

# News Release

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For Immediate Release

TO:

Local news, business, ag and  
assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

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## Public comment sought on dairy-pollution estimate

(Fresno, CA) - The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District invites the public to comment on a proposed new estimate of how much of a smog-forming gas comes from Valley dairy cattle.

The proposed dairy emissions factor, which measures how many volatile organic compounds (VOCs) dairy cattle produce, will be the subject of a public workshop scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Monday, July 11. The workshop will be held by videoconference amongst the District's three regional offices: at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. in Fresno; at 4230 Kiernan Ave. Suite 130 in Modesto; and at 2700 M St. Suite 275 in Bakersfield. Members of the public can attend the workshop and provide comment at any of the three offices.

The proposed new emissions factor for VOCs, a primary ingredient in smog, is 20.6 pounds per head of cattle, per year. The factor does not measure methane, a greenhouse gas that does not contribute significantly to smog. VOCs combine in the atmosphere with nitrogen oxides – primarily emitted by cars and other internal-combustion engines – to form smog.

The emissions factor will help determine how many dairies in the eight-county Valley air basin will require Air District permits. The Valley air basin currently is home to 2.5 million dairy cattle. Another 400,000 head of cattle are expected to arrive with new dairy projects now planned.

The dairy emissions factor currently in use, 12.8 pounds of VOCs per head, per year, was derived from studies done in the 1930s. The new proposed factor comes after careful examination of 15 recent studies, and falls within the range of numbers recommended in May by the independent Dairy Permitting Advisory Group. The 12-member group, which includes scientists, dairy industry representatives, Valley stakeholders and government regulators, recommended a range between 5.6 and 38.2 pounds per head, per year.

As part of a settlement of a lawsuit brought by the dairy industry, the Air District is required by Aug. 1 to adopt an emissions factor to reflect the contribution of smog-forming emissions from dairy cattle to the Valley air basin, one of the smoggiest regions in the country.

Although the new emissions factor is required by Aug. 1, Air District officials expect the number will be adjusted as new scientific study information becomes available.

For more information, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the nearest District office: in Modesto at (209) 557-6400; in Fresno at (559) 230-6000; and in Bakersfield at (661) 326-6900.

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