Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number:	WI-0064246-03-0
Permittee Name:	Blaser Farms Inc
Address:	9267 State Hwy 22 E
City/State/Zip:	Gillett WI 54124
Discharge Location:	9267 Hwy 22 E, Gillett, WI 54124 ; NW ¼ of NW ¼ Section 20, T28N, R19E
Receiving Water:	Unnamed tributaries within the Oconto River Watershed, and groundwaters of the state
Discharge Type:	Existing

Animal Units					
	Current AU		**Proposed AU** **(Note: If all zeroes, expansions are not expected during permit term)**		
Animal Type	**Mixed**	**Individual**	**Mixed**	**Individual**	**Date of Proposed Expansion**
Dairy Calves (under 400 lbs.)	22	0	0	0	
Milking and Dry Cows	868	887	0	0	
Heifers (800 lbs. to 1200 lbs.)	72	65	0	0	
Total	962	887	0	0	

Facility Description

Blaser Farms Inc is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Blaser Farms Inc is owned and operated by members of the Blaser family. It currently has 962 (620 milking & dry cows, 65 heifers, and 110 calves) animal units and is not proposing to expand animal units during the permit term. Based on current herd size, Blaser Farms Inc currently has approximately 264 days of available liquid waste storage and generates approximately 9,344,578 gallons of manure and process wastewater annually. Blaser Farms Inc has a total of 2,593 acres available for land application of manure and process wastewater. Of this acreage, 538 acres are owned and 2,056 acres are controlled through contracts, rental agreements, leases, or manure agreements. Of this acreage, 2,545 are considered spreadable acres.

Substantial Compliance Determination

Enforcement During Last Permit: Blaser Farms Inc. received a Notice of Non Compliance on 10/17/2022 for failing to complete Schedule 2.7 – Runoff Control System Engineering Evaluation. An engineering evaluation of the concrete feed rail was submitted to the department in 2021 and after review, it was determined that further actions were required. During 2021 & 2022, Blaser Farms discussed options for the outdoor lot and eventually decided to abandon the lot. A freestall barn expansion was planned for 2023 which would allow for the abandonment of the outdoor lot. Due to higher than expected costs, the barn expansion was pushed back until 2024. Engineering Plans & Specs for the barn expansion & outdoor lot abandonment were submitted to the department on 6/17/2024. DNR staff were kept informed of all delays and a new schedule with a reasonable deadline to abandon the concrete feed rail has been put in the new permit to complete the necessary steps.

After a desk top review of all annual reports, NMP updates, land application reports, compliance schedule items, and a site visit on 7/20/2023, this facility has been found to be in substantial compliance with their current permit.

Compliance determination entered by Brian Hanson on 7/8/2024.

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
001	Sample point 001 is for existing waste storage facility #1 (WSF #1). WSF #1 is a concrete lined impoundment located to the south of the freestall barns & east of the feed storage area. This facility has a total volume of 2.9 million gallons and a maximum operating level capacity of 2.5 million gallons. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the existing freestall barns, parlor, and leachate collection system. This facility was constructed in 2003 and was last evaluated in 2021 and met permit requirements.	
002	Sample point 002 is for solid manure sources that are directly land applied and not stored in a waste storage facility. This includes solid sources such as calf hutch manure, maternity pen bedpack, heifer bedpack, etc. Representative samples shall be taken for each manure source type.	
003	Sample point 003 is for visual monitoring and inspection of animal outdoor vegetated areas located in the southwest corner of the farm. The CAFO Outdoor Vegetated Area is associated with the outdoor feed rail in sample point 005 and is approximately 12 acres in size. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure sufficient vegetative cover, as defined in s. NR 243.03 is sustained. Quarterly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	
004	Sample point 004 is for existing waste storage facility #2 (WSF #2). WSF #2 is a concrete lined impoundment located to the east of WSF #1. This facility has a total volume of 4.75 million gallons and a maximum operating level capacity of 4.1 million gallons. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from WSF #1 either through an overflow pipe or concrete overflow channel in the berm connecting the 2 structures. This facility was constructed in 2015 and was last evaluated in 2021 and met permit requirements.	
005	Sample point 005 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the concrete feed rail, the concrete Dry Cow Lot, and the associated runoff control systems. The concrete feed rail is located southwest of WSF #1 and is approximately 20’ x 325’. Runoff from the feed rail discharges to a VTA east of the feed rail via a collection basin on the east end of the feed rail. The Dry Cow Lot is located on the west side of the FSA and is connected to the dry cow barn. This lot is approximately 40’ x 275’ and does not have engineered	

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
	runoff controls. Proper operation and maintenance are required to ensure discharges to waters of the state do not occur. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded in accordance with the monitoring and inspection program. The concrete feed rail was last evaluated in 2021& required further action. The concrete feed rail and associated VTA will be required to be abandoned during the permit term. See Schedules section for further details.	
006	Sample point 006 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the feed storage area located at the farm. The feed storage area is a set of bunkers & pads located west of the south freestall barn, east of the dry cow barn, and is approximately 1.75 acres in area. Leachate and first flush (0.25") of runoff is collected in a reception tank & pumped to WSF #1. Remaining runoff discharges to a vegetated treatment area on the south side of the feed storage area. Proper operation and maintenance of these areas is required to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections will be required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program. The feed storage area and runoff controls were installed in 2015 and have not been evaluated since.	
007	Sample point 007 is for manure solids removed from bottom of all liquid waste storage facilities. This includes manure-laden sand solids, manure fiber solids, etc. Representative samples shall be taken from each waste storage facility.	
008	Sample point 008 is for solid manure land applied from approved headland stacking sites. Representative samples must be taken prior to land application. Stacks are defined as part of the production area and therefore subject to the production area discharge limitations of this permit. Weekly inspections of stack runoff controls are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	
009	Sample point 009 is for visual monitoring and inspection of all production site storm water conveyance systems. This includes roof gutter and downspout structures, drainage tile systems, grassed waterways and other diversion systems that transport uncontaminated storm water. Proper operation and maintenance is required to keep uncontaminated runoff diverted away from manure and process wastewater handling systems. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	
010	Sample point 010 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the calf hutch area. Calf Hutch Area is located to the west of the dry cow barn and is approximately 1/3 acre is size. Hutches are bedded in straw on concrete pads, but do not have engineered runoff controls. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	

1 Livestock Operations - Proposed Operation and Management

Production Area Discharge Limitations

Beginning on the effective date of the permit, the permittee may not discharge pollutants from the operation's production area (e.g., manure storage areas, outdoor animal lots, composting and leachate containment systems, milking center wastewater treatment/containment systems, raw material storage areas) to navigable waters, except in the event a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event (or greater) causes the discharge from a structure which is properly designed and maintained to contain a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event for this location as determined under s. NR 243.04. If an allowable discharge occurs from the production area, state water quality standards may not be exceeded.

Runoff Control

The permit requires control of contaminated runoff from all elements of the production area to prevent a discharge of pollutants to navigable waters in accordance with the Production Area Discharge Limitations and to comply with surface water quality standards and groundwater standards. Beginning on the effective date of this permit, (if needed) interim measures shall be implemented to prevent discharges of pollutants to navigable waters. In addition, permanent runoff control system(s) shall be designed, operated and maintained in accordance with the requirements found in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. If any upgrading or modifications to runoff controls are necessary, formal engineering plans and specifications must submitted to the Department for approval.

Manure and Process Wastewater Storage

The permit requires the operation to have adequate storage for manure and process wastewater and that storage or containment facilities are designed, operated and maintained to prevent overflows and discharges to waters of the state. In order to prevent overflows, the permittee must maintain levels of materials in liquid storage or containment facilities at or below certain levels including a one foot margin of safety that can never be exceeded. If any upgrading or modifications to the storage facilities are necessary, formal engineering plans and specifications must submitted to the Department for approval.

