Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number	WI-0058815-06-0
Permittee Name and Address	Blue Star Dairy Farms 7502 Patton Rd, DeForest, WI 53532
Permitted Facility Name and Address	Deforest Site, 7502 Patton Road, Deforest WI, 53532; Dane County WI, Town of Vienna, SW ¼ of SW ¼ Sec. 10 T09N R09E Arlington Site, 1399 County Hwy Q, Arlington WI, 53911; Columbia County WI, Town of Arlington, SW ¼ of SE ¼ Sec. 21 T10N R09E
Permit Term	January 01, 2027 to December 31, 2031
Receiving Water	Unnamed tributaries within the Headwaters Yahara River and Lake Wisconsin- Wisconsin River Watersheds, and ground waters of the state.
Discharge Type	Existing source CAFO per NR 243.03(23) as the facility has been permitted since 2007.

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.)	113	0	0	0	
Milking and Dry Cows	3333	3405	0	0	
Heifers (400 lbs. to 800 lbs.)	326	544	0	0	
Heifers (800 lbs. to 1200 lbs.)	465	423	0	0	
Total	4237	3405	0	0	

Facility Description

Blue Star Dairy Farms is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) with two production areas, the Deforest Site located at 7502 Patton Road, Deforest WI, Dane County, Town of Vienna and the Arlington Site located at 1399 County Hwy Q, Arlington WI, Columbia County, Town of Arlington. Blue Star Dairy Farms is owned by Blue Star Dairy Farms and operated by Brian and Chad Meinholz. Blue Star Dairy Farms Deforest consists of five liquid waste storage facilities, one sand separation building, one solid storage facility, three dairy freestall barns with one parlor, four heifer barns, two calf barns, and a feed storage area. The Arlington site consists of two dairy freestall barns with parlor, one waste storage facility, sand separation building, and one feed storage area. Both sites had previously carried their own individual permits, Blue Star Dairy Farms Arlington (WI-006227-040) and Blue Star Farms Deforest (WI-0058815-05) however, both sites will now be covered under one permit (WI-0058815-06) due operational changes and the sharing of land and manure between plans. There is no planned herd size expansion during the permit term.

The current herd size of 4,237 animal units (2,381 milking & dry cows, 967 heifers, and 567 calves). Blue Star Dairy Farms currently produces approximately 46,717,619 gallons of liquid manure and process wastewater, and approximately 4,000 tons of solid manure annually. Blue Star Dairy Farms has 181 days of liquid manure and process waste storage, approximately 23,130,426 gallons of storage. Blue Star Dairy Farms owns and rents approximately 11,054 acres of cropland, of which 11,019 acres are available for manure application.

Substantial Compliance Determination

Enforcement During Last Permit:

A notice of noncompliance was sent to Blue Star Dairy Farms on June 6, 2025, for failure to adhere to permit schedules:

- Deforest Site permit schedule 2.5 Manure Storage Facility- WSF 1- Engineering Evaluation
    - Blue Star Dairy Farms submitted the required engineering evaluation on March 20, 2026. The department reviewed the evaluation and determined the waste storage facility meets permit requirements (R-2026-0098).
- Deforest Site permit schedule: 2.5: Feed storge runoff controls system- Installation
    - Blue Star Dairy Farms submitted update plans and specifications on September 12, 2026. The department approved the plans on September 29, 2026 (R-2026-0137 and R-2026-0138)
- Arlington Site permit schedule 2.6: Feed storge runoff controls system- Installation.
    - Blue Star Dairy Farms submitted update plans and specifications on September 12, 2026. The department approved the plans on September 29, 2026 (R-2026-0137 and R-2026-0138).

Blue Star Dairy did submit information requested as part of the notice of noncompliance. The farm proposed an expansion and submitted and updated application on June 25, 2025, abandoning the outstanding facilities listed above. That application and expansion plans were later withdrawn. On March 10, 2026 new plans for the feed storage areas were submitted to the department, and later withdrawn for modification on May 22, 2026. Final plans for the feed storage areas were submitted on September 12, 2026. On March 20, 2026 a new engineering evaluation was submitted for WSF 1 along with a new application for existing animal units.

After a desk top review of annual reports, nutrient management plan updates, compliance schedule items, and a site visit on February 24, 2025, this facility has been found to be in substantial compliance with their current permit.

Sample Point Descriptions

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
001	WSF 1D: Sample point 001 is for liquid waste storage facility 1 (WSF 1 Deforest) located at the Deforest Site. WSF 1 is a vertical walled concrete storage located in the center of the production area east of the heifer barn and north of the northern freestall barn. The facility has a total capacity of 831,175 gallons, and a MOL capacity of 448,718 gallons for manure, the remaining volume is for the collection of runoff form feed storage area 1 bunkers. This storage accepts process wastewater, runoff, and leachate from the feed storage area 1 and calf barn waste from a reception tank located on the west side of the southern calf barn, and manure from the adjoining heifer barn. Waste from WSF 1 is often manually transferred via hose to WSF 2D & 3D for agitation and land application. WSF 1 was last evaluated in 2026 and met permit requirements (R-2026-0098).	
002	WSF 2D: Sample point 002 is for liquid waste storage facility 2 (WSF 2 Deforest) located at the Deforest Site. WSF 2 is a concrete floor, with a concrete eastern side wall, and clay lined side walled storage located east of the southern and center freestall barns and north of WSF 3D. The facility has a MOL capacity of 3,823,332 gallons and was constructed in 1994 and modified in 2023. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from WSF 1D, WSF 3D and WSF 4D. WSF 2D was last evaluated in 2019 with further actions required and was modified with plan approval in 2023 (R-2023-0070).	
003	WSF 3D: Sample point 003 is for liquid waste storage facility 3 (WSF 3 Deforest) located at the Deforest site. WSF 3 is a liquid-tight concrete storage located south side of the production area east of the sand separation facility and south of WSF 2. The facility has a MOL capacity of 7,222,081 gallons and was constructed in 2021 over the previous WSF 3. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from sand separation facility. Waste from WSF 1, WSF 2, WSF 4 are commingled for agitation and land application. The current WSF 3 replaced the former WSF 3 and was constructed with plan approval in 2021 (R-2021-0061).	
004	WSF 7D: Sample point 004 is for solid waste storage facility 7 (WSF 7 Deforest) located at the Deforest Site. WSF 7D is a concrete storage located on the west end of the northern calf barn. The facility has a capacity of 28 tons and was constructed in 2007. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from heifer and calf barns. WSF 7D was last evaluated in 2019 and met permit requirements (R-2019-0201), WSF 6 the other stacking solid manure stacking pad was abandoned.	
005	Miscellaneous Solid Manure Deforest: Sample point 005 is for solid manure sources that are directly land applied and not stored in a waste storage facility at the Deforest Site. This includes solid sources such as calf hutch manure, maternity pen bedpack, heifer bedpack, steer manure, settled manure solids, etc. Representative samples shall be taken for each manure source type.	
007	Feed Storage Area & Runoff Control System Deforest: Sample point 007 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the feed storage area and associated runoff control system located at Deforest Site. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	
010	WSF 4D: Sample point 010 is for liquid waste storage facility 4 (WSF 4 Deforest) located at the Deforest Site. WSF 4 is a concrete under barn storage located under the east end of the norther most heifer barn, west of WSF 7. The facility has a MOL capacity of 1,719,297 gallons and was constructed in 2005. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the above heifer barn.	
011	WSF 5D: Sample point 011 is for liquid waste storage facility 5 (WSF 5 Deforest) located at the Deforest	

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
	Site. WSF 5D is an underground concrete storage located under the former parlor, now an office space with a wash bay. The facility has a capacity of 100,000 gallons. This storage accepts process wastewater from the floor drains in the wash area of the office building. This storage is only periodically used only for process wastewater.	
013	WSF SSBD: Sample point 013 is for waste storage facility SSBD (WSF Sand Separation Building Deforest) located at the Deforest Site. WSF SSBD is a liquid-tight concrete floored and walled building that houses the channels, reception tanks, and separation equipment located in the southeast corner of the production area west of WSF 3D. The facility does not contribute to liquid manure storage capacity but does house reclaimed sand to be further dried and reused. WSF SSBD was constructed in 2014 (R2014-0125) with plan approval. Land application from this facility would only happen in case of equipment failure or emergency.	
014	FSA RTD: Sample point 014 is for liquid reception tank for the feed storage area (Feed Storage Area Reception Tank Deforest) located at the Deforest Site. FSA RTD is a liquid-tight wedge shape concrete storage with a precast reception tank buried below the storage connected with a stand pipe located on the east side of feed storage area 1 bunkers. The facility has a capacity of 137,498 gallons with 1600 gallon tank below, where the pump is installed via a stand pipe and will be constructed in 2027. This storage accepts leachate and process wastewater from FSA 1 Bunkers. The facility relies on a 25 hp pump operated on a float switch to transfer a 25-year 24-hour rain event to WSF 1. Plans for FSA RTD were approved on September 29, 2026 (R-2026-0137 & 0138), see Schedules section for due dates.	
015	WSF 5A: Sample point 015 is for liquid waste storage facility 5A (WSF 5 Arlington) located at the Arlington Site. WSF 5A is a concrete floor with clay-lined walled storage located south of the freestall barns. The facility has a MOL capacity of 9,916,998 gallons and was constructed in 2003. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from sand separation building. The storage is split by a berm but the valve in the berm bisecting the storage is kept open to act as one storage. WSF 5A was last evaluated in 2019 and met permit requirements (R2019-0166).	
016	WSF SSBA: Sample point 016 is for waste storage facility SSBA (WSF Sand Separation Building Arlington) located at the Arlington Site. WSF SSBA is a liquid-tight concrete floored and walled building that houses the channels, reception tanks, and separation equipment located in the southwest corner of the production area west of WSF 5. The facility does not contribute to liquid manure storage capacity but does house reclaimed sand to be further dried and reused. WSF SSBD was constructed in 2012 with plan approval (R2012-0046). Land application from this facility would only happen in case of equipment failure or emergency.	
017	Miscellaneous Solid Manure Arlington: Sample point 017 is for solid manure sources that are directly land applied and not stored in a waste storage facility at the Deforest Site. This includes solid sources such as calf hutch manure, maternity pen bedpack, heifer bedpack, steer manure, settled manure solids, etc. Representative samples shall be taken for each manure source type.	
018	FSA RTA: Sample point 018 is for liquid reception tank for the feed storage area (Feed Storage Area Reception Tank Arlington) located at the Arlington Site. FSA RTA is a liquid-tight wedge shape concrete storage with a precast reception tank buried below the storage connected with a stand pipe located on the west side of feed storage area 1 bunkers. The facility has a capacity of 297,080 gallons with 4000 gallon tank below, where the pump is installed via a stand pipe and will be constructed in 2027. This storage accepts leachate and process wastewater from FSA 1 Bunkers. The facility relies on a 25 hp pump	

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
	operated on a float switch to transfer a 25-year 24-hour rain event to WSF 5A. Plans for FSA RTA were approved on September 29, 2026 (R-2026-0137 & 0138), see Schedules section for due dates.	
019	Feed Storage Area & Runoff Control System Arlington: Sample point 019 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the feed storage area and associated runoff control system located at Deforest Site. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	
020	Headland Stacking Sites: Sample point 020 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.	
021	Storm Water Runoff Control System: Sample point 021 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.	

