

[Letters to the Bakersfield Californian, Wednesday, July 28, 2004](#)

Dairies would do good

The dairy battles continue. When are folks going to figure out that we live in a valley that is about agriculture?

I always thought that dairy farms were a part of agriculture. I guess I was wrong.

Not to mention, the new dairies would create jobs, add to the tax revenues of the county, and possibly the city coffers for where they are located.

For all the good they would do, I think we can tolerate a little smell.

-- NIGEL OLIVER, Bakersfield

No comparison to Chino

I get the impression that some of your readers are somewhat shortsighted. They like the modern way of living -- good homes, clean streets and cars -- but have little sympathy for those who supply the wood for their homes, fuel for their cars and food on their tables.

All these essentials are provided through the industry of a major part of our society. Especially milk and vegetables have to be produced fairly close to where the markets are or where the land is for cattle feed.

Kern County has salt flats on the west side, non-productive or marginal land, not providing a living for anybody.

This land can be made productive and useful as dairy sites. Is not that a win-win situation?

Also, the modern Kern County dairy set-ups cannot be compared with Chino Valley open corral dairies.

-- JOSHUA REYNEVELD, Bakersfield

Bakersfield Californian, Letter to the Editor, Tuesday, July 27, 2004

We all breathe same air

I attended the Senate Select Committee on Air Quality meeting in Wasco, hosted by Sen. Dean Florez, hoping to get a little more information about the dairy issue. I went with an open mind and I learned a great deal, perhaps more than I wanted to know -- 104,000 cows; one ton of volatile organic compound (VOC) pollutants per day; 320,000 tons of manure; 19,000 tons of nitrates and 39,000 tons of salt per year.

How can this possibly provide any benefits for the Wasco community? Our water supply is precious and must be protected. Our air quality must be maintained.

How can the Kern County Planning Department and the Kern County Board of Supervisors even consider doing this to the citizens of Wasco and Kern County?

Dave Warner, permits manager of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, went into great detail regarding the prevailing winds of Kern County. He explained that the dairies planned for the Wasco area will affect Bakersfield air quality, as well as the air quality in Tehachapi.

Think of the direction the wind blows. We already have bad air quality. The addition of more than 100,000 cows will only compound the problem. These additional cows are only the beginning. Where will it stop?

Bakersfield residents, please take notice of what is going on in the surrounding towns. We all breathe the same air.

-- LAURIE RODRIGUEZ, Wasco