The permittee currently has approximately 264 days of storage for liquid manure. The permittee must maintain 180 days of storage, unless temporary reductions in required storage are approved by the Department.

Solid Manure Stacking

The operation has proposed to stack solid manure. All stacking of solid manure shall be done in accordance ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, which includes restrictions from NRCS Standard 313. Stacking of manure is considered to be part of the production area and is subject to the Production Area Discharge Limitations.

Ancillary Service and Storage Areas

The permittee shall take preventative maintenance actions and conduct visual inspections to minimize pollutant discharges from areas of the operation that are not part of the production area or land application areas. These areas are called ancillary service and storage areas and include access roads, shipping and receiving areas, maintenance areas, refuse piles and CAFO outdoor vegetated areas.

Nutrient Management

With 962 (620 milking & dry cows, 65 heifers, and 110 calves) animal units, it is estimated that approximately 9,344,578 gallons of manure and process wastewater will be produced per year. The permittee owns *approximately* 538 acres of cropland and rents about 2,056 acres are controlled through contracts, rental agreements, leases, or manure agreements. Given the rotation commonly used by the permittee, 2,545 acres are available (or open) to receive manure and process wastewater on an annual basis. The permit requires all landspreading of manure and process wastewater be completed in accordance with an approved nutrient management plan. The permit will require sampling and analysis of manure and process wastewater that will be landspread. Landspreading rates must be adjusted based on sample analysis. The permit requires the permittee to maintain a daily log that documents landspreading activities. The permit also requires the submittal of an annual report that summarizes all landspreading activities. Plans must be updated annually to reflect cropping plans and other operational changes. Among the requirements, the plans must include detailed landspreading information including field by field nutrient budgets.

The permittee is required to implement a number or practices to address potential water quality impacts associated with the land application of manure and process wastewater. Among the permit conditions are restrictions on manure ponding, restrictions on runoff of manure and process wastewater from cropped fields, and setbacks from wells and direct conduits

to groundwater (e.g., sinkholes, fractured bedrock at the surface). In addition, the permittee must implement a phosphorus based nutrient management plan that addresses phosphorus delivery to surface waters by basing manure and process wastewater applications on soil test phosphorus levels or the Wisconsin Phosphorus index. Additional phosphorus application restrictions apply to fields that are high in soil test phosphorus (>100 ppm).

The permitee must also implement conservation practices when applying manure near navigable waters and their conduits, referred to as the Surface Water Quality Management Area (SWQMA). These practices include a 100-foot setback from navigable waters and their conduits, a 35-foot vegetated buffer adjacent to the navigable water or conduit, or a practice that provides equivalent pollutant reductions equivalent to or better than the 100-foot setback.

In addition, the permittee must comply with restrictions on land application of manure and process wastewater on frozen or snow-covered ground. Included in these restrictions is a prohibition on surface applications of solid manure (≥12% solids) on frozen or snow-covered ground during February and March.

Monitoring and Sampling Requirements

The permittee must submit a monitoring and inspection program that outlines how the permittee will conduct self-inspections to determine compliance with permit conditions. These self-inspections include visual inspections of water lines, diversion devices, storage and containment structures and other parts of the production area. The permit requires periodic inspections and calibrations of landspreading equipment. The permittee must take corrective actions to problems identified inspections or otherwise notify the Department. Samples of manure, process wastewater and soils receiving land applied materials from the operation must also be collected and analyzed.

Sampling Points

The permit identifies the different sources of land applied materials (e.g., manure storage facilities, milking centers, egg-washing facilities) as "Sampling Points." For these Sampling Points, the permittee is required to sample and analyze the different sources for nutrients and other parameters which serve as the basis for determining rates of application for these materials. Other areas are also identified as Sampling Points as a means of identifying them as areas requiring action by the permittee, such as an upgrade or evaluation of a certain system or structure (e.g., runoff control systems), even though sampling is not actually required.

Sample Point Number: 001- WSF #1; 004- WSF #2

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Nitrogen, Total		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Grab	
Nitrogen, Available		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Calculated	
Phosphorus, Total		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Grab	
Phosphorus, Available		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Calculated	
Solids, Total		Percent	2/Month	Grab	

1.1.1 Changes from Previous Permit

Sample point language was updated to more accurately describe existing facilities.

1.1.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Liquid manure & process wastewater must be properly stored and land applied according to the permit and nutrient management plan.

Sample Point Number: 002- Misc Solids; 007- WSF Solids ; 008- Headland Stacking

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Nitrogen, Total		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Grab	
Nitrogen, Available		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Calculated	
Phosphorus, Total		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Grab	
Phosphorus, Available		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Calculated	
Solids, Total		Percent	Quarterly	Grab	

1.1.3 Changes from Previous Permit

Sample point language was updated to more accurately describe existing facilities.

1.1.4 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Solid manure sources must be properly sampled and land applied according to the permit and nutrient management plan.

Sample Point Number: 003- CAFO Outdoor Vegetated Area; 005- Outdoor Feedlots; 006- Feed Storage Area; 009- Storm Water Runoff, and 010- Calf Hutch Area

1.1.5 Changes from Previous Permit

Sample point language was updated to more accurately describe existing facilities. Sample Point 010 was added to the permit to ensure proper monitoring and inspection of the calf hutch area is being completed.

1.1.6 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure unlawful discharges to waters of the state do not occur. Weekly or quarterly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to the monitoring plan.

2 Schedules

2.1 Emergency Response Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Develop Emergency Response Plan: Update the written Emergency Response Plan within 30 days of permit coverageand submit to the department.	10/01/2024

2.2 Monitoring & Inspection Program

Use of the department's monitoring and inspection program template is encouraged, but optional.

Required Action	Due Date
Proposed Monitoring and Inspection Program: Consistent with the Monitoring and Sampling Requirements subsection, the permittee shall submit a proposed monitoring and inspection program within 60 days of the effective date of this permit.	11/01/2024

2.3 Annual Reports

Submit Annual Reports by January 31st of each year in accordance with the Annual Reports subsection in Standard Requirements.

Required Action	Due Date
Submit Annual Report #1: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2025
Submit Annual Report #2: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2026
Submit Annual Report #3: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2027
Submit Annual Report #4: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2028
Submit Annual Report #5: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2029
Ongoing Annual Reports: Continue to submit Annual Reports until permit reissuance has been completed.	

2.4 Nutrient Management Plan

Submit annual nutrient management plan (NMP) updates by March 31 of each year. Note, in addition to annual NMP updates, submit NMP amendments and substantial revisions to the department for written approval prior to implementation of any changes to the NMP.

Required Action	Due Date
Management Plan Submittal: Submit any necessary updates to the Nutrient Management Plan to meet the conditions outlined in this permit (see conditions in the Livestock Operational and Sampling	

Requirements section).	
Submit NMP Update #1: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2025
Submit NMP Update #2: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2026
Submit NMP Update #3: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2027
Submit NMP Update #4: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2028
Submit NMP Update #5: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2029
Ongoing Management Plan Annual Updates: Continue to submit Annual Updates to the Nutrient Management Plan until permit reissuance has been completed.	

