

Jody G. Holthaus
District Extension Agent
Livestock and Natural Resources

Of All the Crazy Things!

It's reported on Facebook, that if you pass gas, it can make you live longer. If you smell the released gas, then it can ward off Dementia. IF this is true, the men in my family will live to be very old!

Sometimes people worry about cattle and their "emissions". Global greenhouse gas emission data from the US Environmental Protection Agency reports the key greenhouse gas emitted by human activities are: Carbon Dioxide- Fossil fuel use is the primary source of carbon dioxide. When you think of all the automobiles, airplanes, trains and trucks in the world, no wonder it is 57% of the problem.

Methane gas, is the main problem with our agricultural activities, waste management (that smell when you drive by Rolling Meadows) and also energy use all contribute to methane emissions.

Nitrous Oxide-Ag activities, such as fertilizer use are the primary source.

Fluorinated gases- Industrial processes, refrigeration and the use of a variety of consumer products contribute to the emissions.

Global greenhouse gas emissions can be broken down by the economic activities that lead to their production.

Energy supplies, contribute 26% of the 2004 gas emissions. The burning of coal, natural gas and oil for electricity is the largest single source.

Industry is attributed with 19%, this involves fossil fuel burned on-site for energy. Land use, land use change and forestry contribute 17%, this is mainly carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation.

Agriculture, is blamed for 14%, mostly management of ag soils, livestock, rice production and biomass burning.

Transportation, 13%, from burning fossil fuels for road, rail, air and marine transportation. Commercial and residential buildings, 8% for burning fuels for heat or cooking in homes. Waste and wastewater, 3% this would be the landfill methane, followed by methane in wastewater, burning waste products made with fossil fuels, such as plastics and synthetic textiles, also result in minor emissions of carbon dioxide.

Just in case you were wondering!