

Researchers gathered samples of air at dairies and tested it. The animal feed had a lot of ethanol and similar gases that help form ozone.

"The study really points out the importance of this source," Kleeman said.

The reactive organic gases are only half of the valley's ozone problem. Nitrogen oxide or NOx from vehicles combines with the gases to produce ozone, and NOx seems more important to control, says the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

NOx reduction more efficiently slows the formation of ozone than reduction of the organic gases, air officials say. They emphasize NOx

reduction in their ozone cleanup.

Air activists disagree, saying organic gases are just as important and the air district is not aggressive enough in regulating them.

Lawyer Brent Newell of the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, representing many valley air activists, says the study affirms their contentions.

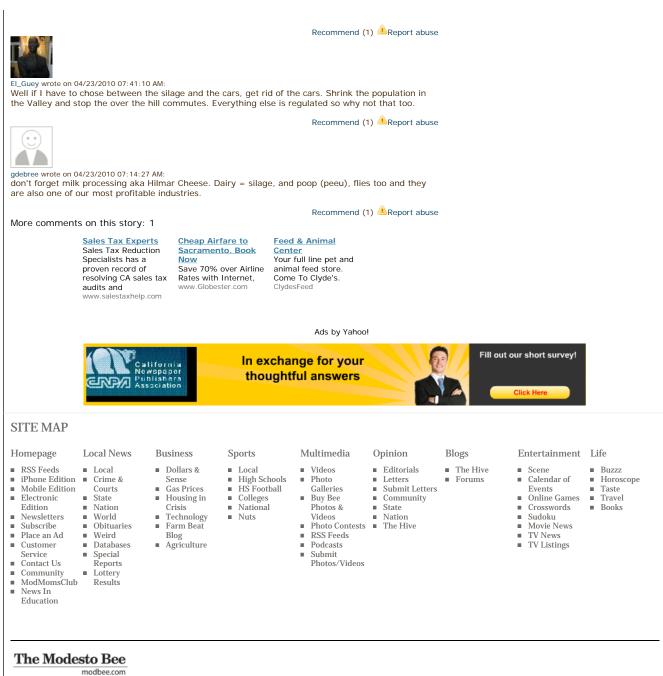
"This study shows that the air district and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have to stop pretending to regulate the dairy industry and finally take meaningful action to protect public health," he said.

Air district officials say they do regulate organic gases in accordance with clean air law. When the district revises dairy rules in June, animal feed will be a primary target.

"We will try to focus on feed handling," said district executive director Seyed Sadredin. "We might get a lot of pollution reduction by simply having farmers feed the animals out of sacks instead of spreading the feed

out on the ground in the open." POWERED BY MAPPINGE You must be logged in to leave a comment. Login | Register Submit Comments: 9 6 Showing: Newest first bmenezes wrote on 04/23/2010 10:23:03 AM: I thought ethanol was good for the environment. That it was the answer to our energy needs. Now they're saying its an ozone gas? These idiots don't know what they're doing. Recommend (0) Apport abuse geno0 wrote on 04/23/2010 08:49:10 AM: Is there something that the cows could eat that would make them less gassy? BUT, lets not pick on the cows, they do good things for us! If people do not like the dairies, then move! Recommend (1) Apport abuse wierwille wrote on 04/23/2010 08:33:20 AM: I've been told by folks that raise cattle for meat that corn is used to marble the meat but cows can't really digest it or assimilate it. Perhaps another grain would be better and less "off gassing." Recommend (0) AReport abuse ktdg96 wrote on 04/23/2010 07:56:37 AM:

Does Seyed Sadredin really expect farmers to feed the cows out of bags?!?! Give me a break, I don't think Seyed has been to a dairy farm in a long time! Just another way to squeeze even more money out of what was once a very profitable industry in the central valley.



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