Permit Requirements

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 be 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 be submitted to the Department for approval.

The permittee currently has approximately 181 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 4,238 animal units (2,381 milking & dry cows, 967 heifers, and 567 calves). Currently there are no planned expansions in the next permit term. It is estimated that approximately 46,717,619 gallons of manure and process wastewater will be produced per year. The permittee owns *approximately* 1,737 acres of cropland and rents about 9,317 acres. Given the rotation commonly used by the permittee, 11,019 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 permittee 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 ($\geq$12% solids) on frozen or snow-covered ground during February and March. Non-emergency surface applications of liquid manure (<12%) on frozen or snow-covered ground are prohibited.

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.

1.1 Sample Point Number: 001- WSF 1D; 002- WSF 2D; 003- WSF 3D; 010- WSF 4D; 011- WSF 5D; 013- WSF SSBD; 014- FSA RTD; 015- WSF 5A; 016- WSF SSBA; 018- FSA RTA

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 013 was changed from a solid sample point to a liquid sample point to reflect operation of the facility

Sample points 014, 015, 016, and 018 were added to the permit. The Arlington Site will now be covered under this permit number.

1.1.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

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

1.2 Sample Point Number: 004- WSF 7D; 005- Misc. Solid Manure Deforest; 017- Misc. Solid Manure Arlington; 020- Headland Stacking Sites

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	

1.2.1 Changes from Previous Permit

Sample point 013 WSF SSBD was changed to liquid sample point to reflect the operation of the facility.

Sample points 017 and 020 were added to the permit. The Arlington Site will now be covered under this permit number.

1.2.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

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

1.3 Sample Point Number: 007- FSA Runoff Controls Deforest; 019- FSA Runoff Controls Arlington, and 021- Storm Water Runoff Controls

1.3.1 Changes from Previous Permit

Sample points 019 was added to the permit. The Arlington Site will now be covered under this permit number.

Sample points 021 was added for storm water runoff control system to account for monitoring and inspection requirements NR 243.9(1)(a)(2).

1.3.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

The is no required nutrient sampling for the runoff control sample points. Rather, weekly or quarterly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to the monitoring plan and submitted with the Annual Report.

2 Schedules

2.1 Emergency Response Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Develop Emergency Response Plan: Update a written Emergency Response Plan within 30 days of permit coverage, and submit to the Department upon request.	01/31/2027

2.2 Explanation of Schedules

An emergency response plan is required to be developed per s. NR 243.13(6)(a) Wis. Admin. Code.

2.3 Monitoring & Inspection Program

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 30 days of the effective date of this permit.	01/31/2027

2.4 Explanation of Schedules

A monitoring and inspection program is required to be submitted per s. NR 243.19(1) Wis. Admin. Code.

2.5 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
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.	03/31/2027
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.	03/31/2028
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.	03/31/2029
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.	03/31/2030
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.	03/31/2031
Ongoing Management Plan Annual Updates: Continue to submit Annual Updates to the Nutrient Management Plan until permit reissuance has been completed.	

2.6 Explanation of Schedules

Nutrient management plan updates are required to be submitted per s. NR 243.19(3)Wis. Admin. Code.

2.7 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.	01/31/2027
Submit Annual Report #2: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2028

Submit Annual Report #3: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2029
Submit Annual Report #4: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2030
Submit Annual Report #5: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2031
Ongoing Annual Reports: Continue to submit Annual Reports until permit reissuance has been completed.	

2.8 Explanation of Schedules

Annual reports are required to be submitted per s. NR 243.19(3) Wis. Admin. Code.

2.9 Deforest FSA Runoff Control System - Installation

Complete the installation of upgraded runoff controls for the feed storage area at the Deforest Site, sample point 014. Plans and specifications were approved on September 29, 2026 (R-2026-0137 & 0138)

Required Action	Due Date
Complete Installation: Complete construction of runoff control system. System shall be functional and in operation by the specified Date Due. Post construction documentation shall be submitted within 60 days of completion of the project.	06/01/2028

2.10 Explanation of Schedules

Complete construction according to approved plans and submit post construction according to NR 243.15 (10).

2.11 Arlington FSA Runoff Control System - Installation

Complete the installation of upgraded runoff controls for the feed storage area at the Arlington Site, sample point 018. Plans and specifications were approved on September 29, 2026 (R-2026-0137 & 0138)

Required Action	Due Date
Complete Installation: Complete construction of runoff control system. System shall be functional and in operation by the specified Date Due. Post construction documentation shall be submitted within 60 days of completion of the project.	06/01/2028

2.12 Explanation of Schedules

Complete construction according to approved plans and submit post construction according to NR 243.15 (10).

2.13 Submit Permit Reissuance Application

Required Action	Due Date

Reissuance Application: Submit a complete permit reissuance application 180 days prior to permit expiration.	07/01/2031

2.14 Explanation of Schedules

A permit reissuance application is required per s. NR 243.12(1)(d) Wis. Admin. Code.

Attachments

Inspection report with map(s): June 6, 2025

Nutrient Management Plan Approval Letter(s): September 16, 2026

Days of Storage Review: July 16, 2026

Conditional Approval of Plans & Specifications for Proposed Runoff Controls: September 29, 2026

Evaluation Review for Blue Star Dairy Farms- WSF 1- No Additional Action: July 9, 2026

Public Notice

Justification Of Any Waivers From Permit Application Requirements

No waivers requested or granted as part of this permit reissuance

Prepared By: Eric J. Struck Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Date: October 8, 2026

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen Hyun, Ph.D., Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
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June 6, 2025

Blue Star Dairy Farm LLC
Brian Meinholz
7502 Patton Road
Deforest WI 53532

WPDES Permit No. WI-0062270-04
Columbia County

Subject: Notice of Noncompliance and Inspection Report Summary

Dear Brian Meinholz:

The Department of Natural Resources (department) has reason to believe that Blue Star Dairy Farm, LCC is in noncompliance with its Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit No. WI-0062270-04-0 that became effective on April 1, 2021, and Permit No. WI-005815-05-0 that became effective on August 1, 2020. Blue Star Dairy Farm LLC has one production area cover under each of their WPDES Permit, Arlington, 1399 Highway Q, Arlington WI 53911, Deforest, 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532, Dane County. Based on findings during the inspection on February 24, 2025, and further record and permit requirement review, the department believes the facilities are not complying with the following permit conditions.

WI-0062270-04-0

1. **Permit Section 2.6- Feed Storage Runoff Control System- Installation-** Plans and specifications for potential upgrades to this facility is also due by October 1, 2021. Corrections and post construction due July 01, 2022.

WI-0058815-05-0

2. **Permit Section 2.5- Manure Storage Facility- WSF 1- Engineering Evaluation**- Engineering Evaluation- submit an engineering evaluation of the storage facility by December 1, 2020. Plans and specifications for potential upgrades to this facility is also due by September 1, 2021. Corrections and post construction due November 1, 2022.

3. **Permit Section 2.9- Feed Storage - Engineering Evaluation**- Engineering Evaluation- submit an engineering evaluation of the storage facility by December 1, 2020. Plans and specifications for potential upgrades to this facility is also due by September 1, 2021. Corrections and post construction due November 01, 2022.

As of today, the department as not received the items listed above. During the inspection on February 24, 2025, the farm discussed potential plans to address the outstanding permit schedule items. All plans discussed included the submission of plans and specification for department review. **A detailed plan on how to address the outstanding permit schedule sections should be submitted to the department by June 30, 2025.** Please understand that you are in noncompliance and will remain in noncompliance until you take all necessary actions

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to address noncompliance issues listed above. Failure to respond in a timely manner may result in escalated enforcement actions.

Additional prior to the inspection Blue Star Dairy Farm LLC has agree to combine both production areas under one WPDES Permit. This will better represent the land use and manure management of the facilities. Ble Star Dairy Farm LLC has submitted and application for both production areas under Permit No. WI-0062270-04-0. The due to the outstanding permit schedule sections and the farms proposed plans. The application is currently on hold until the noncompliance items are addressed.

Attached you will also find a copy of the inspection report from the department's reissuance inspection on February 24, 2025. Please review the attached site inspection report and notes based on the conversations had with department review engineers.

Sincerely,



Eric J. Struck
Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist – Bureau of Watershed Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
South Central Region
Cell: (608)-422-1512
eric.struck@wisconsin.gov

Attachments: Inspection report February 24, 2025

CC: Laura Bub, James Salscheider (WDNR)
Andrew Skwor (MSA professional Services)
Shawn Esser (Dane County)
Todd Rietmann (Columbia County)

CAFO Compliance Report: May 5, 2025

Inspection Date:	February 24, 2025
Inspection Type:	Reissuance
Operation Name:	Blue Star Dairy Farm LLC
WPDES Permit No.	Arlington WI-0062270-04-0
	Deforest WI-0058815-05-0
Operation Address:	Arlington, 1399 Highway Q, Arlington WI 53911, Section S ½ of SE ¼ Section 21 T10N R09E
	Deforest, 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532, Dane County, SW ¼ of Section 10 T9N R09E
County:	Arlington- Columbia
	Deforest- Dane
Watershed:	Arlington- Prairie du Sac Dam- Wisconsin River and Headwater Yahara River Watersheds
	Deforest- Headwater Yahara River Watershed
On-Site representatives:	Brian Meinholz (Blue Star Dairy Farms)
	Andrew Skwor (MSA Professional Services)
DNR Staff / Report Writers:	Eric Struck (writer), Rob Davis, Tabby Davis

On February 24, 2025, Eric Struck met with representatives of Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC to conduct a complete production area inspection for the reissuance of the WPDES permit held by Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC. Present at the inspection from the farm was Brian Meinholz and Andrew Skwor of MSA Professional Services. The inspection began about 10 am and concluded at about 1:00 pm. The weather the day of the inspection was cloudy with temps in the 40's. No precipitation had fallen in the week prior to the inspection and no water samples were taken. The inspection covered the entire production area of both permitted sites.

