

## **\$10M available for on-farm engine replacement**

By Business Journal Staff

The Business Journal (Fresno), Monday, June 28, 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is making an additional \$10 million available to farmers and ranchers interested in reducing air quality emissions from their farms.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service in California announced the funding through its Environmental Quality Incentives Programs to incentivize farmers to retire old inefficient engines on off-road mobile or stationary agricultural equipment.

The money is in addition to \$13 million awarded earlier this year. It is available in 36 counties, including Fresno, Kings Madera and Tulare counties. Producers have to come up with about half of the funds needed to voluntarily swap out older engines for newer, more efficient ones that are nearly 75% cleaner. Stationary, portable and heavy-duty off-road mobile systems are included as part of the program.

"This program has been so successful that we wanted to make more funding available for the large number of farmers and ranchers still requesting assistance this year," said Ed Burton, NRCS State Conservationist for California. "We'll be able to help more producers than we did in 2009."

[Fresno Beehive blog, Monday, June 28, 2010:](#)

### **Gross Polluter**

By Donald Munro

Idling vs. turning off your engine. All hilarity aside, some commenters started debating the importance of turning off your car vs. letting it idle. Also debated was the impact of idling at red lights. I checked with Janelle Schneider, public information representative for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. She told me that if you can get through a drive-through in 90 seconds or less, you are pumping fewer emissions into the air than if you stopped the car and started it again. However, past 90 seconds, you reach the point where it's better to turn the car off. (This answers the question of whether people idling at intersections are creating unnecessary pollution -- it's actually more efficient to idle than to cut the motor and start up again.) Mitigating factors include the age and fuel-efficiency of the car and other variables. To me, it's common sense (and a lot safer) not to leave your car running. To others, however, it's something to do with pride.