2.5 CAFO Outdoor Vegetated Management Plan

Submit and Implement the Pasture Management or Pasture Abandonment Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Submit Pasture Management Plan: Submit a Pasture Management Plan for all non-feedlot areas where animals are pastured for Department review and approval. The plan must include information detailing the pasture boundaries, density of livestock, timeframes, vegetative type, percent cover, and other management practices to insure proper operation of the area as a pasture. Once approved, implement the Pasture Management Plan.	12/31/2024

2.6 Runoff Control System - Abandonment

Applicable to sample point 005, Concrete Feed Rail & Runoff Collection System

Required Action	Due Date
Complete Abandonment: Complete abandonment of the Concrete Feed Rail & Runoff Collection System as approved by the Department. Abandonment Plans were submitted to the department on 6/17/2024 under File Reference # R-2024-0153	12/31/2024

2.7 Submit Permit Reissuance Application

Required Action	Due Date
Reissuance Application: Submit a complete permit reissuance application 180 days prior to permit expiration.	03/01/2029

2.8 Explanation of Schedules

Emergency Response Plan, Monitoring and Inspection Program – Schedules consistent with permit requirements

Annual Reports, Nutrient Management Plan, Submit Permit Reissuance Application - Schedules consistent with

permit requirements.

Schedule 2.5 is to ensure that until the CAFO Outdoor Vegetated area is abandoned, it maintains compliance with permit requirements.

Schedule 2.6 is to complete the final step of a permit schedule from the previous permit. The farm has decided to abandon the outdoor feedrail rather than make necessary upgrades.

Special Reporting Requirements

None

Other Comments:

None

Attachments:

Plan Approval Letter (s)

- 2/23/2024 Conditional NMP Approval
- 2/22/2024 180 Days of Storage Review

6/26/2024 Engineering P&S Completeness Determination Letter

8/9/2023 Reissuance Inspection Report

Public Notice

Expiration Date:

8/31/2029

Justification Of Any Waivers From Permit Application Requirements

N/A

Prepared By: Brian Hanson Wastewater Specialist Date: 7/8/2024

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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February 23rd, 2024

Oconto County
Approval

Joshua Blaser
Blaser Farms, Inc
9267 State Hwy 22 E
Gillett, WI 54124

SUBJECT: Conditional Approval of Blaser Farms, Inc Nutrient Management Plan, WPDES Permit No. 006426-03-0

Dear Joshua Blaser:

After completing a review of Blaser Farms, Inc 2024-2028 Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department) is providing conditional approval that it is consistent with Nutrient Management Requirements in s. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. This part of your WPDES permit application is now ready for the public notice and comment process as required by Ch. 283 Stats.

Before applying manure onto approved fields each season, the Department recommends Blaser Farms, Inc review the NMP with those individuals involved with manure applications to ensure all remain familiar with the approved manure spreading protocol, spreading maps, field and map verification, record keeping requirements, and all the conditions of this approval. Specifically, some fields in Blaser Farms, Inc may have:

- Soils that may have bedrock or groundwater within 24 inches of surface,
- Multiple setback areas due to streams, conduits to streams, grassed waterways, wetlands or wells, and
- Evidence of possible soil erosion/flow channels. Note: road ditches or other man made channels may be considered flow channels or conduits to navigable water and may be subject to a SWQMA and setback.

Reviewing the NMP and checking fields for these features and soil conditions prior to manure applications will help Blaser Farms, Inc maintain compliance with their WPDES permit and Ch. NR 243 requirements.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Department confirms that:

1. A current dairy herd size of 962 animal units (620 milking & dry cows, 65 heifers, and 110 calves). Currently there are no planned expansions in the next permit term.
2. Manure generation and spreading records indicate your herd will annually generate approximately 9,344,578 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 636 tons of solid manure in the first year of the permit term.
3. The use of application restriction options 1 and 5 within surface water quality management areas.
4. The use of phosphorus delivery method P Index.
5. That Blaser Farms, Inc currently has 2,593.6 acres (537.7 owned and 2,055.9 controlled through contracts, rental agreements or leases, or under manure agreements) of which 2,545.2 are spreadable acres.

6. That some fields included in the NMP are directly adjacent to or have high potential to deliver nutrients and sediment to Messenger Creek (listed 303(d) impaired water by 'unknown pollutant').
7. That some fields included in the NMP are directly adjacent to or have high potential to deliver nutrients and sediment to outstanding/exceptional waters including Kelly Brook, Oconto River.
8. That 7 fields are tiled:
   - 6 acre
   - 80 acre
   - Freestall
   - Lake
   - Markiewicz 5
   - Triangle
   - Yellow House

9. That all fields will be checked for the following features prior to/during manure or process wastewater applications: soil areas with possible shallow groundwater (i.e., within 24 inches of surface) at the time of manure application; required setbacks associated with wells, navigable waters, conduits to navigable waters, grassed waterways, wetlands, possible soil erosion/flow channels.
10. That surface applications of manure will not be completed when precipitation capable of producing runoff is forecasted within 24 hours of the time of planned application.

CONDITIONAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

The Department hereby approves the 2024-2028 Blaser Farms, Inc Nutrient Management Plan subject to the following conditions and the applicable requirements of Ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code:

FIELD AND MANURE MANAGEMENT

1. Fields not included in the NMP and new fields shall not receive manure or process wastewater applications until they have been properly soil sampled, entered into Snap Plus, evaluated for their nutrient needs, and approved by the Department.

2. The following fields have also been approved to receive industrial, municipal, or septage waste:

Field Name	Other Permittee Name	Other Permittee Site ID-Field ID	DNR #
Kershek Woods	St Paper LLC	Schaal-12	117677
Desterheft	St Paper LLC	BR-3	105073
Bartha 2	St Paper LLC	BAR-1	110465
Schaal Kershek	St Paper LLC	Schaal-12	117677
Schaal Falash	St Paper LLC	Schaal-7	111580
Bartha 3	St Paper LLC	Bar-1	110465

Prior to any manure applications on these fields Blaser Farms, Inc shall contact the entities listed above to obtain recent spreading records and make the necessary adjustments to the planned manure application rates. At the end of each year Blaser Farms, Inc shall contact each entity listed above to obtain spreading records from the previous year so that they can be properly tracked in the NMP. Please Note: Blaser Farms, Inc is responsible for obtaining nutrient content values for all other wastes spread on any field in their NMP.

3. The following fields are prohibited from receiving applications of manure or process wastewater:
   - Desterheft (default soil test P)
   - Markiewicz 1 (default soil test P)
   - Markiewicz 2 (default soil test P)
   - Markiewicz 3 (default soil test P)
   - Markiewicz 4 (default soil test P)
   - Peitersen 1 (default soil test P)
   - Schaal Falash (default soil test)
   - Schaal Kershek (default soil test)
   - Schaal Trail East (default soil test)

- Schaal Trail West
  (default soil test)

If Blaser Farms, Inc wishes to use these fields for applications of manure or process wastewater all necessary information shall be submitted to the Department prior to application to demonstrate compliance with NR 243 and other applicable codes. Written Department approval amending this condition approval must be received prior to application.

4. If existing fields yield a soil test results equal to or greater than 200 ppm P, those fields would be prohibited from receiving manure or process wastewater applications, unless you obtain Department approval in accordance with NR 243.14(5)(b)2., Wis. Adm. Code.

5. All liquid manure samples collected may be analyzed, at a minimum, for percent dry matter, total nitrogen, percent NH_4-N, percent NO_3-N, phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur.

6. If manure sample results have a dry matter (DM) content less than 2.0% and the percent ammonium (NH_4^+) is greater than 75% of the total N, Blaser Farms, Inc may use the following equation to adjust the first year available nitrogen when applications are injected or incorporated within 1 hour:

$$\text{First-Year Available N} = NH_4\text{-N} + [0.25 \times (\text{Total N} - NH_4\text{-N})]$$

7. Blaser Farms, Inc shall record daily manure applications by using form 'Blaser Farm Daily Spread Log'. These forms shall be retained at the farm and provided to the department upon request.

8. Blaser Farms, Inc shall annually submit a spreading report that summarizes the land application activities listed under NR 243.19(3)(c)5., Wis. Adm. Code by using form 'CAFO Annual Spreading Report' as generated by Snap Plus.

