



The Cotton Chronicle

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May 2026

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Industry Calendar

Respiratory
Protection Webinar
May 11

CCGGA & SUPIMA &
WCSA Annual
Meeting
May 20

CCGGA Board
Meeting
June 4

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Association Hosts Annual Ginners School & Managerial Seminar

Last month, CCGGA hosted the 2026 Ginners School & Managerial Seminar at the J.G. Boswell Company's Gin #5 out in Corcoran. Ginning employees were able to hear presentations on Lock Out Tag Out, Hazard Communication, and Fall Protection. Gin employees put their safety knowledge to the test, competing in the Annual Safety Contest Quiz. This year's test was tightly contested, but ultimately **Christian Hernandez of Pacific Ginning** taking home the top prize. Managers were able to hear updates from the Association's President/CEO **Roger Isom** on *2026 Legislative/Regulatory Updates*, **Dennis Gallagher of Fisher Phillips** on *2026 Updates in Labor Law* and from **Zenith Agribusiness Solution's Darren Brown** on *Workers Comp and Insurance Updates*. The Association would like to thank the sponsors for this year's event: **L.P. Brown Company, R&C Supply, Robinson's Sheet Metal, Samuel Packaging Systems**. Additionally, the Association would like to thank the staff at J.G. Boswell for their help in setting up the event, and even providing Juan Velazco from the Safety Department to provide the Fall Protection training. Lastly, CCGGA would like to thank Western Tree Nut Employees **Rita Ruiz** and **Esmeralda Miranda** for stepping up to provide the

necessary training to all of the ginner employees. We couldn't have done it without everyone's help and support. The Association hopes for an efficient and safe 2026 ginning season.

DWR Snow Survey Comes Up Empty

The **Department of Water Resources (DWR)** conducted the critical April snow survey at Phillips Station this past week and found no measurable snow, a stark indicator of how record hot March temperatures and high elevation rain have erased the Sierra Nevada snowpack months ahead of schedule. The combination of warm storms and unusually hot temperatures rapidly melted what remained of this year's already sparse snowpack. Statewide, the snowpack is now just 18 percent of average for this date, according to the automated snow sensor network. These results are the second lowest April measurement on record for Phillips Station, largely because there was still some visible snow on the ground. The April measurement is a critical marker for water managers across the state, as it is typically when the snowpack reaches its maximum volume and begins to melt. However, this year's extremely hot and dry conditions throughout the month of March, along with a warm atmospheric river system in late February, initiated snowmelt several weeks

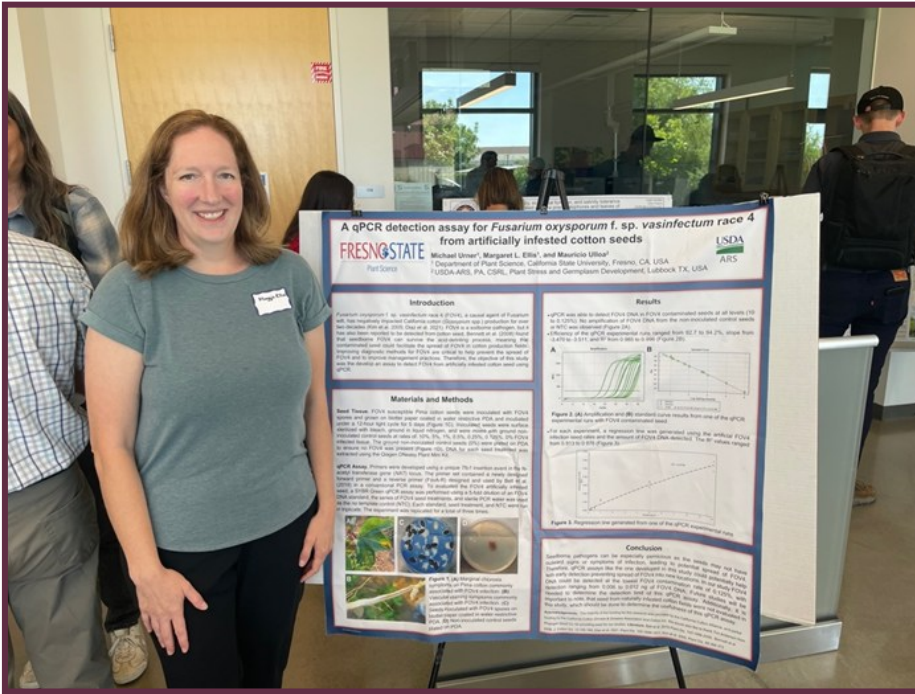
ahead of schedule. According to automated sensors across the Sierra Nevada, this year's statewide snowpack likely reached its peak on or near February 24. Although some additional snow has fallen since, it is not likely to make up for the rapid snowmelt and hot, dry March. In the Northern Sierra Nevada, where the state's largest water supply reservoirs are located, the snowpack is just 6 percent of average.