Please see the final section of the inspection report for a list of action items, areas of concern, and any addition application materials required for the final WPDES permit application. Blue Star Dairy Farms current holds two WPDES permits, one for the Arlington site and one for the Deforest site. Discussions between the farm and department were had about the combining both sites under one permit. The farm agreed to the combining both production sites under one permit. The single permit will better represent the operation of the facilities, land application methods, and crop management. Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC- Deforest WPDES permit expires on June 30, 2025, with a complete reissuance application due on January 1, 2025. Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC– Arlington WPDES permit expires on March 31, 2026, with a complete reissuance application due on October 1, 2025. Blue Star Dairy Farms submitted and application for both site on March 15, 2025, under the current Blue Star Dairy Arlington Permit. The farm is currently not in compliance with the schedule sections of their WPDES Permits. The farm is considering several options to address the outstanding schedule sections. One option would complete change the operation of the farms. Due to the uncertainty of the future and noncompliance the permit application will not be reviewed until and update permit application and plans and specifications have been received.

During the inspection the farm discussed several potential plans for both production sites.

Brief Facility Description

Blue Star Dairy-Arlington is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Blue Star Dairy-Arlington is owned by Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC and operated by Brian Meinholz. The farm currently has 1,663 animal units. (1,188 milking & dry cows). Blue Star Dairy-Arlington has a total of 3,425.6 acres available for land application of manure and process wastewater. Of this acreage, 188.9 acres are owned, and 3,248.6 acres are rented. Blue Star Dairy-Arlington may have a planned expansion during the proposed permit term. Approximately 23,277,816 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 96 tons of solid manure in the first year of the permit term. The farm has a proposed 196 days of liquid manure storage and at least 59 days of solid manure storage.

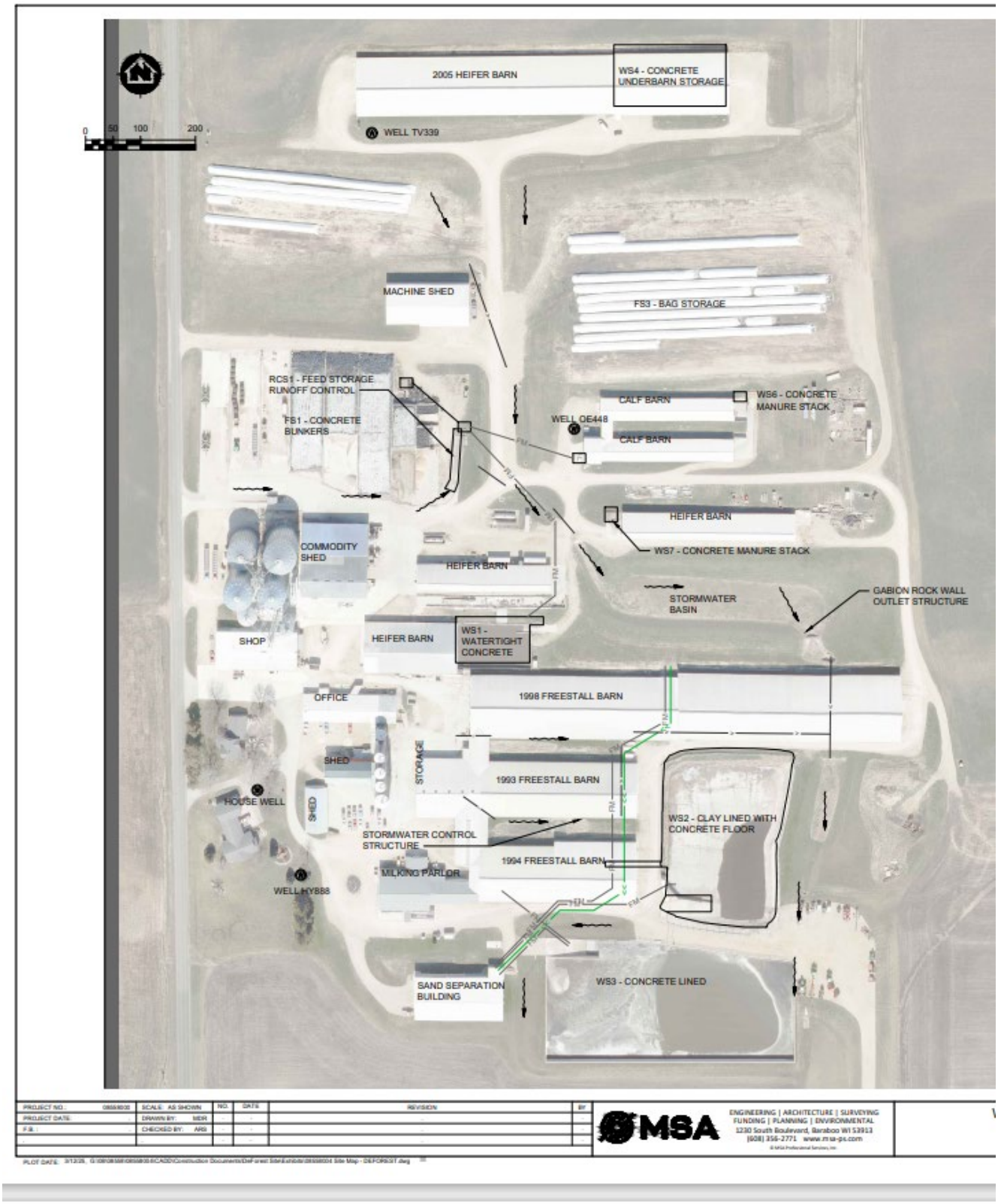
Blue Star Dairy-Arlington has one production area covered under the proposed WPDES permit. The site consists of two large dairy freestall barns with milking parlor, sand separation facility, one two-stage waste storage facility, and a feed storage area with bunker silos and feed bags.

Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest is owned by Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC and operated by Brian Meinholz. It currently has 2,655 animal units. (1,180 milking and dry cows, 511 heifers up to 1,200 lbs., 552 heifers up to 800 lbs., and 552 calves. Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest has a total of 4,277.5 acres available for land application of manure and process wastewater. Of this acreage, 1,153.6 acres are owned, and 3,148.6 acres are rented. There are no planned expansions for the next permit term.

The Deforest site has three milking free stalls and parlor, four heifer barns, two calf barns, and feed storage area. Manure is managed with three liquid waste storages with a sand separation building, one under barn heifer barn storage, and one solid stacking pad. Engineering evaluations of all existing manure storage structures were completed in 2019. The farm has three liquid waste storage facilities that were evaluated, and further investigation, replacement, or improvements was required. These improvements provide the farm with 180 days of storage.

Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC has submitted an application for reissuance of their Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit. The application was submitted for the Arlington site with the inclusion of the Deforest site as a second production area. The application will be held until plans and specifications are submitted to address outstanding permit schedule sections.

SITE OBSERVATIONS- Deforest



Map 1. Engineering map of Blue Star Dairy Deforest site from submitted application.

Feedlot Runoff

All animals at the Deforest site are housed under roof. The feed lanes were also covered on the heifer barn. The ends of barns were clean and free of debris



Photo #	2884
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Heifer barn in center of production area north of WSF 1. Covered feed lane.

Calf Hutch Areas

The Blue Star Dairy Farm Deforest site has calf barns used to house calves. No signs of discharges were observed. Solid waste is land applied or stored in an approved waste storage facility.



Photo #	2885
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Waste Storage Facility 7 outside the heifer barn. Calf barn north of the heifer barn, background of the photo.

Waste Storage Facilities

Solid and liquid waste storage facilities are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges (includes headland stacking sites).

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.

The Deforest site has multiple waste storage facilities. Manure from the dairy freestall barns is transferred to the sand separation facility. The sand is reclaimed and reused for bedding. The waste is then transferred to WSF 2 or WSF 3. Both WSF 2 and WSF 3 had improvements made during the last permit term and the sample points below will be updated in the proposed permit. WSF 4 and WSF 5 are under barn storges that are not visible but were recently evaluated and met permit conditions. WSF 6 was abandoned prior to the last permit reissuance. WSF 7 is a solid stacking pad still used for solid manure storage. WSF 1 is still used for the collection of feed storage runoff and can calf barn waste. WSF 1 has an outstanding further action from a previous evaluation. The future of the is currently unknown at this time. The farm discussed the possible plans and specifications that would be submitted to address the outstanding items. Some geotechnical work was done regarding WSF1 and might be submitted as an evaluation.

WSF 1- Sample point 001 is for liquid waste storage facility 1 (WSF 1) located at 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532. WSF 1 is a vertical wall concrete storage located north of the northern freestall barn. The facility has a capacity of 831,175 gallons and was constructed in 1983. This storage accepts runoff from two adjacent concrete feed lanes as well as waste from the feed storage area runoff controls. Waste is either land applied in accordance to the farm's approved nutrient management plan or is pumped to WSF 2 (sample point 002) or WSF 3 (sample point 003). WSF 1 was last evaluated in 2019 and further action is required, the farm plans to replace or repair the storage structure, see Schedules section for due dates.

WSF 2- Sample point 002 is for liquid waste storage facility 2 (WSF 2) located at 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532. WSF 2 is a clay-lined storage with a concrete floor located east of the freestall barns and milking parlor. The facility has a capacity of 4.1 million gallons and was constructed in 1994 and modified in 1998 and 2015. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the sand separation building and WSF 1 (sample point 001). WSF 2 was last evaluated in 2019 and further action was required. WSF 2 will require an engineering evaluation, see Schedules section for due dates.

WSF 3- Sample point 003 is for liquid waste storage facility 3 (WSF 3) located at 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532. WSF 3 is a clay-lined storage located east of the sand separation building. The facility has a capacity of 5.5 million gallons and was constructed in 1994. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from milk house, parlor, WSF 1, and WSF 2. WSF 3 was last evaluated in 2019 and further action was required. The farm plans to reline WSF 3, see Schedules section for due dates.

WSF 4- Sample point 010 is for liquid waste storage facility 4 (WSF 4) located at 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532. WSF 4 is a concrete underbarn storage located at the east end of the northernmost heifer barn. The facility has a capacity of 2 million gallons and was constructed in 2005 with plan approval. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the above and attached heifer barn. WSF 4 appeared to meet permit requirements and will not require an engineering evaluation.

