CARB and

SJVAPCD Board Member Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner, SJVAPCD Air Pollution Control Officer Samir Sheikh and farmers Diane Laub, and David Frea. The press conference ended with several old tractors being crushed. The event also culminated 3 days of tours and meetings with SJVAPCD and CARB personnel of local farms, packing houses and processors. Representing the Association on the tour was Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez and WTNA grower member Agriworld Cooperative, who was one of the sites visited. The tour was organized by the Nisei Farmers League, as was the press conference.

U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol Grower Enrollment for 2026 Open

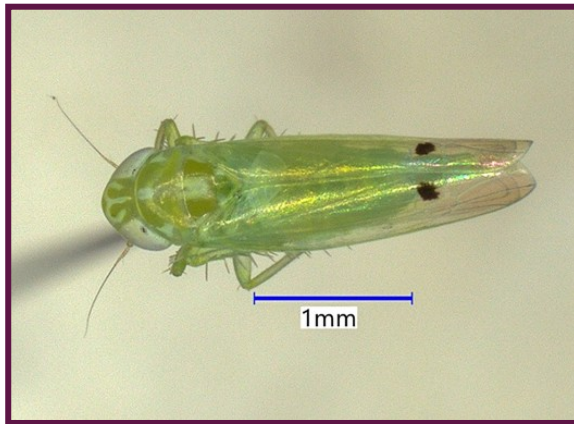
Enrollment is open for the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol 2026 crop year, expanding opportunities for growers to demonstrate responsible production with measurable data. New this year, the Field Partner Program allows enrolled growers to evidence regenerative farming practices. Grower Enrollment Specialists are available to provide personalized, regional support. Email info@TrustUSCotton.org to connect with your region's specialist and begin the enrollment process or visit TrustUSCotton.org.

California Establishes Emergency External Quarantine for Cotton Jassid

The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) has approved a California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) emergency external quarantine for cotton jassid (Two Spotted Leaf Hopper) that prohibits the shipment of plants or materials from cotton jassid infested areas into California effective immediately. Cotton jassid is a pest with reported hosts in at least six plant families including cotton, grapevine, tomato, okra, eggplant, sunflower, and hibiscus. It has recently become established in the Southeast-



ern United States and was intercepted in October of 2025 in California of a shipment of hibiscus from Alabama. Cotton jassid is native to Asia, and the first detection in the US was in Florida in 2024. It has spread quickly and is now found in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. It is believed to be spread by the movement of hibiscus, as it was detected in a shipment of hibiscus from Florida to Texas, and now in a shipment of hibiscus from Alabama to California. CDFA believes the cotton jassid to pose significant economic and environmental harm if it were to become established in California and is why they are establishing the emergency external quarantine. CDFA has assigned the cotton jassid an “A” pest rating, which places the pest in the highest risk regulatory category. Cotton jassid has piercing sucking mouthparts and feeds on phloem from host plants. It is believed to inject toxins during feeding causing “hopper burn” and the browning and curling of leaves, defoliation and the loss of flowers, fruits, and bolls, and sooty mold. Damage in cotton has been known to progress from minor to severe in less than two weeks. Of particular concern to California cotton growers is the fact that two of the recommended pesticides, neonicotinoids and Dicrotophos (Bidrin), are prohibited in California. However, flonicamid (Carbine) has been shown to be effective. The goal of the emergency quarantine is to prevent cotton jassid from ever becoming established here. The Association pushed for the emergency quarantine, and is working closely with CDFA, USDA and the **National Cotton Council** to fight the further spread of this devastating pest. The Association is also working with the **California Plant Council** as we believe that the movement of hibiscus could also be helping to spread the cotton seed bug (CSB) based on the most recent finds of CSB on hibiscus in nurseries in San Diego.



modernize aging infrastructure and support the farmers, communities and industries that depend on reliable water supplies. By helping ensure strong agricultural production and efficient water delivery, this investment also supports more stable and affordable food prices for American families.” California projects will receive \$540 million of the total funding to support improvements to major water conveyance systems and storage projects that serve farms, communities and businesses throughout the Central Valley. Specifically:

- **The Delta-Mendota Canal will receive \$235 million, the largest allocation from the legislation. Funding will support rehabilitation of the upper canal, including raising canal embankments, repairing check structures and advancing potential construction of a new concrete-lined canal segment.**
- **The Friant-Kern Canal will receive \$200 million for subsidence correction efforts along the canal.**
- **The San Luis Canal will receive \$50 million to address subsidence issues affecting water delivery reliability.**
- **The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority pumping plant will receive \$15 million to increase flow rates and improve system performance.**
- **An additional \$40 million will support planning and preconstruction activities associated with raising Shasta Dam, which will increase water storage capacity by approximately 634,000 acre-feet.**

These investments complement the Trump administration’s priority to expand water supply and strengthen drought resilience under Executive Order 14181. Combined with favorable hydrologic conditions, this effort has enabled the Bureau of Reclamation to deliver more than 200,000 acre-feet of additional water to the Central Valley Project by streamlining operations and capturing storm flows that historically could not be stored.