Research on Cotton Featured at Fresno State Research Showcase

The **Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (JCAST)** held the **5th Annual Research Showcase** at the **Jordan Agricultural Research Center at Fresno State** last month. Twenty four research project were highlighted at the event which kicked off “Research Week” at Fresno State. **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom and Assistant Vice President of Technical Services Christopher McGlithlin** attended the event. One of the featured research projects was the work by **Dr. Maggie Ellis** on fusarium Race IV on cotton. Specifically, the objective of this work is to develop an assay to detect FOV 4

secure this registration. CCGGA first obtain Section 18 emergency registrations in 2017, 2018 and 2019. It was denied in 2020 when EPA issued their full registration, but California was still not finished with their evaluation and then embroiled in a lawsuit regarding the product. In 2025, CCGGA received the first of its kind emergency registration using a never before used process that allows for a one time limited registration if the situation dictates it. In certain years, lygus can be overwhelming in cotton, such as 2017 where some growers suffered major crop damage or 2024 where some growers endured complete crop loss. No longer. Now the industry has a valuable tool to help combat this destructive pest.



using qPCR. This is extremely critical work for the cotton industry, which has been devastated by the spread of FOV 4 in key cotton growing areas in the San Joaquin Valley. Acknowledged at the event were **Cotton Incorporated, California Cotton Alliance and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association** all of whom have funded various aspects of this ongoing critical research. Isom noted “This is a great opportunity to see what is happening at Fresno State in terms of practical and applied research. The Association would like to acknowledge the University for hosting this event and for highlighting these important research projects happening right here in our own back yard!”

CDPR Issues Full Registration for Transform (sulfoxaflor)

After nine long years, the **California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR)** has issued a full registration for Transform (sulfoxaflor) for the control of cotton aphids, flea hoppers, lygus, whiteflies, stink bugs and thrips on cotton. The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** has spent a considerable amount of time, money and effort to help

CDPR Names Members to Two New Committees

The **California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)** has announced the appointment of 12 members to its inaugural **Scientific Prioritization and Review Committee (SPARC)** and 18 members to the **Sustainable Pest Management Advisory Committee (SPMAC)**. “DPR is thrilled to onboard such a remarkable group of committee members to support our work to continuously evaluate and mitigate pesticides and to effectively foster sustainable pest management approaches across the state,” said **DPR Director Karen Morrison**. “The breadth of expertise represented – from scientific and academic fields to public health, agriculture, community and environmental protection – will enhance DPR’s ongoing commitment to making decisions that are informed, inclusive, and grounded in the best available information to protect California’s people and environment.” Both committees will host meetings that will be open to the public, with dates and information posted on DPR’s website in advance.