WSF 5- Sample point 011 is for liquid waste storage facility 5 (WSF 5) located at the 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532. WSF 5 is a underbarn concrete tank storage located under the old milking parlor, now used as the farm office, short term animal housing, calving, and hoof trimming. The facility has a capacity of 100,000 gallons with an unknown construction date. This storage occasionally accepts manure and process wastewater from the above washing and housing area. This facility is not used daily. WSF 5 appeared to meet permit requirements and will not require an engineering evaluation.

Sand Settling / Storage Lanes- Sample point 013 is for land applied separated manure solids. Sand is typically reused as bedding and stored in the manure separation shed located at 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532. The sand separation shed has a liquid tight concrete floor and walls, included in the shed is a Wieser reception tank, flume, and concrete sand lanes. The building is located south of the freestall barns and west of WSF 3. The sand separation facility was constructed in 2014 with plan approval and meets permit requirements.

Solid Manure Stacking Pad- Sample point 004 is for solid manure land applied from the WSF 7 located at 7502 Patton Road, Deforest, Wisconsin 53532. The waste storage facility is a concrete stacking area, WSF7 is located at the west end of the heifer barn located south of the calf barns. The storage was constructed in 2003. The waste storage facility receives bed pack manure from the heifer and calf barns. WSF 7 was evaluated in 2019 and meets permit requirements.



Photo #	2881
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Waste transfer on the southside of the norther freestall barn north of WSF 2.



Photo #	2868
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Sand separation building west of WSF 3 and south of the parlor. All waste and reused sand is stored indoors.



Photo #	2870
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: From the east side of WSF 3 facing southeast at ramp. Markers are on the end of the ramp center of photograph.



Photo #	2872
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing northeast at the ramp of WSF 2. Markers on the top end of ramp.



Photo #	2874
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing east on the south side of WSF 2.



Photo #	2876
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing north northwest at the eastern side of WSF 2.



Photo #	2886
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing north at the northeast corner of WSF 1. Markers are painted on the wall.



Photo #	2888
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing down the ramp of WSF 1.

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

Process wastewater sources (milking center, wash water, etc.) are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

Milking parlor waste can be directed to WSF 3 or is directed to the sand separation facility to help with the separation and cleaning of the sand.

Feed Storage Area Runoff

Feedlot areas are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

Feedlot runoff control systems are well-maintained, in good repair and in compliance with permit requirements.

The feed storage area at the Blue Star Dairy Deforest site is composed of a feed bunker area, silo bag area, and the adjacent grain storage area. The grain storage area was clean and free of debris and well maintained. The silo bag area had no signs of discharges. The farm only bags haylage and other low moisture feed. The silo bagged feed area consist of a gravel pad and does not have runoff controls. Corn silage is stored in the feed bunker area. The bunker area has runoff controls installed. The current runoff controls do not have the ability to collect the 25-year 24-hour storm event. The farm intends on submitting plans and specifications to address the runoff controls at the Deforest site or an abandonment plan for the current bunker area with plans for an additional bunker area.

The current feed storage area is located on the north of the dairy free stall barns and south of the north most heifer barn. The bunkers are located on the east side of the feed storage area, and the bagged feed is located on the west side of the feed storage area, north of the calf barns, and sometimes north of the bunkers. The commodity shed and grain storage facility is located south of the bunkers and north of the shop and office. Runoff from the bunker area flows south to the end of the feed pad and flows east to the collection basin which runs north along the east side of the feed bunker area. The runoff is collected in the basin along with liquid

waste from the calf barns, waste is then pumped to WSF 1. The system does not have the capacity to collect the 25-year 24-hour rain event. The remaining feed storage runoff is directed to the southeast to the stormwater basin. The flow from the stormwater basin flows south off the production area. The farm is in the process of deciding if the are will be upgraded or abandoned and relocated. Plans and specifications plan to be submitted. The permit will be updated with the proposed plan. The proposed permit will have the sample points updated to reflect the farms proposed plans.

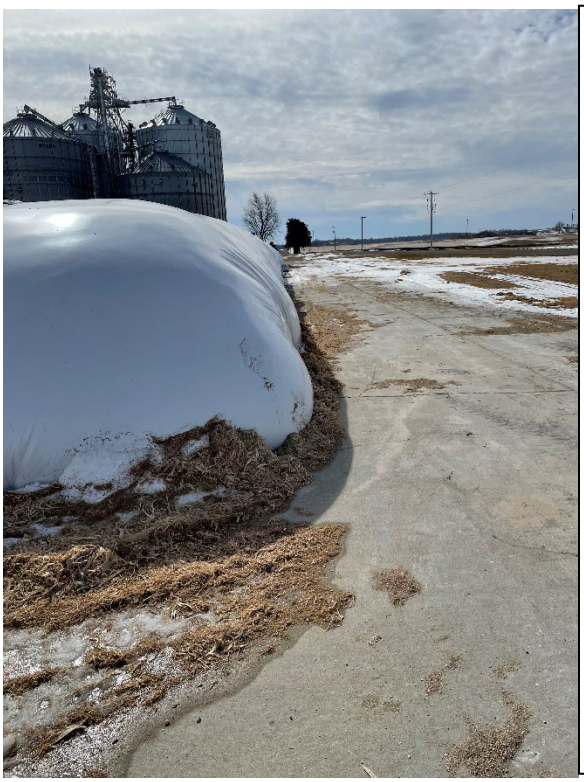


Photo #	2904
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing south along the western side of the feed storage area. Bagged feed is on the collection area. Runoff flows to the south.



Photo #	2905
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Sothern end of the feed storage area with bagged corn silage on the west side. With in the collection area.



Photo #	2905
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing east along the north side of the feed storage area.



Photo #	2906
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: facing east along the south side of the feed storage area. Runoff flows south and then east to collection. Away from photographer in this photo.



Photo #	2899
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing west from the northeast corner of the feed storage area.



Photo #	2890
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing north at the feed storage area runoff collection channel and transfer system.



Photo #	2891
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing west at the southern end of the feed storage area from the south end of the runoff collection channel.



Photo #	2893
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: the eastern wall of the feed storage area runoff control collection channel.



Photo #	2894
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: North end of the feed storage arear runoff collection channel. The bypass over flow was raised to capture more runoff.



Photo #	2896
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Transfer pump of the feed storage runoff controls in the north end of the collection channel.



Photo #	2908
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Grain storage and drying facility located on the east side of the production area south of the feed bunkers.

Animal Mortality Disposal

Animal mortalities are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

The farm uses a rendering company to remove the mortalities. Mortalities are tracked through the farm's dairy management system.

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.).

Management practices are implemented to sustain sufficient vegetative cover on CAFO outdoor vegetated areas.

Ancillary Service areas around the production area were clear and free of debris and in good condition.



Photo #	2882
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

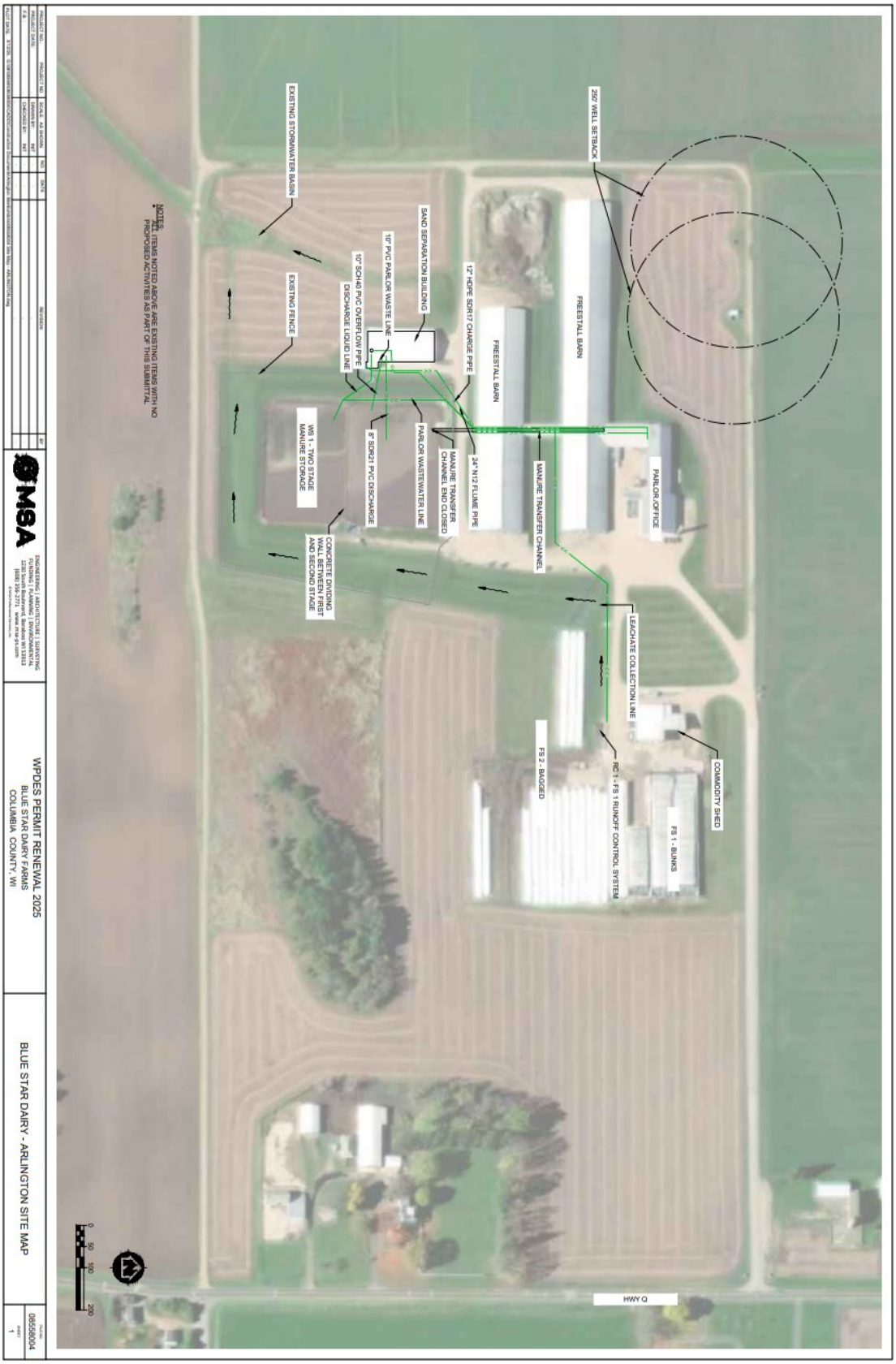
Description: Stormwater flow path that runs south along the east side of WSF 2.



