

News Release

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For Immediate Release

TO:

**Local News, Business and
Agriculture sections**



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Air Pollution
Control District

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Dairies, farms face July 1 deadline

New air rules require some agricultural sources to apply for permits

With the deadline for large dairies and farms to apply for air permits fast approaching, representatives of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District are reminding agricultural operators that new requirements might apply to them.

The deadline for dairy producers, farms and other agricultural operations to apply for air permits is July 1. New state laws require the permits for agricultural sources that emit specified amounts of certain air pollutants. Previously, state laws exempted agricultural operations from air permitting requirements.

Air District and agriculture industry representatives have worked together the past few months to inform operators of the new requirements through Valley-wide workshops and public announcements. Some agricultural sources, however, may not be aware they need to apply for permits.

"It's important for every ag source to know that unless they already have verified with the Air District that they don't need a permit, they should contact us right away so we can help them determine if they need to go through the application process," said Dave Warner, the Air District's director of permit services. "The deadline is right around the corner."

The Air District estimates that about 1,000 dairies, farms and ranches in the San Joaquin Valley will require permits, although only several dozen applications have been received so far.

Agricultural operations that emit at least 12.5 tons per year of ozone-forming emissions are required to apply for air permits. The applications are simple and can be completed online at www.valleyair.org, by clicking on "New Requirements for Agricultural Operations." An online calculator determines whether the user needs an air permit or not.

Air District staff members also are available to assist by telephone or in-person at the nearest District office: 4230 Kiernan Ave. Suite 130 in Modesto or phone (209) 557-6446; 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. in Fresno or phone (559) 230-5888; and 2700 M St. Suite 275 in Bakersfield or phone (661) 326-6969.

Air District representatives in May and June co-hosted 34 workshops with agriculture industry groups, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and county farm bureaus to help farmers apply for permits.

"We're quite pleased with the success of those workshops. We were able to speak directly with about 2,800 ag sources Valley-wide, and the cooperation on their part was amazing," Warner said.

The Valley air basin fails to meet federal and state health-based standards for particulate matter and for ground-level ozone, the primary ingredient of smog. The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern.

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