



# Dairy Cares Report

September 2010

[www.dairycares.com](http://www.dairycares.com)

## Smaller valley dairies (175 to 500 cows) have until Dec. 10 to seek air permits

Despite growing urban populations, San Joaquin Valley air quality continues to improve steadily. Air pollution levels have dropped in each of the past several years and all indications are that this summer will end up being the best year in decades for valley air quality.

Many can share the credit for this – including ever-cleaner cars and trucks and the many valley businesses, including farms and dairies, that comply with strict air quality regulations.

However, despite these improvements, the valley continues to struggle to meet tough federal air pollution standards and is continuing to take additional measures to further reduce air emissions. As part of this, a recent change in the San Joaquin Valley's clean air status has triggered a requirement for permitting all sources of air pollution at lower levels than at any time in history.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District recently adopted a change in its New Source Review rule to lower permitting thresholds, part of its long-term strategy to improve air quality. As a result, smaller farms that emit more than 5 tons of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>, usually from stationary engines exhaust), or volatile organic compounds (VOC, from engines, animals, manure, gas tanks, feed) must apply for permits (if they have not already done so). For dairies, facilities with as few as 175 milking cows must apply for permits from the regional air pollution control district.

**For dairies, this means anyone with more than 175 milk cows that does not already have an air district permit should apply for a permit no later than December 10. Most San Joaquin Valley dairies over 500 cows should already have an air district permit (under either Rule 4550 for dust control or Rule 4570 for VOC control).**

Fortunately, applying for a permit is a relatively simple process and help is easy to find. A series of workshops across the valley through October and early November will help dairies and other farms keep up with the latest requirements. The workshops are sponsored by Agriculture Improving Resources (AIR), a coalition of valley farm groups, with support from the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) and the Dairy Cares coalition. CDQAP recently mailed a schedule of these free workshops to all dairy operators in the San Joaquin Valley, and schedule of the remaining workshops can also be found below.

The workshops will also provide help and assistance for dairies that may have failed to meet past requirements for permitting engines or pumps, or registering equipment properly as “permit exempt.” Dairy operators with irrigation pump engines or emergency generator engines greater than 50 horsepower (or total combined horsepower over 250 hp) that have not received permits or registered under PEER (Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration) should attend one of the workshops. If you need to apply, there will be more information and help at each of the workshops offered.

San Joaquin Valley dairy operators have been operating under the nation’s strictest air quality regulations since 2006, and can take their fair share of credit for cleaner air. Continued cooperation with valley air quality officials in the battle for cleaner air will help ensure that valley residents enjoy the benefits of cleaner air, a healthy economy and affordable, nutritious and delicious dairy products produced by local dairy families.

<b>A.I.R. Quality Workshops</b>	
<i>Most locations offer identical sessions morning (9:30 a.m.) or afternoon (1 p.m.) – you need attend only one</i>	
<p><b>Stanislaus County (2 workshops)</b>            Friday, October 15, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Friday, October 15, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.            Stanislaus County Ag Center Harvest Hall            3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto</p>	<p><b>Tulare County (2 workshops)</b>            Tuesday, October 12, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Tuesday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Tulare County Ag Center Auditorium,            4437 S. Laspina, Tulare</p>
<p><b>Merced County (3 workshops)</b>            Wednesday, October 6, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Wednesday, October 6, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.            Stevinson Pentecost Hall            2962 N. Lander Ave/Hwy 165, Stevinson            Monday, November 1, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            UC Cooperative Extension Classroom            2145 W. Wardrobe Ave, Merced</p>	<p><b>Kings County (2 workshops)</b>            Wednesday, October 27, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Wednesday, October 27, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.            Hanford Fraternal Hall            1015 North 10th Ave, Hanford</p>
<p><b>Fresno County (2 workshops)</b>            Wednesday, October 13, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Wednesday, October 13, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.            Riverdale Memorial Hall, 3085 W. Mount            Whitney (across from high school), Riverdale</p>	<p><b>Kern County (2 workshops)</b>            Thursday, October 28, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Thursday, October 28, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.            Kern Agriculture Pavilion            3300 East Belle Terrace, Bakersfield</p>
<p><b>Madera County (2 workshops)</b>            Tuesday, October 26, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Tuesday, October 26, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.            Madera County Fairgrounds, Little Theatre            1000 South 3rd Street, Chowchilla</p>	<p><b>San Joaquin County (3 workshops)</b>            Tuesday, October 5, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.            Tuesday, October 5, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.            Thursday, November 4, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.            Robert J. Cabral Ag Center Conference Room            2101 E. Earhart Ave, Stockton</p>

*Dairy Cares is a statewide coalition supporting economic and environmental sustainability and responsible animal care. Our members include the Alliance of Western Milk Producers, Bank of the West, Bar 20 Dairy Farms, California Dairies Inc., California Dairy Campaign, California Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Farmers of America-Western Area Council, Dairy Institute of California, Hilmar Cheese Co., HP Hood, Joseph Gallo Farms, Land O’Lakes, Milk Producers Council, Ruan Transport Corp., Western United Dairymen, and others. For information, visit our web site or call 916-441-3318.*