<u>WINTER SPREADING</u>

9. Liquid manure applications during winter conditions, as defined by NR 243.14(7), Wis. Adm. Code, are prohibited with the exception of emergency applications.

10. The following field(s) are <u>approved</u> for winter spreading solid manure, emergency applications of liquid manure and frozen liquid manure:
    - Behind Shop
    - Freestall
    - Zahn Romys East
    - Gays East
    - Schaal Kershek
    - Across Rd
    - Kershek
    - A3
    - 80 acre
    - A5

11. Winter spreading of solid and liquid manure may not occur during the "high risk runoff period" pursuant to s. NR 243.14(6)(c) and NR 243.14(7)(c), respectively.

12. Winter applications of liquid manure shall only occur under emergency situations, after notifying the Department and receiving verbal approval.

13. Liquid applications shall be limited to 3,500 gallons per acre or 30 lbs. P per acre, whichever is less, on slopes 2-6% and 7,000 gallons per acre or 60 lbs. P per acre, whichever is less, on slopes 0-2%. Winter applications of solid manure shall be limited to 60 lbs. P per acre.

<u>HEADLAND STACKING</u>

14. The following headland stacking site is rejected due to placement within a restriction area setback around a tile inlet:
    - Freestall South

15. The following headland stacking sites are approved for use with the following conditions:
    - 80 North - 80 South - Kershek - Freestall North
        - Sites are only allowed to be used with greater than 32% solids (due to slope of sites ranging up to 6%)
        - Sites may be used only when the ground is not frozen or snow covered, or in February and March only.
        - Sites may only be used for 1 out of every 2 years.

MANURE & PROCESS WASTEWATER IRRIGATION

16. Irrigation of manure or process wastewater is prohibited.

SUBMITAL AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

17. A copy of this conditional approval shall be included in all future annual Nutrient Management Plan Updates in addition to the NR 243 and NRCS 590 checklists.
18. Please review and revise restriction maps for wetland buffers and potential areas that may need added markings and setbacks for conduits to navigable water. These should be submitted back to the department by no later than **March 9th, 2024**.

This conditional approval does not limit the Department's regulatory authority to require NMP revisions (based upon new information or manure irrigation research findings) or request additional information in order to confirm or ensure your farm operation remains in compliance with NR 243 and your WPDES permit conditions. If additional information, project changes or other circumstances indicate a possible need to modify this approval, the Department may ask you to provide further information relating to this activity.

Please keep in mind that approval by the Department of Natural Resources – Runoff Management Program does not relieve you of obligations to meet all other applicable federal, state or locate permits, zoning and regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, I can be reached at 608-212-8460 or Ashley.Scheel@Wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

Ashley Scheel, CCA
WDNR Nutrient Management Plan Reviewer
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

cc: Brian Hanson, WDNR Agricultural Runoff Specialist (Brian.Hanson@Wisconsin.gov)
Joe Baetan, WDNR Watershed Field Supervisor (Joseph.Baetan@Wisconsin.gov)

Christopher Clayton, WDNR Runoff Management Section Chief (Christopherr.Clayton@Wisconsin.gov)
Tyler Dix, WDNR CAFO Program Coordinator (Tyler.Dix@Wisconsin.gov)
Aaron O'Rourke, WDNR Nutrient Management Program Coordinator (Aaron.Orourke@Wisconsin.gov)
Falon French, WDNR Intake Specialist (Falon.French@Wisconsin.gov)
Tony Salituro, WDNR CAFO Engineer (Anthony.Salituro@Wisconsin.gov)
Ken Dolata, Oconto County (Ken.Dolata@Co.Oconto.Wi.us)
Kyle Much, Much Crop Consulting, Inc (Much.Kyle@gmail.com)
File

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 22, 2024

FILE REF: R-2024-0016
WPDES Permit #: WI-0064246

Josh Blaser
Blaser Farms Inc
9267 State Highway 22E
Gillett, WI 54124

Subject: Days of Storage Review for Blaser Farms Inc, NW¼ NW¼ of T28N, R19E, Section 20 in Oconto Falls Township, Oconto County – NO ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Mr. Blaser:

This letter is to inform you that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department) has completed its review of the calculation of days of storage submitted under certification by James Roach, Roach and Associates LLC on January 2, 2024 on behalf of Blaser Farms Inc.

The Department reviewed the submitted calculations in accordance with ss. NR 243.14(9) and NR 243.15(3)(i) to (k), Wis. Adm. Code. Under s. NR 243.17(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee shall demonstrate compliance with the 180-day design storage capacity requirement at specified times. For the following liquid manure storage calculations, the Department has determined **no additional actions** on your part are required.

Days of Available Liquid Waste Storage: The submitted information states that Blaser Farms Inc has 264 days of liquid waste storage based on the volumes listed in the table below with respect to s. NR 243.15(3)(i) to (k), Wis. Adm. Code. The current number of animal units provided for the calculation is 940 (620 Milking/Dry Cows and 65 Heifers). There are 110 Calves at Blaser Farms Inc that are handled as solid manure and not included in the calculations below. The liquid waste volumes are based on the NRCS spreadsheet and other estimated or calculated values for a collection period of 365 days. The first 0.25-inch flush from the feed storage area is captured in permanent storage, with the remainder transferred to an existing vegetated treatment area.

Waste Storage	Total Vol. from Settled Top to Bottom	Solids Storage	25-yr, 24-hr Precip. on Storage	25-yr, 24-hr Collected Runoff	Freeboard Vol.	Max. Operating Level (MOL) Vol.
#1	2,880,275	0	108,199	0	307,444	2,464,632
#2	4,759,012	0	159,519	0	455,808	4,143,685
					Total MOL Vol:	6,608,317
					Days of Storage:	**264**

Liquids Collected/Stored	**Annual Gallons**
Manure and Bedding	5,535,663
Parlor Wastewater	1,800,790
Feed Storage Leachate	77,727
Feed Storage Runoff Collected (0.25”)	406,532
Net Precipitation on Storage Surfaces	1,322,307
TOTAL:	**9,143,019**

Should you have any questions, please contact Tony Salituro, DNR Madison office or your regional CAFO Specialist.

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that the Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to WIS. STAT. §§ 227.52 and 227.53, you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 227.42, you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with WIS. ADMIN. CODE § NR 2.05(5), and served on the Secretary in accordance with WIS. ADMIN. CODE § NR 2.03. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bernie Michaud

Bernie Michaud, P.E.
CAFO Engineer Supervisor
Watershed Management Program

Anthony Salituro

Tony Salituro, EIT
CAFO Review Engineer
Watershed Management Program

Email:

Josh Blaser; Blaser Farms Inc
(920) 373-3063; blaserjosh16@gmail.com

James Roach; Roach & Associates
(920) 833-6340; jim@jmroach.com

Ken Dolata; Oconto County
(920) 834-7152; ken.dolata@co.oconto.wi.us

Matt Woodrow; DATCP
(920) 427-8505; matthew.woodrow@wisconsin.gov

Brian Hanson; DNR-Northeast Region
(920) 366-3302; brian.hanson@wisconsin.gov

Joe B Baeten; DNR-Northeast Region
(920) 366-2072; Joseph.Baeten@wisconsin.gov

Anthony Salituro; DNR-Central Office
(608) 444-2869; anthony.salituro@wisconsin.gov

Aaron O'Rourke; DNR, Eau Claire
(715) 839-3775; aaron.orourke@wisconsin.gov

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June 26, 2024

File Ref: R-2024-0153

Josh Blaser
Blaser Farms Inc
9267 State Highway 22e
Gillett, WI 54124

Subject: Completeness Determination Letter

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (the Department) received a plan and specification submittal on behalf of Blaser Farms Inc by Courtney Roach, Roach & Associates, LLC on June 17, 2024 for waste transfer system (reception tank, transfer pipe, abandon/discontinue and days of storage), to be reviewed by the Department in accordance with s. 281.41 Wis Stats. A completeness review was conducted to determine if the submittal is complete. The submitted plans and specifications have been deemed complete. The complete date is set at June 17, 2024 and the 90 day due date is September 15, 2024.