Bureau Increases CVP Allocations...Slightly

The Bureau of Reclamation is updating Central Valley Project water supply allocations to reflect current reservoir storage, snowpack, and runoff forecasts. These adjustments are intended to provide water users with improved certainty while maintaining flexibility as conditions evolve. Initial allocations for the 2026 water year were [announced](#) Feb. 25 and are updated today. “Hydrologic conditions this year have required careful, real-time management of our water resources,” said **Acting Regional Director Adam Nickels**. “These modest increases reflect both the improvements from late February storms and the need to remain cautious as we move through the remainder of the water year, especially given the current extended dry period and state of the Sierra snowpack. Our priority re-

Interior Announces \$889 Million Investment in Western Water Infrastructure

The **Department of the Interior** has announced \$889 million in investments for critical water infrastructure projects across the West with \$540 million designated for California, made possible by **President Donald J. Trump’s** One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The funding will support Bureau of Reclamation projects in California, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming that improve water conveyance, expand storage and modernize infrastructure that supports American communities and agriculture. **Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum** said “These investments strengthen our nation’s water security,

mains delivering reliable water supplies while protecting the long-term sustainability of the system.” Reclamation continues to optimize operations across the Central Valley Project to balance water supply deliveries, environmental requirements, and reservoir management. Operational improvements supported by [Executive Order 14181](#) have also enhanced Reclamation’s ability to efficiently manage and deliver available water supplies under these conditions. Based on current hydrology and updated forecasts, Reclamation is announcing the following changes to CVP water supply allocations:

In-Delta Contractors

- Cross Valley irrigation water service and repayment contractors are increased from 15% to 20% of their contract total. In-Delta Municipal and Industrial contractors remain at 100%, as announced February 25.

South-of-Delta Contractors

- Irrigation water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta are increased from 15% to 20% of their contract total.
- Municipal and Industrial water service and repayment contractors south-of-Delta allocations are increased from 65% to 70% of their historic use, or public health and safety needs, whichever is greater.

An additional 222,000 acre-feet (around an additional 10%) of water that was previously rescheduled by south-of-Delta contractors is also available for use this water year. Further, Reclamation continues to manage a portion of storage—about 94,000 acre-feet of water—in San Luis Reservoir as part of its drought reserve strategy, which is not included in current year allocation determinations. All other allocation amounts announced on Feb. 25 remain unchanged.

Registration is Now Open! CCGGA, Supima, and WCSA 2026 Annual Meeting

It’s time for the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association’s (CCGGA) 2026 Annual Meeting!** Following the success of last year’s meeting, **Supima and Western Cotton Shippers Association (WCSA)** will join CCGGA to bring together growers, ginners, and industry leaders for a day of valuable industry updates and discussions. **The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20th at the International Agri-Center in Tulare, California.** Please visit <https://ccgga.org/> for the registration form. You can email the completed form to Michelle Fran-

co at 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 below. **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.

Registration Open for 2026 Ginner Schools

Certified ginners, gin managers and superintendents are urged to register for one of the 2026 Ginner Schools. School locations and dates are: Southwest Ginners School at the South Plains Ginning Laboratory in Lubbock, TX, on April 6-8; Western Ginners School at the Southwest Ginning Research Laboratory, Mesilla Park, NM, on May 5-7; and the Stoneville School at the USDA Ginning Laboratory in Stoneville, MS, on June 6-8.

The banner features logos for CCGGA (California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association), SUPIMA (World's Finest Cottons), and WCSA (Western Cotton Shippers Association). The main text reads: "2026 CCGGA & SUPIMA & WCSA ANNUAL MEETING". Below this, it states: "This year's annual meeting will be held in conjunction with Supima and Western Cotton Shippers Association on Wednesday, May 20th at the International Agri-Center in Tulare." The meeting details are: "20th MAY 7: 30 AM" at the "International Agri-Center, 4500 S. Laspina, Tulare, CA 93274". A large call to action says "Registration is now open!". At the bottom, it says "*MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND*" and provides contact information: "Please complete and email registration form to michelle@ccgga.org or reach us at (559) 252-0684." The background of the banner shows a close-up of cotton bolls.