SPARC Members (in alphabetical order):

1. **Kari Arnold, Ph.D.** — *Associate Director, IR-4 Western Region/UC Davis* (SPARC expertise: Agricultural Academic Extension)
2. **Asa Bradman, Ph.D.** — *Professor for Public Health Department and Environmental Systems Graduate Group, UC Merced* (SPARC expertise: Public Health, Environmental, and Urban Practitioner)
3. **Staci Cibotti, Ph.D.** — *Pesticide Program Specialist (Western Agriculture), The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation* (SPARC expertise: Environmental and Ecotoxicology)
4. **Chris Geiger, Ph.D.** — *President, Lacewing Collaborations LLC, and part time at San Francisco Environment Department (former Citywide IPM Program Manager)* (SPARC expertise: Urban Practitioner)
5. **Beau Howard** — *District Manager, JG Boswell Company* (SPARC expertise: Agricultural Practitioner)
6. **Olukayode Jegede, Ph.D.** — *Assistant Professor of Coopera-*

tive Extension for Agricultural Toxicology (SPARC expertise: Ecotoxicology, Environmental, and Human Health Toxicology)

7. **Chow-Yang Lee, Ph.D.** — *Professor and Endowed Presidential Chair in Urban Entomology, UC Riverside* (SPARC expertise: Urban Academic Extension)
8. **Kelly Moran, Ph.D.** — *Senior Scientist, San Francisco Estuary Institute* (SPARC expertise: Public Drinking Water Utilities, Wastewater Utilities, Environmental, and Ecotoxicology)
9. **Sasch Nicklisch, Ph.D.** — *Assistant Professor of Environmental Toxicology and Assistant Environmental Chemist in the Agricultural Experiment Station at UC Davis* (SPARC expertise: Ecotoxicology, Environmental, and Human Health Toxicology)
10. **Jhalendra Rijal, Ph.D.** — *Integrated Pest Management Advisor, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources/Cooperative Extension* (SPARC expertise: Agricultural Academic Extension)
11. **Hillary Q. Thomas-Sanchez, Ph.D.** — *Research & Technical Director, Naturipe Berry Growers, Inc.* (SPARC expertise: Agricultural Practitioner and Agricultural Academic Extension)
12. **Jess Tyler** — *Staff Scientist, Center for Biological Diversity* (SPARC expertise: Environmental)

SPMAC Members:


1. **CDFA seat: Kevi Mace, Ph.D.** is a Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).
2. **UC ANR seat: Jim Farrar, Ph.D.** is the Director of the University of California Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM).
3. **Jo Ann Baumgartner** is Executive Director of Wild Farm Alliance, a national nonprofit advancing biodiversity conservation on farms to support sustainable pest management and resilient agricultural systems.
4. **Lena Brook** is Deputy Director at Fullwell, a San Francisco Bay Area-based policy advocacy organization where she leads campaigns to expand values-aligned food procurement at public institutions and strengthen the food assistance safety net.
5. **Jennifer Clarke** is the Executive Director of the California Leafy Greens Research Board.
6. **Laura Krueger** is a Board Certified Entomologist specializing in urban pest management and mosquito and vector control operations.
7. **Michael Mellano, Ph.D.** is a third generation cut flower farmer and former CEO, Chairman of the Board, and Vice President of Production for Mellano & Company.

8. **Cuong “Jimmy” Nguyen, Ph.D.** is a food scientist and UC Agricultural and Natural Resources (UC ANR) Advisor specializing in sustainable pest management, food safety, and organic production.
9. **Mahmood Nikbakhtzadeh, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Science and Program Coordinator at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB).
10. **Daniel Palla** is an organic pistachio farmer. His family has farmed in Kern County since 1913.
11. **Renee Pinel** is the President/CEO of Western Plant Health Association (WPH) and brings 35 years of experience and holistic knowledge in pest management, plant and soil health, and human and environmental health related issues.
12. **David Poplin** serves as CEO of CDS Services Inc. dba Legion Pest Management, overseeing more than 69 federal government contracts
13. **Margaret Reeves** is a senior scientist at Pesticide Action Network (PAN) (now Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network).
14. **Maggie Rodriguez** currently serves as Director of Global Regulatory and Government Affairs for Pro Farm Group, based in Davis, California.
15. **Jason Saling** is a veteran viticulturist with more than 30 years’ experience in California winegrowing. Jason currently serves as Viticulturist at Aperture Cellars.
16. **Mayra Sanchez, Ph.D.** is the Associate Director of Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR).
17. **Paul R. Squires** has been a licensed pest control adviser for 32 years, now living in Yuba City.
18. **Andrew Sutherland, Ph.D.** is an extension entomologist employed as the University of California’s Urban Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area.