In accordance with s. NR 243.15(1)(a) and s. NR 108.03(1), an owner or operator may not commence or cause to be commenced, construction of a proposed reviewable facility or system until plans and specifications have been approved by the department in writing. Also, s. NR 108.04(5) states, "The Department may not approve plans and specifications for any project for which construction has commenced. The department may review the plans and specifications and require changes to components which may adversely affect public health, the operation of the proposed or existing facility and the determination of permit compliance. This review does not prohibit the department from taking enforcement action under s. NR 108.03."

Please contact (contact information below) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tabatha Davis
Watershed Management Program

EC: Courtney Roach; Roach & Associates, LLC
(920) 833-6340; courtney@jmroach.com

Ken Dolata; Oconto County
(920) 834-7152; ken.dolata@co.oconto.wi.us

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Joe B Baeten; DNR-Northeast Region
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8/9/2023

Josh Blaser
Blaser Farms Inc
9267 State Hwy 22 E
Oconto Falls, WI 54124

WPDES Permit No. WI-0064246-02-0
Oconto County

Subject: 7/20/2023 Permit Compliance Inspection

Dear Mr. Blaser:

On July 20th, 2023 the Department of Natural Resources met with the representatives of Blaser Farms Inc to conduct a full compliance inspection of your facility for the purpose of permit reissuance. Department observations, including photographs, and a record of our conversations are included in the enclosed report.

The final pages of the report include a summary section identifying areas of concern & action items the farm should continue to monitor. It should be noted that missed permit schedules outlined in 10/1/2022 Notice of Noncompliance have still not been addressed and the farm will remain in noncompliance until they are addressed. Failure to complete these schedule items may result in escalated enforcement by the department.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or your WPDES permit requirements, please contact me at 920-366-3302 or brian.hanson@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

Brian Hanson

Brian Hanson
Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist

Enc: 7/20/2023 Inspection Report

Electronic copy: Ken Dolata -Oconto LCD
Joe Baeten - DNR
Kyle Much– Much Crop Consulting
John Roach – Roach & Assoc.

CAFO Compliance Inspection Report

Inspection Date: 7/20/2023

Report Final Date: 8/9/2023

Operation Name: Blaser Farms Inc

WPDES Permit #: WI-0064246-02-0

Farm Address: Main Dairy - 9267 State Highway 22 E, Gillett, WI 54124

On-Site Representative(s): Josh Blaser—Blaser Farms Inc (Andy, Roger & Trisha during records review)

Report Author: Brian Hanson: DNR Agricultural Runoff Specialist

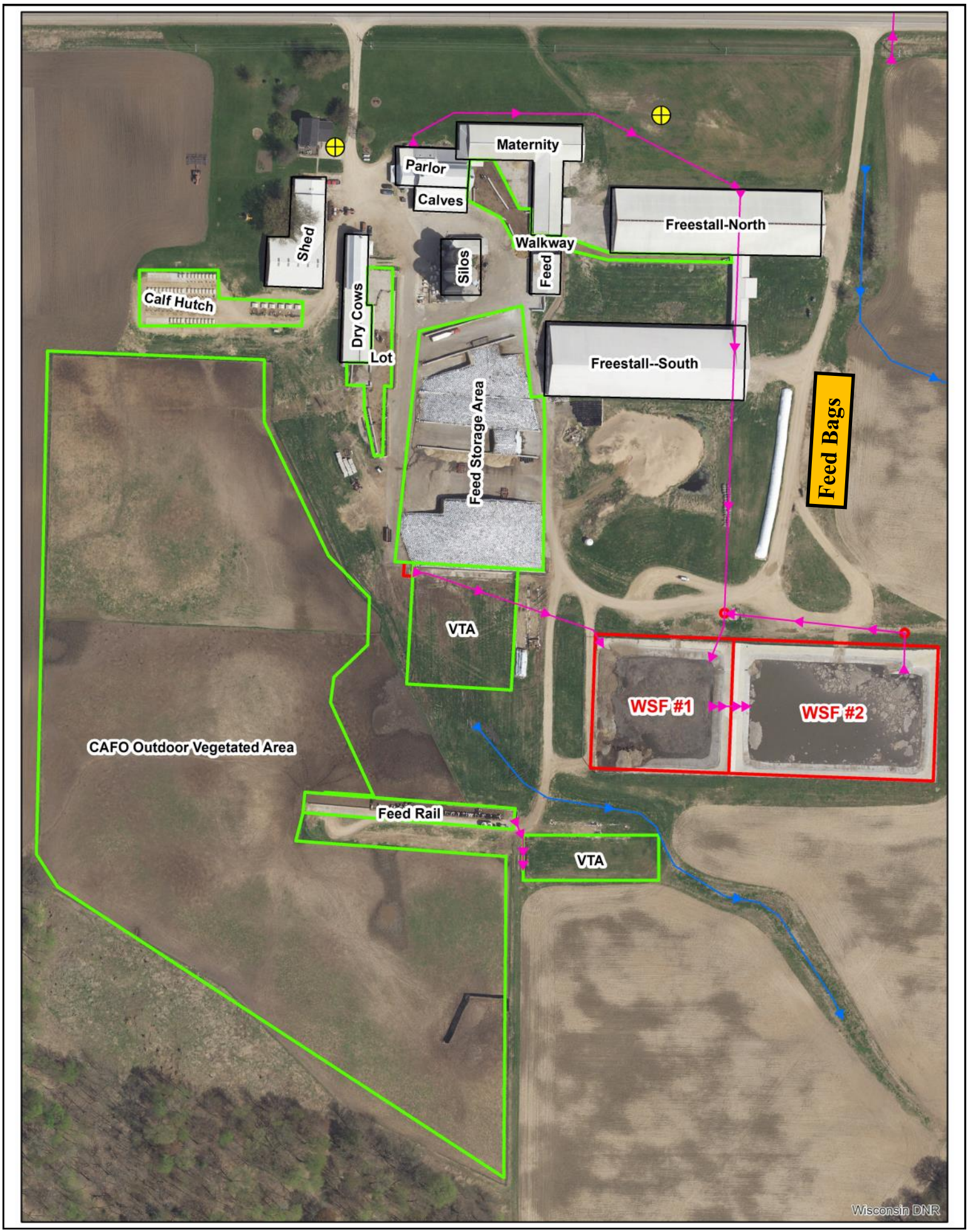
Other Participating Agencies: Kyle Much—Much Crop Consulting, McKenna Arnoldi—DNR

