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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) - Dairymen fear they could be strictly regulated like power plants and oil refineries with new state proposals to monitor waste water and air pollution.

The proposals would require more inspections on waste water discharge and reports on manure gasses emitted into the air.

Agriculture contributes more than a quarter of the smog in the San Joaquin Valley during summer months and most of the soot pollution the rest of the year, the state Air Resources Board said. The valley is one of the worst polluted air basins in America.

Dairy industry leaders say scientific studies haven't shown exactly how much pollution manure creates, and they say today's dairies are modern, state-of-the-art operations built to prevent water pollution.

But dairies are becoming concentrated, more like industrial-sized operations, and should be regulated as such, said Brent Newell, an attorney with the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, who has filed several suits to increase air and water quality controls on dairies.

Both groups are awaiting a dairy air pollution report from the National Academy of Sciences this fall, which may help clear the air on the issue.

The San Joaquin Valley air district also will launch a two-year study on air pollution from animal feedlots, which would aid in determining exactly how much of the valley's smog and particulate matter can be tracked to dairies.