Photo #	2877
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Deforest Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Grassed area between the freestall barns. Gutter present on the barns.

SITE OBSERVATIONS- Arlington



Map 2. Engineering map of Blue Star Dairy Arlington site from submitted application.

Feedlot Runoff

All animals at the Arlington site are housed under roof in freestall barns.

Calf Hutch Areas

No calves are currently housed at the Arlington site.

Waste Storage Facilities

Solid and liquid waste storage facilities are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges (includes headland stacking sites).

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.

Waste from the two dairy freestall barns is transferred to the sand separation facility through a flume channel down the center of each of the barns. The sand separation facility is on the west side of WSF 1. The sand is reused for bedding and waste is transferred to the first or second stage of WSF 1. WSF 1 is separated with a dividing wall. The waste is often commingled during land application and is treated as one waste storage facility by the farm. If the farm proposes any changes to the production area the sample points below will be updated accordingly.

WSF 1 Stage 1: Sample point (001) is for liquid waste storage facility 1 (WSF 1) Stage 1, located at 1399 Highway Q, Arlington WI 53911. WSF 1 Stage 1 is a liquid-tight concrete floored storage located south of the freestall barns and east of the sand separation building. The facility has a capacity of 4.5 million gallons and was constructed in 2003. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from sand separation building. WF1 Stage 1 overflows into WSF 1 Stage 2 or is land applied in accordance with the farms approved nutrient management plan, combined they have a capacity of 10 million gallons. WSF 1 was last evaluated in 2019 and met permit requirements.

WSF 1 Stage 2: Sample point (002) is for liquid waste storage facility 1 (WSF 1) Stage 2, located at 1399 Highway Q, Arlington WI 53911. WSF 1 Stage 2 is a liquid-tight concrete floored storage located south of the freestall barns and east of the sand separation building. The facility has a capacity of 5.5 million gallons and was constructed in 2003. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from WSF1 Stage 1. WF1 Stage 2 is used to agitate stage 1 or is land applied in accordance with the farms approved nutrient management plan, combined they have a capacity of 10 million gallons. WSF 1 was last evaluated in 2019 and met permit requirements.



Photo #	2911
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Waste storage facility one stage 1 (WSF 1-S1) facing waste along the north side of the storage.



Photo #	2912
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: WSF 1-S1 facing south along the east side of the storage.



Photo #	2915
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Looking across WSF 1-S1 at the sand separation building and pump house on the south side of the freesstall barn.



Photo #	2916
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing north along the east side of WSF 1- S1, from the storage dividing wall.



Photo #	2913
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Dividing wall between WSF 1-S1 and WSF 1-S2. Markers are located on the walls north side.



Photo #	2914
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing south at WSF 1-S2 from the dividing wall.

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

Process wastewater sources (milking center, wash water, etc.) are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

Waste from the milking parlor area is transferred to the manure transfer system and stored in WSF 1.

Feed Storage Area Runoff

Feed storage areas and associated process wastewater (leachate, runoff) are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

Feed storage areas and runoff control systems are well-maintained, in good repair and in compliance with permit requirements.

The feed storage is located on the east side of the production area. The north half has three feed bunkers and the south half is used for silage bags. The silage bags are on a gravel pad. The farm uses the silage bags for haylage, ryelage, and other low moisture feed. Runoff from the bunker area flows south and west to the collection basin. The first 0.5 of runoff is collected and transferred to WSF 1. The remaining runoff flows to the vegetated treatment area (VTA) starting at the west end of the feed storage area collection basin. Then flowing south along the east side of WSF 1, then turning west along the south end of WSF 1 before flowing south into agricultural fields. An evaluation was submitted and review for the feed storage area. further actions were requested. The farm has proposed submitting plans and specifications to fulfill the schedule section of the permit. Until the plans and specifications are received the permit application will be held for review. The plans and specification would change the days of storage calculations and may alter the operation of both production sites.

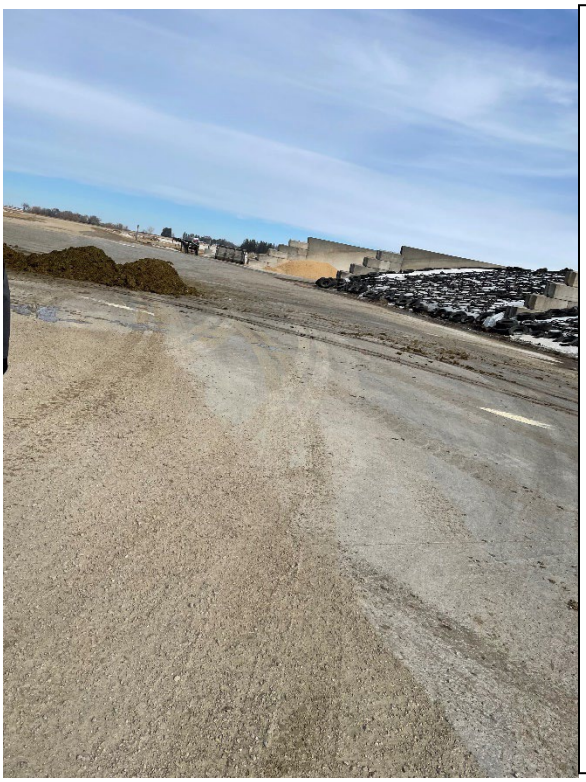


Photo #	2927
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing north from the edge of the bagged feed area and the collection channel for the feed storage area runoff control collection.



Photo #	2924
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Feed storage area runoff controls collection channel with weir, that overflows to the flow path, VTA, and cropped fields.



Photo #	2921
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing north in the flow path from the feed storage area. flow towards the south, acting as a VTA, before entering cropped fields.



Photo #	2922
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing northeast at the runoff flow path from the feed storage area to the VTA area. Flows west towards the photographer then south of production area.



Photo #	2920
Date/Time:	February 24, 2025
Location	Blue Star Dairy Farms LLC: Arlington Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing south off the production area at flow path from the feed storage area vegetated treatment currently used for runoff controls.

Animal Mortality Disposal

Animal mortalities are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

The farm uses a rendering company to remove the mortalities. Mortalities are tracked through the farm's dairy management system.

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.).

Management practices are implemented to sustain sufficient vegetative cover on CAFO outdoor vegetated areas.

Ancillary Service areas around the production area were clear and free of debris and in good condition

RECORDS REVIEW

The permittee has current WPDES Permit and Nutrient Management Plan onsite.

The permittee provided complete production site inspection records that are required to be retained.

The permittee provided adequate documentation that the facility has a minimum of 180 days of liquid manure storage capacity.

The permittee provided land application records to demonstrate compliance with nutrient management plan requirements.

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

The permittee is not up to date on required reporting and actions as specified in the Schedules section of permit.

Due to several people on the inspection having cold symptoms the inspection was limited to outdoor areas. The records are stored indoors in the office at the Deforest site. Struck has observed records storage in previous interactions.

SUMMARY

Areas of Concern

- Outstanding permit schedule section items:
    - Deforest 2.5 the evaluation of WSF 1
    - Deforest 2.9 the evaluation of the feed storage area
    - Arlington 2.6 the evaluation of the feed storage area

Permit Violations Alleged Noncompliance

- None Identified at the production area during the inspection
- Outstanding permit schedule section items
    - Deforest 2.5 the evaluation of WSF 1
    - Deforest 2.9 the evaluation of the feed storage area
    - Arlington 2.6 the evaluation of the feed storage area

Action Items

- Submit plans and specifications for the facilities plans to address the outstanding permit schedule sections items.
    - Deforest 2.5 the evaluation of WSF 1
    - Deforest 2.9 the evaluation of the feed storage area
    - Arlington 2.6 the evaluation of the feed storage area
- Submit updated permit application materials
    - Depending on the extent of changes proposed by the farm additional permit application materials may be required.

Items for Next Permit Term

- Construction schedules for update plans and specifications related to outstanding permit schedule items
-

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen Hyun, DNR Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711

September 16, 2026

Dane County
Approval

Brian Meinholz
Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest
7502 Patton Rd.
DeForest, WI 53532

SUBJECT: AMENDED- Conditional Approval of Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest Nutrient Management Plan, WPDES Permit No. 0058815-06-0

Dear Mr. Meinholz:

After completing a review of Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest 2026-2030 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 Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest 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.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Department confirms that:

1. A current dairy herd size of 4,238 animal units (2,381 milking & dry cows, 967 heifers, and 567 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 46,717,619 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 4,000 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 Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest currently has 11,054 acres (1,737 owned and 9,317 controlled through contracts, rental agreements or leases, or under manure agreements) of which 11,019 are spreadable acres.
6. 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.
7. 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 2026-2030 Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest 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 Field Name	DNR #
Bredeson 1	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	H-2	40136
DEAN JOHNSON 01	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	48	85405
DEAN JOHNSON 02	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	48	85405
H - Schultz 3	ARLINGTON WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY	A	101647
H - Siewert 1	ARLINGTON WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY	B	101648
Kelley - Rod C. 1A	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	2A	72787
Kelley - Ron C. 1A	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	2A	72787
Kelley - Ron C. 2	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	2A	72787

Prior to any manure applications on these fields Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest 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 Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest 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: Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest 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:

- LH Hm 1 (soil test outdated)
- Raemisch 3 (soil test outdated)

If Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest 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, BLUE STAR DAIRY FARMS DEFOREST 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. Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest shall record daily manure applications by using form 3200-123A. These forms shall be retained at the farm and provided to the department upon request.

8. Blue Star Dairy Farms DeForest 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 3200-123.

WINTER SPREADING

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 approved for winter spreading solid manure, emergency applications of liquid manure and frozen liquid manure:

- Loyd 2
- Kutz 1
- Kutz 2
- Kutz 3
- Kutz 4
- Hahn 4
- Dave-Dotz
- Dotz 1
- Barbian 2
- Klahn-Home 1
- Klahn-Home 2
- Klahn-Home 3

11. The following field(s) are denied for winter spreading solid manure, emergency applications of liquid manure and frozen liquid manure:

- Manke Home-2 (Unable to identify field names on maps)

12. 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.

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

14. 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.

HEADLAND STACKING

15. No headland stacking sites are approved.

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. The farm is required to take a minimum number of manures samples to meet permit requirements as follows:
    - Solid Manure: One solid sample per source on a quarterly basis when hauling occurs.
    - Liquid Manure: Two liquid samples per source on a monthly basis when hauling occurs.

