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## Symposium set to address Valley farm emissions

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By **Reed Fujii**  
Record Staff Writer  
February 15, 2007 6:00 AM

California's plan to sharply reduce emissions of so-called greenhouse gases to help combat global warming pose both myriad opportunities and unknowns to Central Valley farmers, particularly dairy operators, officials said.

An early take on the emerging market for emission reduction credits - how they may be produced, how they may be valued and sold and what pitfalls farmers may face - will be discussed during a half-day symposium Wednesday in Modesto.

California's new law aimed at reducing total greenhouse emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 is only a broad outline for clean-air regulators charged with figuring out how to meet those goals, said Cynthia Cory, director of environmental affairs for the California Farm Bureau.

### Interested?

The symposium will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Stanislaus Agricultural Center, Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto. Lunch will be provided.

An agenda is available online at [www.cfbf.com](http://www.cfbf.com)

To make reservations, contact Paul Sousa of Western United Dairymen at (209) 527-6453 or [psousawud@yahoo.com](mailto:psousawud@yahoo.com).

"AB 32 is the wild West," she said. "The state doesn't have their program in place yet."

A California system to evaluate, buy and sell emission credits also is still in development.

Nevertheless, a variety of companies are already approaching dairy operators and offering to buy emission-reduction credits.

The symposium is intended to give dairy owners an introduction to this emerging commodity market and how to evaluate various offers they may receive.

"I just want to make sure people are knowing what they are getting into and they don't sell

themselves short," Cory said Wednesday.

"It's a new and changing world for agriculture," said Michael Marsh, chief executive of Western United Dairymen, which, along with the Farm Bureau and Sustainable Conservation is sponsoring the symposium.

He said there is a chance that the market for emission credits - based on the amount of carbon prevented from entering the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, methane and other emissions - could grow exponentially as California, and perhaps the rest of the nation, moves to combat global warming.

Some California dairy operators are already selling emission credits on an exchange in Chicago, Marsh noted, and one of them, Carl Morris of Gallo Farms, is expected to talk about his experiences in the trade.

"We've asked all the folks that are in this carbon-trading business to participate in this symposium," Marsh added. This should give

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farmers a chance to weigh competing programs and, perhaps, sort the wheat from the chaff.

"The reality of an emerging carbon-based economy is happening. Farmers need to become better educated about the economic value of carbon in their farming operations," said Ladi Asgill, an agricultural economist with Sustainable Conservation, a San Francisco-based nonprofit group that partners with private businesses and landowners to help protect clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems.

Contact reporter Reed Fujii at (209) 546-8253 or [rfujii@recordnet.com](mailto:rfujii@recordnet.com).

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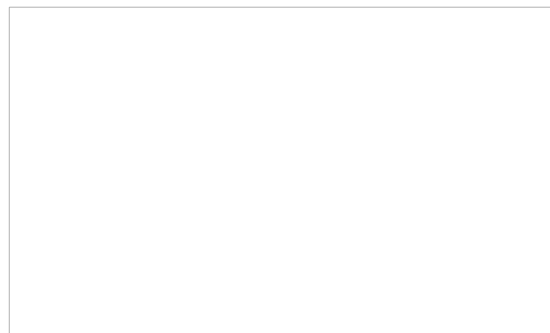
February 15, 2007 05:34 PM

Your right (thereyouhaveit) we have neglected this earth (and atomosphere) for so long it is going to take a long time to lower current levels of pollution...I believe it can be done. Since money is involved, it will take a VERY long time if the government will not move full speed ahead on the environment-pollution agenda...assuming there is an agenda somewhere in our existing federal government. It will also take, one by one, local cities and towns to step up and do something about pollution and encourage sustainable growth and high emission alternatives.

#### thereyouhaveit

February 15, 2007 08:59 AM

Nothing is going to save this planet. Doing all this "stuff" might help to slow the bad down, but it will never fully stop the destruction.



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