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.