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 715-214-5503 or Aaron.Orourke@Wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Aaron O'Rourke
WDNR Nutrient Management Program Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

CC:

Eric Struck, WDNR Agricultural Runoff Specialist (Eric.Struck@Wisconsin.gov)
Laura Bub, WDNR Watershed Field Supervisor (Laura.Bub@Wisconsin.gov)
Joe Baeten, Section Chief-Ag Runoff Management Section (Joseph.Baeten@Wisconsin.gov)
Falon French, WDNR Intake Specialist (falon.french@wisconsin.gov)
Ashley Scheel, WDNR NMP Reviewer (Ashley.Scheel@Wisconsin.gov)
Kim Meyer, Dane County (meyer.kim@danecounty.gov)
Sue Porter, Porter NM LLC (smporter1364@gmail.com)
File

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July 16, 2026

FILE REF: R-2026-0067
WPDES Permit #: WI-0058815

Brian Meinholz
Blue Star Dairy Farms
7501 Patton Road
DeForest, WI 53532

Subject: Days of Storage Review for Blue Star Dairy Farms in T9N, R9E, Section 10, Vienna Township, Dane County – NO ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Mr. Meinholz:

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 by Andy Skwor P.E., MSA Professional Services on March 25, 2026 with revisions received on July 6, 2026 submitted by Jenise Anderson, P.E., MSA Professional Services on behalf of Blue Star Dairy Farms. The upcoming WPDES permit for Blue Star Dairy Farms proposes to combine permits. Previously Blue Star Dairy Farms had two permits, one for the DeForest site and one for the Arlington site. The new permit proposes to include both sites in a single permit.

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 Blue Star Dairy will have 181 days of liquid waste storage, after the proposed improvements to the feed storage runoff controls, 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 4,238. There is currently no expansion planned within the permit term. The liquid waste volumes are based on the NRCS spreadsheet and other estimated or calculated values for a collection period of 365 days. Full collection of leachate and contaminated runoff collection for up to the 25-year, 24-hour storm event is proposed at both the DeForest and Arlington sites by the plans that were recently submitted to the Department on July 1, 2026.

Proposed Conditions (4,238 AU) – 181 Days of Storage

Total Annual Liquid Waste Volume (NRCS Table Values)	
Liquids Collected/Stored	**Annual Gallons**
Manure and Bedding:	19,540,420
Parlor Wastewater:	4,933,929
Total Feed Storage Leachate:	151,096
Total Feed Storage Runoff Collected:	7,114,190
Net Precipitation on Storage Surfaces:	4,229,584

Komro Sand Separation System:	900,000
Holding Area Cleaning:	3,285,000
Sprinklers/Misters:	1,345,000
Waterers:	788,400
Other:	4,430,000
Total Liquid Waste Stored Below the MOL:	**46,717,619**

Total Liquid Waste Storage Capacity (Gallons)						
Waste Storage	Total Volume from Top to Bottom	-Remaining Waste	-25-yr, 24-hr Precipitation on Storage	-25-yr, 24-hr Collected Runoff	-Freeboard Volume	Max. Operating Level (MOL) Volume
WS1	831,175	0	35,480	261,825	85,152	448,718
WS2	4,593,928	0	280,048	0	490,548	3,823,332
WS3	8,210,331	0	293,712	0	694,538	7,222,081
WS4	2,063,157	171,930	0	0	171,930	1,719,297
WS5	11,770,319	161,657	426,668	430,689	834,307	9,916,998
					Total MOL Volume:	23,130,426

Waste Storage Names and Description:
WS1 (concrete vertical walled)
WS2 (clay with concrete bottom)
WS3 (2021 constructed concrete)
WS4 (underbarn manure storage)
WS5 (Arlington Two-Stage Waste Storage)

Should you have any questions, please contact Rob Davis, 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



Rob Davis, P.E.
CAFO Review Engineer
Watershed Management Program

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September 29, 2026

FILE REF: R-2026-0137 and R-2026-0138
WPDES Permit #: WI-0062270 and WI-0058815

Brian Meinholz
Blue Star Dairy Farms
7502 Patton Road
DeForest, WI 53532

Subject: Conditional Approval of Plans & Specifications for Proposed Runoff Controls (which includes an Abandonment and Waste Transfer System) at the DeForest and Arlington Facilities, Waste Transfer at the DeForest Site, and Alternative Well Setback Approval at the DeForest Site in T09N, R09E, Section 10, Vienna Township, Dane County and Blue Star Dairy Farms Arlington in T10N, R09E, Section 21, Arlington Township, Columbia County

Dear Mr. Meinholz:

This letter is to inform you that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department) has reviewed and conditionally approves the above referenced plans and specifications, submitted under certification by Kaesey Glaess-Dillman, P.E., MSA Professional Services and received on July 1, 2026 with revisions received on July 28, 2026, September 12, 2026, and September 23, 2026. The review was conducted in accordance with s. 281.41, Wis. Stats., chs. NR 151, NR 213 and NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, and applicable NRCS Standards. The attached engineering report describes the project, lists standards that apply and provides compliance analysis. Questions may be directed to the assigned regional staff or the review engineer Rob Davis (contact information is at the end of this letter).

Proposed Project: The proposed project includes the following facilities that are reviewable under s. NR 243.15, Wis. Adm. Code: Proposed Runoff Controls (which includes an Abandonment and Waste Transfer System) at the DeForest and Arlington Facilities, Waste Transfer at the DeForest Site, and Alternative Well Setback Approval at the DeForest Site.

Conditions of Approval: The plans and specifications for project number R-2026-0137 (Arlington Site) and R-2026-0138 (DeForest Site) are hereby approved and subject to chs. NR 151, NR 213 and NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, and the conditions listed below:

1. Additional Soil Investigations: Additional soil investigation shall be completed for the proposed construction to ensure adequate soil investigations to comply with NRCS Standards. Due to existing infrastructure onsite, the required soil investigations could not all be completed.
   a. Test Pits: This approval is conditional upon completing adequate soil test pits that are deep enough to determine separation to subsurface saturation and bedrock per NRCS 634 for the proposed construction. The additional test pits will be excavated and logged during construction and the locations are shown on the plans. MSA must be present when the additional soil investigations are excavated. All soil investigations shall be provided in the post-construction submittal. If saturation or bedrock is found at an elevation within the required separation distance, then the plans shall be revised and resubmitted to the Department for review and approval prior to construction.
2. Revisions: If revisions are made to the approved plans and specifications, revised plans and specifications shall be submitted for approval modification, in accordance with ss. NR 108.03 and NR 108.04, Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 281.41(1)(c), Wis. Stats. Submit revised plans and specifications via the Department's e-Permitting System. Note: This includes revisions for local permitting. If a formal approval modification may not be warranted, contact the review engineer to confirm.

3. Approval Period: In accordance with ss. NR 243.15(1)(a)1., and NR 108.04(2)d., Wis. Adm. Code, if construction is not commenced within 2 years from the approval date, the approval is void, and a new approval must be obtained prior to commencing construction.
4. Notification: Prior to construction and when construction is complete, notify the Department's regional contact and county contact provided a copy of the approval (contact information is at the end of this letter).
5. Inspection: During the construction of critical components, inspection shall be performed by a Wisconsin registered professional engineer or other qualified third party (excludes the owner and construction contractor and their employees).
6. Post-Construction Documentation: In accordance with the permit, a post-construction report must be submitted to the DNR's e-Permitting website (http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water) within 60 days of completing construction. The report must include documentation specified by s. NR 243.15(10), Wis. Adm. Code.

Limitation of Approval: The Department reserves the right to order changes or additions should conditions arise making this necessary. This approval is not to be construed as a determination on the issuance of a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit or opinion as to the ability of the proposed system to comply with effluent limitations in such a permit, approval of an Environmental Impact Statement that may be prepared, or approval for any activities requiring a permit under chs. 30 or 31, Wis. Stats. Where necessary, plans and specifications should be submitted to the Department of Safety and Professional Services or other state or local agencies to ensure conformance with applicable codes or regulations of such agencies.

Permit Implications: This letter provides authorization to commence construction of the facilities approved above. However, if the approved facilities require the addition of a sample point via a WPDES permit modification (such as for any new runoff control structures, feed and other raw materials storage, manure storage facilities, manure treatment systems or other structures or systems associated with the storage, containment, treatment or handling of manure or process wastewater), the permittee may not operate the facility until this permit has been modified or reissued to include a corresponding sampling point for the new facility.

Tax Treatment: Tangible personal property, that becomes part of a waste treatment of pollution abatement plant or equipment, may be exempt from sales tax under s. 77.45(26), Wis. Stats. Similarly, property purchased or constructed as a waste treatment facility and used for industrial waste treatment may be exempt from general property taxes under s. 70.11(21), Wis. Stats. A prerequisite to exemption is filing a statement on prescribed forms. To obtain the forms, and information about this sales tax exemption, please contact the Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 8933, Madison, WI 53708, or check their website http://www.revenue.wi.gov/.

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

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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
For the Secretary



Rob Davis, P.E.
Water Resources Engineer
Watershed Management Program

Enclosure: Wisconsin DNR Engineering Report

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENGINEERING REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Farm Name: Blue Star Dairy Farms **WPDES Permit#:** WI-0062270 and WI-0058815

Location Address: 7502 Patton Road, DeForest
N1399 County Road Q, Arlington

DNR Project #: R-2026-0137 (Arlington)
R-2026-0138 (DeForest)

Engineering Plans Certified by:	Initial Submittal:	Revised Submittal(s):
Kaesey Glaess-Dillman, P.E.	July 1, 2026	July 28, 2026, September 12, 2026, and September 23, 2026

Site Assessment: Geographical features of the site include soils that are Ringwood silt loam and Plano silt loam at the DeForest site and Plano silt loam at the Arlington site. The nearest stream is more than a mile from the proposed construction at both of the sites. The nearest wetland is approximately 1,500 ft to the southwest at the DeForest site and approximately 3,600 ft to the northeast at the Arlington site from the proposed construction area. Clean runoff will be diverted around waste handling areas to existing waterways. No karst features are known to exist within 1,000 ft of the proposed facilities or systems. Ground water supply wells are located within 250 feet of the proposed facilities or systems at the DeForest site. An Alternative Well Setback Request was made for the well and more detail is provided later in this Engineering Report. There are no ground water supply wells located within 250 feet of the proposed facilities at the Arlington site.