Introduction

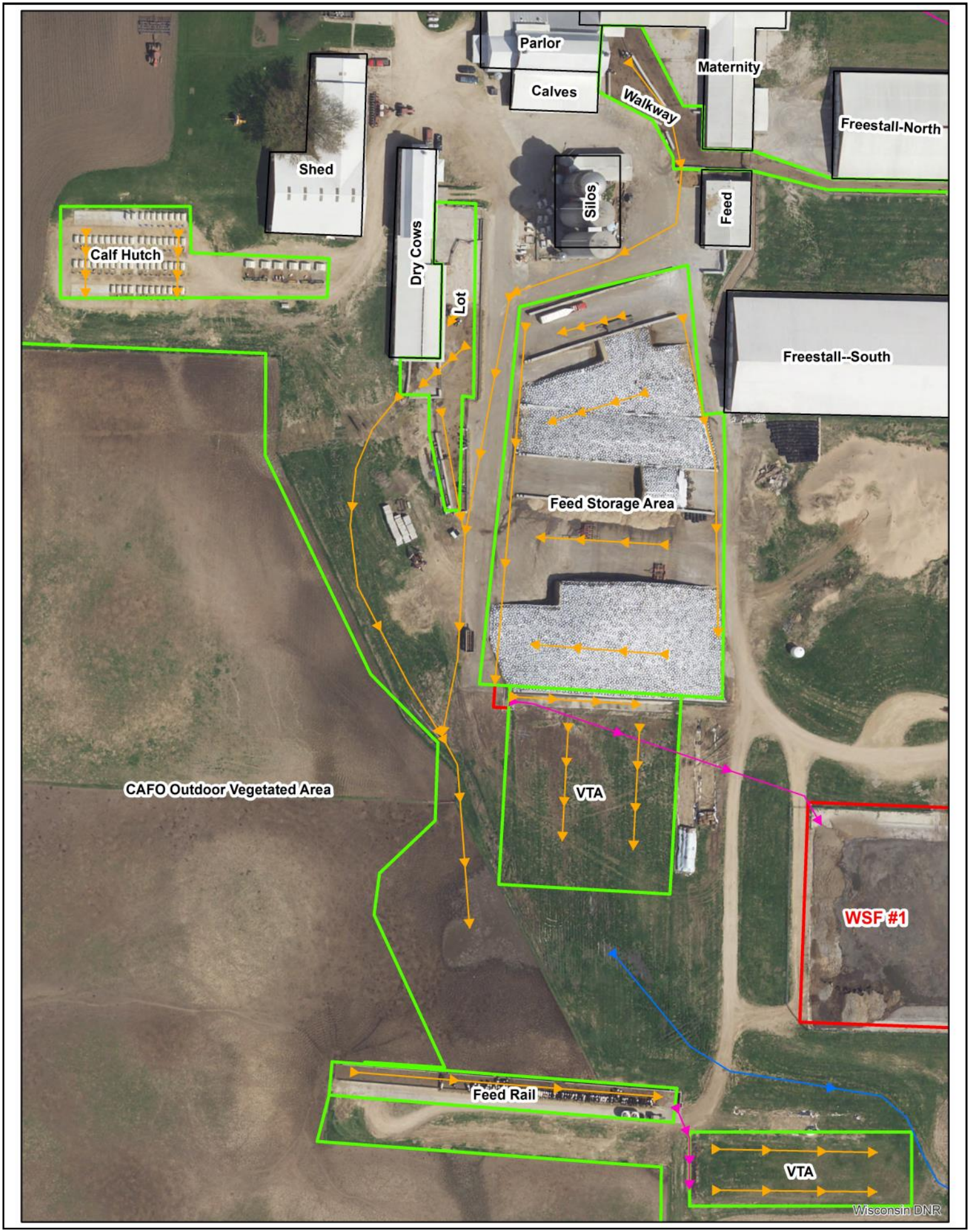
On Thursday July 20, 2023 Hanson & Arnoldi met with Blaser, Much, & others at 13:00 at Blaser Farms Inc site to conduct a permit reissuance walkover inspection. Only the 1 production site was inspected. No liquid precipitation had fallen in the last 24 hours, but there was periods of brief rain during the inspection and the temperature was in the 80's and partly cloudy. One permit violation for uncompleted permit schedule was noted, but no water samples were collected. Hanson & Arnoldi departed at approximately 14:15.

Site Overview Diagram (Blaser Farms Inc.)

Site Overview Diagram (Main Dairy: Orange Lines = Protentional contaminated runoff, Blue lines = stormwater flow, pink lines = waste transfer system, Yellow Circles = water supply well locations)



Potential Runoff Overview Diagram (orange lines =potential contaminated runoff, blue lines = stormwater flow, pink lines = waste transfer system)



SITE OBSERVATIONS :

Feedlot Runoff

There are 3 concrete areas on the farm that are used by animals and capable of producing manure contaminated runoff. None of the lots have engineered runoff controls that were approved by the department.

The first is an approximately 30' x 300' drive by feed rail located in the southwest portion of the production area and used by the heifers out on pasture. The feed rail consists of a curbed litter alley and a concrete drive by feed alley with headlocks. The entire area slopes to the east towards a centralized collection point. Manure is scraped to this same location as needed and directly field applied or hauled to the manure storage. Runoff from this lot flows to the east end collection point where it goes through a picket fence box and into a gravity drain pipe. The drain pipe outlets onto a concrete spreader bar just to the southeast and then flows east across a vegetated treatment area. This runoff control system was last evaluated in 2021 and requires further action. The farms current plan is to abandon the lot and runoff controls when a new robotic milking barn expansion occurs. At the time of inspection the original spreader pad and VTA treatment system was still in place. The temporary measures that were outlined in a March 2021 correspondence from the farm's engineering consultant (Roach & Assoc) had not been installed as was stated in a September 2022 email. The farm was issued a Notice of Noncompliance for this lot on 10/17/2022 and will remain in noncompliance until it is abandoned.

The second area is referred to as the dry cow lot. The dry cow lot is an approximate 10,000 square foot concrete area located directly east & south of the dry cow barn in the central portion of the production area. Manure from this lot is scraped to a central loading area directly south of the barn which has a series of concrete blocks to aid in the containment & loading of manure. Runoff from the north 1/2 of the lot flows in a southwesterly direction towards this load out area and exits the lot through the gaps in between the concrete blocks. Flow continues southwest towards the pasture and then turns southeast and runs along the east side of the pasture. Runoff from the south half of the lot flows southeast and exits the south end of the lot through gaps in the concrete blocks. This runoff then flows south along the west side of the feed storage area until it meets up with the runoff from the north half of the dry cow lot near southwest corner of the feed storage area. From here the runoff flows generally in a southerly direction and ends up in the internally drained area north of the feed rail lot or continues to flow southeast off the production site in a concentrated flow channel.

The third area is referred to as the Cattle Walkway. The cattle walkway is an approximate 7,000 square foot concrete lot that is primarily used to transfer animals between the freestall barns and the milking parlor. The largest section of it is located between the parlor & the maternity barn, but there is also a small walkway leading to the north freestall and the south freestall. The majority of the runoff from this lot flows southeast towards the commodity shed where it turns and flows south towards the feed storage area. Runoff then flows southwest along the northern edge of the feed storage area and continues southerly along the west edge of the feed storage area until it mixes with runoff from the dry cow lot. Runoff from this lot is kept separate from the feed pad runoff via a concrete wall and asphalt curb.

Feedlot runoff control system for the Feed Rail Area is well-maintained and in good repair, however according to the 2021 evaluation further actions are required which have not yet been completed. At the time of the inspection, the Dry Cow Lot & the Cattle Walkway did not have any runoff controls present.

Calf Hutch Areas

There is 1 calf hutch area located on the farm at this time. It is an approximately 13,000 square foot area located in the northwest portion of the production area. There are a number of super hutches on the eastern side that house multiple calves per hutch. The remainder of the hutches are individuals. The calf hutches and adjacent outdoor lot areas are set on a concrete pad and have gravel driveways in between the concrete pads. The calf hutch area does not have any engineered runoff controls and runoff from this area flows south into a vegetated area. At the time of the inspection, there was no sign of current or past discharges from either portions of the calf hutch area.

Waste Storage Facilities

There are 2 liquid waste storage facilities located on the farm. They are referred to as WSF #1 & WSF #2. These facilities were constructed in 2003 & 2015 respectively and both are concrete-lined and contain an access ramp. These facilities were last evaluated in 2021 and found to be compliant with code requirements.

Manure from North & South freetall barns is collected in a central gravity flume system which flows south to the reception tank just north of the waste storages.