CDPR Proposing to Double Air Monitoring Network for Pesticides

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has announced plans to expand its statewide Air Monitoring Network (AMN). DPR released a proposal detailing plans to expand from five to ten long-term air monitoring stations and add a new mobile platform to better assess pesticide concentrations in agricultural communities. The department is holding a 60-day public comment period to seek input on proposed locations for new air monitoring stations and will host a virtual public workshop on April 14 to discuss the proposal. DPR’s Air Monitoring Program was initiated in 2011 and currently collects and analyzes data in Merced, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Kern, and Monterey Counties. The 2024–25 State Budget provides permanent funding to DPR to expand ambient air monitoring to a total of ten stations. DPR used an updated, data-driven prioritization process to identify five counties – Tulare, Stanislaus, Imperial, Siskiyou, and San Joaquin – as leading candidates for four new AMN stations. To reach a total of ten full air monitoring sites, DPR’s expansion plan builds on five existing AMN stations to include:

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- Conversion of an existing site providing limited pesticide sampling to a full monitoring station in Fresno County
- Up to four (4) new AMN stations in prioritized counties
- New mobile monitoring station to add capacity for additional studies

CDPR plans to accept comments until May 11th. The Association will be reviewing the proposed plan and submitting comments.

2026 Regional Training Workshops Series Underway

The Association's 2026 Regional Forklift Train-the-Trainer workshop series is underway, with successful trainings already completed in **Fresno and Tulare** earlier last month. 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 have partnered to provide bilingual (English and Spanish) **Forklift Safety Train-the-Trainer workshops** through the region. Upcoming workshop locations include **Turlock and Wasco**.

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**. Earlier this spring, the Association also hosted **Machine Guarding webinar**, with additional **Confined Spaces and Respiratory Protection webinars** planned later this season.

Training Cost:

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

For registration details and additional information about the

workshops and webinars, please refer to the event flyer or visit <https://www.wtna.org/>.

Reminder – Register for Ginner’s School & Managerial Seminar!

Just a reminder to our Ginner members to get your signups in for the Ginner's School & Managerial Seminar being held on April 14th out in Corcoran. This year, gin employees will be able to hear trainings on Hazard Communication, Fall Protection, and Lock Out Tag Out, as well as compete in the **Annual Safety Contest**. Managers will hear hot topics in Labor Law,

Safety & Regulatory updates, and Workers Comp changes. We are also looking for sponsors for our annual event. If you are interested in sponsoring our event, or signing up your employees to attend, please reach out to either Mandy Vang at mandy@ccgga.org, Chris McGlothlin at chris@ccgga.org, or our office at (559) 252-0684.


Association to Host Employee Harassment Prevention Webinar

The Western Tree Nut Association (WTNA) and California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA), in partnership with AgSafe, will offer a one-hour Harassment Prevention Training for nonsupervisory employees via live webinar on Wednesday, April 15. Each webinar will be offered in two sessions:


- Spanish: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- English: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The cost to attend is \$35 per participant. Participants will receive a certificate of completion following the training. This training satisfies California's mandatory harassment prevention requirements for nonsupervisory employees and provides practical guidance on maintaining a respectful and compliant workplace. Under California law, employers with five or more employees must provide harassment prevention training to all employees. Nonsupervisory employees are required to complete at least one hour of training, while supervisors must complete a separate two-hour course.

To register, please email michelle@wtna.org or contact our office at (559) 455-9272 for additional information. We encourage members to take advantage of this convenient webinar format to ensure compliance.



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.

Forklift Lift Train-the-Trainer:	TOPICS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tulare March 10th - Fresno March 12th - Le Grand March 19th - Chico April 7th - Dunnington April 8th - Turlock April 21st - Wasco April 23rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train-the-Trainer Forklift Machine Guarding Training (webinar) Confined Spaces Training (webinar) Respiratory Protection Training (webinar)
<p>Webinars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Machine Guarding - March 16th Confined Spaces - April 13th Respiratory Protection - May 11th 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">About the Workshops:</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">These Train-the-Trainer workshops are for owners, managers, superintendents, supervisors, safety personnel and for those who are responsible for training on equipment.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">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 style="font-size: x-small;">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>
<p>Cost per trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$65 Member \$85 Non-member <p style="font-size: x-small;">*Subject to changes*</p>	

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