At the DeForest site, due to existing infrastructure, a full soils investigation was not able to be completed, but known details were used to confirm that the separation requirements to saturation and bedrock should be exceeded with the design. In 2019, MSA completed several soils test pits across the farm. The nearest test pit to proposed structures is SB-5 completed near WSF 1. The existing ground elevation of this test pit is 1002 ft. Bedrock was encountered 12 feet below grade with no signs of subsurface saturation. Additionally, over the past 7 years MSA has completed numerous test pits across the site. These test pits generally agree that restrictive features (bedrock and water) are not encountered for 15 to 20 feet below grade. The existing feed storage runoff infrastructure on site has a bottom elevation of 994.25 ft in the buried precast tank. The proposed feed storage collection system has a bottom elevation of 1002.50 ft with a buried tank bottom of 996 ft. NRCS 634 requires 1 foot of separation to bedrock for the buried tank, while the floor may be at subsurface saturation for the precast tank. Based off the existing infrastructure, this is met. The proposed wedge pit requires 2 ft of separation to bedrock and 1 ft of separation to saturation which would be met if the precast tank meets separation requirements. This supports the proposed design. In the area of the proposed manhole for the calf barn wastewater, there is no existing infrastructure of substantial depth, however, it is nearest to SB-5. The manhole bottom is roughly 10 feet below existing grade and would require 1 foot of separation to bedrock. Based off SB-5, separation should be met. It is proposed to complete verification test pits as noted on the design plans during construction. If bedrock or saturation are encountered during construction MSA's response plan would depend on the restriction encountered and the depth. Tile drains for perched conditions would be the preferred method, assuming they could be outlet to an appropriate location; bedrock would be excavated with drainage to daylight. The secondary option would be to decrease the depth of the collections. Relocation would only be utilized as a last resort.

A soils investigation comprising of numerous test pits was completed at the Arlington site in March of 2025. Three of the test pits from this investigation are being used to justify the design basis for the proposed improvements. A boring was also included, though further away, to help triangulate the bedrock elevation and better understand the subsurface conditions. No signs of subsurface saturation were encountered, however bedrock was encountered in each of the pits ranging from 7 ft to 12 ft below existing grade. Generally, the bedrock in the area of the improvements is around elevation 992 ft. While

the proposed wedge pit achieves the required separation, the buried precast tank will not. Bedrock will need to be excavated via mechanical means and the area investigated for fractures or voids.

Proposed Facilities:

DeForest Site Feed Storage Runoff Controls Collection System Modification: The proposed design was submitted to meet NRCS 313 (10/17), NRCS 522 (06/21), and NRCS 634 (11/22). The proposed facility will be used only for process wastewater, but the liquid level will be maintained within one foot of the bottom and is therefore has been reviewed as a reception tank not subject to ch. NR 213, Wis. Adm. Code. The design is compliant with s. NR 243.15(2) and (4), Wis. Adm. Code. The proposed runoff controls will be located in the same location as the previous runoff controls which is immediately east of the existing FS1 Bunkers. Below is a summary of what is proposed.

- A 110 ft x 35 ft x 8 ft deep concrete, vertical wall wedge pit runoff collection tank is proposed to collect the runoff from the existing FS1 Bunkers. The facility will be constructed of concrete with waterstop (NRCS 522 Table 2, Column A), but will operate as a reception tank and not provide long term storage for the feed storage runoff. A 36" standpipe will connect the wedge pit to a buried Wieser precast 1,600 gallon Low Profile tank. The storage is sized with a total volume of 137,498 gallons of storage and relies on a 25 HP Houle flush pump operating on a float system to transfer the 25-year, 24-hour storm to existing waste storage infrastructure.
- The flush pump will be installed on the exterior tank wall, extending into the buried tank, with the motor hanging over the wall. The pump will be enclosed in its casing providing protection from the weather. It will connect to 60 LF of new 8" PVC piping, which will connect to the existing transfer system. All transfer pipe drains back to the precast tank. The existing pipeline is believed to meet the NRCS 634 standard and will be verified during construction. Thrust control will be provided via cast-in-place concrete blocking.
- The existing drain tile that feeds Tank 1 (to be abandoned) will be re-routed to the proposed wedge pit.

Arlington Site Feed Storage Runoff Controls Collection System Modification: The proposed design was submitted to meet NRCS 313 (10/17), NRCS 522 (06/21), and NRCS 634 (11/22). The proposed facility will be used only for process wastewater, but the liquid level will be maintained within one foot of the bottom and is therefore has been reviewed as a reception tank not subject to ch. NR 213, Wis. Adm. Code. The design is compliant with s. NR 243.15(2) and (4), Wis. Adm. Code. The proposed runoff controls will be located in the same location as the previous runoff controls which is immediately west of the existing FS1 Bunkers. Below is a summary of what is proposed.

- A 150 ft x 45 ft x 8 ft deep concrete, vertical wall wedge pit runoff collection tank is proposed to collect the runoff from the existing FS1 Bunkers. The facility will be constructed of concrete with waterstop (NRCS 522 Table 2, Column A), but will operate as a reception tank and not provide long term storage for the feed storage runoff. A 36" standpipe will connect the wedge pit to a buried Wieser precast 4,000 gallon Low Profile tank. The storage is sized with a total volume of 297,080 gallons of storage and relies on a 25 HP Houle flush pump operating on a float system to transfer the 25-year, 24-hour storm to existing waste storage infrastructure.
- The flush pump will be installed on the exterior tank wall, extending into the buried tank, with the motor hanging over the wall. The pump will be enclosed in its casing providing protection from the weather. It will connect to 740 LF of 10" PVC piping extending to an existing waste storage facility and will outlet onto the concrete ramp for scour protection. Thrust control will be provided via cast-in-place concrete blocking. The transfer pipe is sloped back to the precast tank, allowing the line to drain back to prevent freezing.
- Bedrock excavation will likely be needed, based on soil investigations, for the installation of the proposed Wieser tank. Excavation will be completed to meet required separation distance and without blasting. Daylighting of the bedrock (slope with positive drainage) will not be feasible due to the flat, "shelf" nature of the bedrock at the proposed location. To mitigate the potential for ponding, a drain tile system below the footprint of the precast tank will be installed. This system will consist of a perforated tile around the footprint, connecting to a proposed 24" diameter standpipe. This standpipe

is proposed to be a dual wall corrugated pipe with a concrete poured bottom and expansive waterstop to create a watertight base. The farm will be able to drop a sump pump into the bottom and pump out any water that may have found its way into this system. The operation of the system is detailed in the O&M plan.

Deforest Site Waste Transfer System: The proposed design was submitted to meet with NRCS Standard 634 (11/24). The design is compliant with s. NR 243.15(4), Wis. Adm. Code.

- The existing reception tank outside of the calf barn will continue to receive wastewater from the calf barn. A gravity line is proposed to be cored into the side of the calf barn reception tank and run to a proposed 48" manhole meeting the requirements of ASTM C478. The manhole is to house a 5HP pump.
- Approximately 60 LF of 8" SDR 35 gravity pipe will drain waste from the existing reception to the proposed manhole.
- Approximately 340 LF of 6" SDR 26 pipe will allow waste to be pumped from the proposed manhole to the existing WSF 1. Wastewater will be pumped to the existing WSF 1, where it will outlet over the top.

Abandonment: The proposed plan was submitted was submitted for abandonment of the existing feed storage collection systems at both sites. They are undersized and will be abandoned and replaced. This will include the existing wedge pits, reception tanks, manholes, and associated waste transfer pipes. The plan is compliant with s. NR 243.17(7), Wis. Adm. Code. The facilities to be abandoned at the Arlington site are immediately west of the FS1 Bunkers and on the DeForest site are located immediately east of the FS1 Bunkers. The waste transfer pipe from the calf barn reception tank to the existing wedge pit at the DeForest site will also be abandoned and relocated to pump directly to the existing WSF 1 as part of the project.

- The abandonment plan includes the following:
  - All waste will be removed from tanks and placed in an existing WSF or land applied in accordance with the Farm's approved NMP.
  - Tanks and pipes will be removed and properly abandoned and disposed of.
  - If contaminated soil is found it will be removed and land applied in accordance with the Farm's approved NMP. All contaminated soils found will be removed to a minimum depth of 6 inches.
  - The existing waste transfer pipe at the DeForest site from the calf barn reception tank to the existing wedge pit will be abandoned and capped at both ends. This pipe will be relocated as part of the proposed project.
  - The waste storage abandonment is to meet NRCS Standard 360 (06/21) and with s. NR 243.17(7), Wis. Adm. Code.

Alternative Well Setback Request: The submitted plans include a request for an alternative well setback due to existing well OE448 being located approximately 177 ft east of the proposed feed storage area runoff collection system and 106 ft northwest of a proposed calf barn waste transfer line manhole. The well location meets the 100 ft NR 812 setback for a sileage storage structure (fabricated, liquid-tight), the 100 ft NR 812 setback for a manure storage structure (fabricated, liquid-tight), the 50 ft NR 812 setback for a reception tank and the 50 ft NR 812 setback for a manure sewer >6" in diameter. Soil borings at the site indicate silt (ML) from 0-6 ft and clay (CL/CH) from 6-12 ft depth. Well construction reports onsite and nearby consistently show clay or hardpan overlying bedrock, encountered at 18-30 ft depth. Well OE448 has grouted casing to a depth of 126 ft through 11 ft of clay, 6 ft of clay w/ gravel, 38 ft of sandstone, 7 ft of limestone, 12 ft of shaley limestone, 6 ft of limestone, and 46 ft into a lower sandstone. Static water level was 45 ft at the time of drilling. Additionally, the new FSA collection basin is designed to collect the 25-yr, 24-hour storm runoff, which decreases the likelihood of FSA related runoff contamination of the well. Based on my review the request for well setback alternative practice or design meets s. NR 243.15(1)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.

DAYS OF AVAILABLE LIQUID WASTE STORAGE: The submitted information states that Blue Star Dairy Farms will have 181 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 table below accounts for the runoff collected after construction of the proposed project and collection of the 25-yr, 24-hr storm event from the feed storage areas. This also accounts for the upcoming permit which will combine the Arlington permit and DeForest permit into a single permit, therefore the liquid waste volumes and storage volumes have been combined in the table below. The current number of animal units provided for the calculation is 4,237. The liquid waste volumes are based on the NRCS spreadsheet and other estimated or calculated values for a collection period of 365 days. The calculations also compare the book values to the hauling logs and book values exceed the hauling logs by slightly over 2 million gallons. Despite this, the table includes a volume of more than 4 million gallons as 'Other'. The hauling logs historically have exceeded the calculated values of waste generation based off of book values. Therefore, MSA in recent calculations has included an 'Other' wastewater category accounting for the extra water necessary to align the calculated value with the hauling logs. In the previous operation system, the amount of feed storage runoff collected was not able to be calculated accurately. As Blue Star Dairy transitions to a complete collection system for feed storage runoff, this is a more accurate calculation. However, a portion of the runoff is now likely being accounted for twice – once as feed storage runoff and once as 'Other' wastewater. The 'Other' wastewater has been slightly reduced for this calculation and will continue to be included as a conservative estimate until updated hauling logs are available. Additionally, the proposed feed storage runoff numbers include an expansion at the Arlington site feed storage area that is not currently proposed. This adds an approximate 3 million gallons of waste that is not yet being generated. Once updated hauling logs are available, the days of storage will be able to be further refined. Feed storage leachate and contaminated runoff from the 25-yr, 24-hr storm event will be collected from all feed storage areas after construction of the proposed project.