Upcoming Training: Respiratory Protection Webinar – May 11

The final training opportunity in this year’s safety training series is the **Respiratory Protection webinar, scheduled for May 11**. This webinar will cover key requirements for developing and maintaining a compliant respiratory protection program. This training is ideal for employers and safety personnel responsible for ensuring worker protection and compliance with Cal/OSHA requirements.

The trainings were designed for owners, managers, supervisors, safety personnel, and individuals responsible for employee training. Each participant received a comprehensive binder with the materials needed to understand applicable rules and regulations. Attendees who completed the webinar will receive a certificate of completion.






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 - Durnington 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)
About the Workshops:	
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 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.	
Cost per trainings: \$65 Member \$85 Non-member *Subject to changes*	

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



Training Cost:

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

For registration details and additional information about the webinar, please refer to the event flyer or visit <https://www.ccgga.org/>.

AB 1603 – Here Comes Another Unwarranted Attack on Pesticides

AB 1603 (Schulz) has been introduced to the State Legislature and would require pesticides containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to be deemed “restricted materials beginning in July 2028 and then prohibit the application of these pesticides beginning in 2030. What is most troubling here is the premise of the bill, that somehow use of these pesticides is exposing farmers, farmworkers and the general population to unmitigated contamination from PFAS. This is simply not true. Before any active ingredient can be registered, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) conducts extensive evaluations of human health, environmental fate, and ecological risk. In California, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (Cal DPR) applies an additional layer of review that is widely recognized as the most stringent in the nation. Net, pesticides approved for use in California are among the most rigorously reviewed products in commerce, including for PFAS presence. Much of the push for this legislation is based on comments citing residue testing on fruits and vegetables where traces of PFAS were found. However, those claims lack scientific context. These claims rely on DPR monitoring data but misinterpret what detection means in a regulatory framework. Detection of residues does not equate to risk. Regulatory frameworks are specifically designed to account for both hazard characteristics, such as persistence, and real-world exposure, ensuring that products meeting these standards do not pose unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. DPR and EPA establish tolerances with large built-in safety margins to ensure protection of consumers, including sensitive populations. Residue monitoring is specifically designed to confirm compliance with these safety thresholds. In 2023, of the 1,059 produce samples labeled as “grown in California,” 99% had pesticide residues below US EPA tolerance levels. Across all samples test, including organic and conventional, more

than 97% of fruits and vegetables sold in California contained no detectable pesticide residues or residues below federal standards. AB 1603 would eliminate critical tools for California agriculture without alternatives and for absolutely no sound scientific reason. Rest assured this is at the top of the priority list for the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association to fight this year. For the cotton industry in California, the following active ingredients would be restricted in 2028 and then prohibited in 2030:

Active Ingredient
Bifenthrin
Flonicamid
Fluazifop-P butyl
Fludioxonil
Indoxacarb
Novaluran
Oxyfluorfen
Sulfoxaflor
Trifluralin

In Memoriam – Ernie Kandarian



It is with heavy hearts that CCGGA announces the passing of **Ernie Kandarian** at age 95. Ernie devoted his decades-long career to the service of the cotton ginning industry through Sierra Bag Company. He served his country faithfully in the Army during the Korean war and went on to develop many helpful and innovative improvements to our cotton industry, including patenting the fitted module cover. He was a recipient of the CCGGA Distinguished Service Award in 1999. His joyful, joking personality and skill on the golf course will be remembered fondly by those fortunate enough to have known him. He is survived by his wife Inda of Clovis. Funeral arrangements by Farewell Funeral Services of Clovis CA.