Waste Storage Facilities (continued)

It then flows into the northeast corner of WSF #1. A gravity pipe and an overflow channel then transfer manure into WSF #2 when that operating level is reached. In the reception tank just north of the waste storages, there is a recirculation pump that transfers liquid back to the north freestall to keep the gravity system flowing. A floating inlet & pump was added to WSF #2 in 2020 to help add cleaner water to this recirculation system.

Leachate and first flush runoff from the feed storage area is also transferred to WSF #1 for long-term storage.

Solid manure generated from areas such as the calf hutch area, dry cow barn, calf barn, and maternity barn is directly field applied when possible. When not field applied, the manure is either transferred to WSF #1 or a department approved headland stacking site.

Solid and liquid waste storage structures are well-maintained, in good repair, and in compliance with permit requirements. Liquid waste storage facilities have permanent markers installed. See photo log for details.

Process Wastewater (other than feed storage area leachate/runoff)

Milking parlor washwater at the farm is collected in a reception tank in the parlor area and is transferred to the north barn manure transfer system where it is mixed with the manure. Any liquid from this system is eventually stored in the waste storages until land applied.

Feed Storage Area Runoff

All feed storage areas and runoff controls are located at the main site. Surface drainage of leachate and runoff is directed to a centralized collection point in the southwest corner of the feed storage area. An asphalt berm along the western edge keeps runoff from the feed storage area separate from other production site runoff of the farm. Leachate and first flush runoff flows into a below ground reception tank and is pumped directly to WSF #1. Any runoff not collected by the reception tank, overflows through the containment walls in a series of pipes in the wall and spreads out across a concrete spreader pad with gravel spreader. Runoff then flows south across a vegetated treatment area and eventually to a concentrated flow channel off the production site. The runoff control system appeared to be in good working order. The VTA was well-vegetated and had recently been mowed and harvested per the operation & maintenance plan.

The feed storage areas and runoff control systems are well-maintained, in good repair, and appear to be in compliance with permit requirements.

Animal Mortality Disposal

Mortalities are moved to central location on the east side of the silos and picked up daily as needed by Circle R.

Ancillary Service Areas

Preventative maintenance actions and visual inspections are occurring to minimize pollutant discharges from ancillary service and storage areas (i.e. storm water conveyance systems, driveways, etc.). At the time of the inspection, all stormwater channels were well vegetated and other areas were free of manure & feed solids. Farm should continue to manage these areas to minimize the chance of runoff from the production area.

The farm does have 1 CAFO outdoor vegetated area as part of their operation. The area is also referred to as the heifer pasture and is used in conjunction with the drive by feed rail. This area is located in the southwest corner of the production area and is approximately 12 acres in size. The majority of this area contained sufficient vegetative cover with only small areas of bare earth present. The area of ponded water that was identified during the 2021 inspection had been fenced off and cattle have been excluded from this area..

RECORDS REVIEW

The permittee has current WPDES Permit and Nutrient Management Plan onsite, is located in office.

The permittee has copies of their emergency response and monitoring and inspection plans onsite.

The permittee is up to date on required reporting and actions as specified in the Schedules section of permit except:

- Schedule 2.7—Evaluation of Feed rail Runoff Controls requires further action. Blaser Farms has previously stated they plan to abandon this outdoor lot by the end of 2022. & 2023, but this has not yet been completed. A notice of noncompliance was issued on 10/17/2022 for failing to complete this.

Photo #:	7796
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:35
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture Feed Rail

Photo Description:

Standing on the east side of feed rail looking west: View of litter alley of concrete feed rail.

Photo #:	7803
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:38
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture Feed Rail

Photo Description:

Standing on east end of feed rail looking east: View of manure push up area on east end of feed rail. Notice wooden screen on right side of wall. Runoff inlet to VTA is behind this screen.

Photo #:	7804
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:38
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture Feed Rail

Photo Description:

Standing on the east end of feed rail looking southeast: View of concrete spreader pad from edge of feed rail. Dotted line indicates underground pipe that conveys runoff to spreader pad.

Photo #:	7805
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:38
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture Feed Rail

Photo Description:

Standing on north side of spreader pad looking south: View of concrete spreader pad on west end of VTA. Notice runoff is ponding on pad prior to entering VTA.

Photo #:	7807
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:39
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture Feed Rail VTA

Photo Description:

Standing on the east side of concrete spreader pad looking east: View of vegetated treatment are from feed rail. Area is well-vegetated & maintained.

Photo #:	7893
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:55
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Dry Cow Lot

Photo Description:

Standing on the north end of dry cow lot looking south: View of north end of dry cow lot. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7904
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:57
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Dry Cow Lot

Photo Description:

Standing in the middle of dry cow lot looking west: View of middle of dry cow lot . Notice manure stacking area on west side of lot. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7909
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:57
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Dry Cow Lot

Photo Description:

Standing in middle of dry cow lot looking west: Close up view of manure stacking area. Notice walls made of Texas blocks. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7910
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:57
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Dry Cow Lot

Photo Description:

Standing on west side of dry cow lot looking northeast: View of south west corner of manure stacking pad. Notice gap in wall and ponded runoff outside of blocks. Arrow indicated direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7912
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:58
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Dry Cow Lot

Photo Description:

Standing in middle of dry cow lot looking south: View of south 1/2 of dry cow lot. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7915
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:59
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Dry Cow Lot

Photo Description:

Standing at south end of dry cow lot looking southwest: View of south end of dry cow lot. Notice Texas blocks again used to form edge of lot. Also notice gap in wall. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7916
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:59
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Dry Cow Lot

Photo Description:

Standing off south end of dry cow lot looking west: View of area south of dry cow lot wall. Notice manure solids & ponded runoff visible on exterior of lot.

Photo #:	7878
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:54
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Cattle Walkway

Photo Description:

Standing north of the feed storage area looking north: View of the cattle walkway connecting the freestall barns & parlor. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7881
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:54
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Cattle Walkway

Photo Description:

Standing on the north side of feed storage area looking south: View of edge of cattle walkway. Notice gaps in block wall were runoff exits the lot. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7898
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:56
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Cattle Walkway Runoff Flow

Photo Description:

Standing on the north side of feed storage area looking east: View of north edge of FSA where runoff from cattle walkway flows around FSA. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7899
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:56
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Cattle Walkway Runoff Flow

Photo Description:

Standin at northwest corner of FSA looking south: View of west edge of FSA. Red line indicates curb used to keep FSA runoff separate from other runoff. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7772
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:31
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Cattle Walkway Runoff Flow

Photo Description:

Standing off the southwest corner of FSA looking northeast: View of stormwater runoff channel the collects runoff from farmstead & cattle walkway. Noticed channelized flow with organic solids & lack of vegetation.

Photo #:	7771
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:31
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Cattle Walkway Runoff Flow

Photo Description:

Standing off the southwest corner of FSA looking southwest: View of stormwater runoff channel the collects runoff from farmstead & cattle walkway. Noticed area where runoff ponds. Organic solids & lack of vegetation present indicating signs of previous discharges.

Photo #:	7742
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:24
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Calf Hutch Area

Photo Description:

Standing on the south side of calf hutch area looking west: View of super hutch area on east end of calf hutch area.

Photo #:	7739
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:24
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Calf Hutch Area

Photo Description:

Standing on south side of calf hutch area looking north: View of super hutch. Notice calves have access to bedded outdoor area and feed rail system.

Photo #:	7745
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:26
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Calf Hutch Area

Photo Description:

Standing on south side of calf hutch area looking east: View of grassed area on south side of calf hutch area where runoff would flow. No signs of current or past discharges in this area.

Photo #:	7748
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:25
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Calf Hutch Area

Photo Description:

Standing on the east side of the calf hutch area looking west: View of the west 1/2 of lot that has individual hutches. Notice hutches are placed on concrete slabs.