Proposed Conditions (4,237 AU) – 181 Days of Storage

Waste Storage	Total Volume	Solids Storage	25-yr, 24-hr Precipitation on Storage	25-yr, 24-hr Collected Runoff	Freeboard Volume	Max. Operating Level (MOL) Volume
#1	831,175	0	35,480	261,825	85,152	448,718
#2	4,593,928	0	280,048	0	490,548	3,823,332
#3	8,210,331	0	293,712	0	694,538	7,222,081
#4	2,063,157	171,930	0	0	171,930	1,719,297
#5	11,770,319	161,657	426,668	430,689	834,307	9,916,998
					Total MOL Vol:	23,130,426

Manure and Bedding:	19,540,420	gallons
Parlor Wastewater:	4,933,929	Gallons
Total Feed Storage Leachate:	151,096	gallons
Total Feed Storage Runoff Collected:	7,114,190	gallons
Net Precipitation on Storage Surfaces:	4,229,584	Gallons
Komro:	900,000	gallons
Holding Area Cleaning:	3,285,000	gallons
Sprinklers/Misters:	1,345,000	gallons
Waterers:	788,400	gallons
Other:	4,430,000	gallons
Total Liquid Waste Stored Below the MOL:	**46,717,619**	**gallons**

Waste Storage Descriptions:

1 - WS1 (concrete vertical walled)

2 - WS2 (clay with concrete bottom) + volumes from REA changes when constructing the Sand Separation system

3 - WS3 (2021 Constructed Concrete)

4 - WS4 (underbarn manure storage)

5 - Arlington Two-Stage Waste Storage

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT: This report documents review of plans and specifications for each structure or practice indicated below, including findings regarding the structure or practice's compliance with applicable standards. The reviewer considered if management and site assessment were conducted, documented, and reflected in the final design, and if proper construction and related plans (operation and maintenance, inspection, erosion control if applicable) were provided, and demonstrated compliance with applicable rules standards.

DECISION RECOMMENDATION: Based on my review completed on September 28, 2026, the proposed plans and specifications meet ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, and applicable NRCS Standards. Therefore, I recommend the plans and specifications be approved with specific conditions (justification provided). The following condition is recommended to be added to the approval letter:

- Additional Soil Investigations: Additional soil investigation shall be completed for the proposed construction to ensure adequate soil investigations to comply with NRCS Standards. Due to existing infrastructure onsite, the required soil investigations could not all be completed.
    - Test Pits: This approval is conditional upon completing adequate soil test pits that are deep enough to determine separation to subsurface saturation and bedrock per NRCS 634 for the proposed construction. The additional test pits will be excavated and logged during construction and the locations are shown on the plans. MSA must be present when the additional soil investigations are excavated. All soil investigations shall be provided in the post-construction submittal. If saturation or bedrock is found at an elevation within the required separation distance, then the plans shall be revised and resubmitted to the Department for review and approval prior to construction.



Rob Davis, P.E.
Water Resources Engineer

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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July 9, 2026

FILE REF: R-2026-0098
WPDES Permit #: WI-0058815

Brian Meinholz
Blue Star Dairy Farms
7501 Patton Road
DeForest, WI 53532

Subject: Evaluation Review for Blue Star Dairy Farms in T9N, R9E, Section 10, Vienna Township, Dane County – NO ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Mr. Meinholz:

This letter is to inform you that the Department received on March 20, 2026 the evaluation for WS1, submitted under certification by Jenise Anderson, P.E., MSA Professional Services on behalf of Blue Star Dairy. This evaluation was submitted in its entirety as required in the Department's Further Actions Are Required letters dated May 3, 2019 for DNR project number R-2019-0024a and July 8, 2020 for DNR project number R-2019-0201a.

Evaluated Facilities: The evaluation included the following reviewable facilities:

1. Waste Storage Facility 1 (WS1)

The Engineer evaluated the above referenced reviewable facilities based on applicable NRCS Standards and ch. NR 243 Wis. Adm. Code. The engineering report below summarizes the evaluation's findings, lists standards that apply, and provides a compliance analysis.

The Department has reviewed the evaluation and agrees with the Engineer's conclusion that WS1 requires no further actions to meet ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code requirements.

Questions concerning permit requirements should be directed to the DNR CAFO Specialist. Questions concerning the review may be directed to the review engineer Rob Davis (contact information is at the end of this letter).

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.

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STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Rob Davis, P.E.
CAFO Review Engineer
Watershed Management Program

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Rob Davis, P.E.; DNR, Central Office
(608) 225-2720; Robert.Davis@Wisconsin.gov

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENGINEERING REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Farm Name: Blue Star Dairy Farms	**WPDES Permit#:** WI-0058815
Location Address: 7501 Patton Road, DeForest	**DNR Project #:** R-2026-0098
Engineering Certification by: Jenise Anderson, P.E.	

Evaluated Facilities:

Waste Storage (WS1): The waste storage facility meets the applicable requirements of ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. WS1 was constructed in 1983. The storage is a vertical walled concrete storage with a ramp. The storage is 135 ft x 84 ft x 10 ft with a 15 ft wide ramp at a 10:1 slope. WS1 has a total volume of 831,175 gallons and maximum operating level (MOL) volume of 448,718 gallons. The ramp extends outside of the storage footprint approximately 25 ft. Along the western wall, there are old drop structures from an old barn that have been blocked off. The storage collects runoff and leachate pumped from RCS 1. The concrete structure exhibits very little cracking in the walls and no evidence of leaking in the walls and almost no cracking in the floor. The storage has a sump that extends beyond the floor of the storage approximately 2 ft. There is no construction information to determine if the waterstop was installed during construction.

Soil Boring SB #5 was completed in 2019, in the vicinity of WS1. The approximate top of storage is at elevation 1005.5 ft, and the approximate top elevation of SB #5 is 1002 ft. Bedrock was encountered at 12.0 ft with CL/CH soils located from 6-12 ft. A test pit was also completed within 10 ft of WS1 to the east, and samples were taken from the soil horizons. This test pit was 15 ft deep, and the surface elevation was approximately 2.25 ft below the top of the waste storage facility. The top 10 ft of the test pit consisted of a clay soil that tested as a CL material with P200 ranging from 97.0 - 98.3% and PIs ranging from 15 to 17. The next 5 ft are a sandy soil that tested as an SM material with P200 ranging from 29.2 – 42.5% and non-plastic. This horizon begins approximately 2.25 ft below the top of floor in WS1.

- Assessment References: NRCS Standard 313 (10/25) and NRCS Standard 522 (06/21) and s. NR 243.15(3) and NR 213, Wis. Adm. Code.
- Native soils below the concrete floor meet or exceed the requirements of a Reduced Seepage Concrete - Soil Composite liner (Table 2, Column B and Table 2A, Column B). The soil investigations show a minimum of 5.5 ft of separation to bedrock and greater than 7 ft of separation to saturation.

Days of Available Liquid Waste Storage: The formal days of storage review for permit reissuance is being reviewed under a separate DNR project number, R-2026-0067.

DECISION RECOMMENDATION: Based on my review completed on July 9, 2026, the reviewable facilities identified above require no further actions.



Rob Davis, P.E.
Water Resources Engineer
Watershed Management Program

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0058815-06-0

Permittee: Blue Star Dairy Farms, 7502 Patton Rd, DeForest, WI, 53532

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Deforest Site, 7502 Patton Road, Deforest WI, 53532; Dane County WI, Town of Vienna, SW ¼ of SW ¼ Sec. 10 T09N R09E; Arlington Site, 1399 County Hwy Q, Arlington WI, 53911; Columbia County WI, Town of Arlington, SW ¼ of SE ¼ Sec. 21 T10N R09E

Receiving Water And Location: Surface water and groundwater within the Unnamed tributaries within the Headwaters Yahara River and Lake Wisconsin- Wisconsin River Watersheds

Brief Facility Description: Blue Star Dairy Farms is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) with two production areas, the Deforest Site located at 7502 Patton Road, Deforest WI, Dane County, Town of Vienna and the Arlington Site located at 1399 County Hwy Q, Arlington WI, Columbia County, Town of Arlington. Blue Star Dairy Farms is owned by Blue Star Dairy Farms and operated by Brian and Chad Meinholz. Blue Star Dairy Farms Deforest consists of five liquid waste storage facilities, one sand separation building, one solid storage facility, three dairy freestall barns with one parlor, four heifer barns, two calf barns, and a feed storage area. The Arlington site consists of two dairy freestall barns with parlor, one waste storage facility, sand separation building, and one feed storage area. Both sites had previously carried their own individual permits, Blue Star Dairy Farms Arlington (WI-006227-040) and Blue Star Farms Deforest (WI-0058815-05) however, both sites will now be covered under one permit (WI-0058815-06) due operational changes and the sharing of land and manure between plans. There is no planned herd size expansion during the permit term.
The current herd size of 4,237 animal units (2,381 milking & dry cows, 967 heifers, and 567 calves). Blue Star Dairy Farms currently produces approximately 46,717,619 gallons of liquid manure and process wastewater, and approximately 4,000 tons of solid manure annually. Blue Star Dairy Farms has 181 days of liquid manure and process waste storage, approximately 23,130,426 gallons of storage. Blue Star Dairy Farms owns and rents approximately 11,054 acres of cropland, of which 11,019 acres are available for manure application.

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Eric Struck, WDNR, 141 NW Barstow Street, Suite 180, Waukesha, WI, 53188-3789, (608) 422-1512, Eric.Struck@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, the terms of the nutrient management plan, or the application, or to request a public informational hearing may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is re-issued. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be re-issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if within 30 days of the public date of this notice, a request for a hearing is filed by any person. The Department shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from USEPA or from 5 or more persons or if the Department determines there is significant public interest. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit and fact sheet (if required), the operation's nutrient management plan and application may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (608) 422-1512 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

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