Photo #:	7751
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:25
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Calf Hutch Area

Photo Description:

Standing on the side of calf hutch area looking west: View of the northern row of calf hutch area. Notice hutches are rotated when calves are moved. When not in use, hutches are removed and area is cleaned.

Photo #:	7757
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:27
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Calf Hutch Area

Photo Description:

Standing on west side of calf hutch area looking east: View of south row of calf hutch area. Notice a small amount of solids & runoff at edge of gravel.

Photo #:	7766
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:27
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Calf Hutch Area

Photo Description:

Standing on south side of calf hutch area looking northeast: View of grassed area south of calf hutches where runoff would flow. No signs of current or past discharges in this area.

Photo #:	7812
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:40
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #1

Photo Description:

Standing at the southwest corner of WSF #1 looking north: View of west edge of WSF #1

Photo #:	7817
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:41
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #1

Photo Description:

Standing on south side of WSF #1 looking northeast: View of east 1/2 of WSF #1. Notice diving berm on right side of photo.

Photo #:	7842
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:47
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #1

Photo Description:

Standing at northeast corner of WSF #1 looking north: View of recirculation tank. Notice concrete channel that slopes into WSF #1 in case of pump failure and tank overflow.

Photo #:	7844
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:47
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #1

Photo Description:

Standing on north side of WSF #1 looking west: View of north edge of WSF #1. Notice chain pinned to top of liner acting as permanent marker system.

Photo #:	7821
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:42
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #2

Photo Description:

Standing on south side of WSF #2 looking north: View of west edge of WSF #2

Photo #:	7825
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:42
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #2

Photo Description:

Standing on south side of WSF #2 looking east: View of south edge of WSF #2.

Photo #:	7827
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:44
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #2

Photo Description:

Standing on the east side of WSF #2 looking west: View of center section of WSF #2. Notice floating inlet in idle of pit used to supply recirculation water.

Photo #:	7833
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:45
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #2

Photo Description:

Standing at the northeast corner of WSF #2 looking west: View of northeast corner of WSF #2. Notice concrete access ramp in northeast corner of WSF #2.

Photo #:	7838
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:46
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	WSF #2

Photo Description:

Standing on north side of WSF #2 looking west: View of northwest corner of WSF #2. Notice chain pinned to top of liner used as permanent marker.

Photo #:	7866
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:51
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage Area

Photo Description:

Standing on the east side of FSA looking north: View of east side of FSA. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7862
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:50
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage Area

Photo Description:

Standin at southeast corner of FSA looking north: View of east side of FSA. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7864
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:51
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage Area

Photo Description:

Standing on east side of FSA looking southwest: View of southeast corner of FSA. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7861
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:50
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage Area

Photo Description:

Standing at southeast corner of FSA looking west: View of south end of FSA. Arrows indicated direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7856
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:50
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage Area

Photo Description:

Standing at southeast corner of FSA looking west: View of south edge of FSA. Notice curb on south end used to divert any runoff to reception tank in southwest corner. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7774
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:31
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage Area

Photo Description:

Standing on west side of FSA looking north: View of west edge of FSA. Red line indicates curb used to separate FSA runoff from other runoff.

Photo #:	7775
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:31
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage Area

Photo Description:

Standing at the southwest corner of FSA looking northeast: View of southwest corner of FSA. Arrows indicate direction of runoff flow.

Photo #:	7776
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:32
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage Area

Photo Description:

Standing at the southwest corner of FSA looking east: View of runoff collection system in southwest corner. Leachate & first flush runoff enter reception tank & are pumped to WSF #1. Additional runoff overflows onto concrete spreader pad & VTA

Photo #:	7780
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:32
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed storage VTA

Photo Description:

Standing at the northwest corner of VTA looking east: View of north edge of VTA where runoff flows off concrete spreader pad onto VTA. No concentrated flow channels or ponded runoff areas visible.

Photo #:	7783
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:33
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage VTA

Photo Description:

Standing in the middle of the VTA looking southwest: View of the south end of VTA. Area is well-vegetated.

Photo #:	7792
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:35
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Feed Storage VTA

Photo Description:

Standing on the south end of VTA looking north: View of south end of VTA. Area is well-vegetated.

Photo #:	7847
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:47
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Temporary Feed Storage

Photo Description:

Standing on the north side of WSF #1 looking north: View of temporary feed bags along driveway. Temporary use was approved by the department.

Photo #:	7761
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:27
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture

Photo Description:

Standing on the south side of calf hutch area looking east: View of the northern edge of pasture. Notice small area of earthen lot present along fence.

Photo #:	7763
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:27
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture

Photo Description:

Standing on the south side of calf hutch area looking south: View of the northern edge of pasture. Notice small area of earthen lot present along fence. The rest of the area is well-vegetated.

Photo #:	7801
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:37
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture

Photo Description:

Standing on the west side of feed rail looking south: View of east edge of pasture. Notice small area of earthen lot next to fence,. The rest of the area is well-vegetated.

Photo #:	7802
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:37
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture

Photo Description:

Standing on the west side of feed rail looking southwest: View of east edge of pasture. Pasture in this area is well-vegetated.

Photo #:	7786
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 13:34
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Pasture/ Storm Water

Photo Description:

Standing on the west side of the VTA looking south: View of low spot on the north side of the pasture feed rail. Area has been fenced off to exclude animals. Runoff from dry cow lot and cattle walkway flow to this area

Photo #:	7923
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 14:02
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Water Supply Well

Photo Description:

Standing on the east side of the farmhouse looking northwest: View of 1 of 2 wells on the property. Identified as

ID# 8BX828

Photo #:	7924
Date/Time of Photo:	7/20/2023 04:04
Photo By:	Brian Hanson
Photo Location:	Water Supply Well Locations

Photo Description:

Standing on the north side of the freestall barns looking east: View of water supply well location. Well is located underneath plastic barrel. Identified as :

ID# : MR407

SUMMARY:

Substantial Compliance

- The permittee is currently not in substantial compliance with the permit. This is due to Schedule 2.7 not being completed.

Areas of Concern

- The Dry Cow Lot, Cattle Walkway, & the Calf Hutch Area do not have engineered runoff controls. These areas have the potential for unpermitted discharges from the production site. Blaser Farms should continue to monitor these areas for permit compliance
- The farm has asked for & utilized temporary feed storage areas multiple years during this permit term. The farm has discussed expanding the feed storage area as part of the robotic milking barn expansion, but plans for this expansion have not yet been submitted to the department. The farm should continue to evaluate long-term feed storage needs at the farm.

Permit Violations

- Permit Section 2.7 – Runoff Control System – Engineering Evaluation – Corrections and Post Construction Documentation due 7/01/2021.

Action Items

- Continue to follow through with action plan submitted on 3/19/2021, 9/20/2022, & 3/3/2023 for the feed rail runoff controls required by Schedule 2.7 of your permit.
- Submit permit reissuance application in compliance with permit schedule 2.8. Due date is 1/2/2024

Materials Required as part of the Permit Application

Required materials must be submitted together as a complete permit application through the ePermitting System: http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water/. The system will not allow you to electronically sign and submit your application until all of the following are included:

- 3400-025 form (Livestock/Poultry Operation WPDES Permit Application)
- 3400-025A form (Animal Units Calculation Worksheet)
- 3400-025G form (Evaluated Facilities of Systems Checklist)
- 3400-025C form (Reviewable Facilities of Systems Checklist)
- A soil survey map of the dairy's production area
- A labeled aerial map showing the existing and proposed features and structures of the dairy's production area
- Calculations documenting days of liquid manure and process wastewater storage
- Supporting documentation for days of storage calculations
- A complete 5-year Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). If necessary, include a description of permanent spray irrigation systems and any other landspreading or treatment systems (proposed or active)
- Plans and specifications for any proposed facilities